MEDiC’s Role in a Tough Economic Climate
By Travis Laider, Data Project Coordinator

Possibly as a result of the unforgiving economy in the past year, MEDiC served a total of 1825 patients in 2009, which is up from 1742 last year and 1381 in 2007. Nearly a quarter of the patients were between the ages of 41 and 50, 72% of patients were unemployed, 54% were men, and 82% were uninsured; all of which are indicative of middle aged men and women who may have lost both their job and insurance yet are in need of healthcare. Although some patients had primary languages other than English, 74% spoke English as their primary language. Remarkably, even though we treated a record number of patients in the past year, we actually spent $2264 less than in 2008. The total care was valued at $230,549.77 and yet we only spent $8071.53 providing it, which works out to $4.42 per patient.

Among all of the patients seen, the most common chief complaints were medication refill, toothache, back pain, cough, and hypertension in that order. The top diagnoses were hypertension, asthma, depression, diabetes, GERD, and back pain. The three medicines that we prescribed the most were ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and albuterol. Of all the medicines prescribed, over 3/4 of them were donated by physicians or medical clinics, demonstrating the crucial role generous donors play in MEDiC’s ability to provide adequate healthcare.

It is an unfortunate truth that MEDiC is a much needed service in the Madison community, but until our services are no longer needed, we intend to serve the underserved to the best of our abilities. However, all of this would not be possible without the generous contributions from volunteer students, physicians, and especially donors, who provide the foundation of our organization.

MEDiC Volunteers Receive Awards
By Farah Kalksow, 2009-2010 MEDiC President

On Thursday, April 22, 2010, MEDiC representatives were recognized at two separate occasions. Two MEDiC volunteers, attending physician Dr. Calvin Bruce and student volunteer Rebecca McSorley, were both nominees for the United Way of Dane County Community Volunteer Award. Dr. Bruce was a winner of one of the individual Community Volunteer Awards for his dedication to volunteering at MEDiC’s clinics and his efforts at increasing physician volunteering. The award was presented by Wisconsin’s First Lady Jessica Doyle. Later in the afternoon, Rebecca McSorley was recognized as the first ever student recipient of the Public Health–Madison/Dane County Advocacy Award. Rebecca was nominated by employees of the Salvation Army Shelter where she worked as MEDiC’s Clinic Coordinator for the 2009-2010 Council term. At the same ceremony, the Department of Public Health also thanked MEDiC and other community partners for their help in providing H1N1 vaccines over the last flu season. Congratulations to Dr. Bruce, Rebecca, and the entire MEDiC Council!

Madison Community Has Dental Needs
By Arianna Sundick, Clinic Coordinator

At the Southside MEDiC Clinic volunteers see patients with acute medical and dental problems. Though it may be surprising that patients would come to a free medical clinic for dental help, many dental concerns not only cause terrible pain, but may also lead to medical concerns such as systemic infections. We use our limited resources and help the best that we can. In the future we hope to be able to have more dental resources for these patients.

One patient, Jim, came in for assistance with several rotting teeth that were causing him pain. He was in so much pain that he took multiple over the counter pain medications just to get through the day. Jim’s case is not unique as thousands of people in the Madison area alone share these experiences. We are aware that health advocates have been working hard to improve access to dental care for low income WI residents, and we strongly support their efforts. It is our hope

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The transition to the 2010-2011 MEDiC Council is complete. After two months of shadowing the impressive outgoing 2009-2010 Council it is time for my colleagues and I to begin our work. The 2009-2010 Council has set us up for success in a number of ways. They have left the organization in a strong financial position by raising more money than they spent. The 2009-2010 Council treated 1825 patients at a cost of $4.42 per patient. It is now our responsibility to continue this cost effective treatment.

