



VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE



Photo: [Justin M. Bowen](#)

Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada enlisted more than 500 volunteers in 2010.

“Over-the-top, through the ceiling” is how Dr. Florence Jameson describes the community’s support thus far for the free medical clinic she opened last January to treat the uninsured. In its first year, Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada attracted a pool of more than 500 volunteers and received enough donations to cover all of its operating costs through 2011—two huge milestones for a brand-new nonprofit. Big corporations including Quest Diagnostics and St. Rose Hospitals have stepped up to help as well, offering free X-rays and diagnostic tests to the clinic’s needy patients. “How’s it going? To say anything less than—did you watch *Moulin Rouge*?—spectacular, spectacular would be an understatement,” Jameson gushes.

But the OB-GYN says her work has just begun. The clinic, in Paradise Park near the intersection of Pecos and Tropicana, now serves about 350 patients a month. In the coming year, Jameson and her staff hope to double the number of health professionals, social workers and everyday people who volunteer and raise \$2.8 million to build a flagship clinic in North Las Vegas. The second facility would span 12,000 square feet and offer dental care and mental health treatment in addition to primary care. With Clark County’s uninsured population estimated at 400,000, the demand for basic medical care is overwhelming. As Jameson wrote in a recent call for volunteers, “We can help. We must help. There is no greater joy.”