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For Immediate Release

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**Partners in Healthcare:  
Marian Clinic Receives Grant**

Topeka's Marian Clinic, substantially impacted by the economic downturn, will soon be able to help more patients, thanks to a creative local partnership and a significant grant.

The Clinic received word from the Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation that it has been awarded a grant totaling nearly thirty thousand dollars to fund "Project Catch-Up," the Clinic's effort to meeting the growing need for medical care for low-income patients who lack health insurance. During 2009 the Clinic has witnessed a 20% increase in new patients over 2008, requiring new approaches to serve this vulnerable population.

The Sunflower grant allows the Clinic to contract with Washburn University School of Nursing during 2010, paying for a faculty member with Nurse Practitioner status to work two days per week treating patients at the Marian Clinic. Estimates are that this will allow another 30 patient visits per week, or 1,560 additional patient visits at the Clinic during 2010. It will also provide a teaching opportunity to Washburn graduate-level nurses who will at times accompany the WU Nurse Practitioner faculty member.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant," stated Robert "Bob" Trepinski, Executive Director of the Marian Clinic. "It really augments our existing staff and financial resources, helping us fulfill our mission of providing care to those who need it most. Partnering with the Washburn University School of Nursing not only benefits the Clinic and our patients, but it also benefits the University's nursing faculty and students. Thank you Washburn University for your cooperation on this and other partnerships and thank you Sunflower Foundation for helping fund our ministry to the community."

Added Washburn University School of Nursing Dean Dr. Monica Scheibmeir, "The Marian Clinic and Washburn University School of Nursing have a long history of successful collaboration with each other. We were delighted to

have another opportunity to work with the Marian Clinic staff to assist them in their mission of providing health services to the underserved families in our community. Our academic-service partnership helps support the ongoing needs of our faculty to continue to develop their advanced practice nursing skills while affording excellent teaching opportunities for our students.”

Since 1988, the Marian Clinic has provided a medical and dental home for those living in poverty who lack health insurance. Many are “the working poor,” families and individuals whose employers offer no insurance. During 2008 the Clinic treated over 4,900 and provided, at no charge, medications valued at over \$500,000. However as more and more people have lost their jobs, the number of patients has increased by 20%.

The Clinic receives much of its support through grants like this one and charitable donations from businesses and individuals. Donations may be sent to the Marian Clinic, 1001 SW Garfield, Topeka, KS 66604, or via the website at [www.marianclinic.org](http://www.marianclinic.org).

The Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation, created in 2000, is a philanthropic organization with the mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans, which it supports through a program of grants, awards and related activities.

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