

Meet our Newest Staff Member:

We welcome Karen Snyder to the staff of the MFCC. She is presently assisting our Patient Care Coordinator with processing medications, entering data into the patient's electronic medical records and helping with applications for free drugs through the pharmaceutical companies.

Karen volunteered at the MFCC as an intern to complete her degree in Human Services while attending Sandhills Community College. Upon graduation, Karen was hired by the Benefit Bank under a state grant. The Benefit Bank of North Carolina was implemented to give temporary employment to North Carolinians, by placing them as Benefits Counselors in faith-based and community organizations.

Each year thousands of families in North Carolina do not claim billions in federal work supports in the form of tax credits, public benefits, and student financial aid. This allows the Benefits Counselor to assist clients to complete their Federal Tax return; apply for Food and Nutrition Services, Federal Student Aid and for Medicare Part D help (prescription assistance for those 65 and over).

While an intern, Karen says, "The Moore Free Care Clinic enabled me to inform the community about this program through their office by allowing me to talk with patients who are in need or may know someone in need." When the Benefit Bank grant ended, the MFCC hired Karen to continue helping our patients and their families.

Karen is married to Robert Snyder and they reside in Aberdeen with their two daughters, Kaci and Reece. Karen is a Moore County native and is currently working towards a four year degree in Human Services.

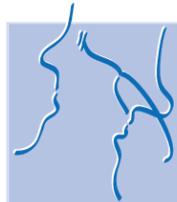


Karen Snyder
joins MFCC Staff

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, just call our office at 910-246-5333.

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211 Trimble Plant Road, Suite C
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SPRING 2011
A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters
of Moore Free Care Clinic
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Increasing Needs, Decreasing Resources

This article's headline is a reality that the Moore Free Care Clinic shares with just about every other non-profit across this nation. In a recent article in the Raleigh News and Observer, Robert Otterbourg reports that the "agencies serving the poor or unemployed have been hit with declining income at the same time they are serving growing constituencies." He rightly points out that while corporate America generally has less demand for its services during depressed economic times it is quite the opposite for non-profits who serve the poor: the demand upon our services radically increases.

Every day the clinic confronts the obvious realities of our present economy: more people lose their jobs, more businesses close up or move elsewhere in search of cheaper labor, the cost of commodities keeps increasing, some employers stop sharing in the payment of employee health insurance premiums forcing some employees to drop their insurance. More businesses hire larger numbers of part-time employees rather than full-time employees thus avoiding health care benefits, and many other related scenarios. The bottom line is that more and more people in Moore County are seeking out the free clinic to try to get the health care they need. Unfortunately, the clinic does not have the resources to meet all those needs.

What resources does the clinic lack in order to meet the increasing need of those among us who live in poverty and do not have easy access to health care because they can't afford it? First, we lack medical providers. Obviously one cannot care for the increased numbers of persons who need health care if we do not have primary care physicians to take care of them. While the clinic has on staff a full-time Nurse Practitioner, and while we utilize a few physicians from Moore Regional Hospital for about 8 hours per week, and while we are privileged to have about twenty providers, primary and specialty, who volunteer with us on a weekly or monthly basis, this combination of provider resources still does not fill the need. We would not have an active patient base of over a 1000 if it were not for the aforementioned persons who faithfully and compassionately serve with us. But we con-

tinue to seek out other providers who will contribute time to patient care. Often this is asking a lot of community providers, because most of them have full-time medical practices of their own. These providers are a blessing to our patients, we are grateful, and we daily live in hope of more medical volunteers!

Secondly, we lack non-medical volunteers. We are always in need of community people who are willing to assist us with the auxiliary services of patient care: answering the phone, assisting the receptionist, other administrative tasks, transporting patients for appointments and testing, phone calling for appointment reminders, pharmacy assistants, patient mentoring and education, and fundraising. Please come, visit the clinic and explore how your talents might be offered.

Thirdly, we lack the financial resources to sustain us over the next few years. While, in its first few years, the clinic was fortunate to put aside some financial reserves, particularly due to a single estate gift of \$350,000. That reserve is steadily being depleted in order to meet the increased demands of patient care. Last year, in 2010, we again had to tap our reserves, using about \$150,000 from those reserves to pay for provider services, medications, supplies, and support staff. On the positive side, monetary donations from individuals in 2010 increased about 10% over 2009. The N&O article said, "The nation's 400 largest nonprofits reported an 11 percent drop in giving in 2009, the largest in the 20 years that the Journal of Philanthropy has been compiling its annual report." So while we are thankful for an increase in one area (which demonstrates once again the generosity of this Sandhills community), our ability to win grant monies decreased because the endowments of many philanthropic foundations lost considerable financial ground and had far less monies to give away.

What does this mean? Primarily it means that **we need the generosity and collaborative support of this local community more than ever** to sustain the work which we are doing. Some government money, for which we have applied, **might** come to us by the close of 2011, but that possibility is looking less and less promising. And even if

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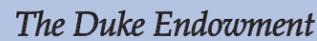
Susie Buchanan, Volunteer and
 Director of Community
 Relations, St. Joseph of the Pines

Our Mission

With a spirit of compassion and with the utmost respect for the dignity of all persons, the Moore Free Care Clinic provides high quality primary, preventive and specialty care to limited income people of Moore County who are uninsured and can't afford access to health care.

