Glenn Lopez, MD, MPH, wants to help fix the broken healthcare system in America, and the Amazing Charts Electronic Health Record (EHR/EMR) is an essential tool in his effort.

After earning his medical degree in 1983 and spending four years in private practice, Dr. Lopez was ready to do something completely different. He spent the next 10 years setting up 20 clinics and 74 health “posts” supported by mobile physicians in rural Guatemala. After returning to the U.S., Dr. Lopez earned his Executive Masters of Public Health in Health Services Administration at the UCLA School of Public Health, writing his thesis on the idea of bringing mobile clinics to underserved populations in Southern California.

“In this country, we spend the majority of our healthcare dollars treating preventable complications of chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes,” says Dr. Lopez. “Many of the uninsured never see a doctor regularly and don’t seek care until they are symptomatic or have permanent damage. Then they end up in the emergency room, or even worse, in the ICU, and that’s when we all pay through higher insurance costs and taxes.”

In the San Fernando Valley, for example, 7% of all adults suffer from diabetes, while nearly 30% have high cholesterol. Nearly 40% are considered obese, according to L.A. County data from 2007.

“It was ironic to me that Guatemala, this tiny poor nation, would have a more sensible approach to healthcare than the richest nation on Earth, but it was nonetheless true,” recalls Dr. Lopez. “I decided my goal would be the prevention and early treatment of chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes by bringing affordable healthcare to the streets where people live right here in L.A.”

“The very affordable price and user-friendliness of Amazing Charts enables me to provide low-cost medical services, with little need for technical support, to people in desperate need of care.”

– Dr. Glenn Lopez

Dr. Lopez started walking groups to get people outside and exercising, but also to get to know their neighbors and support each other in adopting healthier habits. More than 3,000 people across the valley signed up and participated.
Based on the success of that program, Dr. Lopez approached an L.A.-area hospital group and requested a grant based on the concept of treating preventable diseases to reduce uncompensated care costs for the hospital. He received a $340,000 grant to help cover start up expenses and two years of operating costs.

One condition of the grant was that Dr. Lopez use an EHR system to thoroughly document and report on his patient population’s demographics, existing conditions, and ongoing wellness in order to show whether his approach was effective in reducing chronic disease.

Lopez saw a demo of the Amazing Charts CCHIT-certified EHR at a medical conference and was impressed. He asked for a local reference and visited the office to see how they used Amazing Charts. “After watching someone use Amazing Charts to document a few exams, I was able to use it to see a patient the next day,” Dr. Lopez recalls.

He describes the download and installation process as being “a piece of cake.” And the affordability of Amazing Charts left enough money for Dr. Lopez to purchase a 34-foot “fifth-wheel” trailer and outfit it with everything found in a basic medical office.

### RESULTS

Most days, Dr. Lopez is found parked in the parking lot of a local church, school or public park in one of 11 different San Fernando Valley communities. Patients can make an appointment, or just walk in. There is a flat $15 fee for service, and insurance is not accepted.

The Amazing Charts EHR is used by Dr. Lopez and a part-time staff of three, including a pre-med student and a counselor who provides group support to people in the waiting room area of the trailer. The entire staff began using Amazing Charts immediately, with no formal training.

“We just upgraded to version 5.0, and I’m very excited about the built in USPSTF and CDC/ACIP Health Maintenance recommendations,” Dr. Lopez declares. “This feature will make the tracking and treatment of chronic diseases both easier for me and more effective for my patients.”

Dr. Lopez has also been impressed with the new, more powerful search and reporting functions found in version 5.0. The reports allow his funders to see how many people he is treating and with what conditions.

“Everyone benefits from early, preventative healthcare,” concludes Dr. Lopez. “The very affordable price and user-friendliness of Amazing Charts enables me to provide low-cost medical services, with little need for technical support, to people in desperate need of care.”

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**Contact Information**

AmazingCharts.com, Inc.  
1130 Ten Rod Rd, F-207  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
(866) 382-5932  
sales@amazingcharts.com  
www.amazingcharts.com