



OP-ED / PRESS RELEASE – TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries

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SUBJECT: Demand for Health Care Exceeds Resources at TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries

For twenty-five years, the staff at TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries has faithfully ministered to the community in and around Tomball, Magnolia and Waller. Day in and day out, the main clinic and its satellites, in Magnolia and Waller, have provided quality health care, offered the hope of Jesus Christ, and restored dignity to area families that found themselves in a season of difficult circumstances. And haven't we all been there? Haven't we all experienced seasons when the weight of the world bears down on us, or someone we care about, in the form of financial hardship, an unexpected illness or a combination of circumstances beyond our control?

Over the past quarter century, there have been struggles meeting the needs of a continuously growing community. But, in all of the tough times the staff can recall, none can recall as difficult a time as this. Because TOMAGWA is 100% community supported (that means NO government or United Way funding) we depend on you to help us help your neighbors. The fact is, the constant flow of patients into our clinics has increased so remarkably this year that our resources, financial and volunteer, have not been able to keep up with the demand. The waiting room is full of new faces that look decidedly more fearful than those we have seen in previous years. They are the faces of the newly unemployed; the newly part-time; the newly un-insured. They are the faces of those who have fallen through the gap, made that chasm, created by the current healthcare climate. High premiums and high deductibles combined with company-wide layoffs, reductions of hours, and mass-cancellations of insurance policies have resulted in waiting rooms full of sick people seeking relief.

The situation is reaching a tipping-point where TOMAGWA leadership is faced with some hard choices. If community support does not increase to match demand, the clinic may have to implement a moratorium on accepting new patients or cut critical programs to reallocate limited resources. The choice is difficult; which service is expendable? Eye exams and eye glasses? Diabetic clinic? Pharmacy? Immunizations? Cancer screening? Might the one service your loved one needs most be the one that goes unfunded?

While the drought in resources is serious, it is redeemable. God has always provided for the financial and volunteer needs of this ministry. He touches the hearts of compassionate people, people like you, in our community who give all that we need to continue our kingdom work, healing the sick and ministering to the least of His people. All that we ask is that you prayerfully consider what we have shared with you, and if God has touched your heart today, please respond promptly. You can give on line at www.tomagwa.org or send your gift to TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries, 455 School Street, Suite 30, Tomball, Texas 77375.

We want to express our thanks to our faithful core of donors and volunteers. And, we want to express emphatically that our core group of contributors remains consistent and strong; the demand for our services has simply surpassed the core's ability to keep up with the demand. We need the entire community to understand the circumstances and respond. Jesus said, "*Sell your possessions and give to charity; ...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Luke 12: 33-34) Now, we're not suggesting that you go sell all you own and give the proceeds to TOMAGWA, but know that every gift, large or small, has tremendous impact in this ministry. Please give as you are led by the Holy Spirit.

By His Grace,

Judy Deyo

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