

VIM VOICE



March 2026



Well, I was hoping to say Happy Spring but it looks like the temperatures are going to turn cool again.

Lots of exciting things happening at both clinics as we are getting more volunteers and additional programs. Our specialties now include a gastroenterologist, Dr. Freilich and we just received funding for a podiatry chair in Ridgeland. Recently one of BJVIM's original board members Arturo Iriate visited the clinic and was so amazed at how we have grown! He remembers the clinic when it was in a trailer. He could not believe that we have so many doctors and a dental clinic too! To think we have a clinic in Ridgeland was almost more than he could comprehend. It was fun to show him around and see his reaction as he toured the clinic. All the expansion and services are thanks to you!

We are getting closer to utilizing a mental health telemedicine program with MUSC. We have been selected as a pilot clinic for this program.

Stephanie and I have been attending meetings with both the Bluffton and Jasper County Chambers as they explain the growth of the area and how we will need to prepare for additional patients and hopefully volunteers. They keep saying we are in one of the fastest growing communities in the country.

Wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day

May the lilt of Irish Laughter lighten your every load.!

—Pam

Only TWO months until our one and only annual fundraiser — the event that makes it possible for us to continue providing free, specialized medical care to our most vulnerable neighbors in Bluffton and Jasper County!

Because of your support, we are able to offer: SPECIALIZED MEDICAL care (General, Echograms, GYN, Cardiology, Podiatry, Gastrointestinal, Neurology, and Orthopedic services), Dental care, Vision care and coordinated access to essential community services

Want to be part of this unforgettable evening?

- **See Stephanie to purchase tickets or to help**
- **solicit auction items.**
- **See Barb if you'd like to volunteer the night of the event.**

Together, we can continue making a life-changing difference in our community!

Event details:

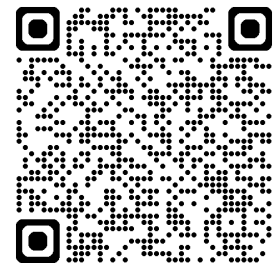
When—Thursday May 14th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Location—Hewitt Oaks

Tickets—\$180 each

Theme—Tropical

<https://event.auctria.com/96adf13c-e029-4a3b-b85a-efcdc27db480/>



Thank you to *Margaritaville* for their donation to help with the monthly expenses to keep our clinic open!



Thank you to the *Bluffton Chamber of Commerce* for recognizing the incredible work of the Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine team!

We were proud to stand alongside Lowcountry Legal Volunteers and Bluffton Self Help as nominees for Nonprofit of the Year. While only one organization could be selected as the finalist, we are truly honored to have been included among such an outstanding group making a difference in our community.

Congratulations to this years winner - Bluffton Self Help!

Thank you to all *our volunteers* who came out to say hello and support us at the Hampton Lake

Welcome to the team Dr. Howard Freilich and Eileen Regan!

Dr. Freilich moved to the Lowcountry from Philadelphia 11 years ago. He volunteers because he enjoys giving back to the community, and his favorite part of volunteering is interacting with the wonderful staff members. In his spare time, he works on perfecting his musical skills, and he also enjoys a good cup of coffee.

Eileen moved to the LowCountry from Long Island 13 years ago. She volunteers to help the vulnerable in our community and to meet new people. She loves to travel and can't wait to go back to Italy some day. She is a proud grandmother of 5 1/2 children and is also a coffee drinker.



Fun March Facts

- The name March came from the name Mars, the Roman god of war.
- March is the beginning of Spring whereas it is the beginning of Fall in the Southern Hemisphere (below the equator)
- Each year March and June ends on the same day of the week.
- The first telephone was patented on March 7th, 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell.
- One of the most beloved games of family game night, Monopoly, was invented on March 7th, 1933.
- Coca-Cola was invented in March 1886.
- In March 1889, the completion of the Eiffel Tower occurred.
- In Ancient Rome, the Ides of March was celebrated by the Romans to mark the new year. They made sacrifices to the gods, and paid their debts.
- Considered the luckiest month
- President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961.