

NEWS & NOTES

Dining in the Pines – Make it a Night!

The evening of October 27, 2005 promises to be non-stop fun for many in Moore County.

Dining in the Pines dinner parties will be held by hosts all over Moore County. Hosts will pay the cost of the dinner at their home.

After dinner, hosts and their guests move to the Country Club of North Carolina for a festive evening including live entertainment, dancing, dessert, cash bar, and a reverse raffle and auction.

The *Dining in the Pines* committee has been working hard to secure sponsorships, dinner hosts and fabulous gifts to be distributed among the 12 raffle baskets that will be up for grabs that night.

Basket themes include: Restaurants, Grandparents, Christmas in October, Sports Events, Beauty, Cooking, Travel, Wine, Golf, Home Decor and the Mystery basket.

Sponsors as of press time include: Aberdeen Exterminating, Autowerks, BB&T, Bill Reaves Construction, Clark Chevrolet/Cadillac, Corporate Communications Group, FirstBank, Gouger O'Neal & Sanders Real Estate, Harris Printing, James Leach Insurance Agency, Kees Appliance, Lyne's Furniture Gallery, Martha Gentry Re/MAX Prime Properties, McDonald Brothers, Melonie's Custom Frames/Tony Hill, Moore Appliance Center, Pinehurst Insurance, Reaves Landscaping, Steve Jones Chevrolet, Toby Wells, and Village Design Group.

Guests may purchase tickets for \$35, \$50 or \$75 per person. The guest may contribute at any of these suggested levels. They are free to enjoy all of the evening's activities at any donation level. The entire ticket price is a donation to the clinic.

If you would like more information please contact Bobbi Erdman, 910-235-4550 or email, bwe23@earthlink.net.

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New Chronic Disease Program Created

By **H. David Bruton, M.D.**

The free clinic has initiated the *Chronic Disease Management* program.

Most of the clinic's patients have significant chronic disease, typically diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain, cholesterol, obesity and smoking addiction. Many have multiple health problems.

Before becoming patients of the clinic these people were often forced by circumstances to seek crisis intervention care. Often they were unable to obtain the prescribed medications they needed to prevent rapid progression of their chronic disease.

Our new physician assistant, Blaine Hall, will conduct this clinic Monday-Friday. We have applied, through FirstHealth of the Carolinas, to the Duke Endowment to support this clinic as a research project. Patient education, careful monitoring and adjustment of medications will be central elements of this new disease prevention program. We also will determine the uncompensated cost incurred by the patient before and after becoming enrolled in our follow-up clinic.

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Patient Care is a Calling for Clinic's Blaine Hall

By **Claudia Watson**

Moore Free Care Clinic hired Blaine Paxton Hall, PA-C to serve as a full-time physician assistant. Hall's position is partially-funded through a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.

Hall manages the new *Chronic Disease Management* program for patients suffering from chronic medical diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension. He performs physical examinations, orders lab tests, prescribes medications, and provides follow-up

care to patients under the supervision of David Hipp, M.D.

Hall has spent 14 years working in adult internal medicine, and is well-suited to run the chronic disease program. In the past eight and a half years he worked with nephrology patients at Duke – those with end-stage kidney disease requiring dialysis.



Blaine Hall, PA-C

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Moore Free Care Clinic, Inc.
705 Pinehurst Ave.
P.O. Box 1656
Carthage, NC 28327
Information and Referrals:
910.947.6550

Claudia Watson, editor

Contributing writers:

H. David Bruton, M.D.

Bobbi Erdman

Joann Hanley

James A. Tart, M.D.

Laura Tremper-Jones, R.N.C.

Rose Young

Our Mission

In the spirit of compassion and concern, the Moore Free Care Clinic provides high-quality primary, preventive and specialty health care to limited-income people in Moore County who are uninsured and can't afford access to health care.

Our Core Values

The Moore Free Care Clinic is committed to the belief that health care is a basic human need. Every individual must have access to basic health if a community is to be truly healthy.



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Chronic Disease Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is little hard data to measure the financial results of this type of prevention in chronic disease management. We all know they clinically benefit. I hope we can demonstrate the cost-benefit.

