



MOORE
FREE CARE
CLINIC

Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.™

SUMMER 2009

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters
of Moore Free Care Clinic
Visit our Website at: www.moorefrecare.org

Transition and Opportunity

By Stuart Tuffnell, President, Board of Directors



Stuart Tuffnell

As I write this column, I cannot help but think back to a year or more ago when I mentioned that our Clinic was having “growing pains.” These pains were caused by the enormous growth of our patient list and the lack of adequate facilities to handle them. While the County Health Department had been very generous in allowing us to use the approximately 500 square feet of their building and exam rooms when available, there was not nearly enough space for our needs. This has all changed.

We have moved into our new facility of 3,000 square feet in Southern Pines and the contrast is striking. Now, the clinic has four patient examination rooms, a treatment room, offices for all staff, a multipurpose room which will facilitate volunteer programs and educational sessions and areas for nurses and medical providers to work with electronic medical records and other necessary paper work. It is as fine a Free Care Clinic as can be found anywhere in the state.

Of course, all of this could not have been accomplished without the outpouring of generosity by the community in general and specific individuals and foundations in particular. Special thanks must be given to the following people and organizations for their enormous contributions of time, material or funding:

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
The Cannon Foundation
C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation
Board of Directors of MFCC
First Health Moore Regional Hospital-various departments
St. Joseph of the Pines
Moore County Health Dept.
McDonald Brothers Inc.
John Hendricks, Engineer
Lynn Anderson, Anderson Architecture PLLC
Frank Bundy, Bundy Construction Inc.
Dick Maley, Project Manager
Ann Hinchcliff
Arline Critchley
John & Mary O'Malley
Charles & Jane Wellard
John & Kathy Snyder
John & Terry Lowry
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Summers

In closing, I also would like to pay tribute to our many volunteers who are the very soul of the clinic. The “Volunteers of the Year” have been particularly instrumental in building the Clinic to where it is today. Claudia Watson whose skills at advertising and public relations helped build the community's awareness. David Brunton whose vision, dedication and well known personal integrity have been invaluable. Mary Schneider who has developed and maintained our website along with other programs and software applications. Mollie Holtzman-Hipp who managed our payroll, finances and other related responsibilities as our Treasurer and Finance Chair. Also, Ginnie Dean, who has tirelessly given of her time twice a week to assist with medical records. All of these people are very special. Finally, many thanks to our first Executive Director, Laura “TJ” Tremper-Jones, who had such a multi-tasking position in our formative years.



Moore County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the clinic on May 4th. In attendance were town dignitaries, Chamber members, MFCC board of directors, and staff. The clinic began seeing patients at the new facility on the same day.

Grand Opening Celebration A Success

By Susie Buchanan, Board Member

Over 200 guests spent Sunday afternoon, May 17th at the grand opening of the new facility the Moore Free Care Clinic now calls home. With an abundance of food catered by Elliott's and music from the trio New Hori-

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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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Pinehurst Medical Clinic

The Duke Endowment



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John W. and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment

Moore County Community Foundation

The Cannon Foundation

C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation



BlueCross Blue Shield
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Foundation

Grand Opening Celebration continued
zons, guests toured the 3,000 sq. ft. building, learned about our expanded services and the volunteer opportunities we have to offer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Providers: the clinic needs primary care and specialty care providers to care for patients. The clinic can adjust appointment hours, including time and day, in order to accommodate providers. Providers needed include not only MDs, but also PAs, NPs, Nurses, specialty doctors, physical therapists, dental, eye, etc.

Pharmacists: pharmacists who can offer some hours each week to re-label pharmaceutical company assistance medications. The clinic has a pharmacy limited service permit and a volunteer Pharmacist Manager.

Administration: persons with and without medical background who can assist with administrative work, including filing, calling patients for appointment reminders, mailings, etc.

Receptionists: persons with and without medical background are needed to answer phones, take messages, and other miscellaneous "switchboard" responsibilities. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2 – 5 pm every week.

Prescription Hand-Out: persons with and without medical background who would like to work at the prescription hand-out window on Tuesday mornings, Tuesday afternoons, Thursday mornings or Thursday afternoons to handout medications to patients who come for medication pick-up.

Prescription Preparation: persons with and without medical background who would like to assist our Patient Care Coordinator with preparing medications for pharmacist approval and dispensing. This would also include the calling of patients to inform them that their medication is ready for pick-up.

Transportation: the clinic has a transportation committee through which we are able to offer transportation to patients who do not have such. Volunteers drive patients to appointments, usually locally, but at times also to specialty appointments in Chapel Hill.

Development: persons willing to help do grant research and writing, learn the MFCC "story" and do community presentations; as well as assist with seeking financial donations.

Special Events: persons willing to assist with set-up for special events, refreshments, publicity and recruitment of other volunteers.

Translators: persons who speak and understand Spanish fluently and are willing to do translation between patients and providers (in accordance with HIPPA regulations).

The new facility, located at 211 Trimble Plant Road, Southern Pines, has four exam rooms and one treatment room, staff offices and a room for seminars and volunteer training. Our services now include specialty care and clinics in mental health, dental, orthopedics, neurology, ENT, physical therapy, cardiology and ophthalmology. This is made possible because of physicians who generously give back to a community that needs them more than ever. If you were not able to attend the grand opening and would like a tour, please call Debbie at 246-5333.



Attending the Open house were (left to right): Stuart Tuffnell, John O'Malley, H. David Bruton, M.D., Lib Hodgkins and Norris Hodgkins, Jr.

