September 2017 Volunteer of the Month: Dr. John Shahan

ACORN Clinic recognizes Dr. John Shahan as the September 2017 Volunteer of the Month. Dr. Shahan has volunteered at ACORN Clinic for 11 years. He provides Hispanic patients with free primary care services in a monthly evening clinic held at ACORN. Any of the patients' medicines or diagnostic testing costs are paid for by his Sunday School class at Trinity United Methodist Church!

Dr. Shahan is a radiologist and a fifth-generation physician who always knew he wanted to become a doctor as well. One challenge Dr. Shahan is faced with at the clinic is communication issues due to a language barrier with his patients. However, he does not let it stop him from providing high quality medical services. ACORN Clinic supports Dr. Shahan's care by providing the clinic space and materials, as well as volunteer Spanish-translators and medical assistants.

Dr. Shahan believes that his ACORN patients are permanent members of our community and need our medical support and attention. He recognizes how a language barrier and residency status may prevent some community members from receiving medical care and hopes to be able to help patients overcome these challenges.

When he is not volunteering at ACORN Clinic, Dr. Shahan enjoys reading, writing, and taking care of his yard. He especially enjoys reading science fiction and watching detective shows.

Dr. Shahan says that "ACORN Clinic does great service in the community and these patients are a very underserved group." He has been humbled by being on an incredible hard-working team of volunteers at ACORN.

ACORN Clinic is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit serving over 20 Florida counties with full-service medical and dental clinics. ACORN Clinic provides high quality, affordable medical care, dental care, and social services by staff and volunteers. In partnership with educational institutions, ACORN Clinic also functions as an exemplary service-learning site for health professionals.

Written by Andrea Murciano and Madison Cernohous