



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Dining In the Pines Contacts:**

Ms. Bobbi Erdman, Chairperson, 910-235-4550  
Claudia Watson, 910-215-4552, cell# 910-315-4552

***Dining In the Pines* Raises \$35,000 to Benefit  
Moore Free Care Clinic Patients**

**Annual Fund Drive Sets 2005-2006 Goal & First Volunteer of the Year Recognized**

By Sandy McIlwain

**Carthage, NC** – There's nothing better than enjoying a homemade meal with friends, according to the nearly 400 guests that made the first Dining In the Pines fund-raiser for Moore Free Care Clinic a success. The benefit, held on October 27, set the pace for the clinic's 2005-2006 annual fund campaign by raising \$35,000. The funds are used by the free clinic to provide health care for the uninsured, low-income patients in Moore County.

The event attracted 400 guests for dinners hosted in private homes throughout Moore County. The festivities continued after dinner as the guests traveled to The Country Club of North Carolina for the evening's "afterglow" of music, dancing, dessert, cash bar, and a unique raffle and live auction.

Moore Free Care Clinic used the event to kick-off its second annual campaign. James A. Tart, M.D., chair of the clinic's development, set the goal of raising \$277,318 for this year's fundraising effort.

"Free health care is free to only those that receive it," said Tart. "In order to continue the good work of the clinic we need your help to provide prescription medicines, supplies, electronic medical records, and support staff. Tonight's event gives our goal a healthy start, but we have a long way to go."

According to Tart, the clinic has provided over 2,000 office visits for the less fortunate neighbors in Moore County that do not have access to health care. Approximately 70 physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists, as well as 30 nurses and 120 lay volunteers contribute their time and services to make the clinic flourish.

Tickets to Dining In the Pines, a new fund-raising concept for the area, were hard to come by, according to Bobbi Erdman, chairperson for Dining In the Pines.

“Thanks to the generosity of this community, we exceeded our goals. I never considered that we’d be sold-out in our first year. The planning committee deserves the credit for being so diligent and creative. Their hard work made the night a huge success.”

According to Erdman, she started receiving phone calls from anxious hosts-to-be for next year’s event the day before this year’s event took place.

“The enthusiasm has been boundless. Folks are really excited about this fresh fundraising event in our community. They wanted to be in on this year’s big party, but we were out of space. We hope to set our date for the 2006 Dining In the Pines early next year and we will notify past hosts, guests and the public.”

### **Watson Honored as Volunteer of the Year**

During the evening Moore Free Care Clinic also recognized one of its founding board members and volunteers for her service.

Claudia Watson was honored as first Moore Free Care Clinic Volunteer of the Year for her dedication to the mission of the clinic and for the countless hours of planning and execution of the communications and funding development programs at the clinic.

Watson, a business communications and public relations professional, joined the clinic’s board of directors early in 2004 and helped establish its operations. She’s worked as a full-time volunteer since the clinic was formed nearly two years ago

Watson’s work includes the development of the long-range strategic communications program, website ([www.moorefrecare.org](http://www.moorefrecare.org)), quarterly newsletter, video, news articles, and patient materials. She also worked alongside Tart in developing the long-term funding program and on many of the clinic’s grant proposals and special events.

“Her work ethic sets the bar very high,” says Tart. “We could not have done this work without her assistance and expertise. Her dedication, knowledge, and thoroughness make her an invaluable asset to the clinic and our efforts to communicate the clinic’s mission to the community.”

Moore Free Care Clinic provides high-quality primary, preventive and specialty care to limited income people living in Moore County who are uninsured and can’t afford access to health care.

Contributions to the clinic come primarily from the Moore County community, including individuals, and pledges from the medical community, such as Pinehurst Surgical Clinic and FirstHealth of the Carolinas, and local businesses.

The clinic does not receive any federal, state or local funding. Moore County provides office space to the clinic at the Moore County Health Department for a lease of \$1 per year.

For more information, call 910-947-6550 or visit its website, [www.MooreFreeCare.org](http://www.MooreFreeCare.org). Contributions to the clinic may be mailed to Moore Free Care Clinic, P.O. Box 161, Pinehurst, NC 28370.

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