

DR. TOM HENDERSON

DIRECTOR

Vitals: Company: Faith Family Medical Clinic

Phone: 615-341-0808

Age: 60 **Time on job:** 7 years

Years in Nashville: 7

BY JIM STINSON | NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Dr. Tom Henderson was thinking of retiring after decades of doctoring and raising a family.

Instead, he moved to Nashville and became director of a clinic for the working poor – Faith Family Medical Clinic.

Before directing the faith-based clinic at 326 21st Ave. in Nashville, Henderson, 60, had practiced medicine in Southeast Missouri and raised four children.

It was on a trip to Nashville Henderson and his wife decided to move to Music City to help Faith Family open. They moved to Nashville in 2001 and the clinic opened Oct. 8 of that year.

"We serve uninsured people who are working," says Henderson. "The fees that are charged cover about 20 percent of our costs. The rest of it has to come from donations."

Fees range from \$10 to \$30 and the clinic can refer patients to surgeons and specialists who offer discounts.

For Henderson, practicing medicine is an intellectual stimulation – a chance to help.

"I'm one of the few physicians still

around who loves medicine," he says.

Faith Family's care is preferable in many cases to expensive emergency rooms, Henderson says, especially because too many patients are going to emergency rooms for minor ailments and ER bills can range from \$600 to \$1,000.

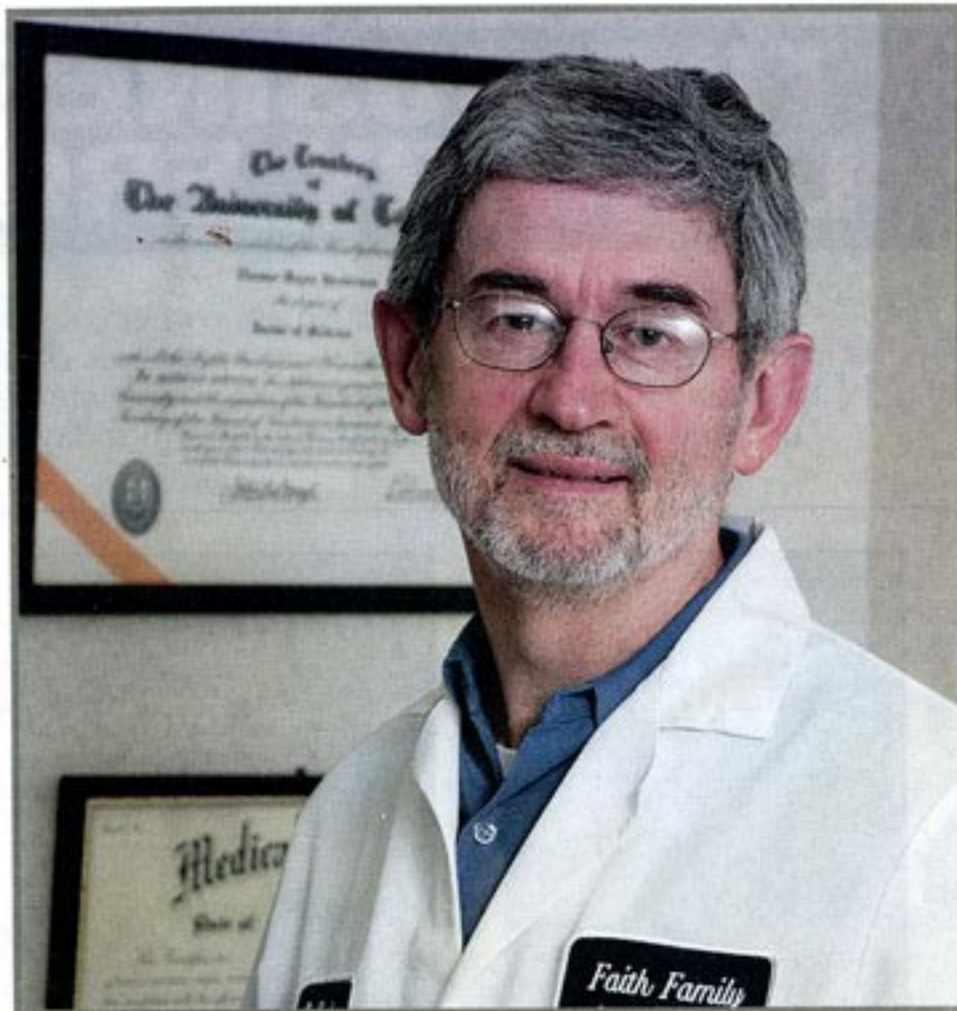
Janet Walls, a financial analyst with Covenant Partners, says her daughter is a nursing student who Henderson instructed.

Walls says her daughter wanted to work in a medical environment during the summers and both women became familiar with Henderson and his dedicated service.

"I think the thing that impressed me the most was his teaching spirit," says Walls, the former operations manager for Colliers Turley Martin Tucker.

Henderson says he believes in teaching students well because they could be your doctor in the future.

Walls says Henderson encourages patients to alter lifestyles to improve health and that the clinic is needed,



Rx for success: "For over five years he has delivered loving health care to thousands of people who have jobs but cannot afford insurance. He has established a jewel in Nashville to really do something for those who are trying, but struggling."

– Jack Faris

especially as medical resources for the poor are shrinking.

"(The clinic) is kind of a well-kept

secret," says Walls. "Especially with TennCare disappearing a little bit."

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