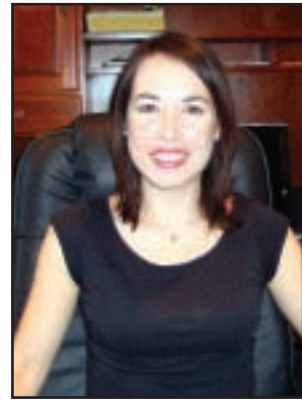


introducing the Director of Spiritual Wellness



Amy Wilson,
Director of Spiritual Wellness

My name is Amy Wilson, and I began serving as the Director of Spiritual Wellness at the Medical Care Mission in mid June.

From the inception of the Mission 25 years ago, faith has been an integral part of the care that has been provided to each of our patients. One reason I know that is because my own family relied on the Mission for health care when we could not afford private insurance. The care that my parents, siblings, and I received here certainly made an impression on us and told us so much about the kind of people who work for, volunteer at, and financially support the Mission.

I grew up in Hamby and graduated from Clyde High School. After I received a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from ACU, I began working for James A. Ravanelli and Associates, a fund raising and marketing firm, where I was reintroduced to the Mission. I gained a broader and deeper understanding of the Mission's ministry as I wrote direct mail pieces and designed newsletters. During that time, I began truly to respect a ministry for which I already felt deeply grateful.

That's why I am thrilled now to be serving at the Mission as the Director of Spiritual Wellness after earning a Master's of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and being commissioned by the United Methodist Church. Abilene is my home, and I thank God for the chance to serve my literal neighbors who are in need much like my family and I were.

Every time I pray with patients and listen to their words of thanksgiving for not only the availability of quality health care that they can afford but also for the dignity with which they are treated and the compassion they receive here, I am reminded of how important the Mission's friends, like you, are to the vision and operation of this ministry.

Thank you, and if you know of any way that I may be of service, please don't hesitate to call me at the Mission.

Heartbeat



The Presbyterian Medical Care Mission exists to provide, in a Christian setting, quality health care to persons in the Abilene area.

Long-time Volunteers Welcome New



Volunteer Clark Goodman
observes and assists
Dr. George Woodward.



When patients reach the front window of the Medical Clinic on Monday afternoons, they are greeted by recent ACU graduate Clark Goodman.

Clark met Dr. George Woodward while volunteering at Breakfast on Beech Street one morning. When Dr. Woodward realized that Clark, who has a bachelor's degree in biology, plans to attend medical school, Woodward invited Clark to spend some time at the Mission.

In addition to his time at the window on Monday afternoons, Clark serves during the Tuesday morning shift, helping Dr. Woodward. Clark joined the volunteer staff in mid June and plans to volunteer until he leaves for medical school. Already, Clark says he can see the Mission's effect on people in the Abilene area.

"The patients are really appreciative," he said. "They're always telling me how grateful they are for the Medical Care Mission."

Eddie Plowman is a volunteer who also works on Monday afternoons. He's been doing so for about five years. Eddie, a member of First Central Presbyterian Church, began as a substitute. After a few weeks, he received a letter from the person for whom he was subbing that said she would not be able to return as a volunteer. Eddie's been serving at the Mission on Monday afternoons ever since.

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Meet Dr. Clayton Runyon

Clayton Runyon, D.D.S., heard about the Medical Care Mission through the grapevine when he was looking for a job in the Abilene area.

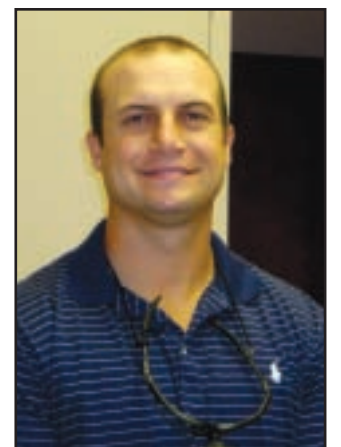
"I wanted to work with someone who had experience," he said. "I like working with Dr. Shelhamer; he's a good teacher." He said the mentoring that Dr. Gene Shelhamer provides, as well as a good working relationship with the other employees, makes for a fun atmosphere.

The need of the patients also drew Dr. Runyon to the clinic. Since he was hired two years ago, the Dental Clinic

staff has eliminated the waiting list that once hovered around 1,000.

"Every day, we see patients who cannot afford to go anywhere else, and they're in pain," he said. "It is satisfying to help them become comfortable again; you leave feeling like you've helped someone."

Dr. Runyon graduated from McMurry University in 2002 and from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in 2006. He works at the Mission on Thursdays and Fridays. His wife, Kelly, serves as a nurse at Hendrick Health System.



Clayton Runyon, D.D.S., joined
the Dental Clinic in 2006.



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from the Executive Director



J. Scott Golding,
Executive Director

As always, I want to begin by saying thank you to all of you who, through the years, have so faithfully supported this ministry of healing.

For two and half decades, the Medical Care Mission has been providing affordable health care to the low-income, uninsured families of the Big Country, and this year looks to be one of the most challenging in our history.

The changes in the economy, the rising electric bills, and the burdensome price of gas have put the Mission in the position of needing to see a dramatically increased number of patients who are finding themselves with less money to invest in their health care.

Thankfully, even though many of you also are feeling the pressure to stretch your limited resources, you have committed yourselves to helping others. Because of this dedication, we have been able to meet this ever-increasing demand and continue to dedicate ourselves to never turning away a patient for inability to pay. I want again to express my most heartfelt thanks to you for making this possible.

Nationally, nearly 47 million individuals lack insurance, and that number continues to increase by approximately 1 million newly uninsured every year. Sadly, for all of the statistics that demonstrate the greatness of Texas, our state is home to the highest percentage of uninsured individuals. In fact, 24 percent of Texans have little or no access to care they can afford.

Your commitment to helping us address this national epidemic locally is ensuring that no Abilene resident, regardless of income, must go without quality affordable health care. This truly makes Abilene and the Big Country special, and it is only because of you that we are able to prove that a community can address even the most difficult and critical of problems when people of faith unite and actively pursue relief for our neighbors in need.

continued from front page

“It is a nice thing,” he said. “It helps many people who would not be able to receive medical care if not for the Mission because health care costs are so prohibitive.”

Clark and Eddie are two of many people who give of their time to serve the Mission’s patients. In fact, when patients call the Medical Care Mission to make medical appointments, the voice that greets them belongs to a volunteer. When patients arrive at the Mission to see a physician, they are received by the smiling face of a volunteer. Volunteers pull charts for the nurses and physicians, and a volunteer receives each patient’s payment at the end of a visit. In a given week, more than 50 people donate their time to guide our patients through their medical appointments. In addition to providing warmth and a personal touch, the volunteers help keep administration costs at just under 10 percent of the Mission’s budget.

For information about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Viola Shields at 692-5266.



Eddie Plowman
has volunteered
at the Mission
for five years.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

Received December 1, 2007 through July 11, 2008

Gifts to the Medical Care Mission in memory or honor of a loved one offer a lasting tribute and sustain this ministry of healing. Upon receipt of the gift, the Mission's staff will send notification to the honoree's family. Please send your memorial and honor gifts to:

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