



2016 Annual Report

GOOD NEWS CLINICS

810 Pine Street, Gainesville, GA 30501 (770) 503-1369

Good News Clinics' Founding Physician Reminisces

Shortly after beginning my practice in Gainesville in 1978, other concerned physicians and I became increasingly aware of the unmet medical needs of patients with no medical insurance and no ability to pay for medical care. These patients came to our practices as ER referrals or at the request of friends, physicians, or social agencies. Some were our existing patients who had lost insurance benefits or sources of income. While we all tried to meet their needs as best we could, it was clear that a more coordinated and comprehensive effort was preferable. Several small groups began meeting to explore options, with Northeast Georgia Medical Center supplying meeting space and breakfast. After months of meetings but no definite direction, Gene Beckstein ("Mr. B") offered us a small corner of his building in which to start. Concerns about our ability to meet overwhelming needs with inadequate resources initially held us back. In about 1992, I still remember walking out of a meeting with Susie Harris, RN, who said "Let's just jump in and see what happens."

We stepped out on faith, initially relying on a few volunteer physicians and nurses to staff evening hours a couple of days a week. We had no idea these humble beginnings would result in today's organization. As word spread, so did the support. Northeast Georgia Medical Center has continued to provide behind-the-scenes support. Hall County Medical Society became involved a few years later, creating Health Access Initiative, a "wrap around" specialty network of volunteer subspecialists to accept referrals from physicians at Good News at no charge to the patients.

We rapidly outgrew the small corner of the building, and a separate clinic was constructed next door with donated materials and labor. After a few years we had the opportunity to acquire the present building, which more than tripled the available space for providing services and allowed for further expansion to add new services.

None of these things would have been possible without the abundant philanthropic support—financial and "in kind"—of the entire community: employers, citizens, physicians, nurses, patients, Northeast Georgia Medical Center and our dedicated staff.

MISSION: GNC provides free medical care, dental care and specialty referrals to uninsured Hall County residents who cannot afford health care.



SUMMARY



Sam Poole Medical Clinic:

1,888 Medical Patients Served

628 New Medical Patients

\$2,192,725: Value of Medical Services

Green Warren Dental Clinic:

1,405 Dental Patients Served

609 New Dental Patients

\$1,125,151: Value of Dental Services

Health Access:

2,463 Total Referrals

\$11,159,405: Value of Donated Services

Prescriptions:

39,476 Prescriptions Filled

\$7,756,141: Value of Medications Dispensed

Total Number of Patient Visits: 21,828

1,441 Patients Attended Patient Education Classes

Volunteer Contributions:

4,993 Volunteer Hours from Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical Professionals, including Medical Students

