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**American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Launches
New Signature Program, *Family Medicine Cares*
*Program will provide grant and volunteer support to new free health clinics nationwide***

Leawood, Kan. — The American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation recently launched a new signature program to support the start-up efforts of new, free health clinics nationwide. *Family Medicine Cares* will provide grant money to help eligible clinics purchase tangible items, such as exam tables, computers and medical equipment they need to open their doors. *Family Medicine Cares* will also provide opportunities for retired and active family physicians, residents and medical students to volunteer their time and talents at clinics that serve a large population of uninsured patients.

“Over the past year, free clinics in the United States have seen a dramatic rise in patient visits, by as much as 50 percent. Most of these people (83 percent) live in working households. Even with health care reform, there will always be an underserved population — men, women, and children who simply fall between the cracks,” said Richard G. Roberts, MD, JD, president of the AAFP Foundation.

The AAFP Foundation is collaborating with Volunteers in Medicine, a non-profit organization that helps develop sustainable, locally supported free clinics in underserved communities throughout the United States. VIM and *Family Medicine Cares* will work together to identify strong potential grant recipients and help them succeed in providing free, quality health care services to the uninsured and medically underserved.

“The launch of the *Family Medicine Cares* program sets the stage for a continuing collaboration between the AAFP Foundation and Volunteers in Medicine that will result in the opening of many more free clinics in the future,” said Hugh Greeley, chairman of the VIM Board of Directors. “Volunteers in Medicine is honored to be part of this important initiative that provides primary care to the increasing numbers of uninsured individuals in the United States.”

On April 25, *Family Medicine Cares* awarded its inaugural grant to Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine clinic in Palm Bay, Florida. The clinic, under the leadership of AAFP member Steven Vanderby, MD, accepts patients who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and have no insurance.

On September 14, the AAFP Foundation announced the second *Family Medicine Cares* grant was awarded to Bluffton-Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine clinic, located in Bluffton, South Carolina. The clinic is led by AAFP member Bertrand Garrett, MD.

All clinics will be staffed by volunteer physicians, other health care professionals, and members of the community willing to donate their time and skills to helping those in need. All services will be free of charge, supported through grants, donations and fundraising events.

“As family doctors, we know how important it is to have access to quality primary care to prevent illness, detect and treat problems early, and coordinate complex care,” Roberts said. “*Family Medicine Cares* will provide opportunities for physicians nationwide to actively address the overwhelming humanitarian need in their own communities.”

Family Medicine Cares aims to support the opening of several new free health clinics annually. For a full list of grant application guidelines, please visit www.aafpfoundation.org/familymedicinecares.

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About the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

The Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Its mission is to advance the values of family medicine by promoting humanitarian, educational, and scientific initiatives that improve the health of all people. For more information, please visit www.aafpfoundation.org.

About Volunteers in Medicine

Volunteers in Medicine is dedicated to the development of a national network of free clinics emphasizing the use of retired and practicing medical and community volunteers to improve access to health care for America’s uninsured. www.volunteersinmedicine.org