

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
WESTERN RESERVE STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

BUILDING A MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN RESERVE

October 12-13 2001

Allen Memorial Medical Library
Ford Auditorium

The Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland Since 1970: Where Health Care is a Right . . . Not a Privilege

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- I. Historical Review of the Cleveland Free Clinic
 - Process of Formation thru 1975
 - 1975-1983 Growth & Expansion
 - 1983-1986: Consolidation & Stabilization
 - 1986-2000: Controlled Growth & Development
- II. Present Community Role
 - Service Provider
 - Community Advocate
 - Future Plans
- III. Health Care as a Right: The Issue

Synopsis

The Free Clinic began operations in 1970, responding to the medical and psychological needs of young people experiencing problems related to drug abuse. Over the three decades of operation the Free Clinic became a vital part of the health care safety net for the uninsured of our community. Communities across the state and nation are struggling with the challenges of meeting the health needs of their citizenry, recognizing that the viability of communities is directly linked to their overall health, The Free Clinic movement reflects a number of solutions to this current dilemma, lessons that bear consideration as we move forward.