

NEWS & NOTES

U.S. Open Concession

Be sure to visit our concession stand at the 2005 U.S. Open, June 15-19. We've been selected to run a refreshment booth on the 18th tee. Proceeds from our concession will benefit the clinic. We still have volunteer time slots available. Please contact Joann Hanley at 910-692-0780.

"The Open" at Pinewild

If you live in Pinewild Country Club (or know someone who does) be sure to call them right now and get the party invitation for "The Open!" This evening of fun and festivity will be held on Sunday, June 12 at Pinewild Country Club of Pinehurst and is open to Pinewild residents and their best buddies.

Games, displays, entertainment, music and dancing under the stars surround a specially prepared dinner for the first 1,000 residents and their guests. Proceeds from this event will benefit the clinic.

This is a repeat of the immensely successful, sold-out, 1999 U.S. Open party at Pinewild and it promises to be huge!

If your business wants exclusive sponsorship exposure to the community of 1,700 residents and property owners, numerous guests and players during "The Open" at Pinewild please contact, Christopher Little, Club Manager, 910-295-8904, or email, chrsl@pinewildcc.com. The more this event succeeds the more we can help care for the uninsured in Moore County.

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Annual Fund Progress Good, but Still Short of Goal

The clinic's first Annual Fund drive, which began in November, is making good progress but is still short of making its goal of \$200,000 by the end of April.

"We are greatly encouraged by the outpouring of support from the community," says James Tart, M.D., chair of the clinic's development committee.

"The mission of bringing health care to those people who cannot afford access to our present system has touched individuals from all walks of life and from many businesses. Every dollar donated allows us to provide services valued at eight dollars through the efforts of our professional and lay volunteers."

Contributions are still coming in daily, but Tart says the clinic is still short of

meeting the goal by about \$50,000. But the shortfall could be made up quickly if the local community digs a bit deeper into its pockets.

The clinic is grateful for the continuing support from FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, Pinehurst Surgical Clinic, First Bank, BB&T Charitable Foundation, Sandhills Community College, Whispering Pines Thrift Shop, Southern Pines Rotary, Kiwanis of the Sandhills, Pinehurst Community Foundation, and over 240 individuals, churches, and businesses.

Clinic to Hire Mid-Level Practitioner

In an effort to provide more comprehensive care to its burgeoning patient population, the clinic's board of directors authorized the addition of a mid-level practitioner to its paid staff.

"The position offers our patients comprehensive and first-rate medical care versus only crisis intervention," says H. David Bruton, M.D., chairman of the clinic's board. "By adding to our staff, we'll be able to provide the same full, preventive care and health promotion that the financially-capable get from their private physicians."

The clinic is managed by a full-time women's health nurse practitioner and patient care is provided by a dedicated group of medical volunteers, explains Bruton.

"Our patient population has a high degree of chronic disease. This requires so much follow-up that time for new patients is limited," he says.

"It's essential that prevention and health promotion become central to our services. The new practitioner will allow the clinic to provide comprehensive care to a greater percentage of our eligible patients who seek care."

The clinic applied for a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to fund the position and is actively looking for either a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner to fill the post. If you are interested, please contact Laura Tremper-Jones, clinic director, at 910-947-6550 or via email moorefrecare@earthlink.net.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Managing Patients on Paper

Ginnie Dean

Ginnie Dean has been volunteering at MFCC for approximately six months, but she does not get to meet any of the patients — except on paper.

Ginnie works behind the scenes at MFCC to make sure that the paperwork is organized and ready for each patient who makes an appointment. She prepares the medical charts that contain vital information for the treating practitioners.

Ginnie was well prepared to take on this particular job, having worked for 23 years at the Moore Regional Hospital Emergency Department as a discharge specialist. She tried other volunteer work after retiring, but soon gravitated back to health care.

"I still enjoy being involved in the health care field because it is such interesting and exciting work," Ginnie notes.

She especially likes seeing MFCC patients have access to dental referrals because of all the years she saw people come to the Emergency Department with painful dental problems.

"It is so nice to see that people are getting the care they need."



Ginnie Dean

Volunteering Rewarding

Julie Jones, M.D.

Dr. Julie Jones is one of the many volunteer physicians who give their time to treat MFCC patients. She has been volunteering since last July.

"I heard about MFCC while sitting in a pew at Southern Pines United Methodist Church, listening to the pastor, the Rev. Mark Wethington," she says. "I thought 'Now there's something that I can do to help.'"

Dr. Jones is part of a family practice medical group in Sanford, but she lives in Whispering Pines.

When asked about what motivates her to work at MFCC after a long day at her medical office, she says that she gets as much or more out of the experience as her MFCC patients do.

"The patients are genuinely grateful for the health care they receive — and so urgently need. I feel great afterwards!"

MFCC and its patients appreciate Dr. Jones' caring and enthusiasm.



Julie Jones, M.D.

