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Servant Heart

Good News Clinics is grateful for the volunteer physicians and dentists who help make our mission possible, so we will begin spotlighting a few GNC medical volunteers in each newsletter, beginning in alphabetical order. Please join us in commending these volunteers with a “servant heart.”

I strongly believe that all individuals deserve to have access to basic health care. Healthy individuals and families help make healthy communities. I am pleased to be able to provide intermittent health care to children of uninsured families as a volunteer physician at GNC. My hope is to assist these families in finding a “medical home” for their children, and the experience at GNC has been quite enjoyable thanks to the support of the excellent volunteer and paid staff. – *Barbara Allen, MD*

I come to Good News Clinic for several reasons. I believe that one of Christ’s main commands is to help the poor and needy in their suffering. Working at GNC is one small way to do this. I also feel it’s a chance to sharpen primary care medicine skills, which is beneficial as I go on medical mission trips. Every time I leave GNC, I feel I have contributed to a very worthwhile cause. – *Brad Auffarth, MD*

I’ve been volunteering at the Good News Clinics off and on for over 15 years. I volunteer to help the patients, but more so for what it does for me. It keeps me centered on the real mission of medicine, and how that mission is truly directed by God. The Clinics give me perspective and keep me humble. I receive so much more there than I ever give. I am honored to be allowed to see patients there. – *Ronald G. Beebe, MD*

I started volunteering at the dental clinic shortly after it opened, first, because I was asked if I would help out; however, it didn’t take long for my eyes to be opened to the needs of my fellow

man. I’ve been very fortunate in life, often through the generosity of others and the blessing of God, and by working at GNC. I am hopefully able to share some of these blessings with others. I just feel it’s the right thing to do and that I probably benefit more than the patients. – *Joseph E. Barclay, DDS*

I’ve been working at GNC since it opened, and it’s been a great experience. It’s very gratifying to be able to help those less fortunate. One of the most satisfying aspects of dentistry is to be able to provide relief of pain. Somehow being able to do this for those without resources for private care seems all the more meaningful. Whether it’s removing a painful tooth or improving a smile, the patients at GNC are always so genuinely appreciative. The dental clinic staff is terrific and provide invaluable assistance. They allow me, an endodontist, to switch gears and practice operative dentistry and minor oral surgery, areas of dentistry I am seldom able to perform in my office. GNC is a wonderful facility and an important addition to our community. – *Bruce M. Beckham, DMD*

Volunteering at GNC is an invaluable experience that enables you to help others who have no other place to turn for help. The gratification received from patients that may have been hurting for weeks or months is unimaginable and one you cannot experience in most private practice settings. You leave feeling like you’ve made a difference in one person’s life, and it’s a feeling that keeps you coming back. – *Richard Bennett, DMD*

Volunteer at Good News Clinics

If you would like to donate your time or talents as a volunteer at Good News Clinics, please contact Cheryl Christian, executive director, at 770-297-5040. In addition to medical volunteers, volunteers also are needed in a variety of areas within the Clinics and for special projects throughout the year as well.



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Winter 2008 SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Faith, Hope & Charity: The Sam Poole Medical Clinic

by Randall Murray, Good News Clinics Volunteer

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”
1 Corinthians xiii. 13.

Those who walk through the welcoming doors of the Good News Clinics (GNC) will find a blessed mix of faith, hope and charity.

First, the faith of the volunteers and staff members who run GNC’s Sam Poole Medical Clinic fuels their dedication to helping the less fortunate among us.

Giving hope to those with medical issues, but few resources to deal with them, is one of the primary products of GNC.

As for charity, giving of oneself, of one’s heart and resources, is not a handout, but a hand up. The people at Good News Clinics know that.

Under the guidance of medical director Dr. Jim Butts and medical office manager Lillian Sanchez, the GNC’s medical clinic registered a whopping 765 patient visits during February 2008. In contrast, during February 2007, they registered 550 patient visits.

To be treated at GNC, patients cannot have health insurance and must meet the standard of having income no greater than 150 percent of the 2008 federal poverty level guidelines. For example, the limit for a family of four would be a gross income of \$2,650 per month.

Dr. Butts sees patients two Mondays a month, but his workload goes far beyond those treatment days. “I review a lot of patient charts to make sure nothing’s overlooked,” says Dr. Butts, a retired internist.

The dedication of the medical community in the Gainesville area to promoting good health among GNC’s clientele is clear. “We have approximately 40 doctors and other health care providers who volunteer here,” Dr. Butts says. Among the most commonly seen ailments at GNC are diabetes, obesity and hypertension.



Dr. David Westfall sees a patient at GNC’s Sam Poole Medical Clinic.

The majority of GNC’s patients are caught in a cycle of low-income jobs with few or no benefits, or unemployment. As a result, they tend to allow minor ailments or injuries to go untended, until things become serious.

In an attempt to break this cycle, and to address health issues brought about by patients’ cultures, GNC this year began a series of patient education classes, says executive director Cheryl Christian.

“These classes will include instruction in exercise, nutrition, smoking cessation and more,” she says. “This is our first step toward being more than just a place to receive a diagnosis and medication.”

The classes will urge clinic patients to keep appointments and fill prescriptions—practices most people take for granted; however, for the poor, whose lives already are complicated, health problems just muddy the waters even more. For the staff and volunteers of the Sam Poole Medical Clinic, clearing up those muddy waters is Job One.

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GNC STATISTICS

November 2007 – January 2008

Medical Patient Visits:
2,007

Dental Patient Visits:
1,307

Prescriptions Filled:
16,058

Retail Value of Medications:
\$875,552

GOOD NEWS NEWS

Good News Clinics would like to welcome our new board members – Jackie Adams, Bill Rezak and Tamarind Stewart.

Congratulations to board member John Gram on receiving the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service from the State Bar of Georgia.

Congratulations to board member Lorry Schrage who recently received the Rotary Man of the Year Award from the Gainesville Rotary Club.

Dr. Chris Childs, a volunteer in the Green Warren Dental Clinic, has been inducted as a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, an international dental honor organization.