

VIM VOICE



January 2022



John Steinbeck wrote:

*What good is the warmth of summer
Without the cold of winter to give it sweetness!*

Maybe that is true, but I would like some warm weather again! I always thought that the cold weather flushed out the germs, but Covid and Omicron have proven me wrong. As a clinic we have been careful and have avoided a great deal of sickness within our staff and volunteers. I have heard of other free clinics having to close due to lack of staff and volunteers. Thank you for taking care of yourselves! I realize it is tiresome to keep questioning our patients and staff about Covid symptoms but again I think our due diligence has prevented any Covid outbreaks at both clinics!

Stay well. Wear your masks. Stay home if you feel sick. We are all in this together!

- Pam

BJVIM Board of Directors

At the end of December, the BJVIM Board of Directors said goodbye to Board Members whose terms expired and welcomed in new Board Members. Joe Pantano, who had served on the Board for 6 years—most recently serving as the Board Secretary, and Dot Jeger, who had been on the Board for three years and was the Vice Chair and Chair of the Resource Development Committee, both rotated off. They will be greatly missed but they have both assured us they will continue to support BJVIM. In addition to replacing these two positions, the Board voted to expand its membership—opening the door for four additional members.

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers years ago, there has always been a volunteer representative on the Board. This was an unofficial position, and in December an amendment was made to the by-laws giving official recognition to the position. Joe Pantano had represented the volunteers while he was a Board Member. Bill Campbell is now the volunteer representative.

New board members include: Bill Campbell, James Evans (not our physician), Sandee Brookes, Luke Heavy, Taylor Lawrence and Imilda Gibson. These new board members will serve for three years and have the option of serving for an additional three years.

2022 Board Officers are: Tom Upshaw, Chair; Dan Wood, Vice Chair; Chris Corkern, Secretary; and Zina Harter, Treasurer.

Care When It Counts

The SC Free Clinic Association Annual Report was due in January. Some interesting information from both clinics:

- **6646 appointments** were provided to **1367 patients** (these appointments included in-person clinic visits, telemedicine appointments, phone calls between nurse and patient, WelVista application appointments, eye exams and OPTOS exams.)
- **859 on-site tests** were performed including A1c, urinalysis, pap test, colposcopies, eye exams, EKG's and eye exams.
- **40 dental visits** were provided in our new dental clinic which opened in the fourth quarter of 2021.
- **\$752,407.63** was raised in 2021.
- Direct services (value of services that were provided at the clinic) and indirect services (value of offsite services) equaled **\$2,234,549!!!!** That's 2 MILLION!!!
- **\$567** is the average annual cost to care for each patient.

(SC Fee Clinic Association has postponed their annual conference due to the increase in COVID cases. They are hopeful that the conference can take place later in the Spring.)



On Saturday, January 22, Michelle participated in a celebration honoring Martin Luther, Jr. in Ridgeland. She gave BP screenings and passed out information about both clinics. Thank you, Michelle,



Recently, the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce held their annual golf outing at Hilton Head Lakes Golf Club. BJVIM had a team of four at the event: Dennis Toney represented our staff; Bill Campbell represented our Board; Warren Stehn represented our volunteers; and Frank Zeccola—a loyal donor. In addition, BJVIM sponsored a hole. This was a great way to show our support for Jasper County!

Margo Dental Clinic

The Margo Dental Clinic is now open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and one Saturday a month. We have two hygienists, one dental assistants, 2 receptionists and two dentists. We are slowly growing. The patients that have been cared for at the dental clinic leave with the confidence that they have clean teeth and no pain! Thanks to all who make this experience for our patients special. This week we were informed that the Margo family will once again support the clinic with another large donation. Thanks to Sheryl & William Magro for their support!



GRANTS

We have been the recipient of several grants in recently; Sisters of Charity, Coastal Community Foundation, Moss Creek, Truist Foundation, Elizabeth Wallace Ellis, Friends of Calawassee, Pledge the Pink, Hargray Caring Coins, La Junta, Hickory Fund, Berkeley Hall, Walmart, Wexford Foundation, Church Mouse, National Christian Foundation, and Calhoun Station. These grants total over \$130,000 to be used for patient services! We recently had a visit from members of the Friends of Calawassee to show their support for our good works.



Bourbon & Bubbly

a Lowcountry dinner party benefitting
Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine

Bourbon & Bubbly — SAVE THE DATE

Quick Update ... This year's Bourbon & Bubbly will be held on Thursday, May 12 at Hewitt Oaks. As always, we are in need of volunteers to help! More information to follow in the coming months!

