



# Newsletter

## good samaritan clinic of Haywood County

December 2010

### What does a clinic patient look like?

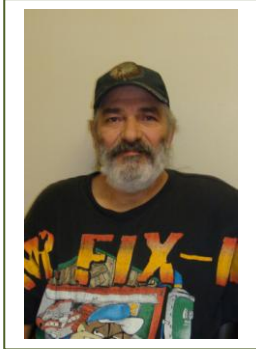
When the clinic first started in 1999 some of our patients were homeless. Some were migrant workers here for the season. Then others fell between the assistance cracks and accessed medical services for only urgent needs like a sore throat or a sinus infection. With so many people employed and the economy thriving, the clinic served as a bandaid for some of the gaps in healthcare that were not being met in the late 90's and early 2000's.

Since 2008 GSC has seen a dramatic change in the type of care and the type of patients accessing services at the clinic. Many of our patients are unemployed or have settled for lower paying jobs to make ends meet. Our employed patients must decide between rent and health insurance when it is offered. We see people from all walks of life. We have many patients who have college degrees, who have worked for years and lost their jobs. Some of our patients are self-employed and cannot afford the high cost of private health insurance.

GSC is not an "urgent care" setting. For the majority of our patients GSC is their primary care provider. This means that we care for their urgent needs (sinus infections) and we treat and track their chronic conditions (diabetes, COPD, hypertension).

"I always tell patients that we are like any other doctor's office. They can call us when they need to be seen by their family physician." explains Donda Bennett, Executive Director.

"There's nothing embarrassing about needing to see a doctor and not being able to afford the office visit. There are millions of Americans in this situation right now. Why not come to the clinic and let us help you for free?"



One of our newest patients, Curtiss Royster is an example of why GSC is needed in the community. Curtiss is uninsured and works part-time delivering trout from a local farm to restaurants in Biltmore. Recently Curtiss experienced some swelling and pain in his right leg. He also had some periods where he passed out without explanation. But for someone on a fixed income with no health insurance, Curtiss had limited resources to find an explanation for what was going on. Finally he went to the ER where he was found to be in complete heart block and had a blood clot in his right leg. He was started on life saving medication and had a pacemaker put in. He was also diagnosed with diabetes at that time and has gone to several diabetes classes, including meal planning, education and exercise formation.

GSC now monitors Mr. Royster's diabetes, medication, and his overall health. He is very happy with his new medical home and the care he receives from the staff at GSC.



At a time when the economy is struggling, several shops still generously gave items for the 2010 Fall Fundraiser Silent Auction.



Waynesville branch employees of BB&T worked on needed improvements to the clinic on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### GSC Welcomes New Employee

Ronna Crowder started at the Good Samaritan Clinic in September. With years of experience in the clinical area, Ronna will be the first contact and will triage a phone call by asking appropriate questions for medical decision making. She also will assist in other areas of the office when needed. Ronna lives in Canton with her husband Jeff, and their son, Garrett. Please help us make her feel welcome to the GSC





A Note of Thanks from Pastor Chris Crume Mountaintop Healthcare Board Chair

Greetings in Christ! I'm amazed at how fast this year has gone by! I can't believe that Christmas is right around the corner, and closely following it, a New Year. The stores are decked out with all the accessories that come with the season. Sometimes it seems as if the commercial aspect of Christmas eclipses the true reason we celebrate. Before we lose sight of this season and get wrapped up in the busy-ness of celebrations, it's important for us to focus on God's intention for us.

St. John writes in his first letter; "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). What's truly amazing is that when God wants to do something, He speaks. God created plants, animals, the sun, the moon, and the stars by speaking. With the words "Be Opened" (Mark 7:34-35), God in Christ Jesus healed a deaf man's ears. With the words "Lazarus come out" (John 11:43-44), Jesus brought life back to a dear friend who had been dead for 4 days. That same God, the one we call our Lord and Savior, intended for us to be His children. He spoke us righteous when there was no righteousness in us. That same God, sees value in us, when we feel worthless...and sometimes are worthless to others.

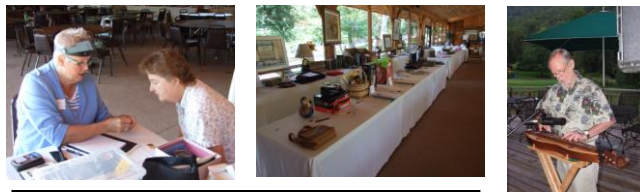
It truly is a wonderful experience to be able to share that great love with so many in our community who desperately need it...people who feel worthless, and perhaps are in the eyes of our society. Every person is valuable to God, including you and me. In fact, this is why we celebrate God sending His Son at Christmas. This is the core of why we show the love of Jesus by providing medical care to neighbors in need.

