

# COLLIN COUNTY

## Weaving health care with low costs

**McKinney:** Nonprofit Tapestry clinic raises money for services

By **TIFFANY UZOR**  
Special Contributor

**McKINNEY** — Audra Johnson needed help for her parents, who own a small business but don't have health insurance. The pharmaceutical rep found affordable care for her parents at McKinney's Tapestry Healthcare.

Ms. Johnson and others gathered Saturday for a Summer Fiesta to raise money for the nonprofit clinic. Virginia Street was blocked off at Aparicio's restaurant downtown, and more than 20 bands played on indoor and outdoor stages as people grazed at a buffet and bid on auction items.

Tapestry Healthcare raised about \$7,000. It's an uphill battle for manpower, money and space, officials said.

Ray Coleman, founder and chief executive officer, recently moved to McKinney and saw that the city was in need of a community health center, so he opened one. The health clinic serves Collin, Hunt, Grayson, Rockwall, Denton, Tarrant and Dallas counties.

Nearly a quarter of the state's residents, about 5.4 million Texans, are without health insurance, according to a special report by the state comptroller. Nationally, about 44.9 million people, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population, are uninsured.

Tapestry's funding is primarily a combination of patient revenue, state and county grants, and funders. In order to expand the core services, it needs more money to increase its professional staff.

Mr. Coleman, who has a background in health care management and business administration,



JOHN F. RHODES/Staff Photographer

**Gabino Rodriguez (left) helped Harold Lowe choose a T-shirt Saturday at Summer Fiesta 2005, a fundraising event that benefited Tapestry Healthcare. The festival in McKinney raised about \$7,000 for the nonprofit clinic.**

is hoping to add substance-abuse and mental-health treatment to its primary-care services. Limited dental services will be available this fall.

Jesus Hernandez, Aparicio's general manager, said he found out about Tapestry from a local news

article. "When one of our employees got sick, I remembered Tapestry and sent her there," Mr. Hernandez said.

The clinic is an option for small businesses that want to provide quality, affordable health care for

their employees. Tapestry has a working relationship with six businesses in the area.

Payment is structured on a sliding scale based on household income and family size. Patients need to bring proof of income, address and identification to determine

what amount will be collected at the time of a visit; however, the clinic won't turn away patients.

About 90 percent of the clinic's patients are low-income residents.

Mr. Coleman said he really wants people to know that Tapestry is in the community and that it can han-

### TAPESTRY HEALTHCARE

402 N. Tennessee St., McKinney  
972-540-7701  
www.tapestryhealthcare.org

#### Hours

Monday — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Thursday — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday — 8 a.m. to noon

#### Services

Primary-care services include treatment for pain, minor cuts, rashes, infections, allergies, diabetes, colds, coughs and high cholesterol; family planning; sexually transmitted disease screening; follow-up care; and well-child checkups. Beginning this fall, Tapestry will provide limited dental services.

dle more than coughs and colds.

Lucio Gonzales, chief medical officer and clinical director, said 75 percent of the patients are suffering from chronic illnesses. Some days, he said, he wants to throw up his hands and never come back.

"It is so hard knowing we are doing as much as we can but feeling like we aren't doing enough," Mr. Gonzales said.

Mr. Coleman said many people do not have health insurance, and with the rapid growth of Collin County, the number will continue to rise.

"I don't have the solution to our health care crisis, but I keep my eye on the prize," Mr. Coleman said.

"Tapestry is my legacy. Long after I'm gone, I want this organization to be known for serving the community."

*Tiffany Uzor is a McKinney-based freelance writer.*