Recently MEDiC has received recognition for its work from a number of University and community organizations. MEDiC has officially become a program of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. We are excited by this new relationship and know that it will benefit the patients that MEDiC serves. To accompany this recognition, a number of people working with MEDiC have been recognized for their work with the organization. On April 22nd, a member of the 2009-2010 Council, Rebecca McSorley, received the 2010 Madison and Dane County Public Health Advocacy Award for her work as coordinator for the Salvation Army Clinic. On the same day, the United Way Community Volunteer Awards Ceremony was held. MEDiC nominated Dr. Calvin Bruce for an award. Dr. Bruce has been an extremely active volunteer in the MEDiC clinics. He has also been striving to recruit other physicians to donate their time to MEDiC. It is because of physicians like Dr. Bruce, that we are able to provide care for people in the Madison area. We are proud that Dr. Bruce received the Distinguished Service Award from the United Way.

To continue the success of the MEDiC Outreach Program the 2010-2011 Council has set goals that include exploring the viability of expanding mental health services, establishing electronic medical records in our clinics, expanding medical referrals, and increasing MEDiC’s public visibility.

The entire council will work together as a team to achieve these goals over the course of the next year. In addition to our big picture goals, our entire council is striving to complete position specific goals. Already, our Director of Development, Anna Yan, has made huge strides in the effort to increase MEDiC’s institutional memory by developing an easily accessible electronic system for housing all MEDiC documents.

The 2010-2011 MEDiC Council is ready to embark on their year of leadership and prepared for the challenge of continuing to provide high quality care for the under resourced population in the Madison area. Thank you for your continued support of MEDiC.

Ian Stormont, 2010-2011 MEDiC President

NURSING STUDENTS’ EVOLVING ROLE
BY TAMMI ALBRECHT AND KATIE SIMONS, NURSING COORDINATORS

The role of nursing in MEDiC has grown tremendously over the last few years with the help of Uba Backonja and Kari Porters, former Nursing Coordinator and Nursing Scheduler. We will be taking over for them on the 2010-2011 Council as Nursing Involvement Coordinators. We will share the responsibilities of scheduling, council communication, and enhancing nursing involvement. The creation of the new positions will facilitate a greater sense of teamwork for educating, empowering, connecting, leading, and advocating within MEDiC.

Currently, nursing students work in multidisciplinary teams with other health professions students to gather patient histories, determine patient health issues, plan of care, and resource availability for patients at clinics. This spring, nursing students will continue to expand their role in MEDiC. We have teamed with the coordinators of the Salvation Army and South Side MEDiC Clinics and Tara Calmes, a nurse practitioner student, to develop patient education programs at these sites. Starting in late April, MEDiC will launch an education program focused on nutrition, relaxation, hygiene, and exercise for the residents at the Salvation Army Shelter. Our goals for these sessions include: sparking discussion about positive health behaviors, providing clear and accurate information, and helping individuals make positive lifestyle changes.

We are excited for the coming year and hope to continue involving nursing students in the great work that MEDiC is already doing.

DENTAL (Continued from Page 1)

that increased funding will soon be provided to address this important issue.

For Jim we prescribed pain medications and antibiotics and referred him to a dentist who was willing to extract the diseased teeth at no charge, but how do we help Jim with his remaining teeth? The problem for Jim and low income individuals across the country is a profound lack of options for dental care. Even in our small MEDiC microcosm, more and more patients are presenting with dental concerns as their primary issue.

If you are as concerned about these issues as we are, please help us with this struggle. If you are a dentist or know a dentist, please consider helping us in any way you can. We are always looking for additional referrals in order to address the needs of our patients.

It is important to note that access to dental care is not just an issue for those lacking health insurance—many health insurance plans offer no dental options. We believe that the lack of dental access is an ever growing public health concern. We invite you to join us in this cause, and let your representative know that as a society we care about dental, mental, and physical health. To contact your representative, please go to: http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx

Contact us if you are interested in helping! Please see our website for our contact information: http://medic.uwmmedstudents.com.

