

# RICE LAKE AREA FREE CLINIC VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

*To create a healthier community by providing healthcare for uninsured and underinsured people of Barron, Rusk and Washburn Counties.*

## Why Should We Care?

- Nationally 1 in 5 people do not have access to health insurance-the uninsured are our neighbors, co-workers, friends and family members.
- Badger Care Plus Core program is starting but has many exceptions including a 12month waiting period to become eligible after having access to health insurance.
- Unemployment rates in the area have risen. June 2009 rates are Barron County 9%, Rusk County 13%, Washburn County 9.6%.
- In the first 5 months of 2009 area hospitals are reporting charity care demand has doubled.
- Surrounding area free clinics including Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, and St. Croix County are operating at full capacity. We anticipate similar demand in the Barron, Rusk, and Washburn Counties.

## Typically the Clinic:

- Will serve residents who cannot otherwise afford medical care.
- Will be open the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings from 5- 9pm.

## Benefits to the Community

- ◆ Provides a service that cannot be found in any other location in the 3 county area.
- ◆ Reduces cost to taxpayers for medical care to low income residents.
- ◆ Eliminates a major reason for not seeking health care.
- ◆ Improves access to health care and in turn improves the general health and economic viability of the community.
- ◆ Provides a local source for medical missions work.

## What Will We Do?

- ◇ Our efforts will initially focus on adult and pediatric primary care, preventive care, and chronic disease management (no urgent or emergent care).
- ◇ Offer assistance in applying for benefits and obtaining medications.
- ◇ The Free Clinic will not compete with existing healthcare services but will seek to fill the void.

## What Can You Do To Help?

- \* Spread the word.
- \* Donate your time and energy in making a difference in our own community.
- \* Assist in fundraising.
- \* Donations of funds, equipment and supplies are tax deductible and welcomed.