

In the Footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr.

Clinic helps those who have the least

BY JAKE THOMAS
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Jill Ginsberg, a family physician, remembers reading a newspaper article about a local pastor who was clothing, feeding, and housing Hurricane Katrina evacuees shortly after the storm ravaged parts of Louisiana and Texas in 2005.

Ginsberg called up the pastor, Mary Overstreet Smith of Power

House Temple Church, and asked if she could lend a hand

But Smith, who is known affectionately as "Pastor Mary," had an ambitious and unexpected proposal for Ginsberg: a health clinic that would serve the uninsured residents of north and northeast Portland free of charge.

"I'll see what I can do," replied Ginsberg, who wasn't expecting such a bold proposal,

and didn't know where to start.

But about a year later, Ginsberg and Smith opened up the doors to the North by Northeast Community Health Center just off of North Williams Avenue to help out uninsured residents with chronic problems that, if untreated, could develop into a costly trip to the emergency room.

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The journey toward freedom began with a bus ride.

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of color, helping people transform opportunities into jobs, healthcare, schools, events, social services and more.

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Dr. Robert Bullard
 Environmental Resource
 Justice Center (ejrc.cau.edu)
 Atlanta magazine, March 2007

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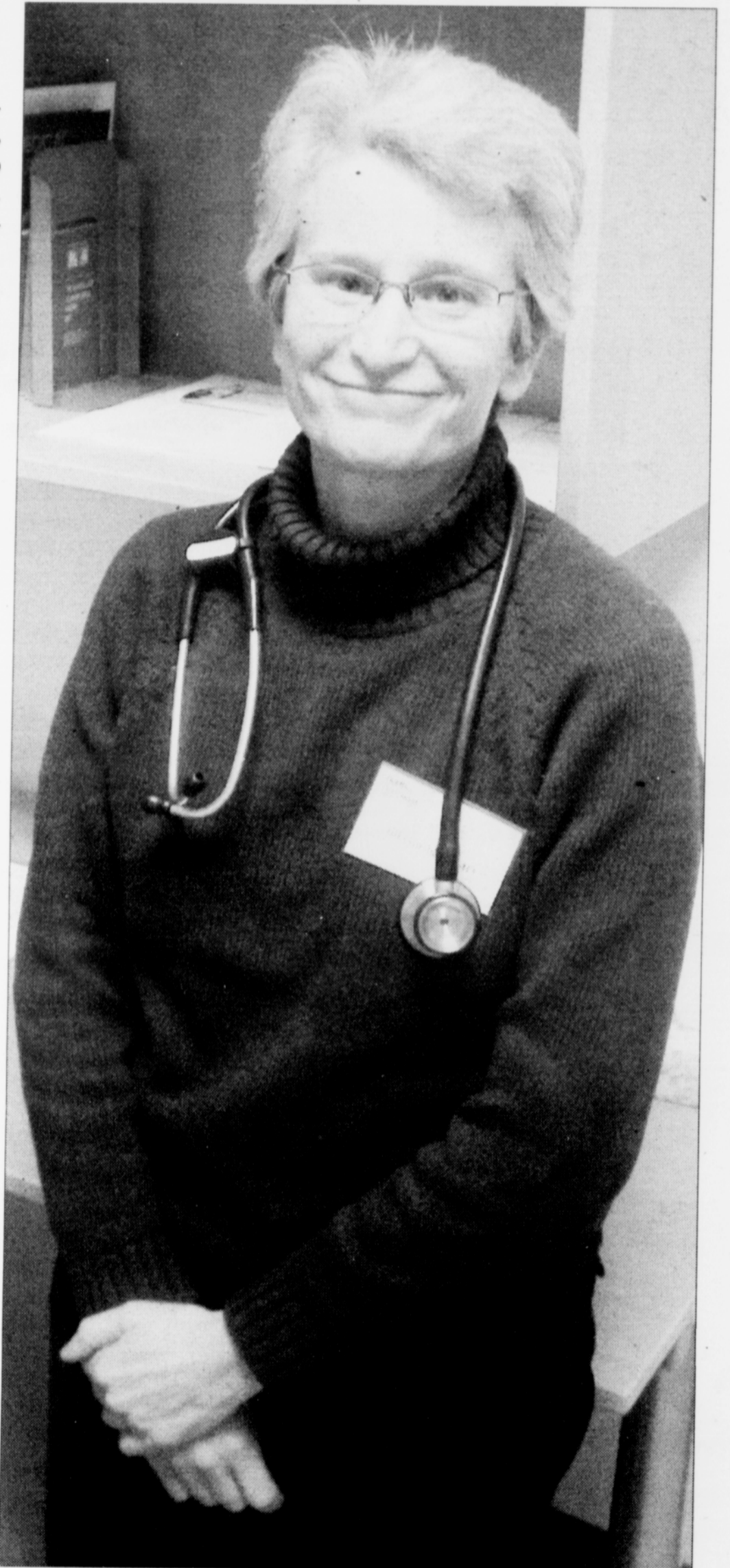


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Jill Ginsberg, volunteers at the North by Northeast Community Health Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, a community clinic for low income residents that she helped found in 2006.

MLK Concert at AME Zion Church

A musical celebration of the legacy and life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will take place Sunday, Jan. 17 at 4 p.m. at Community A. M. E. Zion Church, 3605 E. 13th St. in Vancouver.

The event will feature the Unity in Praise choir under the direction of Elder Walter L. Smith Jr.

For more information, call 360-693-4566 or 360-82-5944.