



As a division of Methodist Health System Foundation, Golden Cross was founded in 1921 by a men's Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church in Dallas. Medicare and Medicaid did not exist then, and this group of citizens and community leaders saw the need to provide healthcare for those who could not afford it.

One-hundred years ago, the founders of the Golden Cross ministry sought to revolutionize the delivery of healthcare to the people of North Texas by funding services for those in greatest need through dollar-per-member donations from Methodist churches.

Benefits for the North Texas Conference

The founders of the Golden Cross ministry brought the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and Methodist Health System together into a covenant relationship. This partnership connected Methodist congregations, caring individuals, and dedicated physicians to provide medical care for those in need. Through the years, the North Texas Conference has supported the efforts of the Golden Cross Division Board to deploy Golden Cross funds to Methodist Health System to provide quality healthcare to those who can't afford it.

Guided by the original mission of healthcare ministry, the Golden Cross Division Board governs and directs the outreach and funding support for healthcare programs and services at Methodist Health System to those who are indigent, uninsured, and underserved. This board is comprised of dedicated clergy and lay members of congregations throughout the North Texas Conference.



"The Golden Cross Academic Clinic affords a unique partnership between the churches of the North Texas Conference and Methodist Health System to provide quality healthcare through the Clinic to those who can't afford it. Through the years, that dedication has grown in size and scope as the Clinic's programs and services continue to expand. The Golden Cross Division Board distributes its funds to programs of Methodist Health System that provide healthcare to positively impact the underserved. Most recently, our Board approved a new collaborative program between the Clinic and several faith-based agencies that will send a nurse practitioner into the community to offer health services and education."

— **The Rev. April Johnson Bristow, DMin,**
Chair, Golden Cross Division Board of
Methodist Health System Foundation



Expansion of the Golden Cross Ministry

The impact of Golden Cross evolved over its 100-year history to better meet the needs of a changing community. The Golden Cross Division Board expanded its reach by supporting several new programs, administered primarily through the Methodist Dallas Medical Center Golden Cross Academic Clinic. As a result of the Clinic's resourceful health initiatives, thousands of North Texas residents are now being served.

MedAssist

In 2006, the Golden Cross Division Board allocated funds to the development of a prescription medication program at the Golden Cross Academic Clinic, aimed at improving the health and quality of life for the working poor and uninsured residents of South Dallas who suffer higher than average rates of poverty and chronic disease. Known as MedAssist, this program provides prescription medications at no cost to under-resourced patients.

Administered by healthcare professionals at the Golden Cross Academic Clinic who are funded through Golden Cross, MedAssist provides significant healthcare services to hundreds of clinic patients each year for chronic disease and preventive health management.

Link to Golden Cross Clinic website at Methodist Health System
methodisthealthsystem.org/locations/golden-cross-academic-clinic.

In the Community

The Golden Cross Division of Methodist Health System Foundation has also expanded the outreach of the Golden Cross Academic Clinic to partner with faith-based communities within the North Texas Conference.

Collaborative Outreach Program

Golden Cross Academic Clinic/ Faith Community Outreach

A group of missional entities came together in 2020 with the goal of providing healthcare in under-resourced neighborhoods through the Golden Cross Academic Clinic. These collaborative partners with the Clinic included Wesley-Rankin Community Center, Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission, Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space.

In the first quarter of 2021, a nurse practitioner with the Golden Cross Academic Clinic partnered with Wesley-Rankin to provide online access to health education classes focusing on topics such as diabetes, hypertension, anxiety, depression, and obesity. In the second and third quarter of 2021, education classes and clinic visits will expand to Owenwood and Christ's Foundry.

With these unique organizations working together, Golden Cross Division leaders hope to gain better insight into the needs facing a specific, underserved population in Dallas. This collaboration allows the

Golden Cross Academic Clinic to provide better data collection and helps implement creative healthcare solutions for those served by this faith-based organizations.

Faith Community Nursing

The Faith Community Nursing ministry, a unique, specialized practice of professional nursing, focuses on the promotion of health within the context of the values, beliefs, and practices of a faith-based community. The Methodist Health System Faith Community Nursing Program assesses the congregation's needs and abilities, plans programs, and implements those programs to promote health and wellness. Since its inception in 1996, the program has grown to partner with more than 60 local congregations in southern Dallas. The program now extends into Richardson and Plano.

Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Golden Cross Division Board demonstrated their unwavering support of the community by ensuring that North Texans received quality healthcare even during the most difficult times of 2020. The Board provided an extraordinary grant of \$500,000 to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund at Methodist Health System to help their efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

This is a great example of how Golden Cross has evolved over its 100-year history to meet the challenging and changing needs of our world today.



COLLABORATION

The Future

As we recognize this 100th Anniversary milestone, the goal and mission of Golden Cross are to grow and strengthen its ministries in the visionary spirit of its founders. We are looking to the future to develop more cooperative opportunities to expand the work of Golden Cross and Methodist Health System into the underserved communities of the North Texas Conference.

We appreciate the continued support of Methodist churches and generous individual donors. Your gifts to Golden Cross will ensure that our community's less fortunate receive the healthcare services they so desperately need. For more information on how to support Golden Cross, please call **214-947-4555** or go to methodisthealthsystem.org/methodist-dallas-medical-center/about/golden-cross-ministry.

"This 100-Year Anniversary is a historic moment in the legacy of Golden Cross. We are proud that the Golden Cross Division of Methodist Health System Foundation continues to fulfill the important mission of Golden Cross by providing essential funding support for vital health services to many underserved North Texans. It is a privilege to share in the faith-based values and efforts of Golden Cross so that, together, we can help ensure a healthier future for North Texas"

— **Jim Johnston,**
President, Methodist Health System Foundation



GOLDEN CROSS MISSION STATEMENT:

Golden Cross is a faith-based program of Methodist Health System and the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Its purpose is to provide healthcare to persons who cannot afford it.