



## TexanPlus® HMO

Media Contact: Pauline Gallien

Phone: 713-783-4616, ext. 235

Email: [pgallien@gatewaytocare.org](mailto:pgallien@gatewaytocare.org)

### Gateway to Care Receives \$50,000 from Universal American *Monies will be used to educate local agencies about programs that save money for people with Medicare and limited incomes*

HOUSTON, TEXAS (January 22, 2010) – Gateway to Care is pleased to announce that it has received a \$50,000 grant from Universal American and its family of companies which offers Medicare Advantage health plans and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. Universal American's *Collaborating for Good Health* Giving Back Program will support Gateway to Care in its mission to improve access to healthcare for uninsured and underinsured persons in its Harris County service region.

"We are delighted that Universal American has selected our organization for this donation," said Ronald Cookston, Ed.D, executive director of Gateway to Care. "We recognize that the health and wellbeing of our seniors is dependent on support from generous community partners like Universal American."

The costs of Medicare for older adults who have limited incomes can be overwhelming. Accessing government programs like the Low Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs lower these costs, allowing them to use money for other basic needs. Many older Texans who are eligible for these programs do not know they exist and do not know how to apply for them.

The funding from Universal American will deploy a Gateway to Care community health worker to work directly with people with Medicare and educate them on the opportunities available to them through Low Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs. Gateway to Care will also work with its 165 member and affiliated organizations and train them on these programs. Through educating

these organizations and creating a community-wide public information campaign, this grant is expected to educate over 3,000 people with Medicare and enroll 1,200 into the Low Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs. These programs are estimated to save eligible people with Medicare over \$4,000 each year in healthcare costs. To find out more about these services call 832-393-5463.

According to Erin Page, vice president and general manager of Houston for Universal American, “Our Healthy Collaboration<sup>SM</sup> model demonstrates Universal American’s approach to healthcare and that the key to an older adult’s well-being is their relationship to the community. It is an honor to support organizations like Gateway to Care that share this same commitment to embracing older adults and helping them access the benefits they deserve.”

Universal American, through its family of healthcare companies, is focused on providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare for people with Medicare. Universal American’s Medicare plans are based on A Healthy Collaboration<sup>SM</sup>, which is a dedication to working collaboratively with its members and their healthcare professionals in order to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

###

### **About Gateway to Care**

Gateway to Care is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with over 165 member and affiliated organizations dedicated to facilitating access to adequate health care for uninsured and underinsured residents in the Greater Houston Area. Since its inception in 2000, the organization has served as a mechanism for health care agencies, health service related coalitions, and advocacy groups to coordinate common administrative and service delivery requirements to provide a seamless delivery system. Gateway to Care’s vision is for “100% access to health care for the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Harris County Region.”

### **About Gateway to Care’s Services**

Gateway to Care carries out its mission of healthcare access through several programs including a Community Health Worker Training Institute, a Navigation Services Program to place certified community health workers at access points in the community, a Senior Caregiver Program, a Provider Health Network for pro bono specialty care, and a Medical Reserve Corps which deploys in the event of disasters. The organization has been instrumental in the development and expansion of community health clinics, specifically Federally Qualified Health Centers, helping to increase the number of clinics from 4 to 19 in the Greater Houston area. Gateway to Care is now focused on fostering clinic sustainability through a shared Management Information System (MIS) and an

Electronic Health Record System (EHR), both to improve the efficient delivery of care and to increase health outcomes.

### **About Universal American**

Universal American (NYSE: UAM), through its family of healthcare companies, offers benefit plans designed to promote collaboration among our members and their healthcare professionals. This Healthy Collaboration<sup>SM</sup> improves the health and well being of more than two million people with Medicare every day. For more information on Universal American and its Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, which include: TexanPlus<sup>®</sup> HMO, Today's Options<sup>®</sup> PPO, Today's Options<sup>®</sup> PFFS, Community CCRx<sup>SM</sup> PDP and PrescribaRx<sup>SM</sup> PDP, offered in the Houston area, visit our Web site at [www.UniversalAmerican.com](http://www.UniversalAmerican.com).

### **About Universal American's "Collaborating for Good Health" Giving Back Program**

Through its Giving Back Program, Universal American supports local organizations that are dedicated to helping older adults and people with Medicare maximize access to services and increase their quality of life.