

VIM VOICE



September 2023

NOTES FROM PAM



Summer vacations are ending

as students return to school and our snow-birds return to the Lowcountry. Usually, this time of year brings cooler temperatures and less humidity. Not so this year! As our volunteers return from their summer trips, we welcome you back and look forward to your help in making BJVM a special place for those in need. This summer we have added new programs, said good-bye to special friends and welcomed new staff and volunteers. As always, thank you for all that you do to continue to make both clinics welcoming, committed to caring for our patients and offering so many opportunities for those in need!

- Pam

In July we all said good-bye to

Michelle Wallace. About 24 doctors, nurses and staff gathered for lunch to say goodbye to Michelle, who with her family, has moved to the suburbs of Philadelphia. Michelle now is sharing her talents with a primary care facility close to her home. She says her children really enjoy being near to their grandparents, and cousins. Not all her children remain at home. Michelle and her husband recently took their son to Clemson to begin his freshman year.



P.S. In the picture above, in the center you can see Michelle opening one of her many farewell gifts. To her left is Dr. Nancy McHale.

Unfortunately, this is the only picture we have of Nancy, but please read about her on page 4 of this newsletter.

I am excited to introduce Liz Hewitt to everyone. Liz took Michelle's place and works in Ridgeland. She also works on Monday afternoons and Tuesdays in Bluffton. Liz retired from the SC Health Department and brings to the clinic not only nursing experience but a broad understanding of the Ridgeland, Jasper County area. Many of you met Liz at the July luncheon.



We are excited to welcome Maria Renee Josey. Maria is doing an internship with Mental Health America & Island house. She will be joining Dr. Stoller in providing Mental Health services to our patients. Maria is bilingual and will be primarily seeing our non-English speaking patients. Maria will also be helping us with a parenting program funded by Women in Philanthropy.

Over the past few months, we have been most fortunate to receive grant funding from Hilton Head/Coastal Hospital Auxiliary, Calhoun Station and 100 Women Who Care- Sun City. These grants total \$21,500.00 and will be used for patient care.

Special thanks to these wonderful donors and to our Resource Development Department for writing these grants!



Collaboration is the key!

BJVIM has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) with Mental Health America, Lowcountry Legal Aid and Bluffton Self Help. These formal agreements will provide more opportunities for services for our patients. BJVIM recently participated in a short WHHI T.V. program highlighting these collaborations.





After working all summer in training, Bianca Solis has joined our team as a Community Health Worker. Bianca, Patricia Evans and Terry Rowe all have been working together to make the next 7 months of Bianca's service time productive for her and our clinic.

Bianca will serve as the bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW) at the Bluffton and Ridgeland clinics. She received her bachelor's degree in public health at the University of South Carolina Beaufort in April. Prior to starting at the clinic in mid-August, she completed her training courses to become a CHW through the South Carolina Free Clinic Association (SCFCA) CHW program. Her role is being funded by the AmeriCorps program, The program's goal for South Carolina is to serve 1,000 diabetic and/or hypertensive clients with 25% of the targeted population showing improvement in the management of their chronic conditions, increased health knowledge, improved access to care and positive behavioral changes. For BJVM that means that Bianca will be working with at least 100 of our clients with A1C of 8 or above. As a CHW Bianca can assist our patients with access to community resources; helping to encourage compliance with diet, exercise, and medication; providing information on health disease conditions; helping patients to complete paperwork for Welvista and increasing patient follow-up. Initially she will identify all of the patients from both clinics that qualify for this program and ensure that each one has had screenings for retinopathy, podiatry, dental, FIT tests and mammogram as appropriate.



Trip to Welvista At the invitation of Welvista, Lynn Stanley (clinic Welvista coordinator) organized a trip to Columbia to view their pharmacy operation. Early in August Lynn, Carol Giorello, Liz Hewitt and Pam had the opportunity to meet with pharmacists, patient assistant coordinators, and program managers to view the pharmaceutical process. 150 of our patients participate in the Welvista free drug program. We observed how two robots fill prescriptions, cap, and label the pill bottles and then prepare to ship out the drugs to our patients. While the program is fully automated pharmacists are still required to review and enter each prescription into the program.



After volunteering for almost 6 years we said good-bye to

Nancy McHale. Nancy was a vital part of our Mental Health Department working closely with Dr. Helen Stoller. Nancy began her volunteering when we were located on Burnt Church Road, then saw patients in the afternoons in Bluffton before volunteering in Ridgeland. Nancy also saw her patients via our telemedicine links. Nancy has moved back to Upstate New York to be closer to her family but has agreed to continue to “see” some of her patients, once again using the telemedicine link. One of Nancy’s patients recently said that she treated him with such respect during his appointments. He said he would really miss her kind approach in dealing with his well being. Nancy has been a much valued volunteer medical provider and she will definitely be missed by us all.

In July, a group of board members, volun-



teers and staff gathered on the hottest evening ever to raise funds for BJVIM!

The 20 volunteers became bartenders, cashiers, and greeters for a Sunset Party at the Oyster

Factory in Bluffton. A very very special thanks to all who participated!



Many of you will soon meet

board member, Kristen Shaughnessy who will be utilizing her TV Anchor & Reporting skills to create a new volunteer video,

highlighting your reasons why you love to volunteer at BJVIM. The video will be premiered at the **December 7th Volunteer meeting** at Downtown Deli. The clinic will be closed on that Thursday to enable more people to attend the meeting.

Reminder-

inclement weather policy In the event of inclement weather, BJVIM adopts the storm closing decisions made by The Beaufort County School District. Staff and volunteers are usually notified and updated via e-mail; patients via phone call or group text message.



Dr. Anastacio Herrera, August 5

Debbie Hicks, August 8

Martha Girardi, August 11

Dr. James Kondor, August 15

Vicki Anderson, August 18

Cheryl Miller, August 21

Lynn Weisman, August 31

Laura Zimmerman, September 1

Stephanie Santos, September 9

Dave Faas, September 9

Warren Stehn, September 29

Dr. Lee Irving, October 7

Becky Kuper, October 19

Joe Pantano, October 24

Debbie Mhyre, October 28



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