

Sister Eileen Tucson, AZ



Over the past 20 years I have worked with families who have had steady employment even though they have earned minimum wages. Most of the people I have provided medical care to are employed in the service industries, gardening, landscaping, housekeeping, and childcare. Many times the head of the household would have insurance but not his wife or children because the premium is too high. Our clinic was then the provider for the women and children and people paid on a sliding scale.

With the downturn in the economy, people have lost their jobs or are working fewer hours. It is very difficult for them to pay their prorated clinic fee. The result has been that patients wait longer to come for medical treatment or people not renewing their medications. This makes their health conditions more complicated and costly when they do come to us.