

# VIM VOICE



**November 2019**

OCTOBER PATIENT VISITS:

Bluffton: 322

Ridgeland: 43



## Happy Thanksgiving!

### NOTES FROM PAM

Dear Volunteers,

A lot has certainly happened since our last newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading our news. Many people think that our volunteers are needed only during clinic hours, but as you will see, so much goes on behind the scenes!

As I look to Thanksgiving my very special thanks goes out to each and everyone one of you for all you do at the clinic. It is a huge privilege to work with you, thank you for all you do for our patients, each other, and me!



### Volunteer Meeting Update

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Volunteer meeting in September. Due to a conflict at Palmetto Electric, we had to move the date from the third Friday in September to the 4th Friday. But, even with this change, the turnout was great! Sergeant David did a wonderful job explaining the need to be prepared in case of an active shooter issue. While his message was somber, he was able

to interject some stories into his program that helped us see the need to always be prepared.

Mark Cruise, Volunteers in Medicine - America CEO, spoke on the expansion of the Volunteers in Medicine Alliance. His visit was twofold; one to introduce himself to us and two, to learn more about BJVIM. A few days later he emailed me to say how please he was to speak to us and how amazed he was with the number of volunteers who attended and the programs we have at BJVIM!

Congratulations to our Volunteers of 2019: Sara Carely from our Ridgeland office; Terry Rowe, the OPTOS coordinator; Julie Orr, nurse; and Shelley Martin, volunteer coordinator and BCN team member. These volunteers help to make our clinic such a very special place!

Congratulations also went out to our BCN team: Deb Hicks, Rachel Weis and Shelley Martin. As a result of their hard work, BJVIM received a Gold Star for our BCN program! The patients enrolled in this state-wide women's health program have received extraordinary care from our GYN doctors and nurses coordinated by these three wonderful volunteers! On hand to make the award presentation was Barbara Talley from the South Carolina Department of Health.

### Bourbon & Bubbly

Preparations for our biggest fundraiser of the year began in early January thanks to the tireless efforts of board members Dot Jeger and Zina Harter. We

are still waiting to get the final donations in from our Fund-A-Need campaign but it looks like we brought in over \$75,000. All proceeds will then go to patient care!



Pictures above include a group of nurses and administrative volunteers helping to stuff invitation envelopes and behind the scenes set up. Pictures of the dinner are on our Facebook and website for all to enjoy!



Special thanks to Donna Rhodes who helped with the ticket seatings and to Lynn Blahuta who worked her magic with a most successful silent auction. Thanks to our office manager Hannah Sanderson, and all amazing volunteers who worked the night of the event: Ruth Spinello and her sister Floe, Janet Jehlen, Carrie Hahn and her husband, Terry Rowe, Vickie Anderson and her husband, Alan Pethick, Laura Zimmerman and Gail Thompson. Two students also helped to guide guests into the venue. Thanks goes out to Alex and Paige Sriubas!



**Recently an old friend visited the clinic ...** Many of you will remember Suzanne Taylor who was once the office manager. Shortly after relocating to Jacksonville, FL , Suzanne and family experienced a house fire. Her home has now been rebuilt and I am happy to say the Taylor family is doing well. Suzanne stopped by to see our new clinic and visit with us.



**On October 17th** we had the opportunity to make a presentation at the Hampton Lake Women's Club. This was a volunteer recruitment event. Did you know that we have 13 volunteers who reside in Hampton Lake? A BIG THANK YOU to Barbara Elberston (board vicechair), Kathleen Case, MD.; Barrett, diabetic coordinator; Lynn Stanley, WelVista coordinator; Sandy Forman, pharmacist; Winnie O'Connor and Jennifer Parker, admin; Tom Blake, Marian Crapanzano and Lynn Blahuta,

resource development and Anna Levonyak, Ellen McAndris and Sara Shankle, nurses. A Thank You also to Hampton Lake for inviting us to participate in their community event!



**One Saturday in October** Dr. George McGrath of the Storm Eye Center (affiliated with MUSC in Charleston) came to our clinic to treat 6 of our patients who have been diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy. Terry Rowe, and Dr. Kondor were on hand to coordinate the morning as Dr. McGrath used his portable laser machine to treat our patients. He allowed us to watch as he performed his treatments with great skill.

### **Tiger Bass Race**

The last Saturday in October we were on hand to cheer on runners at the annual Tiger Bass Race in Hampton Lake. Winnie O'Connor worked our information booth at the event. With proceeds from the race, BJVM was awarded a \$3,000 grant to be used for patient care.

**FYI, Dr. Kathleen Casey** has been named by the Board of Directors as our new medical director. Dr. Casey will take over her new position in January. She will remain at the Ridgeland clinic on Monday mornings and in Bluffton on Wednesday mornings. She tentatively will work on Wednesday afternoons for administrative needs. Please look to our January newsletter for more information on Dr. Casey.

### **Looking ahead to December ...**

On Thursday, December 12th from 12-1 will have a reception for Dr. Smith. Both patients and staff will be able to thank him for his services and wish him well as he “retires” for the second time! Immediately after the reception we will host our Annual Holiday Gathering here at the clinic. Once again there will be a food sign-up sheet in the kitchen. Plates, utensils, napkins, glasses and beverages will be provided.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

We will be closed at the conclusion of afternoon clinic on Tuesday, November 26th and reopen after Thanksgiving on Monday, December 2nd.

The clinic will be closed at the conclusion of night clinic on Wednesday, December 18th and will reopen for “business” on Monday, January 6th. Staff will work briefly on Monday, December 30th and Thursday January 2nd to answer phones and fill prescriptions.



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