

Partnering for community health

With all of the national-level discussions on health care reform taking place, here's an example of some home-grown ingenuity that helps uninsured Minnesotans access health care. Portico Healthnet – one of our community partners in the efforts to restore GAMC – is a non-profit working to reduce the number of people without coverage for health care services. Last year alone, Portico helped more than 13,000 uninsured and underinsured individuals find affordable health coverage and/or services. Many were eligible for government safety-net programs, such as MinnesotaCare. For those who were not, Portico offers as a last resort its own primary and preventive health care access program funded by local hospitals and health plans – including Regions and HealthPartners.

In addition to helping those in need find coverage, the organization has reduced uncompensated emergency room usage among those it serves by more than one-third because these individuals are now able to access care earlier and in a more efficient setting.