ASU partners with St. Vincent de Paul on new East Valley health clinic

Clinic will provide health care to uninsured and underserved patients

By Scott Bordow, ASU News
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Story highlights

- ASU partners with St. Vincent de Paul on new East Valley Medical Clinic
- Clinic will serve underinsured and underserved patients
- Facility will provide comprehensive primary health care

Just a few minutes before the ribbon was cut at St. Vincent de Paul's new East Valley Medical Clinic Wednesday, Arizona State University President Michael Crow shared some statistics with the crowd that had been invited for the opening.

The United States health care system can be divided into three parts, Crow said. There's the upper-income class that has an "unparalleled rate of health success." The middle class, Crow said, is making steady progress in health care markers like lifespan.

But for the more than 100 million people who are underinsured or underserved, Crow said, "there are no positive indicators."

"I want you to process that," he said. "Lifespan is going down. Income is going down … It's the most unbelievable thing you can imagine."

And it's why, Crow said, the university readily agreed when St. Vincent de Paul approached ASU Health officials more than two years ago, asking if the university would like to be a partner in the clinic.

"It's incumbent upon us not to wait for the government to solve this or solve that," Crow said. "It's incumbent on us to figure out how we're going to solve it. And St. Vincent de Paul is the kind of organization that steps up and makes things happen. We're so inspired by what they're doing that we're all in."

The 10,100-square-foot facility, located on Apache Road just east of Loop 101, includes 18 exam rooms, a small laboratory, a medication dispensary and two procedure rooms. It will provide comprehensive primary health care to adults and children, and will provide access to more than 30 Valley specialists who do pro bono work.

The clinic's community partners consist of ASU Health, Creighton University and Mayo Clinic. Supporting partners include Banner Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona.

St. Vincent de Paul CEO Shannon Clancy said the need for a second clinic — the organization operates a medical clinic in downtown Phoenix — was "urgent."

Clinic details

The clinic will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Patients will be seen by referral and through eligibility screening for qualified community members. Prospective patients should call 602-261-6825.

According to the U.S. Health Services and Resources Administration, approximately 759,000 Arizonans — 10.8 % of the state's population — lack health insurance, a rate that exceeds the national average.

"Too many Arizonans lack health insurance and access to quality care," Clancy said. "Behind that reality are parents, children, older adults, working neighbors and families forced to choose between paying rent, buying food or seeing a doctor.

"Care delayed can quickly become a crisis and a barrier to employment, housing and family stability. The East Valley Medical Clinic is an innovative and compassionate answer to that need."

Dr. Richard Gray, CEO of Mayo Clinic in Arizona, said the clinic can make an "enormous difference" in people's lives.

"It can allow a health concern to be addressed sooner. A family can get help when they need it. And a patient can be cared for with dignity and compassion," Gray said. "This clinic is also a great reminder that we best meet community needs when we come together."

Kristen Will, associate dean and clinical professor with ASU Health, said ASU's role in the clinic will be multifaceted. It will provide faculty and clinicians, and the clinic will become a training site for undergraduate and graduate students in ASU Health.

The student teams will come from across the ASU Health spectrum, including the John Shufeldt School of Medicine and Medical Engineering, the College of Health Solutions, the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, the School of Technology for Public Health and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

“This will be the first time we’ve been able to do this on a bigger scale,” Will said. “We’ll also have students who are not clinical. We’ll have a community facing teams of students working with patients and clients at St. Vincent de Paul.”

Crow said ASU Health’s involvement is indicative of what he wants the initiative to become as it moves forward.

“We’re not going to run a medical center. We’re not going to run a hospital,” he said. “We’re going to finagle our way to tie into everybody so that we can find a way to help every community to have a better set of health outcomes.

“If you can take care of a health outcome, you can get a kid through school. You can make other things happen. This is at the root of everything. So we’re excited to be part of this.”

This story originally appeared on ASU News.

Main image



The St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic in Mesa, Arizona, is unveiled on Oct. 7. Photo by Samantha Chow/Arizona State University

Text image(s)



From left: St. Vincent de Paul Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Anwar, President of Creighton University Father Daniel Hendrickson, St. Vincent de Paul CEO Shannon Clancy, ASU President Michael Crow and Mayo Clinic CEO Dr. Richard Gray pose for a photo before a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic in Mesa, Arizona, on Oct. 7. Photo by Samantha Chow/Arizona State University

Gallery



From left: Willmeng Construction Senior Vice President Chris Brown, St. Vincent de Paul Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Anwar, President of Creighton University Father Daniel Hendrickson, St. Vincent de Paul CEO Shannon Clancy, ASU President Michael Crow, Mayo Clinic CEO Dr. Richard Gray and St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council President Shirley Smalley pose for a photo during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic in Mesa, Arizona, on Oct. 7.



The St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic was unveiled on Oct. 7. The 10,100-square-foot facility, located on Apache Road just east of Loop 101, includes 18 exam rooms, a small laboratory, a medication dispensary and two procedure rooms.



An exam room inside the newly unveiled St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic. The clinic will provide comprehensive primary health care to adults and children, and will provide access to more than 30 Valley specialists who do pro bono work.



People tour the newly unveiled St. Vincent de Paul East Valley Medical Clinic.