Moore Free Care Clinic's Hospitalist Program

By Dr. H. David Bruton
Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors

A new medical sub-specialty has rapidly developed over this decade. Hospitalists are a group of physicians who limit their practice to caring for patients admitted to the hospital. These physicians are sub-specialists, trained to manage in-patients who are sick enough to benefit from the advanced medical technology required for their care while in the hospital. Upon discharge the patients return to their referring physician. Most metropolitan hospitals employ Hospitalists. First Health, in an effort to improve access and quality, employs an excellent group of Hospitalists. Our community physicians have a good working relationship with these new sub-specialists.

Now comes Moore Free Care Clinic (MFCC) with its increasing number of patients eligible for our services. The current economic downturn has increased their ranks. To try to meet more of this demand with quality patient care, on December 18, 2008 Stuart Tuffnell, Chairman of the MFCC Board of Directors, signed an agreement with First Health to, "Lease Employed Physicians." Thus began MFCC's newly increased productivity. The care provided by the Hospitalists is excellent and patient satisfaction is very high.

A wonderful thing has happened as the Hospitalists program has gotten underway, our volunteer community physicians and sub-specialists have increased their commitment to MFCC! The heart and soul of MFCC remains, neighbors volunteering to care for their neighbors.

The April 2, 2009 issue of The Wall Street Journal had an interesting article titled, Readmitted Patients Cost Billions. "Re-hospitalization is a frequent, costly, and sometimes life-threatening event that is associated with gaps in follow-up care," the study says. Therein is another benefit of our Hospitalist program. Many of the patients they care for in the hospital are referred from the Emergency Department and have no referring physician to care for them upon discharge. These patients are at high risk of being readmitted to the ER and the hospital. MFCC provides an opportunity for the Hospitalists to follow up with these unassigned patients and hopefully prevent their readmission. An incidental benefit, for the Hospitalists, is they will have the opportunity through experience to learn the full life cycle of a given disease process, not just the acute in-hospital phase.

Free Clinics across the State are facing the same pressures that confront MFCC. I predict you will see free

clinics, especially in metropolitan areas, adopting similar Hospitalists contracts. To date we have been able to satisfy the Lease Agreement. In the new offices with an expanded Hospitalist program, we will again have to call on this wonderfully generous community for their continued support. The community has reason to be proud of MFCC's continued growth.

Volunteers Are Our Backbone

By Mark W. Wethington, Executive Director

Without medical provider volunteers the clinic cannot survive, much less increase its services to the uninsured and low income of our community. The MFCC has entered into a partnership with FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital to lease Hospitalists to care for our patients, at a very reasonable rate. However, this relationship alone cannot fill the need. In order to continue to give quality health care to our present patients, and the approximately 275 people on our waiting list, we have to increase the number of medical providers (MDs, PAs, NPs, nurses, and specialists) who volunteer their time.

If you are a medical provider and reading this article, I hope you will be moved to step up and help us out (please call me at 910-690-9483). If you are a reader of this article and have an appointment with your doctor in the not too distant future, offer him/her a "pitch" to volunteer with us. We need everyone to assist us in this appeal for more medical provider volunteers.

Over the next several newsletters we will be highlighting some of our volunteer providers because we think you should get to know these servants of the community. In this issue we are highlighting Dr. Michael Antil and Dr. Michael Soboeiro, who work full time at the Pinehurst Medical Center and offer evening clinic hours with us.

Volunteer physicians are part of the "backbone" of MFCC. We are deeply grateful for ALL persons who volunteer with us, both lay and professional. THANK YOU.

Value of Services 2008

MFCC Office Visits (includes primary care and specialists)	\$367,115.28
Medications through PAP Pinehurst Medical Center	\$1,336,613.24
Cardiology	\$12,015.00
Endocrinology	\$2,131.00
GI	\$27,701.00
Internal Medicine	\$1,464.00
Pulmonary	\$7,214.00
Moore Regional Hospital	
X-Ray	\$176,229.50
Labs	\$504,914.00
EKG	\$10,034.50
Pinehurst Radiology	\$26,980.00
2008 Value of Services Total	\$2,472,411.52

Someone You Should Meet:



Michael F. Soboeiro, MD

Michael F. Soboeiro, MD, is an Internist who specializes in diabetes. Mike has served as Chief, Department of Medicine, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, and prior to coming to the Sandhills practiced internal medicine in Wilmington, NC. He did his medical training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and his internship and residency in Primary Care Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Mike is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He is married to Elizabeth and they have two children, Andrew (16) and Suzanne (14). Dr. Soboeiro runs a diabetes clinic for us one evening a month. Asked about why he volunteers at our clinic Mike said, "I volunteer because I have been blessed to practice in a wonderful community with nice patients. Because of this I feel it is incumbent upon me to give something back to those who have less. I think the most valuable gift I can share is my medical knowledge with those who need it but cannot access it because of the problems with our current health system."

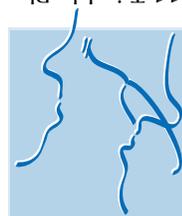


Michael Antil, MD

Michael Antil, MD, is an Internist who specializes in primary care. Mike did his undergraduate education at Miami University of Ohio, his medical school at Emory University, and his residency also at Emory. In 2008 he received the Patient's Choice Award from the Pinehurst Medical Clinic. He is married to Lynn (who is a Tobacco Cessation Counselor at FirstHealth) and they have two children, Olivia (2) and David (7 months). With regard to volunteering at the free care clinic Mike said, "One good turn deserves another. Through hard work I have been thoroughly rewarded, and I feel it is only right to keep this cycle going by donating my time and talents. Also, being a responsible doctor means caring for your patients, your profession, and your community. The patients of the MFCC are members of our community and their needs should not be ignored."

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