



**Shenandoah County Free Clinic and
Shenandoah Dental Clinic**
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The Care Package

The newsletter of the Shenandoah Free Clinic and Shenandoah Dental Clinic

Spring 2014

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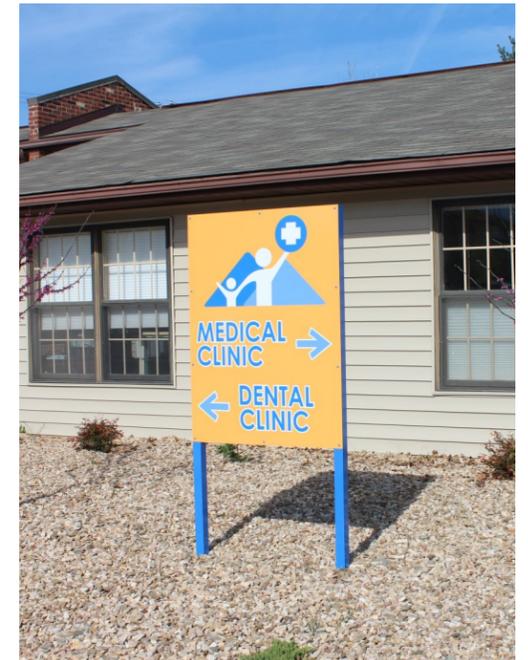
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Helping People to Help Themselves

Since the Free Clinic was founded 13 years ago, our board of directors has promoted patient self-reliance as a key value. This has meant patients had to be working, trying to find work, or show a good reason, like a disability, that prevented them from working. The Clinic is a vehicle to empower people to better their lives, not a "free ride" for those who aren't motivated to try to improve their situation.

Recently this concept was put to the test when the Affordable Care Act required many people to purchase health insurance. We knew many patients would hate leaving the source of care they knew and trusted, Shenandoah County Free Clinic. Yet we felt it was important to encourage patients to comply with the new law. We hoped they would research health insurance and the government subsidies, and then make a conscious decision whether they might now be able to afford health coverage. Many can't but some can.

To motivate patients to consider their options, we asked patients to budget a contribution toward their care in 2014 that was scaled according to their income. Those patients in higher income ranges qualify to purchase heavily subsidized insurance through the federal health exchange. If they chose not to do so, they were asked to try to contribute \$20 per medical visit at the clinic. Those patients in lower income ranges, who would



qualify for Medicaid if Virginia chooses to provide insurance to the poorest state residents, were asked to contribute \$10 per medical visit. Regardless, all patients are informed that we can make other arrangements if their financial situation warrants it. Nobody is turned away because they can't pay.

We hope that our changes here, and those around the country, make people everywhere take time to think about the value of health care. It is a finite resource that is expensive to provide – and very costly to life and limb when it isn't available. With your support, we save lives here. Thanks for all you do to make it happen!

Pam Murphy, Executive Director

Save the Date!

2014 Sparkle Gala

Saturday, November 22, 2014

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

At the Historic Edinburg Mill
Featuring entertainment by
Clay Arthur and the Mystic Pistols and
Auctioneer Hoyle Laughlin!

The Shenandoah County Free Clinic and Shenandoah Dental Clinic Sparkle Gala is back for 2014 with more sparkle than ever. We will be kicking off the holiday season on Saturday, November 22, with an event that you do not want to miss. There will be food, entertainment, auction items, and much more. Getting involved in this event is a wonderful way to support the clinic and provide vital health services to Shenandoah County residents.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this special event or would like to donate a decorated tree for auction, please contact Becky Stickley at 459-1700, extension 215 or rstickley@shencofreeclinic.org.



Heather Ashley (Ashley's Car Wash and Ashley's Laundromat) looks over some of the decorated trees available for auction at the 2012 Sparkle Gala. Heather and her husband, Mike, created a "Car Wash Tree" that was auctioned off at the event.

2014 Board of Directors

Pat Koch, *President*
Donald Hindman, MD, *Vice President*
Kirk Andrews, *Treasurer*
Kathy Doyle, *Secretary*
Clay Arthur
Kurt Beyreis
Amy Helsley
Tim Hoffman
Lora Loving
Greg Byrd, MD, *Emeritus*

The Board of Directors are local leaders who volunteer time, expertise, and vision toward meeting the health care needs of our community.

