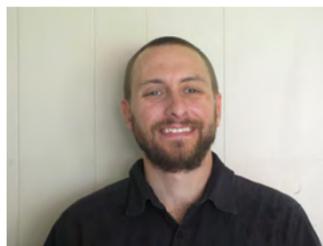


Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic
P.O.Box 451
Cashiers NC 28717
(828) 743-3393

*We restore lives,
one tooth at a time.*



www.blueridgefreedentalclinic.org



Nathan Dollar
New Board Member

Originally from Wilson, NC, Nathan attended Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology and Spanish in 2004. After a stint as an outreach worker for Vecinos, Inc., Nathan served in the Peace Corps in El Salvador from 2005 – 2007 before enrolling in graduate school at Colorado State University, where he earned a masters degree in Sociology in 2010. Returning to Western North Carolina to work for Vecinos, Inc., Nathan, his wife Sarah, and their eight year old son Gary live in Sylva, NC. Nathan regards community involvement as a top priority and currently serves as VP of the Scott's Creek PTA in Sylva, teaches Sociology at WCU, and is the Executive Director of Vecinos.



Rick Willeford
New Board Member

Rick Willeford, MBA, CPA, CFP, PFS is the Financial and Tax Planning columnist for Dental Economics and President of The Willeford Group, CPA, PC and Willeford CPA Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory firm. He has specialized in financial and retirement planning, tax savings, practice enhancement, wealth creation and transition strategies for dentists for over 35 years. His firm provides all related accounting and consulting services around the country for about 150 dentists each month. Rick is the founding president of the Academy of Dental CPAs (ADCPA.org), an association of 25 firms who provide specialized services to 8,000 dentists nationwide. He teaches financial management at the Medical College of Georgia and the University of North Carolina Dental Schools.

Financial Overview

-Larry Ray – BRFDC Treasurer

In 2011, the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic served 318 new and 825 returning patients, providing free dental care with a monetary value of approximately \$600,000 on an operating budget of \$200,000. Thanks to the significant generosity of our contributors and supporters, we had sufficient revenue from contributions and grants to fully cover our expenses. This year, we have planned for three additional volunteer dentists to join our effort and expect to increase our dental care services by at least 10%. With continued support from our staff, volunteers, and the community of givers, we are confident that the financial stability of the Clinic will be maintained.

**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.

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

Spring 2012



NC MOM Free Clinic Changes

The NC MOM Free Dental Clinic, reflecting its growth over the last six years, will move from the Jackson County Health Department to the Ramsey Center at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. It will partner with Rotary District 7670 as the Rotary NC MOM Free Clinic for its July 13th and 14th Free Dental Clinic

As the Executive Director for the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers, Karen Minton explains, "...the need for dental services for economically disadvantaged individuals is great in Western North Carolina. ...our patient waiting list hovers around 500 at the Clinic in Cashiers." She goes on to explain that food, rent, utilities, and children take priority, and parents often suffer in silence.

This past September, the NC MOM Free Clinic at the Jackson County Health facility had about 500 people seeking care on a first come first served basis, with many arriving at 1:00 am to wait and hope they would be served when the Clinic opened on Friday morning. While many were treated – there were many that were turned away.

Dr. Bill Blaylock with NC MOM was taken on a tour of the Ramsey Center at Western Carolina University and was awed by its size and ability to handle large crowds and provide an efficient setting for the many volunteer dentists, professionals, dental students, technicians and hygienists.

Designed to handle thousands of people for numerous types of events, the Ramsey Center will allow for a more efficiently planned Free Clinic, relieve stress on those volunteering, increase triage and treatment capability, and provide more comfort to the patients.

NC MOM will sponsor the dental chairs, equipment, and related supplies, while the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic will fund the event's operational, promotional, and logistical costs. Rotary will participate with volunteers to augment Jackson County Health Dept., Cullowhee United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation and Vecinos volunteers. Additionally, Rotary will use its fifty plus Rotary Clubs in Western North Carolina to encourage dentists, hygienists and other professionals to volunteer their services. The NC National Guard operating out of the nearby Webster Armory will be a new participant in the Rotary NC MOM Free Dental Clinic.

The NC Missions of Mercy, an outreach program of the NC Dental Society, was founded in 2004. Last year, twelve of the two-day Free Clinics served over 8,200 patients, providing over \$4.2 million in dental services throughout North Carolina.

As contributors and supporters of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, you can be assured that your gifts are being used to improve the dental care and lives of economically challenged people in Western Carolina – one tooth at a time.

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.

President's Message

After more than six years of diligent service, Ron Keller stepped down from the Presidency in January. He immediately caught an airplane to Mexico to sit on the beach and recharge his batteries for two months. During the six years that Ron was associated with the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, he served as Treasurer and President, Head Tooth Fairy, and as a member of the nominating and endowment committees. Happily, Ron is not hanging up his tutu – Big Wing will continue to fly and he will remain on the nominating and endowment committees. Thank you, Ron for being a leader and instrumental force in bringing the Clinic to where it is today.

