



**Greater Bluffton
Jasper County**
VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

A word from our Executive Director:

I recently read *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, perhaps you have had the opportunity to read the book. It was such a giving book with stories of opportunities to offer kindness and connection. As I was reading the book I could not help but think we have a huge team of Theo's at BJVM. Staff Theo's who go the extra mile to visit patients in the hospital, who find new grants to extend services, help patients find needed resources, stay late or arrive early to help patients fill out applications, work on education packets, and educate patients. We have Volunteer Theo's who help take care of the buildings, greet patients with a welcoming smile and a genuine hello, ask our patients about their families, come to the clinic on none schedule times to fill in or finish a project, bake goods for us all to enjoy, and share their time and talents with us all. And let's not forget our Patient Theo's who make treats for us, bring in bottles of water and eggs, paint when rooms need an up-lift, ask how we are feeling and always thank us for the work we do.. I



think we could write a book entitled *Kindness and Connection* at BJVM. Read *Theo of Golden*, it will make you smile and then think of what kindness and connection Theo would find at BJVM if he paid us a visit.

Pam

Red Box

Please help keep our Little Red Food Box full. Bluffton Self Help continues to restock the "box" on Sundays, but I have recently noticed the box gets empty by the middle of the week. Any nonperishable food is welcome. Cans need to have pop tops for easy opening.



Women of Palmetto Bluff

Recently we received the largest grant/donation from an individual community. The Women of Palmetto Bluff presented us with a check for \$135,000.00!!! Usually, grants are open to any group who meets the funders' qualifications. Grant funding from Women of Palmetto Bluff is by invitation only. Last September we were part of a small group of nonprofits invited to apply. In November we were asked to make a presentation and found out we were one of two groups selected to receive funds. In March the W.P.B held their annual fundraiser which raised over \$275,000.00. In May BJVM and Backpack Buddies each received checks for \$135,000.00!! This money will be used to pay for patients' needs, provide the dictation program, Medical Dragon, for 8 of our physicians, and purchase medical and dental supplies. We are extremely thankful for the kindness and generosity of the *Women of Palmetto Bluff!*



Program update:

Have you ever wondered how all those files, faxes, and applications make their way into patient records? Meet Donna, Connie, and Phyllis!



Every Wednesday, you'll find them hard at work in the scanning room. While they may be operating the scanner, their most important tool is their attention to detail.

Each document is carefully reviewed and verified before it is added to a patient file. Their work goes far beyond simply scanning paperwork. They diligently examine every page, looking for duplicate documents, missing information, and potential filing errors—challenges they encounter frequently. Thanks to their sharp eyes, patience, and dedication, patient records remain accurate, organized, and complete. The next time you quickly locate a document in a patient file, remember that it didn't happen by accident. It happened because of the care, commitment, and expertise of Donna, Connie, and Phyllis. Their behind-the-scenes efforts play a vital role in supporting patient care and keeping our records system running smoothly.

Beginning July 8th, Dr. Chris Brenner will be joining the team taking over Dr. Kondor's position as our eye care specialist! He will be practicing in Ridgeland and will give us his schedule on the first day. Referrals for Dr. Brenner will go through the regular in-house process. Please help us in welcoming Dr. Brenner!



Exciting news to share!

The drinking fountain at the Bluffton clinic is now installed and fully operational! Even better, a bottle refill station will soon be added, making it even easier for staff, volunteers, and patients to stay hydrated while reducing the use of single-use plastic bottles.

This is an important step in BJVIM's ongoing commitment to being environmentally conscious and doing our part to protect our planet. Small changes can make a big difference, and this long-awaited upgrade helps us create a more sustainable and eco-friendly workplace for everyone.



Important Reminder

DUE TO THE RISING COSTS OF MEDICAL TESTS, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PEE UNDER A TREE AND WAIT A BIT:
IF ANTS GATHER = DIABETES,
IF GRASS DRIES UP = HIGH SALTS,
IF IT SMELLS LIKE BBQ = HIGH CHOLESTEROL,
IF YOU FORGET TO PULL UP YOUR PANTS = ALZHEIMER'S



We are all proud to be part of a team of volunteers and staff who serve our community with compassion and care. While that compassion is at the heart of our mission, it is important that we maintain appropriate professional boundaries in our interactions with patients.

Providing personal loans or giving money directly to patients is prohibited by BJVIM policy and may create boundary issues that could lead to unintended consequences.

If you are concerned about a patient's financial situation and would like to help, please discuss the matter with Pam or another staff member. If you wish to provide financial assistance, arrangements can be made for you to donate funds to BJVIM, which can then be used to support patient services in accordance with our policies and procedures.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, professional, and supportive environment for both our patients and our team.

In honor of our country's 250 birthday, this month's fun facts are in celebration of July 4th!

- The U.S. population grew from roughly 2.5 million in 1776 to more than 340 million today.
 - Americans spend more than \$1 billion annually on fireworks.
 - Most signers formally signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776.
 - Bristol, Rhode Island has the oldest continuous Independence Day celebration in the United States, dating to 1785.
 - John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe all died on July 4.
 - Massachusetts became the first state to recognize Independence Day as an official holiday in 1781
 - Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1870 and a paid federal holiday in 1938.
 - The White House hosted its first known Fourth of July celebration in 1801.
 - Most delegates signed the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776.
 - The shortest signer of the Declaration was about 4'10" (Stephen Hopkins reportedly had a shaky hand and joked that his hand trembled but his heart did not).
- The word "independence" does not appear in the Declaration of Independence.
- The famous painting of the signing of the Declaration depicts a presentation of the draft, not the actual signing event.
 - Thomas Jefferson was only 33 years old when he drafted most of the Declaration.
 - Benjamin Franklin was the oldest signer at age 70.

