

Good Samaritan Clinic Receives Grant

Last month the Good Samaritan Clinic received a grant from The Fund for Haywood County and the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. This grant fully covered the purchase of E-Prescribing, a popular prescription software that is currently being used by many local pharmacies to increase both the quality and the efficiency of patient care.

“This is an additional tool that will enhance our current medical records system. This tool would not have been possible if not for the interest shown by The Fund for Haywood County and the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina,” explained Donda Bennett, Executive Director.

Prescribing is the most common practice in medicine and E-Prescribing has multiple benefits to providers. But for E-Prescribing to be effective in the clinical setting, providers must be willing to utilize the capabilities of the software.

Dr. Don Teater is the medical director of the clinic and has been using electronic medical records both in solo practice and at GSC for many years. He was the first primary care provider to utilize electronic medical records in Haywood County in 1996. Since that time Teater has become a frequent user of other tools available to area providers. He was recently recognized by WNC Data Link as the most frequent user of the database. WNC Data Link connects patient records from hospitals in Western North Carolina to enhance a provider’s decision making regarding patient care.

With over 30 new patients accessing services each week, the clinic recognizes the need to be efficient and see as many people as possible.

“It’s a juggling act sometimes. Operating expenses continue to rise and we struggle to keep the clinic at full-time hours so that everyone has access to patient care.” Bennett stated. “The clinic saw record numbers in 2010 and more adults accessed our services than ever before. The community needs this free clinic now more than ever before.”

Indeed 2010 was remarkable for the free clinic. GSC provided 5,572 total patient visits to uninsured and under-served adults in Haywood County. This is the equivalent of \$829,307.36 in free patient care. It’s nonprofit “partner”, Mountaintop Healthcare provided a combined 2,220 visits to the dermatology clinic, narcotic addiction program, and mental health services.

With an increase in the number of people accessing healthcare at the clinic, the E-Prescribing grant will give staff more time to care for more patients and enable them to spend less time on paperwork.

The Fund for Haywood County is an endowment created by local people, and is dedicated to supporting the charitable needs of our community. The Fund for Haywood County is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, a nonprofit organization that serves the 18-county mountain region by professionally managing charitable funds created by individuals and families, and by using those funds to make grants to local nonprofit organizations.

For more information on the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina visit their website at www.cfwncc.org. Additional information about this grant and the Good Samaritan Clinic can be found at www.gsclaywood.org or by contacting Executive Director, Donda Bennett at 828-454-5287, ext 1002.