

OCTOBER 2024

VIM VOICE



PEACEFULNESS OF AUTUMN

I tried to find some inspirational quotes to start this month's newsletter. All that I found referred to the peacefulness of Autumn. Quotes talked about the leaves changing colors, but we don't see many of those beautiful colors in the Lowcountry, the cooler days, maybe temperatures lower a bit and raking up leaves, there always seem to be a lot of yard work to do around my house regardless of the season!

Autumn to Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine means the return of good friends who tried to escape the hot summer temperatures and the start of the fourth quarter where we write many end of the year grants, look to begin our annual fundraising campaigns, plan our Annual Volunteer Meeting and begin preparations for 2025! Every season is busy for BJVIM with our continuing goal to care for those in need mixed in with all the "back clinic work" that allows us to operate.

If you are a medical provider or a "back clinic worker" I continue to be amazed at the hard work and dedication you provide each and every day. So, while it has been quoted that Autumn is the mellow time of the year, it's a busy time for us!

Pam



A FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you see that a doctor is not in on your shift please come to the clinic anyway. The phone still rings, patients still walk in and need services and Maggie needs help with some new projects. Also, please remember to check the phones at desk 1 and 2 for messages before you leave. We are still struggling with filling in nursing shifts but hope to have some new nurses soon. In the meantime, please remember to clean the exam rooms before you leave, it saves time for everyone.

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October

THE PRICE OF 'FREE'!

Complying with requirements for special programs is always a hard task. For many years we received free Flu vaccines for our patients from the health department. Last year we tried to get these vaccines but unfortunately for a variety of reasons we could not qualify. This year, thanks to the hard work of many, we should get 100 free doses by the end of October.

In order meet the necessary requirements we needed special coolers to store the vaccines in the event we lose power. Thanks to Andrew who wrote a grant to purchase the "Cool Cubes" and Church Mouse who provided these funds the coolers arrived last week. We received another grant to update the electrical outlet and fuse box in the pharmacy to meet another requirement. Ruth and Liz received additional training to handle and order the vaccines and Maggie is helping to upload (or maybe download) the updated temperature log program to the pharmacy computer.

Oh yes, nothing is really "free". In addition, we have purchased 100 vaccines with grant funds from the Belfair Charitable Foundation. Should we run out of vaccines this year, Walgreens will be supplying us with vouchers to be used in their drug stores.



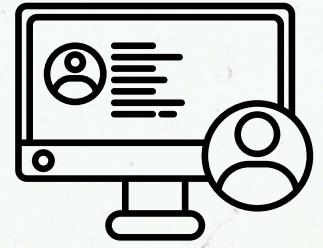
DENTAL CLINIC GROWING

The dental clinic continues to grow. We welcomed Dr. Donahue at the beginning of October making a total of 7 dentists, two hygienists, two dental assistants and four admin volunteers. As always, we are looking for additional help! Great work dental volunteers!!

October

PATIENT RECORD PORTAL

We are so excited to finally have the ability to retrieve our patients' records from Coastal & Hilton Head Hospitals. This is a huge help! Thanks to Dr. Bonnie Shelton and Board Member and Hospital Nurse Manager, Christina Brzezinski for making this happen. While doctors can use this program, we have found that during clinic hours it is more efficient to have Maggie research the needed reports. We hope the new program will allow us to get ER reports, labs and other test information in a timelier manner.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINICS

BJVIM was acknowledged in a break-out session at the National Free and Charitable Conference recently on our participation in the Road Map to Health Equity program. We are one of 17 clinics in South Carolina and 70 free clinics in the country that are participating in this program. Terry Rowe has taken on this project and is doing a wonderful job tracking patient profiles. Her information can then be used to show the outcomes and growth of our patients. This year we have been tracking A1c's, BP, and mammograms. Next year in addition to these measures we will be looking to add a mental health screening.



While attending the conference in Atlanta, Pam met with representatives from Boostlingo, Dispensary of Hope, Direct Relief, Henry Schein, and Americares. She attended meetings on board development, staff burn-out, strategic planning and pharmacy development. Many of these topics will be shared at our Annual Volunteer Meeting, Thursday December 5th.



NEWS FROM SCFCA

Many of the free clinics are experiencing problems with patient insurance enrollment. Many patients don't even know they are enrolled. For those clinics that have a dispensing pharmacy, they can check enrollments, for those of us not funding this type of pharmacy we may be serving patients who are insured. The South Carolina Free Clinic Association is purchasing a software package to check for insurance enrollment. This program will be available by the end of the year at no cost to us initially thanks to funding from the SC BlueCross/BlueShield Foundation.


OPERATION AIRDROP



Maggie is working with a friend of the clinic collecting needed items for those living in the up-state and Asheville areas. We have already participated by supplying bandages, wound care supplies, and hand braces. Dr. Casey, working with Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, has added bags of adult diapers to our donation. While there are many requests we have selected the items listed in the picture to be collected. Any donations will greatly be appreciated. Donated items will be picked up on Thursday afternoon.

Help Us Help Them

We are accepting donations for hurricane Helene victims in NC...anything helps!



CURRENTLY ACCEPTING:

- Matches/Lighters
- Bungee Cords
- Zip Ties
- Duct Tape
- Hand Warmers
- Gallon Baggies
- Toiletries
- Blankets
- Non-Perishable Food
- Sealed Medications

Donations can be dropped at BJVM
29 Plantation Park Drive, Building 600 | Bluffton, SC 29910
843-706-7090

October

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER



This month we have renewed our Community Health Worker Program with a very special friend from the past. Many of you will remember Maribel Luna when she was student at USCB and volunteered. Upon graduation Maribel entered the workforce and had a baby! That little baby is now 2 and she was once again interested in working with us. With Maribel's education and background she was a perfect to become our CHW.

RIDGELAND CLINIC UPDATE

The Ridgeland clinic is taking on a new look. Plumbing has been installed, and electrical wiring almost completed. When the electrical work is completed and inspected they will begin to sheet rock and tear down the walls between the present clinic and the expanded site! Look for more pictures and the Open House when the clinic is completed hopefully by the end of the year.





VOLUNTEER MEETING

This year's Annual Volunteer Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5th at Downtown Deli beginning with registration and a light breakfast at 8:30. We have lots to share. We'll be doing an ugly sweater or tie contest (Thanks to Maggie!) So, begin to design your very PRETTIEST, FUNNIEST or UGLIEST holiday sweaters or ties. Prizes will be awarded in each category.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, November 5th - Election Day - Clinic closed

November 27, 28, 29 - Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 5th- Annual Volunteer Meeting

Dec. 23 – Jan. 3rd - Closed for Christmas

*Staff to return on January 2

Thursday, May 15th, 2025 - Bourbon & Bubbly



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