

VIM VOICE



February/March 2018

<u>Patients Seen in January</u>	
Bluffton	287
Ridgeland	23

Volunteers In Medicine Founder, Dr. Jack McConnell, Dies



Dr. Jack McConnell, founder of the first Volunteers in Medicine free clinic, passed away on February 6, 2018 at the age of 93. Dr. McConnell founded the charitable clinic model in Hilton Head, SC, in 1993, utilizing largely retired, volunteer physicians and staff to serve the low income, uninsured residents of the island.

Since the original clinic's founding, 89 Volunteers in Medicine clinics have grown in 28 states throughout the nation. Based on Dr. McConnell's model, Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine began serving patients in 2011 and in 2016 opened a second clinic in Ridgeland, to serve the uninsured who live or work in Greater Bluffton or Jasper County.

The Volunteers In Medicine national office, located in Burlington, VT, states on their website, "As a result of Dr. McConnell's vision... Hundreds of thousands of people who were previously without a regular source of care have been treated. Tens of thousands of volunteers have experienced the joy of serving."

The Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine joins our community and all Volunteer In Medicine clinics in remembering the exemplary life and mourning the loss of a compassionate visionary leader who believed that everyone deserves the dignity of health care.

To read more about Dr. McConnell and his legacy, including a touching tribute from the band, Phish and a video of Dr. McConnell performing with them in North Charleston, visit the national website volunteersinmedicine.org.

Best Chance Network



Best Chance Network (BCN) program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings for SC women who meet eligibility requirements. Our BCN program is managed by Deb Hicks, Rachel Weis, Shelly Martin and soon to bring the program to the Ridgeland clinic; Mary Jane Richardson. Hats off to these wonderful volunteers who help take care of our female patients. One hundred and seventy-five women have qualified for mammograms and 104 have had pap tests. Our program ranks 9th out of 122 programs in the state for management! Thank you, thank you to Deb, Rachel, Shelly and Mary Jane for your dedication to our patients!

Welcome New Volunteers!

Joe Marcus
Mary Ellen Hill
Alex Rendon
Mark Sukow
Shelly Crenshaw
Kevin Quat
Gingi Cohen
Wendy Barrett



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Did You Know...

- BJVIM, with the help from a Bargain Box Grant, paid for 60 pairs of prescription glasses for our patients.
- Jim of Bluffton Pharmacy is now a volunteer pharmacist at the Bluffton Clinic.
- Raffle Tickets for a Christmas Weekend at Biltmore Estate will go on sale June 1st.
- Mark your calendars: ***Christmas in July*** fundraiser **July 26th**! More information to come.

