

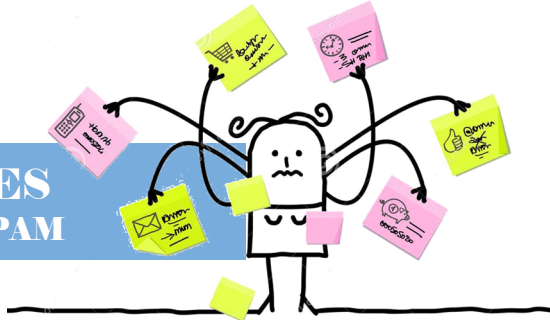
# VIM VOICE



Greater Bluffton  
Jasper County  
VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

March-April 2023

## NOTES FROM PAM

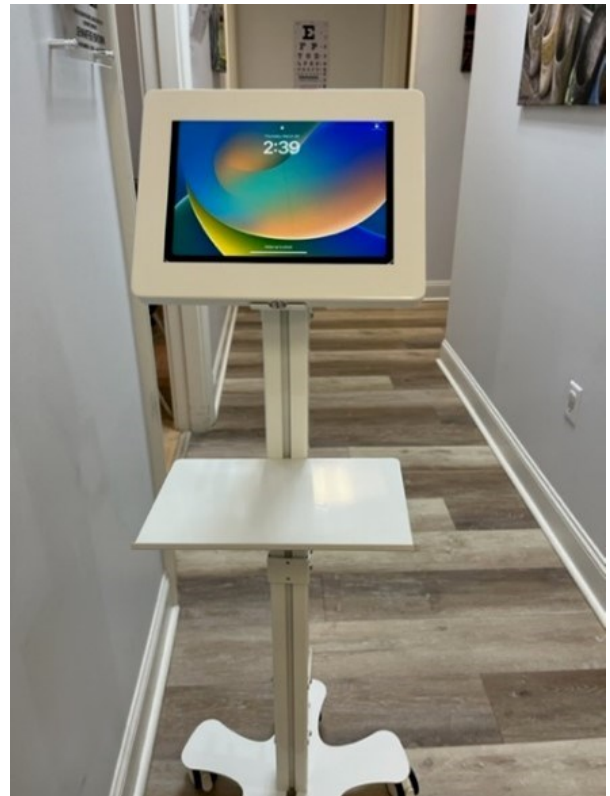


### April is Volunteer Appreciation month

President G.W. Bush stated "there can be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others." This month, and especially the week of April 16-22 we want to thank all our volunteers for their time and talents in caring for our neighbors in need. In looking back on February, I am reminded like the St. Patrick's Day Shamrock with its three leaves meant to symbolize hope, love and faith, our volunteers show their "hope, love and faith" to all our patients daily. A shamrock or clover with a fourth leaf symbolizes luck. We must have many four-leaf shamrocks around the clinic because we certainly are "lucky" to have such wonderful volunteers who perform extra special duties to care for those in need. Most recently volunteer Gail, took one of our patients to Charleston for an appointment at MUSC. How very "lucky" that patient was to be able to find a ride when needed. "Lucky" for that patient who made an appointment to have Lynn come in an extra day to help her with her Welvita application. "Lucky" for us Paulette has taken on an additional job scanning in medical reports, and to Carol for stepping up to help Gail with annual requirements. (See pics on page 3.) How "lucky" to have such an amazing group of volunteers who go quietly about their shifts doing extraordinary work. My deepest thanks for all you do and from an Irish poem:

*May the dreams you hold dearest,  
Be those that come true.  
And the kindness you spread,  
Keep returning to you!*

- Pam



### New Interpreting equipment

Thanks to the Berkely Hall Charitable Foundation we have been awarded funds to help with our translation needs. After not being able to find an in-person interpreter to fill in when Analia and Raquel are not available, we came across a "call in" HIPAA compliant program. We have purchased the iPad and stand in addition to the "call in" service. When our wonderful interpreters are not available a doctor or nurse can use the program to select a language and "call-in". Once connected, we will be charged for the minutes we use. Currently we have a monthly subscription for this pilot program. I am hopeful this will help us when Analia and Raquel are with patients. In person, face to face interpretation is always best, but when our interpreters are unavailable, I think this will be helpful.



**Audit** Papers were flying around, copies were being made and there was a sense of managed activity (chaos) as Donna in-

put the information into an online program for our annual audit. Once an organization's budget exceeds \$500,000, the SC Department of Treasury requires an annual audit. As our budget increases (this year \$835,000.00) this process becomes more complicated. A once simple process of gathering the information and handing it to the accountant has now become a process of scanning all needed documents into an involved computer program. Once again, without the help of volunteer Donna, this task would be very hard to complete.