We are also making progress towards the implementation of electronic medical records which is necessary in this new research oriented quality improvement effort.

This new clinic is another step in our journey towards providing medical care equal to the care available for patients who have no financial constraints.

Blaine Hall CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Kidney dialysis patients are an example of managing a patient with a chronic disease. In most cases, their kidneys are not going to heal – they are going to need dialysis indefinitely; and they will need to be followed on a continuous basis," explains Hall.

Hall says that many of his patients at the free clinic have diabetes and hypertension, the two most common causes of end-stage renal disease, requiring dialysis.

"Patients with a chronic disease such as diabetes need to be monitored and their disease managed. It's not like you see them once, give them medicine and never expect to see them again. They have medical problems that require continuous care," he says.

"I like to take care of patients who have diabetes and hypertension because I know the damage these diseases can cause," he says.

Those who work with Hall note his compassion for all.

"I feel that in addition to my medical experience, my life experiences and my personality are suitable to working in internal medicine. It's important to develop a rapport and trust with a patient,

and it takes some time to develop a long-term relationship with a patient that is mutually-rewarding," he says.

"I see my medical profession as a ministry. This may sound naïve to those that do not know me, but it goes all the way back to when I was a child and cared for my father who had grand mal epilepsy. I have always felt that medicine is my calling and it's been very rewarding," he says.

Hall received his Physician Assistant-C degree from Wake Forest in 1991 and his Bachelor of Science degree from Roosevelt University, Chicago, in 1974. He's currently completing a Master's of Health Science in Clinical Leadership at Duke University School of Medicine.

He was awarded "Outstanding PA of the Year – 2004" by the N.C. Academy of Physician Assistants and he is that organization's representative to the *North Carolina Medical Journal's* editorial board.

Hall is a published author and a runner. He and his wife, Sunny, an orthopedic nurse at Moore Regional Hospital, enjoy their home in Pinehurst.

Donor Generosity Ensures Operation

By James A. Tart, M.D.

The Moore Free Care Clinic is on a sound financial footing.

Generous financial support from a broad segment of Moore County has been forthcoming and has ensured continued operation for the immediate future of this vital service to people in need of basic healthcare.

In addition, the legal structure is now in place for donations to the Moore Free Care Clinic Endowment, and we welcome inquiries from those interested in including the clinic in their estate planning.

Through a substantial grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the clinic hired a full-time physician assistant. This allowed the clinic to expand to daytime hours, four days per week, ensuring adequate follow-up for patients with chronic medical conditions. Tuesday and Thursday evening hours will continue, manned by volun-

teer physicians and other healthcare providers.

Pinewild Country Club made exceptional contributions to this success story. They conceived and executed a great *Open the Open* party prior to the 2005 Men's U.S. Open for the benefit of clinic and netted \$11,250.00 to help boost the free clinic.

And, a group led by Pinewild supporters, is planning a unique fall fundraiser. So be on the lookout for *Dining in the Pines* it sounds like a really fun event.

Many free clinic volunteers worked diligently at our concession stand during the U.S. Open, netting an additional \$5,834 to help keep the clinic in operation.

With this kind of background, we are approaching our Second Annual Fund Campaign this fall with renewed enthusiasm that our cause is just and that we have our community behind us.

Free healthcare is only free to those who receive it.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

By Rose Young

Can't Get Enough

Juanita Messervey

Juanita Messervey is a full time nurse at Moore Regional Hospital, but after a hard day's work she still can't get enough of her profession. So she is a regular volunteer at the clinic.



Juanita Messervey

She has been in nursing since 1972 and gets to use all of her years of experience in helping take care of MFCC patients. She takes histories, vital signs, collects blood and urine and gets patients ready for their examinations.

She especially likes the fact that she's keeping people out of the emergency room by helping them get the prescription drugs they desperately need, but cannot afford.

"I see so many diabetics, and they really benefit from the prescription drug assistance," she says.

Juanita gets a lot out of her volunteering too.

"I wanted to give something back to help others because I have been given so much in my life."

Spanish Language Skills Critical

Millie Lopez

A significant percentage of the clinic's patients speak only Spanish, so there is great need for Spanish speaking volunteers. Millie Lopez, a clinic volunteer for one and half years, helps fill that need.