Note: The name of the patient has been changed for protection.
MEDIC Clinic Updates

ARC House
By Allison Bauer, Coordinator

The ARC house clinic has continued to get busier, and we have seen more patients at each clinic as the year has progressed. Residents at ARC house generally have multiple diagnoses, including chronic pain and mental illness, and are often taking numerous prescription medications. Physical therapy consultations and dispensing of medications are essential aspects of our clinics, and the integrative care provided by medical, physical therapy, and pharmacy student volunteers has been extraordinarily beneficial for our patients' care. As the only MEDIC clinic set up to provide chronic care, we work to offer continuity of care to the ARC residents seen at our clinic. Students volunteer for three consecutive clinics, so they are able to see the patients' progress and so that the patients are able to have consistency in their medical care.

Grace Clinic
By Michael Regner and Jake Ensor, Co-Coordinators

The Grace MEDIC Clinic is running smoothly and we are excited to continue to treat shelter residents throughout the summer. It is inspiring to see our classmates and students from other healthcare disciplines come together and exercise their passion for medicine.

After a few patients with scabies presented at Grace, we instituted new policies to better report and address future cases of infectious diseases. We are happy that the treatment MEDIC provided to these patients has allowed them to remain eligible to stay in the shelter.

Salvation Army
By Anne Becker, Co-Coordinator

Over the past few months, the Salvation Army clinic has embarked on multiple projects in order to best meet the growing needs of our patients. These initiatives were set in motion by the 2009-2010 clinic coordinators, Rebecca McSorley and Erika Ruud. One of the new activities is a monthly health seminar, created for the shelter residents by a group of nursing students who are dedicated to health promotion. The first meeting was a great success, and the staff of the Salvation Army shelter is hopeful and excited to have more opportunities for the shelter residents to unite and share together through attending health enhancement programs. Another new endeavor that is being explored at the Salvation Army is the possibility of partnering with the UW Nurse Practitioner program in order to help meet the mental health needs of Salvation Army residents. We look forward to updating you on the progress of this initiative. As the new coordinators for 2010-2011, we are humbled by the passion, enthusiasm, and dedication of last year’s leaders and are inspired to continue the high standard of commitment and care at the Salvation Army.

Michele Tracy Clinic
By Suzy Lin, Co-Coordinator

The Michele Tracy MEDIC clinic strives to provide preventive health information to residents of the Porchlight community. Each month the Michele Tracy Clinic provides educational activities addressing a variety of health topics as well as providing a healthy dinner for Porchlight residents. Some of the topics we have covered are physical therapy, eye and ear exams, and cardiovascular health. As new clinic coordinators, we are working to meet more of the residents, and welcome them to our program through creating engaging and informative clinics. We look forward to working with MEDIC and the Porchlight community in the coming year.

Safe Haven Psychiatric Clinic
By Rebecca Radue, Coordinator

One of the things we’re most excited about this spring at Safe Haven is an increase in the number of physician volunteers over the last year, thanks primarily to the addition of psychiatry residents to the volunteer team. We’re so thankful to these residents, and to our new and continuing psychiatrist volunteers.

Safe Haven clinic meets at the Safe Haven shelter, which is part of the Porchlight network. While the majority of our patients come from Safe Haven and other Porchlight programs, MEDIC has had the continuing goal of being able to refer patients from other MEDIC clinics to Safe Haven. This year we’ll continue to work towards a solution with the help of shelter staff and case managers from SOAR who work with the clinic. We are hopeful that Safe Haven will help us meet the mental health needs of patients seen at our other MEDIC clinics.

Another continuing project for Safe Haven is our medication supply. As my predecessor, Danielle Ries, explained last fall, Safe Haven has had to think critically about sources for psychiatric medications for our patients. Though prescription assistance programs aren’t a good option for most of our patients, we have explored other possibilities, and have begun utilizing the $4 formularies more often for prescriptions. We have also begun ordering more stock bottles, helping to keep costs down for MEDIC Safe Haven is not the only clinic struggling with this issue, and I know that the MEDIC Council will continue to work together to expand our options in order to ensure quality care within our budget restrictions.

