

FEBRUARY 2025

# VIM VOICE



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### THOUGHTS FROM PAM

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "life's most urgent and persistent question is what are you doing for others?" These words much like those of the VIM founder, Dr. Jack McConnell "what have you done for someone today?" continue to echo in the minds of us all. With the help of Maribel, our Community Health Worker, relationships with Low Country Legal Volunteers, Island House Mental Health and Bluffton Self Help and all our volunteers, we work every day to help those in our community live a healthier life. As always, THANK YOU!

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### BOURBON & BUBBLY

Plans are underway for our 7th annual Bourbon & Bubbly to be held once again at Hewitt Oaks on Thursday, May 15th. We will be looking for volunteers to help!





## RETIREMENT AHEAD

As many of you know, Ruth has said that 2025 will be the year that she will retire. Somehow, I managed to keep that date in the back of my mind. Well, 2025 is upon us and Ruth indeed will retire this year. The actual date is known only to Ruth, and she wishes to keep in that way. This newsletter is not long enough to list all her accomplishments. She has expanded services, watched over services, given an exorbitant amount of her time and many talents to the clinic.

Ruth has asked not to make a fuss about her retirement. She wants us all to keep doing what we do each day and continue to work together for the good of our patients. We all will miss her terribly, but she is leaving us in a better place. She has promised that she will return in some capacity either to fill in when needed or even take on a regular clinic a few times a month. Ruth will be training Kim Lungsford to take her position. Many of you know and have worked with Kim both in Ridgeland and Bluffton.

## RIDGELAND UPDATES

Construction work is moving along, slow and steady.....we are almost there! During Christmas new flooring was installed in the new unit and in the waiting room and main hallway of the existing unit and painting completed in the new section. Then a more private staff breakroom and staff bathroom was completed. Last week painting in the old unit was finished making the two units come together. The nurses' station was expanded, allowing previous cabinet units to be repurposed making for a large working area. New countertops will be installed on Thursday. Cabinets have been ordered, and the pharmacy will be measured for shelving on Tuesday. A true gift was received from Dr. Bell, the gastroenterologist who closed his practice recently. He gave us two exam tables, stools, cabinets and some additional furniture pieces. We hope to be completed soon. Special thanks to Dr. Casey, Dr. Shelton, Dr. Irving, Dr. Epps, Dr. Evans, Liz, Gail, Kate, MaryJane, Sarah and Raquel who have been so very very patient as their clinic time has been turned upside down while the renovations have taken place!! Be on the lookout for a Grand Reopening!



# FEBRUARY



*Care When It Counts*

Pam recently attended the SC Free Clinic Association annual conference in Charleston. Topics included stress management, immigration policies, AI in Medicine, Community Health Worker updates, insurance issues with our patients and round table discussions on fundraising, hospital relationships and staff benefits. The final workshop was held on the Road Map to Health Equity. Terry Rowe, who reports on our statistics, joined me at the end of the conference to learn more about the Road Map requirements for 2025. This year's information will be due by March 31.

## WORKSHOPS

Thanks Maggie and Andrew for making the time for these programs!

Maggie And Andrew have been very busy recently attending after hours educational programs. Maggie attended a program on volunteer engagement and leadership presented by the Community Foundation. She also participated in a Poverty Assimilation class sponsored by SC Thrives. We hope to bring this program everyone sometime this summer.



Andrew and BJVIM Board member, Luke Healey, attended an all-day workshop on Fundraising and Marketing sponsored by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. The workshop gave them some helpful ideas to increase our fundraising efforts.

# FEBRUARY

## THANK YOU

Special thanks to Janet Jehlen for her 10 plus years of dedicated service to BJVIM. Janet worked closely with Dr. Cross for many years and also kindly would fill in when needed at other times. We will miss Janet's warm friendship and commitment to BJVIM!



## PHARMACY UPDATE



We are beginning to implement the new pharmacy program. Sandy, our pharmacist, is at the Bluffton clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The pharmacy computer and Maggie's computer have been updated, and the software program has been installed. Our hope to begin a "soft" implementation by March 15, then take a true inventory of drugs with the program going "live" April 1. This is very

exciting for both the Bluffton and Ridgeland clinics. Not only will we be able to run reports quickly and have an updated inventory, but the pharmacy work will be removed from the nursing staff. All this has been made possible with funding from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and an anonymous donor. In the near future, the Ridgeland clinic will also have a pharmacist.

## LUNCH AND LEARN

Memory Matters will conduct a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, March 27th at noon. Memory Matters is interesting in providing cognitive assessments for our patients. In the near future we will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Memory Matters making the collaboration official. The Lunch & Learn is open to all staff and volunteers. Please let Maggie know if you will be attending so we may have a count for lunch.

