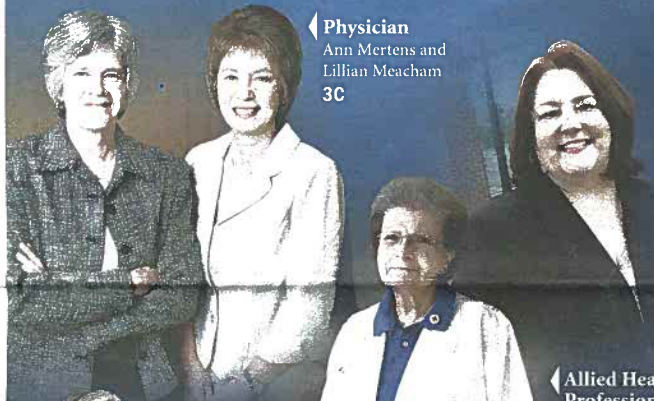


SPECIAL SECTION

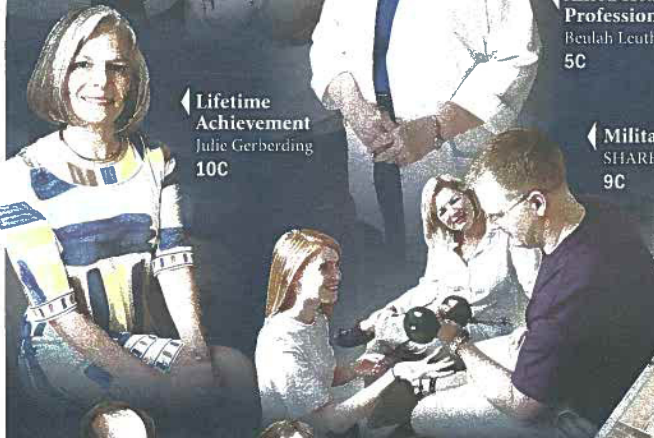
HEALTH-CARE HEROES

Champions in the field of medicine



◀ **Physician**
Ann Mertens and
Lillian Meacham
3C

◀ **Community
Outreach**
Georgia Free
Clinic Network
Donna Looper
7C



◀ **Lifetime
Achievement**
Julie Gerberding
10C

◀ **Allied Health
Professional**
Beulah Leuthold
5C

◀ **Military Service**
SHARE Initiative
9C

◀ **Saving
Grady Award**
11C



▶ **Health-Care Innovations**
John Lollar, Gabriela Denning, Trent Spencer
and Chris Doering
8C



Network helps free clinics as need increases

By Lisa R. Schoolcraft
STAFF WRITER

The Georgia Free Clinic Network doesn't provide health-care services itself, but helps free and charitable clinics provide "front-line care" to the state's uninsured and under-insured.

The Georgia Free Clinic Network in Decatur is the 2009 winner of Atlanta Business Chronicle's Health-Care Heroes Community Outreach award.

Founded in 2003, the network is a member-driven organization that provides technical assistance, data gathering, public policy advocacy and other services to more than 100 statewide free or charitable medical and dental clinics.



The clinics, with service provided by volunteers, run the gamut in size and operation, said Donna Looper, the network's executive director. The Good News Clinic in Gainesville is the largest in the network, operating Monday through Friday, she said. Others might operate one Wednesday out of a month at a Sunday school classroom at a church, she said.

The network's clinics provide an estimated \$200 million to \$400 million in care to roughly 10 percent of Georgia's more than 1.7 million uninsured residents.

The network estimates about 165,000 people were served in 2008, but clinics today are averaging 35 percent to 40 percent more clients, she said.



JOANN VITELLI

"Right now ... some clinics are seeing as much as 70 percent increase over last year," Looper said.

The clinics have been forced to turn away an estimated 30,000 people during

Georgia Free Clinic Network

Founded: 2003
Member/affiliate clinics: 105
Estimated number of patients served: 165,000
Estimated cost of the treatment these clinics provide annually: \$200 million

Providing care: Network Executive Director Donna Looper said patients the clinics see have diabetes and other problems.

the last two years because of a lack of capacity, Looper said.

