

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

Fall 2012



L. Keating recruited Paula Carden, a Free Clinic veteran and Director of the Jackson County Health Dept., to continue with her team of Jackson County Health Department employee volunteers; Roger Bacon with the Cullowhee United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Foundation would continue with equipment and site set-up and take down.

Many Committee meetings were held with Bill Clarke, the Executive Director of the Ramsey Center to support Keating's objectives of an efficient, well run and comfortable Free Clinic.

Dollar through Vicanos supplied bilingual volunteers at every interface between patient and the Clinic; arranged tents, arrival registration and refreshments for those waiting. Cook arranged volunteers from six area Rotary Clubs: Sylva, Franklin, Cashiers, Franklin Daybreak, Highlands and Highlands Mountain Top to cover a wide range of volunteer services. Rotary and Cook provided a platoon from the NC National Guard's nearby Sylva Armory. Cardin scheduled and arranged for the Jackson County Health Dept employee volunteers for patient registration and management supplemented by other volunteers. Roger Bacon's volunteers from Cullowhee United Methodist Church set-up and took down the equipment required for the Free Clinic.

The Ramsey Center's Bill Clarke arranged an efficient use of patient receiving areas, break-rooms for dental professionals and volunteers along with meals and refreshments.

NCMOM Director Dr. Bill Blaylock and Dr. Scott Vines recruited and managed volunteer dentists, dental students, x-ray technicians, dental hygienists and other professionals.

The bottom line to the work of so many was the 346 patients treated - an increase from 230 last year. A numbering system eliminated waiting lines, ample restrooms, refreshments and in-door sit down waiting areas were comfortable and organized. The non-dental volunteer base was so large that over 30 volunteers had to be called and asked not to come. No patient seeking treatment was turned away.

Paula Carden also sent volunteers home early - amazed at the efficiency of the Free Clinic. Another veteran Karen Minton said the organization and ease of doing her job made for frustration-free dental work - the way I hoped it would be.

Perhaps, the most incisive comment came from Ramsey Center Exec. Director Bill Clarke: "My biggest surprise was that there were no surprises - and that just doesn't happen."

NC MOM Free Adult Clinic

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic sponsored the NC MOM Free Adult Clinic at Western Carolina University's Ramsey Center in Cullowhee on July 13th and 14th. For the past six years the Free Clinic at the Jackson County Health Department became too crowded causing inefficiency and patient discord despite the hard work of dentists and volunteers.

Last year then BRFDC President Ron Keller began efforts for a new approach and a new venue for the Free Clinic which led to the selection of the Ramsey Center, a versatile facility at WCU used for collegiate basketball and special events located about six miles from the Jackson County Health Dept.. The Board agreed with Keller's proposal that the Clinic sponsor the event.

In January 2012 new BRFDC President Lynne Keating formed a committee to have a Free Clinic utilizing the space and resources of the Ramsey Center to provide an efficient and comfortable environment for patients, dental professionals and volunteers.

Keating selected BRFDC Board Members Nathan Dollar, Executive Director of Vicanos for bilingual volunteers and management of arriving patients; Jodie Cook, a Rotary Assistant District Governor, for volunteers and volunteer management; Karen Minton, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, to coordinate with NCMOM and oversee dental support;

Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic delivers high-quality dental care to people who cannot otherwise afford these critically needed services. Motivated by the beliefs and core values of our contributors and founding churches, we restore lives, one tooth at a time.



However, all the volunteer labor available cannot manufacture dental equipment. Here is a list of the equipment required to outfit the expansion.

