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**Moore Free Care Clinic to Expand Services with Grant from  
N.C. Association of Free Clinics and BCBSNC Foundation Partnership**

**By Claudia Watson  
Special to The Pilot**

**July 24, 2006 – Carthage, NC** — Moore Free Care Clinic (MFCC) received two grants totaling \$31,000 from the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics (NCAFC) and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBSNC Foundation). A needs-based grant of \$16,000 will be used to expand services to its growing patient population by adding a registered nurse to coordinate nursing volunteers and to provide continuity of care for chronic disease program patients. The other \$15,000 grant is part of a five-year commitment by the BCBSNC Foundation to help care for the uninsured people of North Carolina through its partnership with the NCAFC.

“Most of the clinic’s patients have significant chronic disease, typically diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain, cholesterol, obesity and smoking addictions,” says Laura Tremper-Jones, the clinic’s executive director. “This grant allows us to add critical staff to help us focus on patients with chronic disease through the careful monitoring and adjustment of medications and patient education, which are central elements of chronic disease management and health promotion.”

Moore Free Care Clinic is one of 61 North Carolina free health clinics eligible to receive a general grant and one of 39 receiving funding for specific clinic service needs. All NCAFC member clinics may reapply for this funding in each of the remaining two years of the partnership. Distribution of the grant monies is handled by the NCAFC, a private, nonprofit, 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that conducts

advocacy, research, public relations, resource development, training and technical assistance on behalf of its member free clinics and the people they serve.

“The partnership with the BCBSNC Foundation has not only helped to grow the number of free clinics in our state, but has also aided us in expanding our services to help meet the ever increasing needs of the uninsured in North Carolina,” said Mike Darrow, executive director of NCAFC. “These grant funds from BCBSNC Foundation help our clinics keep their doors open, help them to reach beyond their current capacity and assist them in breaking down the barriers preventing the uninsured from accessing quality health care. As our clinics adapt to the evolving demands of the uninsured, gaining a broader spectrum of community support will be essential to help sustain the efforts of clinics like Moore Free Care Clinic.”

“North Carolina’s free clinics continue to show great compassion, skill and resourcefulness in providing essential medical care to those who have nowhere else to turn,” said Kathy Higgins, president of the BCBSNC Foundation. “These grants move us one step closer to our goal of providing free clinic access across North Carolina. Because of this partnership, this clinic is able to work to help their neighbors who are in need of medical attention.”

Estimates put North Carolina’s uninsured at more than 1.3 million, with no discernable, realistic solution on the horizon and increasing health care costs further exacerbating the problem. That number is equal to the combined populations of North Carolina’s 53 most rural counties. In 2004, North Carolina’s free health clinics and pharmacies provided \$56 million of free health care to 81,000 uninsured patients with more than 331,000 patient encounters.

North Carolina has more free medical clinics than any state in the country. Free clinics are private, nonprofit, community-based organizations, which provide health care to those in need through the use of health care professional volunteers, such as physicians, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and hundreds of other health care professionals and community volunteers.

### **About Moore Free Care Clinic**

Moore Free Care Clinic provides high-quality primary, preventive and specialty health care to limited-income people in Moore County. The clinic opened on April 29, 2004 and has registered nearly 1,200 patients. Fifty percent of the clinic’s patients are employed but do not have access to employer-offered health care benefits, public assistance programs, such as Medicaid or Medicare, or they cannot afford health care insurance due to their low wages.

Moore Free Care Clinic is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. It does not receive any federal or state funds and is dependent upon the generosity of the community. You can aid the clinic by considering a tax-deductible contribution. Your donation may be mailed to Moore Free Care Clinic, PO Box 161, Pinehurst, NC 28370. For more information about Moore Free Care Clinic visit, [www.moorefreecare.org](http://www.moorefreecare.org) or call 910-947-6550.

### **About the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics**

The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, founded in 1998, is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that conducts advocacy, research, public relations, resource development, training and technical assistance on behalf of its member free clinics and the people they serve. Headquartered in Winston-Salem, each year NCAFC sponsors a conference for those interested in free clinic services, an

Executive Directors' Retreat, and other training. NCAFC offers an accreditation process for free clinics and mentoring for new clinic executives. For more information, visit the Association's Web site at [www.ncfreeclinics.org](http://www.ncfreeclinics.org) or call 336-251-1111.

### **About the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation provides financial support to improve the health and well-being of North Carolinians. This mission is achieved through programs and services funded in response to grant requests, as well as through funding for programs supporting needs identified by the BCBSNC Foundation. Since its inception in November 2000, the BCBSNC Foundation has awarded more than \$29 million in grants to organizations throughout the state. In addition to its grant program, the BCBSNC Foundation supports several signature programs. These programs include Be Active Kids<sup>SM</sup>, an award-winning program that teaches preschool children about nutrition and physical activity; and Healthy Community Institutes for Non-Profit Excellence, two-day intensive training sessions offered free of charge to all North Carolina nonprofits. Additional information about the BCBSNC Foundation's signature programs and grant requirements, as well as a list of all grants awarded can be found on our Web site at [www.bcbsnc.com/foundation](http://www.bcbsnc.com/foundation).

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*Claudia Watson is a founding member of the Moore Free Care Clinic Board of Directors. Ms. Watson may be contacted at [cwatson87@nc.rr.com](mailto:cwatson87@nc.rr.com).*

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