medications can be daunting. “One pill can be so expensive that it wipes out an entire month’s income,” says fourth-year Theodore Yo, who has helped raise money for the clinic. Now, a local pharmacy provides medications to the clinic for one dollar above wholesale. And, Yo adds, students are learning that “there are other ways of treating these illnesses than the most expensive.”

Coordinators hope to expand the clinic’s services and offer counseling on diabetes, tobacco, and healthy lifestyle choices. “A patient’s health-care needs [go] well beyond their visit to a provider’s office,” says second-year James Town. “We’ve helped them identify lifestyle issues they can target, such as diet, exercise, and smoking cessation.” The students have also set up a website containing health tips (see www.dartmouth.edu/~mascoma).

Money: The “growth-limiting factor” in the clinic is funding, says Laquer. Yet students find innovative ways to raise money, holding raffles, talent shows, and even a triathlon. The clinic has also been supported by grants—including a $20,000 “Caring for Community” award from the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The clinic’s latest honor was Dartmouth’s 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr., Social Justice Award, in the student organization category. The “Mascoma Clinic’s success,” says M.D.-M.B.A. student Jessica Morgan, “is indicative that community service is an integral part of life here at DMS.”

Danielle Thomas