In Service to Good People

Mary Arno, R.N.

Mary Arno, R.N. has volunteered at MFCC since last fall. She read an article in *The Pilot* about MFCC and its need for clinical volunteers. That sounded like a perfect fit for her background of 22 years as an occupational nurse for Burlington Industries in Raeford. She applied for a volunteer position and has been working two nights per month.

She enjoys working at the clinic because of the "good, hard working, nice people" she gets to help.

"They remind me of many of my former employees at Burlington," she says. "I've seen how losing a job due to a plant closing can cause people to lose affordable insurance coverage."

She also observed that many of MFCC patients are too young to qualify for Medicare, but old enough to start suffering from chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. These are the people she is especially gratified to be able to serve.



Mary Arno, R.N.

Clinic Patient Returns as Volunteer

Thomasinia Baldwin

Thomasinia Baldwin can relate to the patients who come through MFCC's doors — she has been one of them.

She is a full time student at Sandhills Community College, seeking retraining after becoming a displaced worker. When she lost her job, she also lost her health insurance and could not afford the prescription medicines she needed.

She heard about MFCC from an instructor and she made an appointment. Impressed by the services offered, she jumped at the chance to work at MFCC to fulfill a community service requirement for her degree in Human Services. Until recently, she worked two nights a week doing patient intake, receptionist duties and general patient assistance.

"The work has been excellent training for my future career goals," she says. "I hope to work in social services when I graduate in May. My experience at MCFE has prepared me."

Thomasinia is scheduled to graduate in May and has been concentrating on that for now.

"I would encourage anyone with time to find out about volunteer opportunities at MFCC. I hope to return there when I get settled."

MFCC would love to have you, Thomasinia.



Thomasinia Baldwin

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

Contributing writers:

Laura Tremper-Jones,
Claudia Watson, 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 living 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 right. Every individual must have access to basic health care if a community is to be truly healthy.



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Clinic Installs New Board

The clinic's board of directors met in January to vote and install the new board members for 2005-2006. New officers will be elected at the next board meeting on April 18. The board is conducting a search for representation from the Hispanic community and the Department of Social Services. Interested individuals should contact Debbie Whitley at 910-947-6550.

H. David Bruton, M.D.

President

Rev. Dr. Mark Wethington

Vice-President

Deborah McLaughlin, R.N.

Secretary

Mollie Holtzman-Hipp, M.D.

Treasurer

Robert Bahner, M.D.

Cherry Barney, P.A.

Jack Busby

George Bussey, M.D.

Pamela Garty, R.N.

Joann Hanley

Joseph Harrington

John Haserick, M.D.

Kirby Kilpatrick, M.D.

Richard Kruse, M.D.

Ted M. Natt, Jr.

Belinda Pope, R.N.

Era Mae Rickman

Rev. Theodore Spencer, Sr.

James Tart, M.D.

Stewart Tuffnell

Joe Vaughan

Claudia Watson

Video Tells Personal Stories

The clinic completed production of its first video and plans to offer it for use throughout the community to help support its 2005-2006 fundraising campaign.

The video presents the stories of four of the clinic's patients and shares the concerns of these patients, their families and their health care providers.

"The number of uninsured in Moore County is growing and state and federal programs serving this group are being cut," says Claudia

Watson, member of the clinic's board of directors. "We wanted to capture the poignant stories of our patients so people would understand the very real and urgent situation of many of our neighbors."

The ten-minute long video was created by Jody Scott, Lotus Independent Video Enterprises, Vass, N.C.

If you would like to use this video or provide a presentation on the clinic at your next meeting, please contact Debbie Whitley at 910-947-6550.

Countdown to Fall Benefit

Save the date Thursday, October 27 and get ready to experience a new, fun and very neighborly fundraising event for our area!

Plans are still the early stages of development, but we can tell you that an invitation to this benefit will be much sought after! For more information about the 2005 fall benefit watch future issues or visit our website at www.moorefrecare.org.

“We take for granted what we have here. We have all the things an affluent retirement community can offer, but we have neighbors we may not see because they live in the country or work in jobs that do not give us a lot of contact. They may work 40 hours a week but they still have to make a decision between buying their kids clothes, buying groceries or buying their diabetes medications. This community is better when everybody has good health care.”

(Excerpt from MFCC video.)

David Hipp, M.D. & MFCC physician volunteer

Fast Facts

A few facts to share since the clinic's opening on April 29, 2004:

Number of Patients Registered.....	479
Number of Visits	924
Number of Dental Patients	32
Estimated Value of Dental Care	\$8,658
Dentist Volunteer Hours	36
Dental Volunteer Hours.....	60
Physician Volunteer Hours.....	258
Nursing Volunteer Hours.....	309
Clerical and General Volunteer hours.....	4,146
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$68,575*

The Points of Light Foundation establishes the value of lay volunteer work at \$16.54 per hour.

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



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