2,391 Volunteer Hours from Dentists and Dental Hygienists

8,860 Hours from Community Volunteers

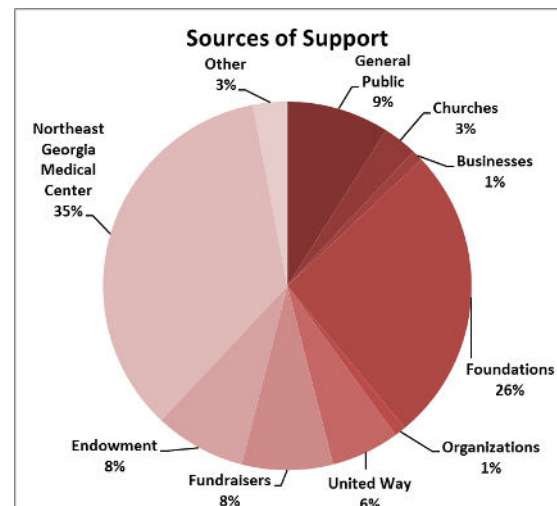
16,244: Total Volunteer Hours

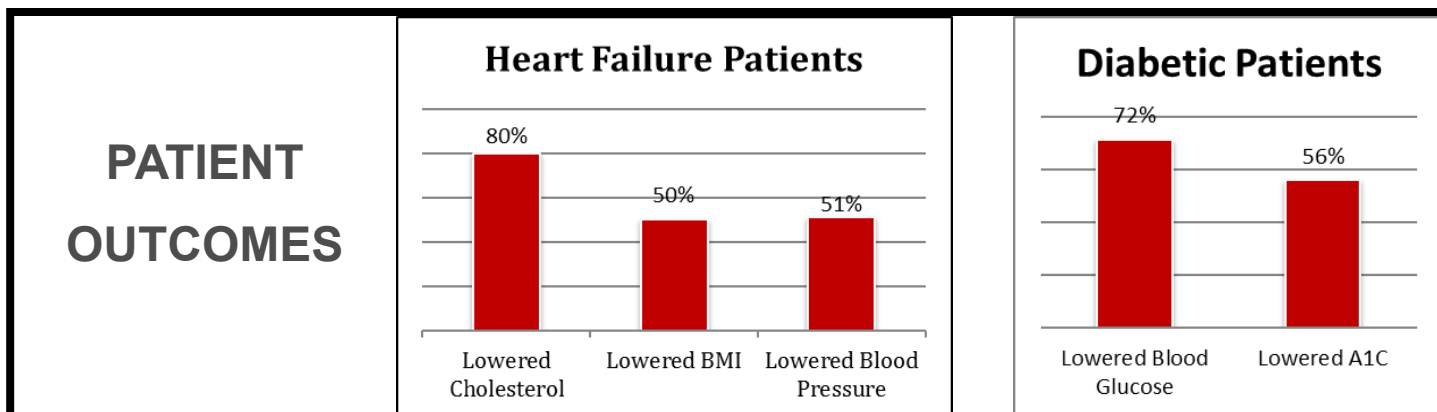
Total Revenue:

Total Contributions and Investments:

\$1,644,858

Bottom Line: \$21,778,836
Value of donated services
provided with a budget of
\$1.38 Million





GOOD NEWS INNOVATION CONTINUES

When Good News Clinics began serving patients 25 years ago, it was an innovative idea. Through community support, the clinic began to grow and thrive, eventually becoming the largest free clinic in Georgia. Other programs such as the Health Access Initiative which allows specialty treatment free of charge, and the heart failure clinic which provides medical care for patients diagnosed with this chronic condition, were also made possible by the spirit of caring and innovation.

This spirit continues at Good News Clinics during FY 2016 with the development of a new protocol for treatment of Hepatitis C. The disease is contracted through unsafe injection practices, inadequate sterilization of medical equipment and the transfusion of unscreened blood products. Until recently, Hepatitis C was a disease that could be treated, but rarely cured. Treatment was long, medications resulted in many unpleasant side effects and cure rates were 50% at best. Hepatitis C patients often suffered debilitating illnesses such as cirrhosis, liver failure or liver cancer which resulted in an estimated \$17,277 - \$59,995 in medical cost per patient annually.

Presented with new, tremendously successful medications capable of curing the disease and patients who needed it, GNC clinicians sought a way to offer it to them. Standing in the way were expensive screening requirements costing thousands of dollars and treatment medications costing \$94,000-\$147,000 per patient. Through research and adaptation of treatment protocols, GNC clinicians created their own screening process which is effective, acceptable to drug manufacturers and affordable for GNC. This innovative protocol meets guidelines established by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease. It assures identification of each patient's Hepatitis C genotype and fibrosis score in a cost effective manner. This dictates the treatment regimen required and documentation necessary to access Hepatitis C medications free of charge through patient assistance programs.

Thus far, 24 patients have begun the protocol, with one completing it and follow-up testing needed to assess its overall effectiveness. Final test results indicate that this patient has been cured of Hepatitis C! Seven other patients are due to receive final results soon and all preliminary lab results indicate a cure for them as well, allowing them to achieve renewed health and saving a po-

NEED A GIFT IDEA FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING?



Honor him or her with a gift to Good News Clinics. We'll send a special Christmas acknowledgment to the honoree.

Give the gift of health this holiday season

Good News Clinics is a charitable organization and the financial support of the community is vital to continue its mission and services. To donate, complete this form and return with your check to: Good News Clinics, P.O. Box 2683, Gainesville, GA 30503. Thank you for your support!

Please check one: ☐ In Memory ☐ In Honor ☐ General Contribution ☐ Endowment Fund

Amount: ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name of Recipient (in Memory/Honor of) _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Organization (if applicable) _____ Email _____

Good News Clinics
P.O. Box 2683
Gainesville, GA 30503