A student in Human Services at Sandhills Community College, she has been volunteering at the clinic to fulfill a requirement for her major.

"I enjoy it so much that I will continue here after I graduate," says Millie.

Millie helps the clinic by confirming patients' eligibility for services and by interpreting.

"There is a huge need for Spanish speakers in health care. You cannot imagine how frightening it is to need such help for something personal and private and to not be able to communicate," she explains. "All people need to be treated with dignity."

Millie is glad to help. "It makes me so grateful for the advantages that I have had over the years."

A Sense of Mission

Walter Morris, M.D.

Dr. Walter Morris has been a clinic volunteer almost from the time the clinic opened for business.

"There was a medical volunteer sign up effort before the clinic opened and I agreed to volunteer right away," he explains.

"I had worked in a rural health clinic as a medical student at UNC-Chapel Hill. It was a great experience, so I knew what I was getting into."

Dr. Morris, a Moore County native, practices at the Pinehurst Medical Clinic as an internal medicine physician. His training in the management of chronic diseases makes him very well-suited for work at clinic.

"We see a lot of patients with diabetes and heart disease. We believe that access to good primary care will help keep these folks out of the emergency room and hospital," he says.

Dr. Morris enjoys the camaraderie and sense of mission that clinic volunteers share.

"The community has been very good to me and I wanted to give something back. The free clinic gives me that opportunity."



Walter Morris, M.D.

NEWS & NOTES

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Get the Right Recipe with the Sandhills Coders

The Sandhills Coders (they decipher those medical diagnosis and procedure codes for insurance companies) have joined together to make sure the Sandhills area has a lot more good food to enjoy! They are producing a cookbook, "Cooking with the Coders," which will be available in early November. If you are interested in purchasing a cookbook please contact Donna McGee, donnam@pinehurstmedical.com, or call 910-295-9477. Cookbooks are \$10 and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Moore Free Care Clinic.

U.S. Open Volunteers Made It Cooler

Clinic volunteers filled 85, six- to eight-hour shifts at the clinic's concession stand at the 2005 Men's U.S. Open. Thank you for all of your hard work. It wasn't easy. You withstood the heat wave, crowds, long hours, and served long, long lines of hungry and thirsty customers and NEVER lost your cool. You made a great impression on all you served and the free clinic made \$5,834.

Director's Report - Moore Free Care Clinic

Reporting Period: April 29, 2004 to August 18, 2005

Number of Patients Registered ⁽¹⁾	689	
Cumulative Value of Services	\$865,586	
Reporting Period: April 29, 2005 to August 18, 2005		
Services		Value
Number of Patient Visits	480	
Estimated Worth of Visits & Specialty Referrals		\$ 45,793
Value of Medication Samples ⁽²⁾		\$ 11,447
Value of PAP ⁽³⁾		\$ 9,231
Purchased Medications		\$ 7,533
Physician Volunteer Hours	97 hours	\$ 12,125
Nursing Volunteer Hours	137.5 hours	\$ 3,371
Number of Dental Patients	36	
Dental Volunteer Hours	48 hours	\$ 842
Dentist Volunteer Hours	32 hours	\$ 4,000
Estimated Value of Dental Care		\$ 6,369
Clerical Volunteer Hours	193 hours	\$ 3,387
Board of Directors Volunteer Hours	1,050 hours	\$ 18,427
Staff		\$ 36,250
Lab Tests & Imaging Services		\$ 52,863
Total Value of Services for this Reporting Period		\$ 211,638

(1) Patients are registered for eligibility before they are treated.

(2) Medication samples are provided to patients at the time of their treatment. These samples are donated to the clinic by physician's offices and pharmaceutical companies. The samples are provided as a "stop-gap" until the patient's Patient Assistance Program (PAP) is validated.

(3) Many pharmaceutical manufacturers have programs to help those in need obtain their medications at no or very low cost. These programs, Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), are run by the manufacturers. Each program has its own rules, qualifications and medication disbursement method.

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P.O. Box 1656
705 Pinehurst Ave.
Carthage, NC 28327