**Accreditation** Every two years the SC free Clinic Association requires member clinics to review their operating procedures to become re-accredited. This process will take place in April. Upon completion of our clinic information an on-site visit will be conducted. One of the 2023 requirements centers round OSHA regulations. All nurses, dental personnel and admin staff are required to be OSHA certified in Blood Borne Pathogens. Thanks to the nurses who have already completed their online training. All trainings need to be completed by April 21st. Like our HIPAA training, scholarships are provided.

**Bourbon & Bubbly**  
a Lowcountry dinner party benefitting  
Bluffton Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine

May 11<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner, and we are hopeful

Bourbon & Bubbly will be bigger than ever! Once again, the event will be held at Hewitt Oaks with music provided by David and his jazz band. We have some wonderful silent and live auction items including a two-night stay at The Cloisters, some beautiful artwork, and restaurant gift certificates to name a few! Terry once again, has offered to lead our second line jazz parade into dinner. There are a number of ways you can help with this fun event; volunteer to work at the auction tables, greet attendees or purchase your own dinner ticket and bring friends! Tickets are \$150.00 each or a table of 9 for \$1,200.00. All proceeds this year will go to the expansion of the Ridgeland clinic and services for our patients. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



**Job Openings** One of the many reasons BJVM is so successful is lack of job turnover. There does come a time, unfortunately, when our friends must leave and unfortunately, that is the case with Michelle and Dennis. Michelle will be leaving this summer when her family relocates to the Philadelphia area.

Dennis will be retiring this year. Both positions are advertised on our website, and on various job postings. More about Michelle's and Dennis' immeasurable contributions to BJVM in future newsletters. If you or someone you know might be interested in either position, please let Pam know.



**Volunteer Fair** Volunteer RN, Gail has been busy in March spreading the word about BJVM! Gail participated in a volunteer recruitment fair at Latitudes-Margaritaville. Thanks, Gail, for being such a good example of all our BJVM Volunteers!



As mentioned in Pam's opening notes, this month we will be celebrating our wonderful volunteers. For Ridgeland clinic volunteers, we are preparing a thank you Brunch on Monday April 17th. Bluffton volunteers are invited to a stop by for lunch on Wednesday April 19th, between noon and 1pm. To assist planning, please sign up on the bulletin board.



After almost 3 years, the wearing of **Face Masks** by everyone in the clinic is no longer mandatory! Please continue to be vigilant in watching for covid symptoms. We do not wish patients with

symptoms to enter the clinic until they have a negative covid test. The same applies to staff and volunteers. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then please continue to do so.

**Dress Code** Because we have so many people working at the clinic doing many different jobs it is very important that we distinguish ourselves between medical and non-medical staff. Because of this, we ask that all nurses and dental staff wear scrubs. All non-medical volunteers are asked to wear business casual attire. I know with the warmer weather coming many volunteers have fun activities before and after clinic but please do not wear athletic gear in the clinic. One thing visitors notice is how professional our clinic is and we all take pride in those comments!

**Badges** Please be sure to wear your badges. If you have lost yours, see Lee to get a replacement.

**Shifts** Please remember shifts are four hours in length. When you leave early it puts a great strain on the clinic as others must cover the phones or receive packages and other work. If you have a quiet time we can always find you something to do!

**Sign - up sheets** Please remember to look at SignUpGenius for signing on to shifts. Forgetting to sign up results in empty shifts or multiple people showing up for shifts. Vacation times are approaching, and we are going to need some extra help occasionally. We have two new doctors and might be getting a third so it is especially important that all the shifts are covered.

**Sidewalks** Thanks to Mr. Bunny with **SafeClean** our building cleaning company, both front and back sidewalks have recently been power washed! I think we have the cleanest looking building in the 29 Plantation Park Complex!



March, April, May Birthdays

Patricia Evans, March 6

Connie Francis, March 14

Dr. Lawrence Hufford, March 15

Maria Merlo, March 23

Lee McSavaney, March 25

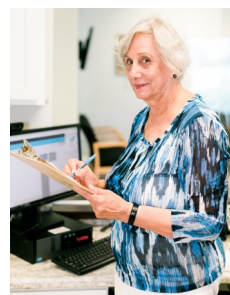
Dr. Harold Cross, April 2

Carol Giorello, April 11

Dr. James Evans, April 12

Lorrie Velez, May 2

Terry Hamel, May 29



We're so "Lucky" to have Gail, Lynn, Paulette & Carol



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