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On Deadline: What others are reporting

Charity clinics a lifesaver for uninsured

Charity clinics operating in Georgia are proving a godsend to the state's 1.7 million uninsured, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported (ajc.com).

About 100 clinics, usually staffed by volunteers, have sprung up in the last decade or so, the newspaper said. The clinics have helped ease some of the burden for hospital emergency rooms, where many uninsured Georgians turn for health care.

A new state law that protects volunteer physicians from malpractice claims has helped the growth of clinics, says Donna Looper of the Georgia Free Clinic Network. Many are affiliated with churches.

At the Good Samaritan Health Center, patients pay a fee based on income and family size. About 80% are uninsured and "working poor," the newspaper said. "They're out earning a living, but they don't have health insurance," said Bill Warren, a physician who started the clinic in 1999.

By John Bacon with staff and wire reports

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