



Alliance Medical Ministry: Providing Compassionate, Affordable Healthcare

Alliance Medical Ministry (AMM) serves as a lifeline for uninsured residents in Wake County. Through a range of programs and services, AMM provides health and hope for the area's most underserved residents.

The number is staggering: 115,000 people in Wake County are uninsured. For many, this leads to costly emergency room visits to treat chronic conditions like diabetes, coupled with little to no access to life-sustaining medicines, like insulin.

“Some of the patients we see have gone to the emergency room 10 or 15 times a year for a treatable disease,” says Pete Tannenbaum, AMM executive director.



▲ Dr. Sheryl Joyner, senior physician at AMM, (center) has been practicing at the clinic since its doors opened in 2003.

“Our goal is to treat their disease and provide education for a healthy lifestyle going forward.”

AMM was started 19 years ago by a group from Cary United Methodist Church. The program has evolved to meet the critical need in the area, growing from a staff of four to 27 full-time employees today, including medical doctors, advanced care providers, and mental health counselors. In 2021 alone, AMM completed over 14,000 holistic patient encounters, saw 305 new patients, and distributed \$5.78 million in prescription medication at little or no cost to patients.

The organization works closely with local hospitals, including WakeMed, Duke Raleigh Hospital, and UNC Rex Healthcare, that provide referrals and funding, while also offering lab screening for AMM patients. AMM also relies heavily on volunteer



▲ AMM harvests 2,000 pounds of fresh produce annually with the help of volunteers. The food is distributed to patients in the clinic and through their wellness classes.

medical providers, like cardiologists, endocrinologists, and orthopedists, to provide on-site specialty care appointments. In addition, AMM partners with Wake Smiles to provide dental care and the UNC Rex Hospital Mobile Mammography bus for on-site screenings. AMM prides itself on providing holistic care through embracing and treating the whole person and their various needs. The program recognizes that 80% of a person's health is determined by social factors, like housing, transportation, and personal safety. AMM staffs a full-time social worker to help address these potential needs. The Healthy Steps Wellness Program works to educate and empower patients to improve their health and well-being through nutrition and exercise. The AMM farm grows fruits and vegetables to distribute to patients, many of whom live in a food desert, and offers cooking classes to share healthy ways to prepare and serve nutritious meal options. In addition, yoga and Zumba classes are offered to help make the connection between diet, exercise, and overall wellness.

TowneBank is proud to support Alliance Medical Ministry through their Health and Hope Now capacity-building campaign that is designed to help more patients and build stronger, healthier families in Wake County. “Healthcare is one of our community's biggest issues,” says Pete. “If you don't have your health, you don't have your future.”

AMM is always looking for medical providers and other community members to fill a variety of volunteer needs. Learn more and find out how to get involved at their website: AllianceMedicalMinistry.org.



▲ AMM's response to the pandemic included vaccine clinics as well as COVID-19 testing, meeting the community's demand for these critical services.