

Community Impact

Health Care—John's Story

John spent almost thirty years working hard, providing for his family. He developed a serious heart condition. Unable to work, his family's health insurance was lost. Soon his savings were exhausted. He still needs several expensive medications to live. What are his options?

Many people in our community are without health insurance. When they do not have access to regular, affordable health care, the community costs are high. Emergency room visits by self-pay or indigent patients cost more than \$38 million in 2004 in Richland County alone.

United Way of the Midlands recognizes the needs of uninsured adults who do not qualify for government assistance. Funding provided to the Free Medical Clinic helps to meet those needs. In 2005, the Free Medical Clinic provided 6,509 medical visits and \$2.7 million in medications. After attending diabetes classes, the average blood sugar level of 53 patients decreased to 170 points, down 28 points from 198.

What happened to John? The Free Medical Clinic provided a primary care physician, medicine, and specialty referrals to a cardiologist at no cost. John's wife also received care and classes to address diabetes.

John is just one person who benefited through this United Way of the Midlands partnership. As a medical provider in Palmetto Health's Richland Care system, the Free Medical Clinic is in part responsible for a 56% decrease in emergency room visits, a 70% decrease in hospitalizations and savings to the hospital system and this community of \$13.5 million.

When you give to United Way of the Midlands, it's an investment in your community...and people just like John.

United Way of the Midlands is donors, partners and volunteers discovering and responding to the crucial needs of our community—then finding resources to address those needs and following up to make sure the work gets done.

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