

Healing & Caring

WINTER 2004-05

Quarterly newsletter of the Moore Free Care Clinic

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Dental Services Now Available

Thanks to the generosity of local dentists, MFCC patients now have access to free dental services. Drs. Clement and Kamron Monroe and their staff responded immediately upon hearing of the urgent need.

Many MFCC patients had complained of tooth-related problems and clinic volunteers previously had no recourse but to give antibiotics for infection or medications for pain. Now several other dental professionals have volunteered their services and MFCC patients can receive urgent dental care at no charge. Currently, this care is limited to extractions.

At this time, the dental clinic is scheduled one night per month. Patients must be referred by a MFCC physician. There have been four dental clinics so far.

"We expect demand for dental clinics to be high, since there are so few dental resources for low income adults," explains Laura Tremper-Jones, MFCC's director.

Many MFCC patients cannot afford even the reduced fees for clinic services available at the University of North Carolina's School of Dentistry. Cost, combined with the problems of taking time off from work and lack of transportation, left many persons with no choice but to suffer.

Lack of access to dental care for low income adults is a national problem. MFCC and its concerned volunteers are doing something to help relieve that problem here in Moore County.

According to Kamron Monroe, "We believe strongly in what MFCC is trying to do, and we're committed to it for the long run."

Please visit the clinic's website, www.moorefrecare.org for more information about the clinic. The Moore Free Care Clinic is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization and your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Mail your gift to: Moore Free Care Clinic 2004 Annual Fund, P.O. Box 161, Pinehurst, NC 28370.

Fundraising Efforts Show Promise

For the past several weeks, MFCC volunteers and staff have been busy building a fundraising organization, which is vital to supporting MFCC's operations over the long term.

The clinic's first two fundraising receptions were held this fall at the Pinewild Country Club homes of Mr. and Mrs. Conley Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Tuffnell. The invitation-only events were eagerly attended by guests who wanted to learn more about the clinic and the community of uninsured that it serves.

"The groups were very interested in the operational details of the clinic," comments Claudia Watson, board member and public relations adviser. "We are encouraged by their sincere interest and commitments of both volunteer and financial support."

The clinic does not receive any federal or state funding and is totally dependent upon the community for support. "We don't have a lifeline. It's up to the folks in our community to help look after their neighbors in a time of need," says Watson. The clinic plans more private receptions in early 2005 at other communities in Moore County.

The clinic's first Annual Campaign kicked off the second week of November with a direct mail program targeting residents of the county and a publicity campaign. The board of directors set a goal of raising \$200,000 by March. MFCC also is seeking financial support from area businesses, churches, and civic organizations. In addition, the clinic continues to pursue private grants from foundations.

Volunteers are being organized to support the clinic's administrative needs and fundraising efforts. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Joann Hanley, the clinic's volunteer coordinator, at 692-0780, or e-mail jhanley@nc.rr.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Union Pines Student Volunteers



Out of deep appreciation for the dedication and generosity of our volunteers, MFCC will make "Volunteer Spotlight" a regular feature of our newsletter. This month we are featuring one of our youngest volunteers, Allison Blue.

Allison is a senior at Union Pines High School, where she plays in the band and is a member of Future Teachers of America. Allison started volunteering at MFCC last June. Her mother, a registered nurse, encouraged Allison to visit MFCC one night. "And I just started coming back each week," she says.

On her volunteer shift, Allison answers phones and greets patients at the front desk as they arrive. She also makes appointments. Allison is even learning a little conversational Spanish while assisting Hispanic patients who call in.

Allison likes volunteering at MFCC because she believes it is a very helpful service. "It makes me feel good to see people getting the help they need," she says. When asked if she was interested in health care as a career, Allison responded, "No thanks. I'm afraid of blood!" But we at MFCC think that Allison's caring attitude is just what the doctor ordered. Thank you, Allison!



Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.™

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After Over a Year of Planning, Clinic Opens to Public

After 18 months of detailed planning by community leaders, including physicians, health care providers and representatives of private and public health organizations, the Moore Free Care Clinic opened its doors on April 29, 2004.

The mission of the Moore Free Care Clinic (MFCC) is: In the spirit of compassion and concern, the MFCC 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.

Located in space provided by the Moore County Health Department, MFCC is staffed exclusively by volunteers, with the exception of the director and administrative assistant positions. The clinic director, Laura "TJ" Tremper-Jones, is a women's health nurse practitioner. She is responsible for patient appointments and eligibility decisions, practitioner and lay volunteer scheduling, supplies, reporting and everything else that goes into running a medical clinic, including speaking fluent Spanish.

Primary and preventive care for adults is offered two nights per week. Specialty medical services such as cardiology, endocrinology, and an ophthalmology clinic are provided by referral to participating medical offices.

FirstHealth of the Carolinas is donating limited laboratory and diagnostic services for MFCC patients who need them. The "word" on MFCC has gotten out — in the first six months of operations the clinic has logged over 570 patient visits.

Fast Facts

Patient demographics:

54% White

15% Hispanic

31% African-American

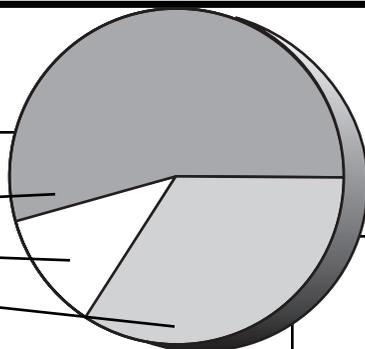
Patient visits to date: 570

Patient visits per clinic night: 12

Clinic volunteers (non-physician) required per night: 5-8

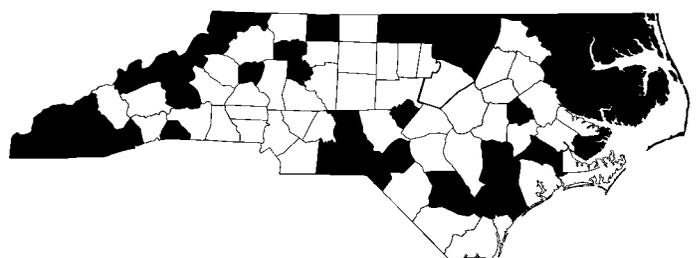
Estimated total annual value of prescription medications and medication assistance enrollments: \$ 1 million

Estimated annual value of patient visits, test, specialty care, and volunteer time: \$915,280



The uninsured in NC is equal to the combined populations of NC's 53 most rural counties, representing more than 1.4 million people. (NC Association of Free Clinics)

1.4 million Uninsured in North Carolina



Equal to combined population of 53 most rural counties