Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic

Clinic Patients Express Gratitude to Golfers

As a physician, Dr. Scott Parker knows what it is like to help others in their time of need and he has reaped huge rewards through simple messages of gratitude from his patients.

As a member of the Clinic’s Celebrity Golf planning committee, Dr. Parker is responsible for assembling the gift bags for golfers who participate in the event. With a goal to provide meaningful and quality items, Dr. Parker and committee members decided to “gift” the golfers with rewarding comments from our patients by placing individual thank you notes in each bag.

Clinic staff members, Mary Bull and Sue Garcia set up the tools so the patients could write the notes. The patients were eager to participate by expressing their gratitude to the golfers and sponsors of the annual fundraising event.

Dr. Parker noted that “many of the golfers were moved by the patients stories and gratitude. The result was that the clinic had an additional $6,000 to use for direct patient care rather than being spent on the bag gifts.”

The 8th Annual Celebrity Golf Invitational was held on Monday, March 30, 2015 at the Ocean Course. Citadel football coach, Mike Houston was the lead celebrity.

“With the help of the clinic I receive my insulin and syringes, to help me through the life I want to lead.”

The fundraiser netted close to $160,000 to provide patient care services for the low income, uninsured residents of Johns, Wadmalaw and James Islands. (See page 5 for more details)
Our Summer newsletter is packed with so many accomplishments, celebrations and outpouring of generosity from our donors, friends and patients.

Now into our 7th year of existence, the Clinic has grown leaps and bounds into a fully mature and finely tuned healthcare organization. Under the umbrella of our primary care services, the clinic now has well established programs for treating high risk diseases, women’s breast health while coordinating much needed services related to expensive medications, diagnostic services and specialty referrals for care not provided at the clinic.

I am often asked how the clinic achieved great success in a short period of time. The answer remains the same: dedicated volunteers, exceptional staff, strong board of directors, generous donors and in-kind donations of labs and imaging from Roper St. Francis Healthcare. We operate just like any other doctors office in town, but we thrive on the generosity of readers like you.

Halfway through 2015, the clinic has provided over 28,000 patient care visits for over 3,700 patients; we are projecting yet another positive budget variance for the fiscal year; we have acquired many new doctors and other volunteers; we hosted yet another successful Celebrity Golf Invitational while planning for the October Wine and Beer Festival; and, we are close to being fully transitioned to our new electronic medical records system.

On May 5th, 2015, the clinic participated in the Coastal Community Foundation’s Lowcountry Giving Day and once again our participation was made possible through a generous donor.

Take a few minutes to read more about “The Miracle on Maybank.”

James M. Hayes, MD
Chairman, Board of Directors

Volunteers and Staff “Counted” the Days Until Lowcountry Giving Day on May 5th!
**Meeting the Medication Needs of Our Patients**

When needed, Clinic doctors prescribe low cost, generic drugs at local pharmacies for our patients. However, many times the medication does not come in generic form which is often cost prohibitive for them.

Clinic staff and volunteers assist the patients to obtain medications through pharmaceutical company charity programs. These medications are shipped to the clinic, tracked in our system and distributed to patients.

To provide this service, the clinic has a non-dispensing pharmacy license that requires a monthly review and audit.

We are grateful to have Dr. Wayne Weart, who volunteers his time to conduct the review and audit while creating a community pharmacy services rotation at the clinic for MUSC Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students.

The students are helping the clinic create pharmacological protocols; review patients on multiple medications; provide individualized patient education; and, assist with medication reconciliation in our new electronic medical record.

Our staff and volunteers enjoy interacting with these bright students each month.

Many thanks to Dr. Weart and the PharmD students!

**A New Addition to Clinic Team: “Meet Mecca Hayes”**

The Clinic is pleased to introduce Mecca Hayes, the latest addition to our staff.

Mecca is not a stranger to the clinic as she volunteered with us while she pursued her M.A. from Webster University.

Upon graduation, Mecca returned to the clinic and accepted an open position to assist with the implementation of the new electronic medical record.

Mecca’s knowledge of the clinic and her undergraduate degree in health administration makes her an ideal team member.

Join us as we welcome Mecca to her new role!
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” This Clinic has changed the world for the 3500 patients it has served to date, no small miracle indeed.

Subsequent stories on the clinic will involve explanations of various health programs they run as well as interviews with some of the doctors, nurses and volunteers staffing the clinic.”

“an unusual or wonderful event that is believed to be caused by the power of God; a very amazing or unusual event, thing, or achievement.”

Definition of miracle from Merriam Webster dictionary, writes Seabrook Islands Tidelines columnist Barbara Burgess.

On September 18, 2014, Barbara introduced the first of a series of articles about the clinic. She writes, “It is an amazing example of what a group of volunteers have been able to bring about in order to provide free medical care to adults living at or below the poverty level on Johns, Wadmalaw or James Island. It could be called the Miracle on Maybank, because the group’s clinic is located at 3226 Maybank Highway, and the service they are providing is nothing short of miraculous”.

The columnist goes on to write, “having spent time with the people who run this Clinic, one is reminded of the famous line of anthropologist, Margaret Mead, who said: ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.’ This Clinic has changed the world for the 3500 patients it has served to date, no small miracle indeed.

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2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation / Clinic 7th Birthday Event

On April 19th, the Board of Directors and Staff hosted a luncheon at James Island County Park for our wonderful volunteers.

An anonymous donor funded a catered, Lowcountry boil with all the fixings! The event allowed us to recognize the contributions of our volunteers during “Volunteer Appreciation Week” while celebrating the seven-year anniversary of the Clinic’s opening.

Enjoy a few of our photos of our fantastic volunteers who work in the clinic every week and our dedicated Board of Directors!
Highlights 2015 Celebrity Golf Invitational, The Ocean Course

“I play golf because it’s fun.”

-- Bubba Watson

And a fun day was had by all at the 8th Annual Celebrity Golf Invitational at The Ocean Course on Kiawah Island. The day started out cool and blustery, yet the wind stilled and the sun came out midday, resulting in a great day to be on one of the most gorgeous golf courses anywhere.

A special thanks goes to Committee Chairman Quentin Jackson who led a fine team of volunteers. This committee successfully obtained sponsorships, silent auction items and a full roster of foursomes to round out one of the most successful fundraising events in the clinic’s history.

After a full day on the course, golfers and guests were treated to a cocktail hour, Lowcountry buffet and silent auction.

Enjoy just a few of the photos that were taken by volunteer, Gary Weart.
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To understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the uninsured, low income adults who live or work on Johns, Wadmalaw and James Islands.

Visit us on the Web!
www.bifmc.org

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Would you like to receive electronic news about the Clinic?
Simply send us an email at barrierislands01@gmail.com

9th Annual Wine and Beer Festival
Sunday, October 4, 2015 at Freshfields Village

Ann Caldwell said “yes” to October 4th!

Mark your calendars for another great day of food, fun and fellowship while tasting fantastic wines and craft beers. Once again, the event will be held “under the tent” on The Green at Freshfields Village, Kiawah, SC.

We are pleased to announce that Ann Caldwell said “yes” to performing at the October 4th festival! Stay tuned for more information on times, ticket sales, food venues and sponsorship opportunities.

We will be sending out more updates via email. Contact us at barrierislands01@gmail.com to get on our mailing list!

Enjoy a few photos from last year’s even thanks to photographer, Ralph Secoy.