

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

VIM VOICE



THE RIGHT THING VS. THE BEST THING

Sometimes doing the RIGHT thing is not always the BEST thing to do. Offering our patients help in emergencies might be a short-term solution to a long-lasting problem. With the help of our wonderful donors, we have a small emergency fund to be used at our discretion. Two emergencies happened recently where this money was used to help our patients.

Upon reflection I wonder if helping them resolve their problem rather than providing funds to get them out of their emergency would have been a better use of our resources. As you know, Health Discrepancies is a term used to describe how a person's surroundings influence their health. Lacking adequate housing and food as well as how to provide for these necessities can play a huge role in an individual's health. The anxiety of worrying about where to live and how to get food when money is scarce certainly affects a person's health.

Providing emergency housing and food is the RIGHT thing to do but is it the BEST thing to do? When providing emergency help, we must also provide resources to help our patients prevent future crises. By collaborating with agencies such as Bluffton Self Help, the United Way, Lowcountry Legal Aid Volunteers, St. Vincent DePaul and others we are helping our patients find solutions to their problems while remaining true to our mission of providing health care to those in need.

We will continue to provide emergency help when we can, but we must also provide resources to help our patients find solutions to their problems. With the help of Bianca, a Community Health Worker, our pool of resources has grown. Finding resources to better serve our patients insures the RIGHT and the BEST solutions for our patients' problems.

Pam

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PATIENTS RESPOND

On Valentine’s Day one of our wonderful patients surprised us with 24 individual bags of treats! How very kind our patients are! On Friday, March 2 relatives of one of our patients power washed the Bluffton Clinic including our sidewalks!! How very fortunate we are to have such wonderful patients help us.



ECHOCARDIOGRAM MACHINE

In late January our new Echocardiogram machine arrived and was carefully put in the conference room until set-up time. A lot had to be done in preparation. “Stuff” that had been accumulating in Exam Room 1 had to be removed, thrown out or relocated to a new area. Volunteer Warren Stern built a new closet in the waiting room to hold relocated equipment. Our dental program used the room on occasion to make molds for dentures and all that equipment had to be moved. Once everything was removed they were able to do a deep clean. Finally, the echo machine found its new home and patients are now scheduled for exams. Dr. Epps and technician Terry Chaput are pictures reviewing test results.





DOCTOR AND NURSE MEETINGS

We recently held off-site meetings for the doctors and nurses. Both meetings are requirements of our quality assurance plan. Dr. Mary Rose Eichelberger, Dr. Bonnie Shelton and Dr. Doug Smith were introduced at the doctors' meeting. Dr. Epps described when and how echocardiogram referrals were to be made. We now have a special form for the Echo exams. Please use this form. You may still put the referral in Terry's folder but please use this new color-coded form. At the nurses meeting we welcomed new nurse Sonja Winkler . Special thanks to Board Member Bill Campbell for arranging these dinners.



CLINIC ANALYTICS

The SC BlueCross/BlueShield Foundation continues to be a huge supporter of the South Carolina Free Clinics. By 2026 we will have to include measurable outcomes in our end of the year grant reporting. BJVM has been selected to be one of 11 pilot programs to exam and report three specific outcomes from 2023, 2024 and 2025 in preparation for this new reporting. Terry Rowe has taken on the task of completing the 2023 reports on BP screening, A1's and mammograms. This has been quite a process; first Terry had to identify the patients, then with the help of Andrew, had to do a random sampling of the identified patients to be put on a spread sheet which then had to be uploaded into Roadmap to Health Equity program! Thanks to Andrew, Debbie Hicks and Debbie Fejes for their help. AND a very special thanks to Terry for taking on this project. We are hopeful that the reporting will be easier at the end of this year since we now feel comfortable in the recording process.





WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome Maggie to the clinic as our new office manager. Maggie has much experience working with nonprofits, first working with her mother's nonprofit on Hilton Head and most recently as a crisis manager for a nonprofit center in Indiana. From an early age, Maggie understood the need to help those in need. Originally from Hilton Head, Maggie has a degree in Human Services from USCB. Please welcome Maggie!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Jasper County Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated International Women's Day with a luncheon and fashion show at Lakeside at Blue Heron in Ridgeland. Our Ridgeland Clinic Staff attended the event and had a wonderful time together.



CFLC ANNUAL MEETING




Andrew and Pam recently attended the Annual Meeting of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. The Foundation was celebrating 30 years of service to the communities of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper. It was exciting to see the impact their grants have made to us all. Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine was mentioned twice in their presentations!!!



BOURBON & Bubbly

Bourbon & Bubbly is just a few weeks away! Thanks to those who have volunteered to help on May 9th and who have brought in bottle of wine for the Cork for a Cause! We still need volunteers and wine! Tickets are on sale now! See Andrew to donate your talents or purchase tickets!



**Greater Bluffton
Jasper County
VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE**
PO BOX 2653 BLUFFTON, SC 29910

Bourbon & Bubbly

a Lowcountry dinner party benefiting
Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine

Save the Date

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Hewitt Oaks at 205 Stillwell Road, Bluffton
6:00pm - 10:00pm

Tickets: \$165 each | Table for \$1,320

Visit www.BJVM.org/2024-Bourbon-Bubbly-Gala
or call 843-706-7090 ext.110 for more information
or to purchase tickets

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)



Bourbon & Bubbly

ONLINE AUCTION

APRIL 17 - MAY 1



<https://bit.ly/24BBOnlineAuction.com>

Silent Auction and Live Auction will still occur at the event with different items. Items listed for Online Auction will not be available for bidding at event

[ONLINE AUCTION HERE](#)

Remodeling Updates

We are in the process getting bids on the remodeling project in Ridgeland. While this has taken much longer than I had anticipated I am still hopeful that the work will be completed by early Fall. Our dental program is now expanding to provide dentures and partials for our patients. This will require a lab for making impressions. We will be renovating the bathroom next to the dental clinic to make room for this new undertaking!



IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 17 - BOURBON & BUBBLY ONLINE AUCTION GOES LIVE

MAY 9TH - BOURBON & BUBBLY



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