

**CONTACT: Ann Blackford, (859) 323-6363 or
Allison Horseman (859) 323-1100 ext. 80563**

FOR RELEASE

Free clinics make a difference

LEXINGTON, Ky. (April 16, 2008) – As a painter, William Pemberton relies on the strength and mobility of his arms and hands to make a living. Unfortunately, the repetitive use of those muscles recently started causing him so much pain that Pemberton was lying awake at night filled with anxiety about his future.

“I had this horrible throbbing in my arm and I didn’t know what I would do if I didn’t get help,” said Pemberton.

But getting help wasn’t easy since Pemberton does not have any health insurance. Luckily, he learned about the free physical therapy clinic at the University of Kentucky Salvation Army Clinic (UKSAC) in Lexington and began seeking treatment right away.

The UKSAC is a free clinic that is run by University of Kentucky students. The mission of the clinic is to improve the health and well-being of the under-served and uninsured population in Lexington by providing free medical services, increasing awareness of local health care issues, and providing a setting for student community service and early clinical exposure.

The UKSAC has both physical therapy and medical clinics and is sponsored by UK College of Health Sciences and UK College of Medicine. Both clinics give people like Pemberton access to care that might not otherwise be available.

The UKSAC is staffed by volunteer physical therapy, medical, and pharmacy students from the University of Kentucky. All students are supervised by professionals.

“I think it’s important to volunteer and to give back,” said Marc DuPont, a licensed physical therapist and part owner of Physical Therapy International who helps oversee

the physical therapy clinic. “The clinic makes a difference for our students in that they received hands-on instruction, and also for those patients we treat.”

The free physical therapy clinic was started seven years ago by Dr. Lynn English, a faculty member in the College of Health Sciences Physical Therapy program. The medical clinic was started in 1986. Now, the College of Health Sciences, College of Medicine, and College of Pharmacy are proud to work together to treat patients in a comprehensive and patient-centered manner.

“Our students are more and more eager to participate with the clinic,” said English. “We’re serving a real need in this community and we hope to continue our mission for many years.”

And that commitment is something that makes patients like Pemberton very happy.

“If I wasn’t able to get help here, I don’t know if I would be able to work,” he said. Pemberton said he worried that without his job, he would become a burden to society. “People get stuck in the (health care) system and don’t know where to turn. It’s nice to know help like this is out there.”

The only requirement for receiving treatment at the clinic is that patients are uninsured. The physical therapy clinic is open on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and the medical clinic is open Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Specialty clinics for pulmonary and psychiatric needs are held monthly. Patients are seen on a first come, first served basis for both clinics.

More information about the UK Salvation Army Clinic can be found by visiting www.mc.uky.edu/saclinic.

The University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences consists of nine programs: Athletic Training; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Physical Therapy; Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program; Clinical and Reproductive Sciences; Clinical Nutrition; Physician Assistant Studies; Radiation Sciences; and Clinical Leadership and Management.

###

Caption: Carla Small, of Lexington, is examined by physical therapy student Lauren Holt at the UK Salvation Army Clinic.