

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **N.C. free and charitable clinics, Giving Kitchen host Pop-Up Doc events to provide free health care services to uninsured food service workers**

- *Salisbury, Morehead City clinics planning May events, with other locations later this year*
- *Giving Kitchen offers financial support, other resources to restaurant workers nationwide*
- *Food-service industry workers among most likely to struggle without health insurance*

**WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (April 28, 2023)** – North Carolina’s free and charitable clinics are partnering with Giving Kitchen on a series of free “Pop-Up Doc” clinics where uninsured and underinsured food service workers can get medical check-ups and other health care services they can’t afford on their own.

The first two Pop-Up Doc clinics will be May 8 at **Community Care Clinic of Rowan County** in Salisbury and May 17 at the **Broad Street Clinic** in Morehead City. (Details below.) Details will be announced later for events at **Care Ring** and **Hope Community Clinic** in Charlotte and **HealthReach** in Mooresville.

Free and charitable clinics are exclusively devoted to providing high-quality health care at little or no cost to North Carolina residents who are uninsured and lack access to basic care. Workers in restaurant and hospitality industry jobs account for a significant portion of the state’s uninsured residents.

“Free and charitable clinics are committed to expanding access to health care to all North Carolinians regardless of their ability to pay,” said April Cook, CEO of the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. “Giving Kitchen’s Pop-Up Doc program is a great way to reach more people in need.”

Atlanta-based Giving Kitchen supports food service workers nationwide with financial assistance and other resources. Since 2013, the 2019 James Beard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year Award winner has provided more than \$8.4 million in financial assistance and helped more than 12,500 workers.

“Giving Kitchen’s main programs help food service workers after a crisis has occurred. Pop-Up Doc is a chance for GK to provide preventative care for food service workers before a minor health issue becomes a crisis-level event,” said Jen Hidingen-Kendrick, Giving Kitchen’s co-founder and senior director of community engagement. “Thanks to these clinics, we can reach food service workers in their communities and help them get the care they need.”

Food service workers attending the Pop-Up Doc events will have access to a range of services, including medical and dental visits at both locations. Workers can make an appointment and learn more about specific services available at each location at [givingkitchen.org/popupdoc](https://givingkitchen.org/popupdoc).

The May 8 Pop-Up Doc event will be held from 8:30-4:30 at Community Care Clinic of Rowan County, 315G Mocksville Ave., Salisbury NC 28144.

The May 17 Pop-Up Doc event will be held from 8:30-4:00 at the Broad Street Clinic, 534 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite K, Morehead City NC 28557.

In addition to the services available at the events, workers in attendance will be able to apply for free ongoing care at a free and charitable clinic. To be eligible, individuals must have no health insurance and meet the clinic’s income guidelines, typically 200% or 250% of the federal poverty level.

The 70 member clinics of the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics provide a full range of health care services, including ongoing primary care, specialty care, behavioral health services, dental, pharmacy, optometry and lab tests to 82,500 uninsured patients in 85 counties statewide. Clinics rely primarily on their communities for support in the form of volunteer health care providers and staff, as well as donations from community organizations, foundations and individual donors.

#### **About North Carolina Association of Free & Charitable Clinics**

The North Carolina Association of Free & Charitable Clinics supports 70 member clinics in expanding access to health care, reducing health disparities and improving the health of uninsured and underinsured individuals. Member clinics are a vital part of North Carolina's safety net, providing care for 82,500 patients in 85 counties, including primary and specialty medical care; dental care; pharmacy services; optometry; behavioral health care; lab tests and hospital referrals. The association supports member clinics with education, advocacy, research, funding and collaboration, and promotes quality health care for all North Carolinians. Learn more at [www.ncafcc.org](http://www.ncafcc.org).

#### **About Giving Kitchen**

Giving Kitchen (GK) is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance to food service workers through financial support and a network of community resources. Their goal is to create a food service community in which crises are met with compassion and care. Since its inception, GK has served over 12,500 food service workers and awarded over \$8.4 million in financial assistance. In 2022, Giving Kitchen was named one of *Fast Company's* [Brands That Matter](#). In 2019, Giving Kitchen was the recipient of the James Beard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year Award. For more about Giving Kitchen, visit [givingkitchen.org](http://givingkitchen.org) and follow @givingkitchen on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Food service workers in need of assistance should ask for help at [givingkitchen.org/help](http://givingkitchen.org/help).

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