Southside Clinic
By Michael Wauters and Kathryn Zavala, Co-Coordinators

The Southside Clinic continues to be busy, especially with Dermatology and Physical Therapy Clinics each being held once per month in addition to the weekly walk-in clinic. More frequently, we are seeing individuals coming to MEDIC who have recently lost their health insurance due to our difficult economic times. Previously insured patients are coming to Southside to seek care for chronic medical conditions, such as hypertension, hypothyroidism, and diabetes. While our primary mission is as an acute care clinic, we try our best to connect these members of our communities with consistent primary care in order to help them manage their chronic conditions. Additionally, we have noted an increasing number of individuals seeking assistance with dental issues. Dental care is becoming increasingly difficult for individuals and families.

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CLINIC UPDATES (Continued from Page 3)
to access, and while we have a few potential resources, the number and scope of them are limited. Over the past two months, approximately one third of our patients each week present with a chief concern involving their teeth.
Southside Clinic would like to thank all of our attending Physicians, Residents, and M3/M4 Students who continue to make the Clinic run effectively and provide valuable experience and teaching opportunities for our multi-disciplinary volunteers.
Your time and commitment to MEDiC and the patients served are greatly appreciated!

Salvation Army Dental Clinic
By William Albiero, Co-Coordinator
The MEDiC dental clinic at the Salvation Army may have switched hands as two new medical student clinic coordinators have taken over the reins, however, we didn’t miss a beat as the clinic has been extremely busy helping many underserved community members in the Madison area receive adequate and timely dental care. We also welcome Dr. Rambo Fard and Dr. Patricia Richardson, two new dentists who have joined founders Dr. Matthew Kutz and Dr. Laura Tills, in the regular volunteer rotation. We are currently in the process of trying to open up more space for the clinic, which will allow for additional helping hands and more efficient clinic nights. Wish us luck with our continued success and improvement as we try to meet the increasing demand for dental health services in the Madison area.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Making a Gift:
Your gift will allow us to continue our mission of providing health care to those most in need in our community while enhancing practical educational opportunities for health professions students. For information on how to make a gift, please visit our website at medic.uwmmedstudents.com
To discuss philanthropic opportunities please contact Jill Watson
Director of External Relations and Development
University of Wisconsin Foundation
(608) 263-3173
Jill.Watson@uwfoundation.wisc.edu

MEDiC Volunteers of the Month
December 2009: Uba Backonja
December 2009: Tara Calmes
January 2010: Dr. Jackie Redmer
February 2010: Dr. Kelly Herold
March 2010: Nathaniel Brown

Donating Medications:
We greatly appreciate donations of medications listed on MEDiC’s formulary. Due to our inability to monitor and follow most patients with chronic conditions, many chronic care medications are not useful in our clinics, especially those second line medications that would be too costly for our uninsured patients to continue using. Our current policies allow us to distribute pharmaceuticals that are less than 2 years past their expiration date, but we ask that liquid medications are less than 3 months past their expiration date. No surgical equipment or accessories are used in the MEDiC Clinics. We are not able to accept any medications that have been prescribed to a patient. We are also unable to accept donations from pharmaceutical or medical device companies.

If you are interested in donating medications to MEDiC, please contact the MEDiC office at:
(608) 265-4972
Medic-drugs@lists.wisc.edu

Physician Volunteers:
MEDiC is always looking for physician volunteers! We currently do not have an adequate number of volunteer physicians. While MEDiC provides primary care, physicians from all specialties are encouraged to volunteer. If you’re interested in providing care to the underserved populations of Madison while working with health professional students or would simply like more information, please contact the MEDiC physician scheduler:
Lane Benes: scheduling.medic@gmail.com