

A

# MINISTRY

OF

# HEALTH

One man's quest to heal a community sparks  
new efforts to close Atlanta's health gaps.

by MICHELE COHEN MARILL • photographs by AUDRA MELTON

**LIKE SO MANY PATIENTS WHO FIND THEIR WAY TO THE HEALING COMMUNITY CENTER IN SOUTHWEST** Atlanta, Robin Swinks came with a sense of desperation. She needed a doctor who would listen to her story—someone to help her forge a way through the healthcare labyrinth. ¶ So on a Wednesday evening, she sat on an exam table while clinic founder Dr. Charles Moore gently felt her nose and peered inside her nostrils. About three months earlier, Swinks, 37, had been in a serious car accident that left her with a severe concussion, memory loss, and a shattered nose. The headaches subsided, the memory came back, but so far the insurance company had refused to fix her nose. ¶ “They make it seem like I’m a bored housewife who does not like my nose,” she said, her voice high-pitched and strained. “I have made it clear that I cannot breathe.” ¶ Moore, an ear, nose, and throat doctor, nodded. Swinks’s nose had shifted to one side, and fractures had left



