

## Volunteerism Spotlight – Kolade Olabode, M.D.

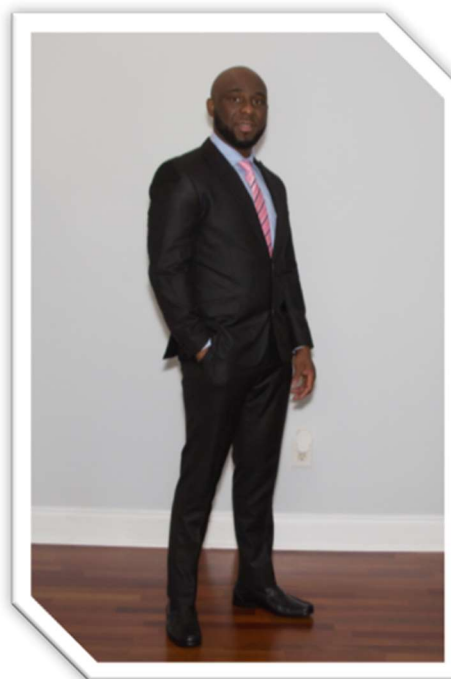
The Georgia chapter of the American College of Physicians recently spoke to **Kolade Olabode, M.D.**, about his volunteering with refugees at the Grace Village Medical Clinic in Clarkston, Ga.

### Tell us about the patients you see at the Grace Village Medical Clinic.

This is a clinic dedicated to helping the less privileged, the underserved, and primarily refugees from all over the world who recently moved to the United States. They do not have insurance or another way to receive health care services. Clarkston is noted for its ethnic diversity and is often called 'the most diverse square mile in America' and 'the Ellis Island of the South.' In the 1990s, refugee resettlement programs identified Clarkston as a good fit for displaced persons of many backgrounds.

### What does a typical volunteer shift look like at the clinic?

I typically volunteer on my free days, mostly Wednesdays and Saturdays. Patients are triaged, and then we take a history, draw labs, and examine them. We treat conditions like hypertension, diabetes, minor injuries, and infections. In addition to the care provided by the volunteers, the clinic offers blood work free of charge, and the clinic's established formulary covers any prescribed medication(s).



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### Why do you volunteer at the Grace Village Medical Clinic?

The clinic is a perfect avenue to see and meet patients of unique backgrounds worldwide. It is fulfilling. I have an interest in helping underserved people. I am an immigrant myself, so that I can relate to their current situation. Also, you see the genuine appreciation of these patients who know that there is no way they could have afforded the service you provided to them. When you see the purity of the appreciation, it is fulfilling. It brings smiles to everyone's faces. They are very grateful.

