

NEWS & NOTES

I Can't Wait for This Year's Dining In the Pines!

Save the date Wednesday, October 25 for the 2nd Dining In the Pines fundraiser. If you missed last year's big event, you'll want to be sure to get your hosting reservation in soon. This year's event promises to be bigger and better with more great gift baskets, trips, and all those luscious desserts. For more details watch this space or call Bobbi Erdman, 910-235-4550.

Golfing In the Pines to Play Pinewild CC

Local golf professionals and amateurs are swinging into action to help Moore County's uninsured get the health care they so desperately need.

Peggy Kirk Bell, one of America's best known golf celebrities, and H. David Bruton, MD, the founder and chairman of the Moore Free Care Clinic, will be the honorary co-chairs of the inaugural ***Golfing In the Pines Pro-Amateur Invitational Tournament***. The event will be held on Monday, June 19, at Pinewild Country Club of Pinehurst to benefit Moore Free Care Clinic.

The event's goal is to raise \$30,000 to help a budget shortfall due to the increased cost of medications, supplies, and medical staffing requirements.

The event is limited to a field of 32 teams consisting of one Moore CPGA professional and four amateurs. The format is an invitational tournament for the professionals, sanctioned by the CPGA, and an open tournament, consisting of four amateurs plus a professional, playing two net best balls of five.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon followed by a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The awards reception follows play with Mrs. Bell and Dr. Bruton on hand to award the prizes.

The entry fee for golf professionals is \$50 and an amateur's fee is \$250. This includes golf, cart, range balls, prizes, lunch prior to the event, and hors d'oeuvres during the awards presentation.

The tournament committee includes Tom Clark, Lou Edgar, Cal Erdman, Don Hiscott, Judy Mills, Carol Pitzer, Denny Schmidt, Joel Shriberg, Sandy Storms, Stuart Tuffnell, and Conley Williams.

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Success Brings Challenge

By James A. Tart, M.D., Development Chair

Moore Free Care Clinic has registered nearly one-fourth of the medically-uninsured people who are living at the federal poverty level in Moore County and established a chronic disease management clinic to keep them healthy.

The anticipated results are to prevent major health crises for these individuals and to save money for society at large when emergency care and high-tech interventions are avoided.

Although doctors and nurses are still volunteering their services, the cost of medications, supplies, medical electron-

ics, and increased staffing has resulted in an operating budget of \$442,049.

Fortunately, grants from foundations and other groups have been pledged to provide \$299,840 of that amount, and once more, individuals in our community have contributed generously with \$100,188.25 received to date.

But success does bring new challenges, and ours is to raise the remaining \$42,020.75 to meet this year's budget.

Won't you please help today in meeting this goal? Your neighbors who are less fortunate express their thanks to you for your generosity.

Patients Meet Eligibility Requirements

By Laura Tremper-Jones, Executive Director

During presentations that I make to groups in the area, I am frequently asked about the eligibility requirements of our patients. How does the clinic determine who gets care?

In order to apply to be a patient at Moore Free Care Clinic we ask that a number of criteria are met. These criteria are the most widely-adopted by free clinics in our country.

The first criterion is our patients must be Moore County residents. We authenticate an individual's residency by asking for their driver's license, an electric bill or a county tax form – all of which indicate the physical address of the patient. Generally, questions about residency arise only if the phone number doesn't match the address or town. We'll check individuals that live near the county border, for example, they may have a Cameron address, but their home could be in Lee, Moore or Harnett County.

The second criterion is the patient cannot have any type of commercial health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare. We have had a few patients who did not realize they were eligible for either Medicaid or Medicare or they did not understand their benefits were until we helped them.

The third criterion is they must meet the

income requirements of being at, or below, the federal poverty level (see related chart).

To verify income, we ask the patient bring in pay stubs. If they are paid in cash we request a letter from their employer to verify their income. As you can imagine, this can become very difficult to verify in some cases.

The vast majority of our patients are at the clinic because they truly need to be there. Certainly, there are those exceptions and in those situations we've been able to determine they are not giving us the proper information about their financial situation.

Often patients tell us that they are staying with family members or that family members are helping them pay their bills. If this is the case, we ask their family members to write a statement stating how they are supporting the patient.

