

December 16, 2009

Dear Friends,

During the past few months, we've all heard a lot from politicians weighing how—and even whether—to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care. Meanwhile, these are the voices of your friends and neighbors:

*"I work two jobs just to support me and my son,
and I still can't afford health insurance."*

*"If you guys were not here I would have
nowhere else to go for my diabetes."*

*"I do have health insurance through my employer, but my deductible is \$1,000—so that makes it
hard for me to go to a regular doctor because of the cost."*

The health care crisis is not an abstract phenomenon, confined to the headlines. And it's not only about finding care for the homeless and unemployed, as crucial as that is. Right here in the Iowa City/Coralville/Johnson County community, thousands of people—including many who have jobs—are uninsured or underinsured, unable to meet their basic health care needs.

Fortunately, thanks to support from you and many other fellow community members, they have a place to turn: The Iowa City Free Medical Clinic and the Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic.

This past year alone, we served almost 2,700 clients in our Iowa City clinic. Some needed urgent attention for an injury, a dental condition, or the flu, while some have ongoing, chronic illnesses like diabetes or hypertension. But they all have one thing in common: They need help and simply can't afford the ever-increasing costs of medical and dental care.

I'm writing today to ask you to lend a hand to your fellow community members in need by making a tax-deductible, year-end gift to the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic and Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic.

Your gift of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, or more will help people in need receive excellent medical care. Your gift will help:

- **Provide prescription drugs for chronic diabetes and hypertension sufferers.** The Free Medical Clinic's Case Management Program serves hundreds of local residents each year who suffer from long-term but manageable illnesses. These patients represent an ever-larger percentage of our clients, and need medications and monitoring on an ongoing basis. The Free Medical Clinic's mission is to serve them, regardless of the expense — your gift will assist us in meeting their needs.



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- **Keep the clinic open for acute care.** For thousands of area residents, the Free Medical Clinic and Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic is the only place to turn for help with immediate, urgent crises like the flu, dental emergencies, and strep throat. Your contribution allows us to see as many patients as possible.
- **Keep the Free Medical Clinic up to date with supplies.** In a busy clinic like ours, essential equipment can be costly to maintain and replace if necessary—your support helps defray these inevitable “wear and tear” expenses.

These are just a few ways that your gift will help us here at the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic and Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic provide free medical and dental services to all who need them, regardless of their ability to pay.

We believe that health care is a basic right, and not a privilege reserved for those who can pay the astronomical costs of modern medical and dental care. More than ever, even many with jobs and insurance are one illness or injury away from bankruptcy or a serious health emergency. So with your help, we'll keep doing what we've been doing since 1971—making sure that our fellow community members don't fall through the cracks of our current health-care system.

Day in and day out, there are people who rely on us. And we in turn rely on compassionate and generous supporters like you. **Please include us in your holiday giving plans and make your contribution by year's end!**

Thank you very much.

Warmly,



Sandy Pickup
Co-Director

Barbara Vinograde
Co-Director

P.S. With the costs of providing medical care to local residents in need continuing their upward spiral, a 10 percent increase in each contributor's annual contribution would go a long way toward helping the Free Medical Clinic absorb the impact. **Thanks again for your compassionate and generous support—we can't do it without you!**