Dr. Donald Hindman Speaks to Virginia State Legislators

Donald Hindman, MD, Shenandoah County Free Clinic board member and volunteer, addressed Virginia's Senate finance committee in April to tell them about uninsured patients who have died or will die because they can't get surgeries or specialty care. Dr. Hindman reminded legislators that he had worked throughout his career to save lives but they could save many more by extending insurance to low-income families.

State officials reached out to our clinic, asking for a doctor to help educate the Senate on health care issues with indigent families. Because Dr. Hindman has spent years volunteering at our clinic, working in emergency departments, and in family practice, he was uniquely qualified to help explain the good work that can be done by these organizations -- but also what they can't do.

"We don't do brain surgery at the Free Clinic and they can't do it in the ER either," Hindman said. After his presentation, he was thanked by legislators, doctors and total strangers, who appreciated hearing that viewpoint represented.



Dr. Donald Hindman speaks to Virginia legislators in Richmond.

Dr. Gregory Byrd Leaves Board of Directors After Years of Dedicated Service



Dr. Greg Byrd speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new clinic facility in October 2013.

Even before the clinic hired its first staff member or saw its first patient, Dr. Greg Byrd was working tirelessly for those in Shenandoah County who lacked access to proper health care. Dr. Byrd has served the clinic as a volunteer doctor and board president for over thirteen years. He watched the clinic expand services and grow to the point of needing a new facility. While he may have discussed the idea of retiring from the board for a few years, he wanted to see the major capital project through to the end.

Now that we are in the new facility, and beginning a new chapter, Dr. Byrd has stepped down from his role as a member of the clinic board of directors. He will continue to volunteer his services as medical director, but will be scaling back to spend more time with his family.

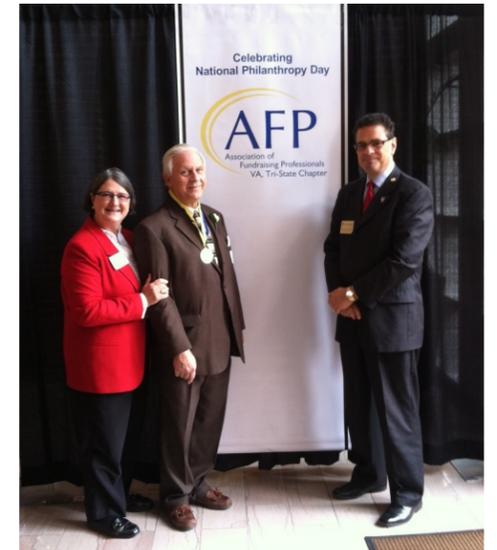
Clinic staff, volunteers, donors, and patients all thank Dr. Byrd for his many years of service.

Winner of 2014 Philanthropy Award: George Brinkley

George Brinkley was recognized for his achievements at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP) 2014 National Philanthropy Day award ceremony and celebration in Winchester. AFP recognized George's perseverance in promoting the Clinic over his six years as a board member. He has been actively involved in bringing together volunteers and donors to support clinic activities.

George enjoys getting out in public and talking to people and community organizations about contributing to the clinic. There are myths about the clinic and the people we serve. George enjoys the opportunity to enlighten people about the truth of who we are and what we offer the community.

Although George has reached his term limit on our board, we hope to keep him actively involved as a volunteer for years to come. Please join us in thanking him for his efforts!



Left to right: Clinic Executive Director, Pam Murphy, George Brinkley and Local AFP Chapter President, Bradley Snowden.

Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Mumaw

Linda Mumaw has been volunteering with the clinic since it opened in 2002. She was a nurse at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital where a notice was posted asking for volunteers to help get the clinic started. She decided then it was the right thing to do. She is now retired, and serves as a triage nurse for the medical clinic.

Linda says volunteering at the clinic makes her feel very blessed for everything she has. She has seen many clinic patients, some that were her classmates. She realizes that it could just as easily have been her asking for our help.

Linda would tell people who are thinking of volunteering that this is really a great place to be. People in our community need our help, and volunteering at the clinic is incredibly rewarding.

Come See What It's All About

You and your friends are encouraged to participate in our new program, **Community Caring Tours**, that illustrates the impact of Shenandoah County Free and Dental Clinics on our neighbors' health. In this one-hour tour of the new clinic facility, volunteers and staff relay clinic experiences with serving specific anonymous patients.

Upcoming tour dates are Friday, June 20, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. with a light lunch, and Wednesday, July 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

We are also happy to schedule a tour for your business, organization, or group of friends or family. For more information and to schedule a tour, please contact Director of Resource Development, Becky Stickley, at 459-1700 extension 215 or email rstickley@shencofreeclinic.org.