This seems like quite a bit of paperwork and investigation but many times we need this type of paperwork to apply to the various pharmaceutical company Patient Assistance Programs. If a patient comes to their first visit without the proper financial information or verification, we ask that

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2006 Moore Free Care Clinic Board of Directors



Moore Free Care Clinic welcomes new members to its 2006 Board of Directors. Pictured from left to right: Pat Oakley, M.D., Bobbi Erdman, Joel Shriberg, Dennis Schmidt and Rev. Erin Martin.

Officers

David Bruton, M.D., *Chairman*

Stuart Tuffnell, *Vice-Chairman*

Mollie Holtzman-Hipp, M.D., *Treasurer*

Deborah McLaughlin, R.N., *Secretary*

Laura Tremper-Jones, R.N.,C., M.S.N., *Executive Director*

Board Members

Robert Bahner, M.D.

George Bussey, M.D.

Bobbi Erdman

Pamela Garty, R.N.

Joann Hanley

Joe Harrington

Kirby Kilpatrick, M.D.

Richard Kruse, M.D.

Rev. Erin Martin

Shelby McDermott

Pat Oakley, M.D.

Belinda Pope, R.N.

Dennis Schmidt

Joel Shriberg

Rev. Theodore Spencer, Sr.

James Tart, M.D.

Joe Vaughn

Claudia Watson

Deborah Whitley, Ex Officio Member

Robert Whitman, Ex Officio Member

A View Inside the Clinic

By Claudia Watson

Moore Free Care Clinic monitors its patient demographics and care. The information displayed below represents data collected over the past 24 months.

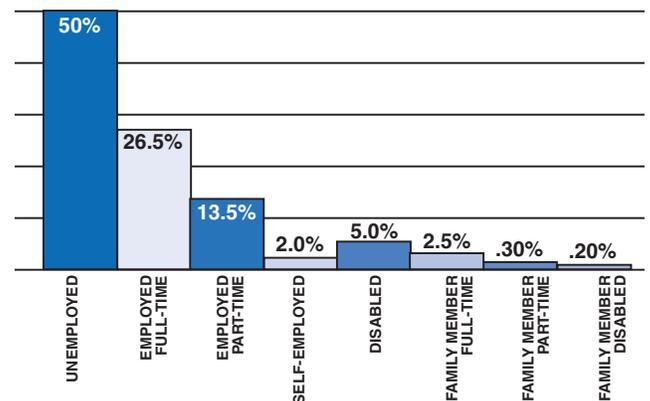
Sixty-five percent of the patients at the clinic are women, 35 percent are men. Caucasian patients represent 49 percent of patients, while 30 percent are African-Americans and 19 percent are Hispanic.

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.

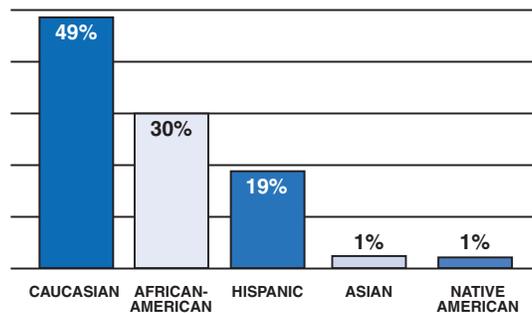
The majority of patients live in Carthage, Robbins, Aberdeen, and Southern Pines.

Beyond all the statistics, and more importantly, are the many personal stories of the lives changed by the compassionate care received at Moore Free Care Clinic. Please watch for these stories in upcoming issues.

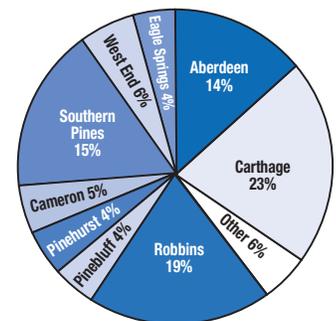
PATIENTS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



PATIENTS BY RACE



PATIENTS BY LOCATION



Duplicates Can be Prevented

We try our best not to send duplicates of our newsletter but occasionally there are oversights. If you receive duplicates of the newsletter, or any other clinic mailing, please cut off the address labels and send them to the clinic so we can remove the duplicate from our list. If you'd prefer not to receive the newsletter, please just drop us a note along with the label and we'll be happy to remove your name from our mailing list.

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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 care if a community is to be truly healthy.

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The Duke Endowment



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Immigration and Free Medical Clinics

H. David Bruton, M.D., Chairman, Board of Directors, Moore Free Care Clinic

Immigration, legal and illegal, is a current hot topic with important ramifications for America, not the least of which is the realization that the U.S. Congress seems incapable of dealing effectively with complex political questions.

