The RotaCare / Texas Tech Free Clinic, located at 301 S. Schultz Dr. on the grounds of the Lutheran Mission, is celebrating 6 months of continuous healthcare coverage for the Ysleta community under the leadership of Dr. Richard McCallum our Medical Director, and Betty Gallegos as our Clinic Manager. Students, Residents and faculty working at the clinic are from Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and all are volunteering their time for this Community Service. Recently, a new student leadership team for the 2015-2016 academic year was elected consisting of 14 members and a newly formed committee of four first year medical students to conduct training and management of the clinic operations every other Saturday. As the newest student-run clinic in El Paso, it was our goal to provide acute care to the underserved and uninsured.

Since its inauguration, the clinic has expanded the laboratory services offered on site to include rapid assays for strep, common STDs, influenza, and HIV, complete metabolic panels, HbA1c, fasting glucose, and urine analysis due to the generous donations from the Rotary Club, whose support has paved the way for the clinic to thrive in the community. The leadership team has also been working with Quest Diagnostics to contract out additional labs that cannot be done “in-house.” We were able to secure a discounted indigent rate for vital labs that would otherwise be too expensive to perform and hope to begin offering these services within the next two months.

Looking to the future, the RotaCare / Texas Tech Free Clinic plans to expand its services to include pediatric patients. Our hope is that by promoting health prevention and education to all age groups, we can help put an end to the epidemics of high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity. In order to better encourage residents of the area to use the resources of the free clinic, we are collaborating with Dr. Navkiran Shokar and her team of promotoras to engage the community in colonoscopy screening. We are working with community leaders and physicians to have a monthly “special” education event at the clinic. Topics include breast cancer screening awareness, colon cancer, and smoking cessation.

There are many great things headed our way as the clinic expands, and it’s exciting to have the opportunity to serve the community as future physicians.