

## **GEORGIA FREE CLINIC NETWORK GETS A BOOST FROM PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDSHARE INTERNATIONAL**

**ATLANTA, GA (May 16, 2006)** – The Georgia Free Clinic Network (GFCN) is pleased to announce the launch of a community-based partnership with MedShare International. For many individuals who are uninsured, the only option for healthcare assistance is through the network of free clinics. Georgia Free clinics are an essential component of the healthcare delivery safety net in the State. The partnership alliance between The Georgia Free Clinic Network and MedShare will allow more than 50 existing free clinics access to MedShare's surplus medical supplies and recycled equipment as well as the ability to share them. GFCN and MedShare will work together very closely to address the resource needs of free clinics throughout Georgia to ensure continued clinic operations and medical care to all who need it. "We see this as a very special reciprocal arrangement with MedShare and plan for our members clinics to both donate to and request goods from MedShare" said Ms. Digyna Patel, GFCN Project Director.

The Georgia Free Clinic Network is a non-profit organization working to enhance the ability of free clinics to share resources and better communicate with each other. With almost 10-20% of the uninsured population receiving treatment from free clinics, GFCN is working diligently to ensure that clinics have volunteers needed for operations, in addition to pharmacy goods and equipment necessary to keep the doors open. With the rising rates of the uninsured population throughout the country - as well as in Georgia - the need for access to primary care is a growing concern.

Although most of MedShare's donations go overseas; first access to medical product is always given to local groups serving the poor. Building community based partnerships with the Georgia Network of Free Clinics is a smart way for MedShare to address the medical needs of the poor right here in Georgia. It's a win-win, for all of us - for MedShare, for the network of Free Clinics and, most of all, for the individuals who se needs are served there, " said A.B. Short, MedShare's CEO and Co-Founder.

The Georgia Free Clinic Network - MedShare application will be available to member clinics as an online technology platform to facilitate the exchange of needed goods between clinics and MedShare and will launch in early June.

### **ABOUT GFCN**

The Georgia Free Clinic Network was established in 2004. It is recognized as a private charitable organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of the GFCN is to serve as a collaborative support system to free clinics and improve access to quality healthcare to the medically underserved in Georgia. GFCN is Georgia's leading organization of free medical clinics throughout the state. For more information about the Georgia Free Clinic Network please contact Russ Lipari, Executive Director of the Georgia Free Clinic Network at [Lipari2020@yahoo.com](mailto:Lipari2020@yahoo.com) or visit our Web site at [www.GFCN.org](http://www.GFCN.org) .

### **ABOUT MEDSHARE INTERNATIONAL**

Founded in 1998, MedShare International, is an Atlanta -based nonprofit organization, that created a medical-supply recycling program which helps everyone involved, the hospital donating surplus medical supplies and equipment that would otherwise be discarded due to regulatory requirements, and the recipient hospitals

and clinics, locally and in the economically developing world that often function with dangerously low or no supplies and equipment. For more information about MedShare International, MedShare's Medical Container Sponsorship Program and /or local initiatives, please contact Dell Pearce at (770) 323-5858, ext. 206 or [dpearce@medshare.org](mailto:dpearce@medshare.org) or visit our Web site at [www.medshare.org](http://www.medshare.org).