Immigration significantly affects our health care safety net providers. Moore Free Care Clinic is one component of this safety net, providing free care for indigent uninsured patients. In our community, the major safety net providers are the hospital and private physicians. The hospital has some estimate of how much uncompensated care they provide. No valid measures of uncompensated care provided by private physicians exist. I can tell you from 35 years in private practice, there is a significant percentage of free care in a pediatric practice.

North Carolina has an estimated 1.3 million people without medical insurance. We have two other uncomfortable statistics: our uninsured and our Hispanic populations are growing much faster than elsewhere in the nation.

Newly arriving Hispanics often are employed in low-paying, no-fringe benefit jobs. These workers tend to be younger and require less health care than our indigenous aging population; however, their sheer numbers put enormous pressure on the safety net. Undocumented children are not eligible for Medicaid, the main source of care for indigent children. This puts added pressure on the emergency rooms because, by federal law, emergency rooms must see anybody that requests care. Physicians are not required by law to see all comers; however, most do provide care for many patients who cannot pay.

The percentage of Hispanics (19 percent) seen at Moore Free Care Clinic is somewhat less than expected. We are not sure of all the reasons. Lack of awareness of our existence, distrust of traditional "foreign" care, and undocumented Hispanic's fear of being reported to the government (our clinic is located in a county government building) probably are all factors. Most have learned they can go to private physicians and the emergency room and not risk being reported. We do not accept any government money and do not report our patients to anybody. We tally our registered patients, now well over 1,000, to only you, our supporters.

Free care clinics are a vital component of our health care safety net. Only the resources we can assemble limit how many patients we can care for at Moore Free Care Clinic.

Patients Meet Eligibility CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they bring it to their next visit or we will not be able to see them. This is very important because we generally want to apply as soon as possible to acquire their medications through the Patient Assistance Program to decrease our costs for purchased medications.

The clinic's staff and volunteers are trained to review and scrutinize the criteria of all incoming patients. We assure you that we make every attempt to treat only those that qualify for the assistance of Moore Free Care Clinic.

2006 Health And Human Services Federal Poverty Levels	
PERSONS IN FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD	48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND D.C.
1	\$9,800
2	13,200
3	16,600
4	20,000
5	23,400
6	26,800
7	30,200
8	33,600
For Each Additional Person Add	3,400

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 15, January 24, 2006, pp. 3848-3849

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For more information about the tournament or to register, please visit www.moorefrecare.org or contact Moore Free Care Clinic, 910-947-6550 email, director@moorefrecare.org or Stuart Tuffnell, 910-215-8903, email stuarttuffnell@earthlink.net.

Golfing In the Pines Pro-Amateur Invitational Tournament Committee



Members of the Golfing In the Pines Pro-Amateur Invitational Tournament committee (from left): Carol Pitzer, Stuart Tuffnell, vice-chairman, Moore Free Care Clinic, Lou Edgar, Denny Schmidt, Joel Shriberg, Don Hiscott, Cal Erdman, tournament chair, Tom Clark and Sandy Storms.

Director's Report - Moore Free Care Clinic

April 29, 2004 to April 28, 2006

Number of Patients Registered (1)	1,973
Number of Visits Since Opening	3,244
Cumulative Value of Services Since Opening	\$2,599,349.66

Reporting Period: April 29, 2005 to April 29, 2006

Services

Number of Patient Visits Current Year (as of April 29, 2005)	2,166	
Estimated Worth of Visits & Specialty Referrals		\$247,583.00
Value of Medication Samples (2)		\$46,135.06
Value of PAP (3)		\$41,995.80
Purchased Medications		\$65,055.68
Physician Volunteer Hours (\$125)	260	\$32,500.00
Nursing Volunteer Hours (\$24.51)	423.5	\$10,379.99
Number of Dental Patients	65	
Dental Volunteer Hours (\$17.54)	112	\$1,964.48
Dentist Volunteer Hours (\$125)	72	\$9,000.00
Estimated Value of Dental Care		\$20,478.00
Clerical Volunteer Hours (\$17.54)	504	\$8,840.16
Board of Directors Volunteer Hours (\$17.54)	1,551	\$27,204.54
Lab Tests and Imaging Services		\$241,685.50
Total Value of Services for this Reporting Period		\$752,822.21

(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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