

# VIM VOICE



January/February 2021

## NOTES FROM PAM

### Dear Volunteers;

I am always in awe of the level of commitment given by our volunteers. Recently the University of South Carolina's School of Public Health, in collaboration with DHEC, asked us to help with a COVID-19 tracing program. We needed to have four volunteers each Friday for the month of February to test and record the results of 20 randomly selected community members. Our PA intern and Dr. Casey managed the antibody testing - administering the nasal swab was a PA volunteer vacationing here for the winter - and I recorded the names and each participant's profile. I soon realized there was more work to this project than originally thought. Lee made an appointment sheet to record appointment times, the names of each client, and phone numbers.



Lee then had to inform and educate desk 1 and desk 2 volunteers to be aware of the program and explain the appointment times. Finally, we had to make some adjustments and volunteers had to call to reschedule appointments. So, as you can see - a Friday morning program with four participants required the help and support of 12 additional people! Behind the scenes planning is essential to the success of BJVIM. A special thanks to Dr. Casey, Lee, and all the volunteers who helped to make this program a success.

— Pam



**Special Thanks to our Resource Development department;** Dennis Toney, Donna Rhodes, Susan Bryant, Mary Ellan Hill, and Allen Pethick for all of their hard work in 2020. Thirty-four grants were received totaling \$515,430. In addition, we received \$300,000 in individual and business donations - bringing in a total revenue of \$815,430 in 2020!! Remarkable work, thank you to this dedicated team!

**The annual SC Free Clinic Association report** was due in January. The report includes information on fundraising, new projects, COVID-19 information, programs offered, volunteer hours donated, and patient profiles. A few statistics to think about: we cared for 1,456 unduplicated patients who made 4,964 patient visits; 5,291 prescriptions were distributed from our pharmacy and WelVista; 202 patients were referred for services not provided at the clinic which were then paid for by the clinic; and 2,568 lab test were taken both on and off site. These numbers are amazing considering the clinic was closed from March 15th -June 15th. Thanks to all the doctors and nurses for their hard work and to the nonmedical staff who keep everyone organized!



**I hope by now that everyone has received their second vaccine.** If you have not received either the first or second dosage of the vaccine, please let me know. We are so grateful to Coastal Carolina Hospital for their help in making this possible.

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## Welcome New Members of the BJVM Board of Directors

**Chris Corkern**, a Bluffton native and owner of a Prudential Wealth management Company

**Qundal Gray**, a SC native and retired pharmacist

**Laquandra Stevenson**, a Ridgeland native and early childhood educator



## SC STRONG!

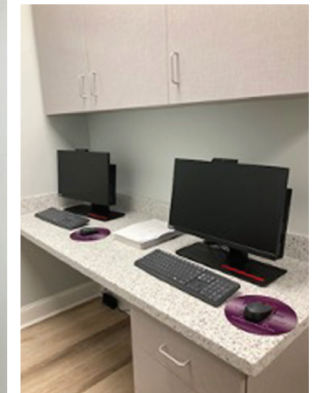
For the last three Fridays, we have been working with DHEC and the University of South Carolina's School of Public Health on a COVID-19 tracing program. SC STRONG stands for Sampling and Testing Representative Outreach for Novel Coronavirus Guidance and relies on participation from the public. The program randomly selected 32,500 South Carolinians to participate. They were mailed a blue envelope inviting them to take part. Participants will be asked to take an online survey and take a free coronavirus test which entails both a nasal swab and blood sample to show present and past infection.

"We're trying to better understand the patterns of transmission within specific populations and we're looking for existing immunity within individuals who have already recovered from infection," said Dr. Nolan with the School of Public Health at USC. "We'll be using this information to make projections about the dynamics of both the spread and the immunity within specific populations - by geographical area, for example - so we can help inform public health officials' and policymakers' decision about the distribution of resources, such as vaccinations, testing, treatment and more." This has been an exciting collaboration!

## We are getting closer to the opening of our dental clinic!

# Dental News

Linda Wolf, an administrative volunteer has agreed to help us in the dental clinic. Linda previously worked as a hygienist in Chicago and worked at VIM Hilton Head before volunteering at BJVIM. Linda is going to work with our patients helping them to learn dental care. We are in the process of hiring a part-time hygienist and looking for volunteer dentists. The clinic has taken on a new look with the addition of sterilization equipment, computers and most recently the installation of a digital Panoramic X-ray machine! Please take a look the next time you are in the clinic.



**We are excited to have LaKeisha Eaddy** with us as a Masters in Social Work intern from Louisiana State University. Keisha will be with us until the end of April. She will be assisting our patients in need of resources not available at the clinic such as food and home health needs. In addition she will be working with patients who are eligible to apply for Medicare. Keisha has been with us for a week and already making an impact at the clinic!