

# news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school - graduate school of biomedical sciences - school of allied health sciences

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*\*\*\*\*\*Community plans dedication of  
health clinic for children.*

DALLAS--A dedication and Cinco de Mayo fiesta for Gabe Allen Children's Clinic, a Children and Youth Project medical clinic, has been planned by parents of children in that community who see the pediatric health team for comprehensive health care in this area where the population is mostly chicano.

Gabe Allen is the second facility open under the auspices of a unique partnership between The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School's Pediatrics Department and the Dallas Independent School System which furnished the building. Gabe Allen Clinic is located at 5330 Nomas.

The federally-funded clinic operated during the week in Bill Harrod's Memorial Baptist Mission until February 17.

Both Dr. Thomas D. Moore, director of Children and Youth and associate professor of pediatrics at Southwestern Dr. Nolen Estes, feel that the clinics are reaching their goals in these areas: fewer death, less disability, reduced hospital care, decrease in school absences and improved school performance.

According to Dr. Estes, Dallas is the only independent school district in the country to build a clinic for children in cooperation with a program for their comprehensive health care. The \$ 107,000 portable building with the finest in equipment and facilities is leased from the DISD by Children and Youth. Services are provided through the Department of Pediatrics at Southwestern. Funding comes from Maternal and Child Health Service, of the Department of pediatrics at Southwestern. Funding comes from Maternal and Child Health Service of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. All services--including medicine--are free to the patient

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population.

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first add health clinic

"This clinic is positively doing a fine job for the community...at no cost to us," commented school board president Farrell Ray after a tour of the Carver Clinic building, which opened summer, 1974.

Dr. Estes commented that he believes that not only will this clinic--and the others in the program--cut absenteeism, but they will help the children to learn. A healthy child will naturally do better in school, he said.

Dr. Heinz Eichenwald, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the medical school, agreed. "We're trying to produce a generation of healthy children whose school absences are reduced and who won't be crowding Parkland Hospital (Dallas County's charity hospital) with ailments as adults that stem from childhood diseases."

Fortunately, he continued, "Dr. Estes and the board understand what we are doing. They know a child can't learn in school unless he's healthy."

Gabe Allen is one of the four operating neighborhood health clinics providing free comprehensive health care to children in certain census tracts in West Dallas where the infant mortality rate has been high. Until recently Gabe Allen operated in a church where the clinic had its temporary home for three years. The other clinics are still borrowing space from housing projects and, in the case of Pinkston Clinic which serves adolescents only, classrooms in Pinkston High School.

As of Feb. 28, 10,200 children under 19 years of age were registered with the health care project. This number includes the 1,128 enrolled at the Gabe Allen Clinic under Dr. Raefael Toledo.

Dr. Moore said the partnership between the project and the local school system "is a continuing effort to look for more effective ways to provide health care for low-income children."

Dramatic proof that Children and Youth has drastically cut the mortality rate in the patient population in contrast to other children and young people living in the same geographical area has been found by Dr. Moore.

For Cinco de Mayo information, contact Mrs. Alanzo at 634-0533.