



ICC Participating Member, Liz Burton-Garcia helps the Round Rock community start its first free health clinic

"A Vision of Helping"

The city of Round Rock has a new, free health clinic for uninsured residents thanks to a cosmetics saleswoman who decided to try and launch a clinic after doing 3 years of medical mission work in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras with Austin Diocese Medical Mission handing out vitamins and prescriptions.

Burton-Garcia, a 46-year-old former math teacher and a sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics for the past 20 years, said she was influenced by one of Mother Teresa's sayings regarding looking for the poor "in your own backyard." After her medical mission work Liz Burton-Garcia decided that her own town could also use some help.

Burton-Garcia was able to solicit help from friends in the medical profession and the Round Rock community in addition she was able to retrieve monetary donations, in kind services as well as free land from her church, St. Williams Catholic Church.

Liz's energy for giving has become lovingly contagious with all who have been blessed to be a part of her passion for "getting er done". The former Round Rock Mayor Nyle Maxwell and his wife, Nancy Maxwell, held a fundraiser for the clinic and have raised \$70,000 in donations and \$70,000 in pledges. The goal is \$300,000, Burton-Garcia stated, the clinic will cost \$175,000 to build and \$60,000 per year to run.

Brath Construction will oversee the construction of the facility and will donate their services and materials. FT Woods Construction is providing their services by doing the parking lot for free and Gibson Concrete is donating the foundation of the facility. A multiplicity of subcontractors has come forward to donate their time, services, materials and energy to ensure the vision of Sacred Heart Community Clinic is fulfilled.

A Round Rock architect Keith Hickman is donating the drawings for the clinic, which will include four exam rooms, a waiting room, restrooms and one or two offices for visiting doctors.

Burton-Garcia was able to secure the volunteer services of 190 Drs., PA, nurses, NP, support staff volunteers and medical students. The goal is for each volunteer to work one 3 hour shift per month however the need for more medical volunteers still exists. Round Rock Hospital and North Austin Medical Center will provide funding to help pay for patient medicines. In addition, Seton Medical Center Williamson has offered to do X-rays and lab testing for free. Liz will handle the administrative duties at the clinic, and Dr. Rudy Uriegas has volunteered to oversee the medical aspects.

The Clinic will be free to anyone in Round Rock who doesn't have health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid and whose income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which means an annual income of \$44,000 or less for a family of four.

The 2,000-square-foot facility, called Sacred Heart Community Clinic, will be located on St. William's campus and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2011. However, the clinic will not be affiliated with a church and will provide basic health care services from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The clinic is temporarily located in the St. Williams Catholic Church Pavilion, 620 Round Rock West Drive, until the new facility opens in March. The clinic will be open 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 8, Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and Feb. 19.

Burton-Garcia was reported stating "This clinic was God's idea, God put it in my heart and all of this happened in seven months." And may we say the Ms Burton was God sent to the City of Round Rock for responding to a divinely inspired vision of helping many uninsured individuals in her community. ♥