

Good Evening. My name is Chenchu Kethan Kadimi , and I'm a mechanical engineering student and a volunteer with the American Diversity Group Free Clinic.

A lot of people ask me why someone studying mechanical engineering is volunteering at a free medical clinic. It might seem like an unusual mix, but to me, it makes perfect sense. In my engineering classes, we spend our time learning how things work, finding out where they break, and figuring out how to fix them. When I started volunteering at ADG—helping with patient check-ins, taking vitals, and assisting with screenings—I quickly saw that community healthcare is just like a giant, complicated machine. And for a lot of people who come to our clinic, that machine is completely broken.

I saw this up close during an outreach event we held near Gaithersburg High School. While I was there, I had the chance to talk with a homeless veteran. We got to talking about his daily life, and he told me something I will never forget. His prescriptions were just too expensive for him to afford. So, to make sure he had enough, he started cutting his pills in half to make them last longer.

Hearing that really stayed with me. When an engineer looks at a system that forces someone to do that, we see a system that has failed. But as a human being, it just broke my heart. No one should ever have to make a choice between taking the medicine they need to survive and having enough money to get by.

That is exactly why the ADG clinic is so important. For the patients we see, we aren't just a doctor's office. We are a safety net when everything else has let them down. We are the place that helps them get the care they actually need, without having to make impossible choices. But ADG is also incredibly important for students like me. Volunteering here teaches us something we could never learn in a classroom or a lab. It teaches us how to put people first. It reminds us that no matter what we go on to build, design, or do in the future, we need to remember the real people who are affected by our work.

The ADG clinic is doing work that truly changes lives every single day, and we need your help to keep doing it. I strongly ask you to continue funding this program so we can keep being there for the people who need it the most. Thank you so much for your time.

High Regards,
Chenchu Kethan Kadimi