

VIM VOICE



January, 2017

Patients Seen Last Month: 361

1st Hispanic Golf Tournament

At the end of November one of our patients approached me about his interest in working with the Hispanic Community to raise funds for our clinic. Spearheaded by Carlos Ahumada with the help of Board Member Joe Pantano and volunteer Susie Carpio solicitations went out to area businesses and flyers were posted around town seeking golfers. Early in the morning on the coldest Saturday (December 10), twenty volunteers and thirty-five golfers gathered for the first ever Hispanic Golf Tournament at Pine Crest Golf Club. Friends and family members gathered to coordinate signs, decorations, music, and golf carts. By the end of the day \$3,200 was raised for BJVM and a wonderful (if not very cold) time was had by us all!! Huge thanks go out to Peggy & Joe Pantano, Linda & Al Taylor, Susie Carpio, Carlos Ahumada, and Ernesto Espinosa for all their help in making this event possible!



New Volunteer Coordinator

Peggy Pantano is our new Volunteer Coordinator taking over responsibilities from Mary Blake. Peggy has already had a volunteer orientation in December and is planning another meeting for the 30th of January. We are always on the lookout for medical and non-medical volunteers.

Welcome New Doctors

- Melinda Harper Family Medicine, Bluffton Clinic
- James Evans, Family Medicine, Bluffton Clinic
- Lorenzo Carbrera Gynecologist, Bluffton Clinic

New Clinic Hours and Pregnancy Van Availability

The Pregnancy van of the Low Country is now available on Tuesdays at the Jasper Clinic.

FYI we have now added two more clinic times. We are now seeing patients from 8:30am – 8:30pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. With these additional hours we have the potential of seeing 130 patients a week. This does not include new patient intake or patients coming into the clinic for medication refills, flu shots, Welvista, BCN applications, or blood pressure screenings! As the saying goes.....”We have come a long way baby!!!”

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Grant Appreciation!

Thanks to grants from the 1811 Belfair Charitable Fund and the Hospital Auxiliary we have purchased an equivalent of \$181,000 in drugs from the Dispensary of Hope. With these drugs we have been able to fill 1,081 prescriptions in 2016!!!



Note Cards on the Move

We are continuing to sell our beautiful note cards. Volunteers have purchased these cards for friends and neighbors. These cards have been purchased and mailed to Atlanta, Georgia; Suffield, Connecticut; and Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina. If you have sent cards to faraway places let us know, it will be fun to see who is learning about BJVIM!!



Nurse Manager Position

By now many of you know that Janet Wright, our nurse manager, will be leaving us at the end of March. My first inclination was to close the clinic and run away when she told me that she and her husband Bob would be relocating to Raleigh, NC. But then I pulled myself together and realized how she has put so many policies in place, organized the clinic and thrown away so many things (!) that I think we will be ok. I am in the midst of looking for a new nurse. If you know of anyone that might be interested in this position, please let me know. In the meantime ads will be placed in the local media outlets and on our Facebook page.

Lion's Club Fundraiser

We are seeing an average of 6 patients a month in the ophthalmology clinic in Ridgeland. This has been a huge addition to our clinic services. With the help of Wal-Mart and Optical Solutions of Hilton Head and Bluffton and a grant from the Bargain Box we are now able to provide glasses for our patients. Without the help of Dr. James Kondor and the Hilton Head Lions Club this service would not be possible. On **Saturday, February 4th** the Lions Club is holding their annual fundraiser. Tickets for this event are \$25 each and include dessert. Help show our support and thanks to the Lions Club

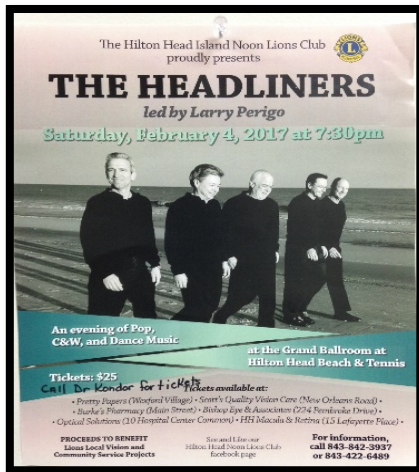
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by buying a ticket and attending this event.
Tickets are available in Pam's office.



Notes from Pam

It is hard to imagine all that we accomplished in 2016! Without the guidance of our Board of Directors, the support of all our volunteers and the generous contributions of our many donors we would not have been able to expand our services into Ridgeland, increase our patient referrals, sponsor the annual Volunteer Meeting, allow me to attend both the National Free Clinic Conference and the SC Free Clinic Conference, purchase additional medical supplies and pharmaceutical needs. From the bottom of my heart I cannot thank you all enough for all you do! As I said at our annual meeting; you all embrace the true meaning of “a Good Samaritan”. Thank you and my Very Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year!