



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2009

For More Information Contact:  
Delise White, 678.553.4904

### **The Good Samaritan Health Center Seeking Physicians and Dentists in Need of Continuing Education**

ATLANTA – Georgia physicians and dentists can earn continuing education hours by donating their time to treat the uninsured at any of Georgia’s charity health care clinics, thanks to new rule changes just implemented by state licensing boards.

As a result, Good Samaritan Health Center is seeking physicians and dentists to donate their time to treat the poor and uninsured, who during this tough economy are seeking health care at charitable clinics in record numbers.

“This rule change is a win-win for everyone involved,” said Delise White, Volunteer Coordinator at Good Samaritan. “If medical personnel can earn continuing education credit and the working poor and unemployed can get health care at the same time, we help solve our state’s problem of taking care of the uninsured. There are certainly more in need of care than ever during this current recession.”

Under the rule change adopted this year by the Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners, physicians with active licenses can earn 10 of the 40 continuing education hours required every two years by working at a charity clinic. The medical board waives one continuing medical education hour for every four hours of work at a charity clinic up to 10 hours.

The Georgia Board of Dentistry, meanwhile, requires 40 hours of continuing education every two years for all dentists. Under its rule change, any dentist can earn up to 10 hours credit by providing uncompensated care at a charity clinic.

“Physicians and dentists are known for giving back to the community,” said Donna Looper, executive director of the Georgia Free Clinic Network. “This rule change is a great incentive for even more of them to get involved and earn their continuing education hours at the same time.”

The Good Samaritan Health Center is non-profit organization located in Atlanta (Fulton County) that provided 19,015 direct service patient visits to indigent, homeless and low-income patients in 2008.

The Georgia Free Clinic Network is an organization of more than 100 free and low-cost health clinics throughout the state that provide health care to the poor and underinsured. A 2006 study by the Georgia state auditor found its clinics provide between \$200 and \$400 million worth of charity care annually to about 15% of the state’s uninsured patients.

According to the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, 17.4 percent of the state’s population lacks health insurance. That statistic pre-dates the current recession. Officials at local clinics throughout the state say charity clinics are over capacity since the start of the current recession.