There is absolutely no way we could operate and make a difference in our community without your help. You are a vital part of our team, and we thank you for all your prayers and support.

## A Commitment to Sobriety: One Story out of a 100 we Could Share

In her last therapy appointment Tina Jones (not her real name) told her therapist that she has seen a dramatic change in her life since starting Suboxone. After being addicted to pain medication for over 12 years, Tina finally feels "normal". She had been prescribed pain medication after injuring her hand in a car accident. After two surgeries, Tina was prescribed pain medication from several physicians and she became addicted. She lost her job and then lost her driver's license. The spiral continued and she found herself so addicted that the need to find drugs became a priority over everything in her life including her children.

Tina has been involved in the narcotic addiction program at Mountaintop Healthcare for the last 6 months. She stated that the benefits to being drug-free are amazing. She has money to care for her children and she has more time to spend with them. Tina is proud of smaller things that others take for granted. Being able to take her son to McDonald's and buy him new clothes is one of the changes she has experienced. She is amazed at the money she saved in not continuing her prescription drug abuse habit. Her daughter is back in the home and staying with her now. Tina feels like she is ready to re-enter the workforce and support her family.



Mountaintop Healthcare and the Good Samaritan Clinic worked together on the Fall Fundraiser to raise money and awareness about the two nonprofits. This year's event was deeply affected by the economy and profits were lower than expected. Like all nonprofits in Haywood County, we are struggling to meet operating expenses and are thankful for continued support from churches and individuals in our community.



Mountaintop Healthcare can accept regular monthly donations through automatic draft from your bank account. Donations can also be made online through PayPal.



Contact Donda Bennett at 454-5287 ext 1002 for more information.

## Mountaintop's Executive Director Receives 40 Under 40 Honor

On October 2, 2010, 40 of Haywood County's most promising next-generation leaders were honored during an awards ceremony at The Gateway Club. County residents were encouraged to nominate those under the age of 40 who have in some way made their mark in the county. Out of dozens of nominations Mountaintop is proud to congratulate Donda Bennett for being included in this honor.



The Mountaineer wrote: "Donda Bennett believes that God put her on this earth for one reason – to help people. She feels lucky that her job allows her to do exactly that. As the director of both GSC and MH, the mother of two makes sure that people in the county have access to high quality medical attention, regardless of their financial situation. Bennett explained that her deep caring for people is all because of her parents, who raised her to love everyone. They also taught her that the best rewards in life aren't financial but are found in the heart. She lives those lessons everyday."

Excerpt from the Mountaineer 40 under 40 publication. October 2010

January – October  
**2010 Gifts**

***In Memory of Mrs. Marie Clark***

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Brown

***In Memory of Elizabeth Mason***

Frank and Patricia Brantley

***In Memory of Russell  
and Luella Hoffer***

Charles and Mimi Hoffer

***In Memory of Lillian Erickson***

Charles and Mimi Hoffer

***In Memory of Shirley Gaddis***

Hardy and Delores Lovett

***In Memory of Carolyn Cooke***

John and Sharon Hall

***In Memory of Edward Glavich***

On his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday which would have  
been on 12/09/2009

Flora Glavich

***In Memory of Richard Mullany***

John and Sharon Hall

***In Memory of Tram Hogg***

Richard and Charlotte Dewalt

***In Memory of Glenn Arrant***

Walter Ensley

***In Honor of Denise Matthys***

Friends at Christmas

***In Honor of Norm***

***and Barbara Yearick***

Michael D. Gillespie, DSS

***In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Louis  
Stephens***

Elaine Stephens

***In Honor of Charlotte DeWalt***

May 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Mother's Day

Dick DeWalt

**Fall 2010 News from Mountaintop Healthcare**



**WORKDAY FOR GSC** – A group of 12 BB & T Waynesville Branch employees, spouses and children worked on needed improvements to the Waynesville property.



Antique appraiser Bob Brunk discusses the value of a drawing during Antique Discovery Day.

Mountaintop Healthcare  
34 Sims Circle  
Waynesville, NC 28786

To show the love of Jesus by providing medical care to neighbors in need.  
[www.mountaintophealthcare.org](http://www.mountaintophealthcare.org)



Healthy Haywood is sponsoring a Lunch and Learn about prescription drug abuse in November. This will kick off a community effort to combat the problem of narcotic addiction in our county. After years of treating patients for addiction with the drug Suboxone, Dr. Don Teater will be a key speaker at this community driven session. Other speakers include Waynesville police chief Bill Hollingsed, and Fred Brason from Project Lazarus in Wilkes County.



**Our director of mental health, Martha Teater, is on the cover of the American Red Cross holiday gift catalog. Martha is a disaster mental health supervisor with the Red Cross and has been deployed to several disasters around the country. She also provides services to military families through the Red Cross and will be featured in a video about their Coping with Deployments class.**