

## OUR VIEW

### Project provides needed health care for uninsured

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Kudos to the Whatcom Project Access project and the 170 Whatcom County doctors who have signed on to give health care to uninsured Whatcom County citizens.

The project has assisted many people in our community already. For example, one man broke a bone right after starting his job, and before his medical insurance kicked in. He was able to get health care through the project.

Officials with the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, of which Project Access is a part, say the project could end up helping as many as 1,000 people in 2007.

The advantage to the community is the system helps the sick and injured and does so at clinics instead of in more expensive emergency rooms. We are all served better when our hospital's most vital community function is not the fallback position for any and all sick people.

The advantage to doctors is they help uninsured people who need care with support and assistance from the project with paperwork and administration.

We think it's great so many doctors are taking part. Unfortunately the health care system in this country is broken. If you have a system based on insurance, it's foolish that everyone is not insured. If an uninsured person gets sick or in an accident do we expect our medical professionals to just turn them away and let them suffer? Of course not.

It's nice to know so many local doctors understand the current system isn't working. And until a better one is put in place they are willing to help people when help is needed most.