

VIM VOICE



March 2021

NOTES FROM PAM

Dear Volunteers;

March has been an extremely busy month for BJVIM. In addition to our regular clinic activities, our volunteers have participated in two COVID-19 Vaccination clinics servicing 137 of our patients. Working in collaboration with Coastal Carolina Hospital, a clinic was held on March 5th for people living in Jasper County. This clinic was held at Hardeeville Middle School. The second clinic was held at Coastal Carolina Hospital where we saw many patients from 8-10:30 on Friday, March 19th. I appreciated the level of commitment on the part of our volunteers and the great amount



of gratitude from our patients. Special thanks to the staff and all the volunteers who participated in the clinics: Lee McSavaney, Dennis Toney, Mickey Davis, David Faas, Carol Giorello, Gail Thompson, Linda Wolf, Terry Rowe, Peggy Pantano, Martha Girandi, Rosalie Bernick, Janet Jehlen, Mary Jane Richardson, Bill Campbell, Gary Jeger; husband of Board Member Dot Jeger, and Board Member Qundal Gray.

— Pam

2021 COVID-19 Vaccinations

Our state SC Free Clinic Association and the National Association for Free and Charitable Clinics have been working very hard to secure COVID-19 vaccinations for free clinics. We are very hopeful that we will be in line for the *J&J* one dose vaccine that should be available sometime in May. As mentioned, we are extremely grateful to Coastal Carolina Hospital for not only providing our volunteers with vaccinations in January but also for inviting us to participate in two vaccine clinics in March. AccessHealth Lowcountry and their affiliation with Beaufort Memorial Hospital will be another source for



vaccinations beginning in April. AccessHealth will allow us to hold vaccine clinics at both our Ridgeland and Bluffton locations! As always, we will be asking you to help us with these 4-hour clinics which will be held on Thursdays.

Continuing with some updates from the SC Free Clinic Association report.

The demographics of our patient population has not changed a lot over the last few years even though we have certainly grown. Currently 65% of our population are women between the ages of 21-65. While we do have a few patients that are younger and a few that are older, the 21-65 age group is the largest. The demographics of our patients include: 33% that identify as Caucasian, 32% African American, 33% Hispanic and 2% as other. While we do see patients up to the 250% of the poverty level, most of our patients have incomes up to 200% of the level. (This would fall in line with the wages of the area for part time hospitality work.)

On April 22, Danitra Bovian from the SC Free Clinic Association will visit the clinic for a recertification review. These reviews are held every two years and our last review was held in 2019 just after we moved to our new location. Donna Rhodes has been working hard to get our certification manual in order. This requires a lot of work, but I know the association will be very impressed with all the hard work done by our staff and volunteers. Points of interest for the review will include procedure manuals for the clinic, pharmacy, and dental clinic; in addition to patient files and medical staff files. Board Meeting minutes and financial records will also be scrutinized. April 22 will be a busy day for sure!



Good Neighbor Free Clinic

Special Thanks to Good Neighbor Free Clinic who has given us a conference table and chairs to replace the folding chairs and tables that were in our conference room. Lyn Weissman has also donated some of her wonderful artwork for the room. And as part of the dental renovations, we placed a door separating the hall from the conference room to allow for privacy when conducting meetings. We are so grateful to all who continue to make our clinic a very special place for us to fulfill our mission of caring for those in need.

March was a good month for us to be on TV.

Hope you got a glimpse of coverage on WTOC and WSAV. Both TV stations reported on our dental clinic, our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and collaboration with SC Strong! WAY to GO BJVIM Volunteers!



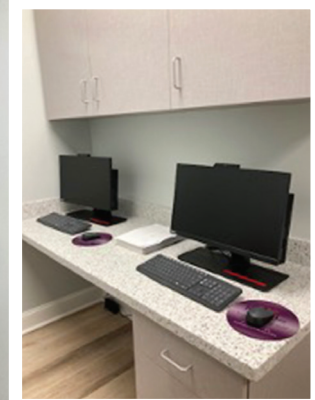
The Resource Development Department will once again be holding a Weekend Getaway Raffle!

Prizes will include 7 weekend getaways and three gift cards. Tickets will go on sale sometime in May with the drawing to be held on July 25th. This raffle will take the place of the in-person Christmas in July event that benefits our Ridgeland Clinic. The date for our annual gala, Bourbon & Bubbly, is almost secured. This in-person event will once again be held at Oldfield. This year will be even more special as it will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of BJVIM!!!

Please join me in welcoming Patti Swanson to our BJVIM family.

Dental News

As part of the Margo Family Dental Donation, funds were made available to hire a part-time dental hygienist. Initially, Patti will be at the clinic 12 hours a week, but as the clinic grows - she will add some additional hours. By the end of April, patients will be asked to visit the dental clinic after their medical appointment. At this visit the patient will be given a questionnaire to be completed on their dental history. From this questionnaire we will begin to schedule dental hygiene appointments. We are also working with three dentists who have expressed an interest in helping at the clinic! Look for more information on Patti and her good work in the next newsletter!



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