- 3 Dental chairs at \$10,000 each
- 3 Dentist's movable arms for each chair @\$2,400 each
- 3 Dental assistant's movable arms @\$1,700 each
- 6 Instrument trays @\$8,000 each
- 3 Overhead lights @\$1,000 each
- 3 Dentist's chairs @\$600 each
- 3 Dental assistant chairs @\$400 each
- 3 Center consoles to serve 6 treatment rooms @\$14,000 each
- 1 Sterilization center @\$18,000



We have made a difference in the lives of nearly 3,000 people since 2005. We are the only resource for needy individuals living west of Asheville who do not qualify for Medicaid. We have maintained our independence and accomplished our success without the aid of any government funding. You can help us continue the range, sophistication, and quality of services that has made us a success by making a tax-deductible contribution today.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

We restore lives, one tooth at a time.
 Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic
 P.O. Box 451
 Cashiers, NC 28717
www.blueridgefreedentalclinic.org

TIMELINE of GROWTH

	2005	Inception to Sept. 2012
Number of Dentists	1	15
Total Patient Visits	394	7,700
Emergencies	120	1,260
Total Procedures	1,779	27,800
Procedures Per Patient	4.5	10.7
Market Value	\$229,000	\$3,800,000

Our beginnings were humble. The Free Dental Clinic opened its doors in April 2005 with one volunteer dentist, Dr. Tom Smith, hand-me-down equipment and a rented facility. Fast forward to 2012 and the timeline above shows a story of dramatic success.



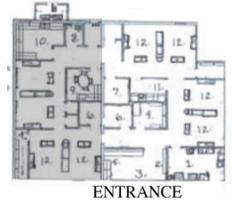
BUILDING SMILES FROM THE GROUND UP

Today, we face a new set of challenges. We have outgrown our 1,200 sq. ft. facility and its three treatment rooms. We need additional space to fully utilize the services of 15 volunteer dentists and an expanding patient load from our mountain neighbors.

On June 1, we purchased the 1,600 sq. ft. unit next to the clinic. Now, we need your help! The additional space provides capacity for 2,000 patient visits a year. We have planned carefully for the expansion and are making every effort to use all the existing equipment and furniture. Much of the demolition and remodeling work required in both the new and existing units will be completed by volunteer labor from skilled members of the local community.

Expanded Clinic: 2,279 sq. ft.

1. Waiting Area
2. Patient Reception
3. Office
4. Inventory Control Room
5. Patient Records
6. Rest rooms w/ Handicap
7. Panoramic X-Ray
8. Dark Room
9. Staff Lounge
10. Laboratory
11. Sterilization
18. Patient Operatory



ENTRANCE

BLUE RIDGE FREE DENTAL CLINIC
 Laurel Terrace, Hwy. 64 East
 Cashiers, NC 28717

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 P.O. Box 451
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 one tooth at a time.*



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Financial Overview

This year has been a very active and special year for the Clinic. Our plan for the year included a 5% increase in activity levels and a two day open clinic in July in Sylva in cooperation with NC Mission of Mercy. These added activity levels required a budgetary increase of approximately 15%, a significant goal for our organization. Year to date, our contributions are at 94% of plan. We need a strong 4th quarter to reach our goal for operations this year.

But that is only the beginning of our story. An analysis of our operations over the past 4 years indicated that our ability to serve more patients is limited by dentist hours and physical capacity. Fortunately we have a surplus of dentists willing to give of their time, so our real limitation is our physical facilities. We have solved that problem by purchasing an adjoining condo and have embarked on a \$620,000 expansion of our clinic with new state-of-art equipment. The funding for the expansion will come from a mortgage, funds from our Endowment Fund, and anticipated Grants and individual donations. Now this is a challenge worth noting.

We feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve the dental needs of our communities and have confidence that the local community of givers will support us financially, as they have so graciously done in the past years.
 -Larry Ray, Treasurer BRFDC

President Lynne Keating
 Executive Director Karen Minton
 Treasurer Larry Ray
 Secretary Jim Smith
 Past President Ron Keller

Board of Directors:
 Sally Ballard Dr. Mel Livernois
 Jodie Cook Nancy Pankey
 Nathan Dollar Dr. Bruce Walker
 Rick Willeford

The Clinic can be reached at
 (828) 743-3393

The Free Dental Clinic is located upstairs in Laurel Terrace on Highway 64 East, downtown Cashiers, NC.