The clinics are vital to the overall health-care system in Georgia, said Jim Curran, dean of Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.

Reach Schoolcraft at lschoolcraft@bizjournals.com.

Center reaches out to under-served families

By Katie Fincher
STAFF WRITER

In metro Atlanta, mortality rates for babies born to black mothers are more than double the rate to white mothers; and about one in 25 black teens will get pregnant. Grim statistics like these — compiled by the Atlanta Women's Foundation in early 2007 — are what the Center for Black Women's Wellness Inc. is working against.

"Our passion is to meet the needs of the medically under-served in any way that makes sense," said Jemea Dorsey, the center's CEO.

Serving about 2,000 families each year, the center is a finalist for the 2009 Atlanta Business Chronicle Health-Care Heroes Awards for Community Outreach.

In 2008, more than 1,000 women and girls were reached through community health events; 141 women received screening and/or diagnostic mammograms; and the clinic saw a 50 percent increase in number of visits.

Eighty-four percent of those served by the center have no health insurance.



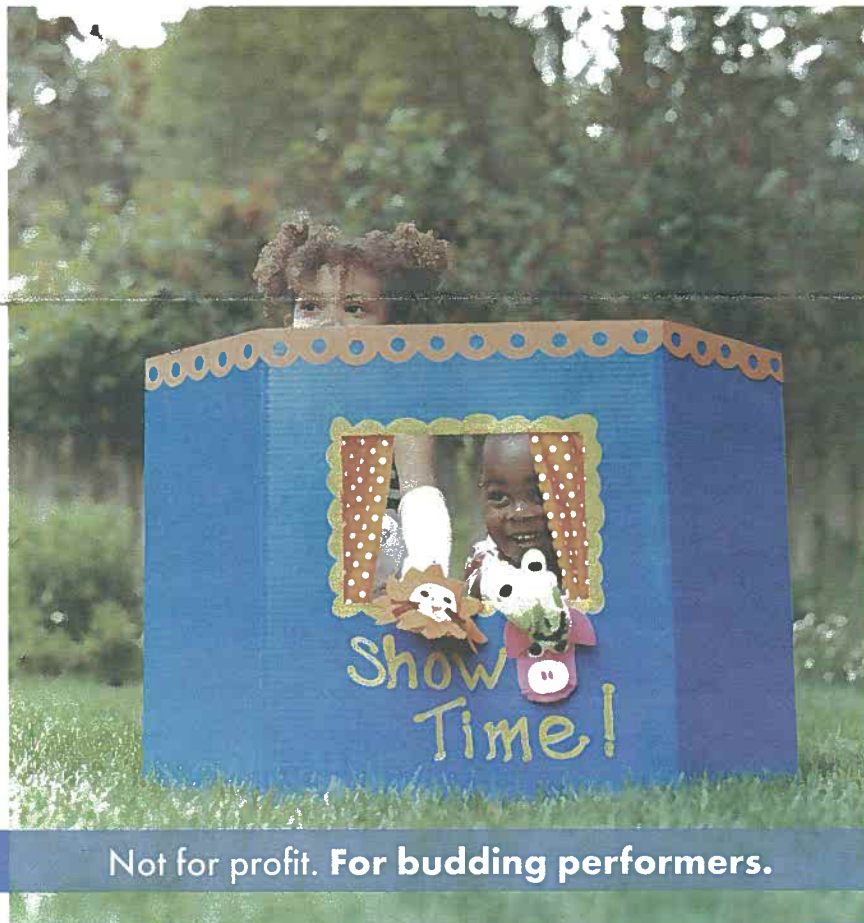
Dorsey
Center for Black Women's Wellness Inc.

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Year founded: Program founded in 1988; became independent in 1996

Patients served: About 2,000 families per year

Patient demographics: 84 percent female; 96 percent African-American; 84 percent have no health insurance



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