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Our Community Partners



ST. JOSEPH of the PINES



Pinehurst Neurology
 Carolina Eye Associates PA

Drs. Monroe and Monroe, General Dentistry
 Neese Family Health Clinic

Pinehurst Radiology
 Moore County Health Department

Southern Pines Physical Therapy
 John W. and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment

Moore County Community Foundation
 The Cannon Foundation

C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation
 Cooper's Pharmacy



MFCC has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau of Eastern North Carolina for maintaining high standards of honesty and integrity.

some federal funding is approved for the clinic, it will fall way short of what is required to meet the health care needs of the poor and uninsured among us. We thank all of you who are doing your part to support the mission of the free clinic. The patients are especially grateful and they express that to us all the time. Please know we are grateful for all you are doing. It is our promise that as your generosity grows, the clinic's high quality care will touch and bring healing to more people.

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D., CEO

Volunteer Gives Back

Dr. Mary E. Gabriel has been volunteering at the clinic since Dec 2009. Born and raised in New Hampshire, she graduated from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and then earned her Master's degree in Education in Counseling from the University of New Hampshire. Mary worked as a high school guidance counselor for four years, then trained as a Physician Assistant at Johns Hopkins University. No stranger to helping others, Mary spent six months doing volunteer work in Tabasco, Mexico and went on to Dartmouth Medical School where she graduated as an MD in 1981.



Dr. Mary E. Gabriel

Mary retired in 2002 from serving for over 21 years in the US Air Force primarily as a Flight Surgeon and squadron commander. Mary has worked for the Womack Army Medical Center at Ft. Bragg for the last eight years, retiring at the end of November 2010. She is board certified in Preventive Medicine and Aerospace Medicine, as well as being board eligible in Occupational Medicine. She also holds a Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health. During her residencies, she earned a Master of Public Health and a Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Since moving to NC in 1999, Mary enjoys life on the farm in Vass with Pius, her husband of 27 years. She derives much pleasure from her horses, Angus cattle and until recently, a flock of ducks. Mary says, "I enjoy volunteering at the MFCC because it is a chance to give back; I have been very blessed in my life and want to give a helping hand to those who need it. The clinic staff is wonderful and I enjoy being a small part of their efforts."

Volunteer Opportunity

The Moore Free Care Clinic is currently looking for a volunteer, who is a reasonably skilled in Quickbooks and Excel, to provide accounting assistance on a periodic basis. Accounting matters are currently handled by staff member but, from time to time, assistance is needed in the form of advice, report preparation, entry making, etc. Much of assistance could be provided from your home and would not be expected to take more than a few hours per month. Knowledge of Quickbooks is essential to this position.

If you have an interest in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Mark Wethington at 910-690-9483 for further information.

Trip to Winston-Salem to See Progress of Building the "Together We Can Do MOORE" Semi Proves to be Educational and Fun!

Moore Free Care Clinic (MFCC) volunteer, Dr. James Tart and residents of Belle Meade and Pine Knoll at St. Joseph of the Pines joined Susie Buchanan and Joanne Wilkins, of St. Joseph's, on a road trip to Winston-Salem on Tuesday, February 22nd. The group toured Spevco, the company building the semi that will allow the MFCC to serve its clients in the rural part of Moore County beginning this summer. The semi will also provide wellness and health education and cultural enrichment.

Samantha Moretz, project manager, provided an overview of progress on the semi, which is to be completed by the end of March/beginning of April. "The framework of the vehicle has been welded, and the pop-out clinic rooms are being retrofitted to hydraulically expand when the vehicle

opens." Moretz stated. "The generator is in place and the stage is operational. Next steps include an awning for the stage, the plumbing, electrical and cabinetry."



Dr. James Tart and residents of Belle Meade and Pine Knoll at St. Joseph of the Pines watch as the stage of the "Together We Can Do MOORE" semi is hydraulically lowered.

On April 30th St. Joseph of the Pines will host a fundraiser at Belle Meade on their Camp Easter campus. It will be the first preview and tour of the "Together We Can Do MOORE" semi. The event purpose is to raise money for operating costs so that the vehicle can travel to the rural parts of our county and serve those people with no access to health care. Invitations will be forthcoming!

If you are interested in volunteering on the semi, please contact Joanne Wilkins at 910-246-3126.

Susie Buchanan,
 MFCC Volunteer

Clinic Director Transition

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Liz Thompson, NP, as Clinic Director. In the past year Liz has served us very faithfully and contributed much to the growth of the clinic. We are indebted to her. Liz has had a change in her family situation. She and her husband are expecting their 3rd child, and she needs to remain closer to her home where her husband works, which is in Durham. We say "good-bye" to Liz with deep gratitude for her service. She will continue to see some of our patients for 3-4 hours once a week in a time of transition.

At the same time, we are pleased and excited to announce the hire of Debra Bateman as our new Clinic Director. Debra is a Nurse Practitioner in family medicine and has been a resident of Moore County for much of her life. She has been actively practicing for about 22 years and has served as Director of Nursing at Penick Village and at Quail Haven. Because of the need for her to give her present employer a 60 day notice, Debra will not begin with us until April 18. As you have the opportunity, we know you will warmly welcome Debra to the clinic and to our important work in the Sandhills community.

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D., CEO

CORRECTION: KATHY LANNON'S name was accidentally omitted from the list of Dining in the Pines Committee Members who have served 6 years and raised \$293,000 for the Moore Free Care Clinic. Kathy was responsible for recruiting hosts for the annual fundraiser- a difficult job which was the backbone of the event.