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# Orlando Sentinel

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BY NASEEM S. MILLER | Staff Writer

Every other Thursday night, UCF medical students don their white coats and practice what will one day be their real job.

They see patients, run labs and schedule appointments at Grace Medical Home, which sees Orange County working poor who have no insurance.

"Thank you so much for being patient with us and helping teach us, too," fourth-year University of Central Florida medical student Glenn Gookin said to a

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NASEEM S. MILLER/STAFF PHOTO

UCF med student Ross Russell takes blood pressure at KNIGHTS clinic as student Glenn Gookin supervises and UF pharmacy student Jennifer Orozco puts info into records.

**composter in Orlando**

BY STEPHEN HUDAK | Staff Writer

Forget roses, chocolate or diamonds. The city of Orlando suggests something dirty and a little trashy for love-struck valentines.

In a campaign aimed at reducing Orlando's costly garbage bill, The City Beautiful offers a composting bin as "something special" to give your sweetheart on the day for lovers.

"I can think of no better Valentine's Day gift than a new, free home composter," said Orlando Mayor and hopeless romantic Buddy Dyer as he introduced the program to City Council.

Orlando is giving away 80-gallon containers (a \$40 value) that can turn yard and food waste into potting soil — perfect for growing your own flowers.

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# CLINIC

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62-year-old uninsured patient as she seated herself on the exam table.

Beside him stood second-year student Ross Russell and third-year University of Florida pharmacy student Jennifer Orozco, and the three worked together to get a medical history of the patient and do a basic assessment before presenting the information to a volunteer physician who made the final diagnosis.

The three are among student volunteers who help run the KNIGHTS clinic, which stands for Keeping Neighbors in Good Health Through Service, a collaboration between Grace Medical Home, UCF College of Medicine and UF College of Pharmacy in Orlando.

The nighttime clinic just turned 2, and it gives students the opportunity to work in a medical home — a comprehensive, patient-centered, primary-care model — alongside family physicians and specialists.

“It allows the students very early to see patients,” said Dr. Marvin Hardy, medical director of Grace. “But it also teaches them how to take care of the underserved in the community. There’s no system for the uninsured, so [the students] have to follow through on a lot of things that a traditional doctor doesn’t have to, like coordinating imaging studies and free medication.”

The clinic is run by a board of second-year medical students, under the supervision of attending and volunteer physicians. Board members have designated yearlong duties at the clinic. They also draw from a list of nearly 200 volunteers that includes first- through fourth-year medical students in addition to pharmacy students to staff the clinic with about 20 people.

The clinic is funded by the Diebel Legacy Fund, which was established after local physician Dr. N. Donald Diebel Jr. was killed more than a decade ago when a tractor-trailer lost control on Florida’s Turnpike. Diebel and a few others had pulled over to help a newlywed couple out of their overturned car.



NASEEM S. MILLER/STAFF PHOTO

At KNIGHTS clinic, 4th-year UCF med student Glenn Gookin, left, shows 2nd-year student Ross Russell how to examine a patient’s joints as UF pharmacy student Jennifer Orozco enters patient medication information into electronic medical records.

“If we can help one of these kids become more like him, that’s money well-spent,” said Peter Diebel, Donald Diebel’s brother.

Clinical interactions in medical school usually begin in the third year, so the KNIGHTS clinic gives first- and second-year students an early opportunity to interact with patients.

“My first experience here was in patient education, and we educated somebody to get a flu shot who didn’t want to get a flu shot. That was really incredible,” said second-year medical student Faith Villanueva as she oversaw the clinic’s lab operations.

For the faculty, the clinic is an opportunity to teach students the practical applications of what they learn in school.

“It gives them lots of self-confidence and practice,” said Dr. Magdalena Pasarica, a UCF faculty adviser at the KNIGHTS clinic and associate professor of medicine.

“It helps that we’re here as faculty, because we know what they’re learning in class, and when they come here we

know what to ask them. And when I go back to class, I know what they’re lacking from what I’ve seen, so I think it’s a very good back-and-forth.”

But for most it’s more than just a place to get a head start in practicing medicine.

“Both my parents don’t have insurance, so it’s important to me to give back to the medical community, because I know there are people out there who don’t have insurance,” said Ashley Brown, a second-year UCF medical student.

Gookin had another mission.

“If I help expose a future emergency-medicine physician to this, then he will be more sympathetic to this patient population when he’s working with them in the future. Or if a future cardiologist comes and volunteers here, they would be more willing to donate their service and their time to medically underserved patient population. To me, that’s the biggest value,” said Gookin, who is planning to become a family physician.

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