



— December 2025 —

VIM VOICE



A Message from Pam

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It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of 2025! We have accomplished so much and have much to be thankful for. The renovations to the Ridgeland Clinic are complete thanks to the tireless work of contractor Bill Fishburn and his staff. It certainly was a challenging year for Liz and her team, and I appreciate them for their support and devotion to the cause.

For the first time in 12 years, we had a large staff turnover with Ruth retiring, Andrew leaving and Maggie moving away, not to mention Dr. Cross not returning from his leave and Doctors Patricia and Jim Evans moving to be closer to family. Long time nurse Janet Jellan also retired. They say change is good, but it is hard to lose good people who have been with us so long. I am grateful for those who have moved into these roles; Kim, Stephanie and Sinikka and I know they will do wonderful things for us!

For the first time in our 14-year history, we are not beginning the new year looking for new permanent locations for our clinics. We own both our clinic buildings with the Ridgeland building completely paid for.

As you heard at the Annual Meeting, new programs and services have been added for our patients. The addition of Dr. Gendernalik in primary care, Dr. Lystash in cardiology, Doctors Martin and Sullivan in orthopedics and Dr. Shin in neurology are allowing us to refer internally for specialty care. We continue to welcome new patients into the clinic, while caring for those patients who have been with us for many years.

The need continues to be great in your area with 17% of the combined Beaufort and Jasper populations still without health care. I am most grateful for the care and compassion shown by all our volunteers. Please remember without the dedication of all those who work and volunteer, BJVIM would not exist!

Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. I look forward to 2026 and can't wait to see what we will accomplish together!

-Pam

BJVIM Annual Meeting



Special thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting. It is always good to be together and share the events at BJVIM, meet new volunteers and our new collaborating agencies. This year instead of saying “Volunteers of the year” we honored some special “BJVIM Heros”. David Fass received his Hero’s Cape for his administrative services on Wednesday mornings. David has been with us for almost five years. He is such an important part of our Wednesday team. He is now speaking a little Spanish and always has a deep interest in our patients. Bari Yance, a dental hygienist, has been a member of the dental clinic since it opened in 2021. Her caring hands make the dental experience for our patients more pleasant. Barrie also helps to educate our patients on dental hygiene. Helen Yeager wears many hats, working with the BCN and WelVista programs, scanning financial records and helping out where and when needed. She is always happy to help when needed and always with a great smile! Lori Andrews, is another member of the Wednesday team and works with Dr. Casey. As a nurse and diabetic educator, Lori has become very involved with the Road Map to Health Equity program providing care and management to our diabetic patients. Jagruti Patel is a vital member of the Ridgeland team working on Mondays during Dr. Casey’s clinic. Once again, she helps where needed. Due to her background, she is able to help with noninvasive tests and patient education making for a very smooth Monday morning clinic.

If you did not receive a t-shirt with the BJVIM logo, please let Pam know the size you need. I know mediums are needed for sure.



Vote BJVIM for Bluffton’s Best!



Stephanie is certainly working to make us more viable in the community with her Facebook and Instagram posts. Please be sure to “like us”. You never know when your picture will appear in the post. Currently she is asking us all to vote for BJVIM in the Best of Bluffton Contest. Use the URL code to place your vote! You may vote once a day until December 23.

<https://www.blufftonsun.com/best/#//>



**BJVIM IS IN A
FINALIST IN TWO
CATEGORIES.
PLEASE VOTE TODAY!**

**BEST OF THE BEST/
BEST NONPROFIT**



**COMMUNITY & ENTERTAIN/
BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER**



**VOTE DAILY THROUGH DEC. 23 AT
BLUFFTONSUN.COM/BEST**



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY**

Kim, Sandy, Liz and Diane (in Ridgeland) have certainly worked hard to improve our pharmacy program. As many of you remember, we received a two-year grant from the Community Foundation to improve pharmacy care. With Sandy now working three days a week, a true pharmacy in Ridgeland complete with pharmacist Diane, and a new pharmacy computer system, we have much to report back to the Community Foundation.

Welcome

In November we welcomed Sinikka Savukoski to the clinic as the new Volunteer Coordinator/Office Manager. Sinikka brings many special talents to our program, and I think she also has brought the cold weather to the Lowcountry! I know you will enjoy getting to know her and working with her. Welcome Sinikka, we are happy to have you with us!



Looking for a last minute gift?

This December buy the gift that gives back. May River Dermatology/LUX is offering us the opportunity to purchase e-gift certificates in denominations of \$50.00 to \$5,000 and 20% of the purchase will be donated back to the clinic. This is a great way to give back to the clinic while also giving a special gift to someone in your life. <https://bit.ly/4pJL9ZP>



The clinic will close and the end of the day on December 18th and reopen on Monday, January 5th. If you are traveling out of town, safe travels! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a very Happy New Year!

Happy
HOLIDAYS



VIM Pickleball Classic

We are asking for volunteers to help with the Pickleball tournament to be held at Palmetto Dunes Tennis and Racquetball Center February 28th - March 1st. We need help with the tournament and also to secure sponsorships. If interested, early bird registration is \$80 and includes lunch both days and a performance t-shirt. If you would like to help secure sponsors for the event or you know of a business that would be a good fit please email Stephanie at stephanie@bjvim.org



Letter from the Board of Directors

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for being here. Today is about you- the remarkable volunteers who pour your time, your talents and your hearts into the Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine. What you do here is more than service; it's compassion in action. It's dignity restored. It's hope made real for the people in our community who need it most.

Every patient who walks through our doors is met with kindness because of you. Whether you're offering medical care, administrative support, outreach or simply a warm welcome, you're changing lives in ways that can't always be measured. You make people feel seen and cared for, and that matters more than you may ever fully realize. Your dedication ensures that quality healthcare is accessible, regardless of someone's circumstances. You show up after work, on weekends, between busy schedules and you do it without expecting anything in return. That selflessness is the heartbeat of this organization. On behalf of the Board of the Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine, thank you. Thank you for your service, your energy, your compassion and your belief in our mission. This clinic could not exist without the strength and generosity you bring to it every day.