As we begin 2012, opportunity is beating down the Clinic's door. Three new volunteer dentists will come on board this spring, adding their energies and specialties to Clinic operations. From one dentist to twelve in six years, that's something! This spring will see the Clinic pursuing its second five-year Accreditation from The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics - the highest accreditation rating available.

The Children's Dental Health Project enters its fifth year providing children in Cashiers and Highlands schools with the sound dental education and dental habits

to provide a future without dental trauma and anxiety.

I am pleased to welcome three new Board members: Nathan Dollar, Bruce Walker, and Rick Willeford, who bring considerable talent, diversity and commitment to our active Board.

Perhaps most exciting is the Clinic's new partnership with Rotary District 7670 and North Carolina Missions of Mercy to conduct a weekend Free Adult Clinic on July 13th and 14th at the Ramsey Center on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC.

We do still need volunteer dentists, dental assistants and hygienists for Rotary NC MOM. Our Executive Director, Karen Minton, will be happy to provide information or answer questions. Please contact her at 828-743-3393.

Lynne Keating - President



ABC TV Visits the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

Last year, Sandra Beck, one of our former patients, received life-changing dental work at our Clinic. We were gratified that afterward, she wrote WLOS, the ABC affiliate in Asheville, NC, to share her experience. Much to everyone's surprise, she and the Clinic received a phone call from Larry Blunt with WLOS, who brought a team to Cashiers and filmed a sampling of our dental care, conducting interviews with Clinic founders Susan Posey and Dr. Tom Smith. They even checked in with Lavender – one of the famous Tooth Fairies.

The program aired on January 20th, with Susan Posey and Dr. Tom Smith named as "Persons of the Week." To view the program: go to www.blueridgefreedentalclinic.org.



The Tooth Fairies

The tooth fairy is a fantasy figure of early childhood. The folklore states that when a child loses a baby tooth, if he or she places it beneath the bed pillow, the tooth fairy will visit while the child sleeps, replacing the lost tooth with a small payment. Unlike Santa Claus and, to a lesser extent, the Easter Bunny, there are few details of the tooth fairy's appearance that are consistent in various versions of the myth.

The idea for the Clinic's Fraternity of Tooth Fairies was initiated by the Fairies' future seamstress, Kaye Keller, during a planning session for the Clinic's first fund-raising event in 2006. "The Clinic can't have a successful gala without the presence of a tooth fairy," said Kaye. Later that summer, there was her husband, Ron, dressed in a gold tiara, gossamer wings and a pink tutu. Ann Betty was with him looking every bit like a real tooth fairy.

Since that debut, nine other fine gentlemen have joined Ron in an effort to increase the public's awareness of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties, and to do it in a fun-loving manner. Upon joining the Fraternity, each fairy receives his own wings, tutu and larger-than-life toothbrush in a coordinating color. Shameless enthusiasm, a great sense of humor and an unwavering dedication to the cause are definitely required!

Today's Fraternity includes the following wonderful collection of big men with even bigger hearts — Ron Keller (Big Wing), Carl Hyde (Duke), Ron Kandell (Patch), Pat Cunningham (DeCay), Joe Goldberg (Buttercup), Dick Rosedale (Chopper), Ed Morse (Lavender), Mike Devine (Baby Huey), Gary Leedham (Hoot) and Ron Freeman (Firefly).

The Tooth Fairies serve as ambassadors in local schools in support of the Children's Dental Health Care Project, at parades and fund-raising events.



Front: L-R: Dick Rosedale, Ron Keller, Ron Kandell

Back: L-R: Mike Devine, Pat Cunningham, Carl Hyde, Gary Leedham, Ron Freeman, Joe Goldberg

Not pictured: Ed Morse

A Christmas Story

-Karen Minton
Executive Director BRFDCC

Early last December, we had the pleasure of treating a lovely young woman, whom we'll call Cassie. The divorced mother of three, she came to us in terrible pain, but with a smile on her face and a hopeful spirit. Her teeth were jagged, but she was otherwise attractive.

Panorex X-rays proved the worst, however. Cassie had multiple abscesses and four molars that required immediate extraction. None of her teeth were worth saving...and she was only 28. No wonder she was in pain! As a single mother, Cassie was providing for her children by doing janitorial work; paying for dentures was out of the question.

Dr. Smith performed the first four extractions that day, gently breaking the news to her that the remainder of her teeth would also need to be removed. Robby Cahill discussed her dental options, as she was a prime candidate for dentures, and made arrangements with Affordable Dentures. Karen Minton scheduled a follow-up appointment in mid-December to remove the remainder of her lower teeth. As for Cassie - she was thankful to be out of pain.

We were able to help Cassie in a special way, however. We had learned that a local business in Cashiers wished to help a needy family by anonymously providing Christmas. On the day that Cassie had the remainder of her lower teeth extracted, there was a big surprise waiting for her in the Clinic's lab: four huge boxes full of wrapped gifts for her three children and arrangements for a Christmas Dinner feast.

Once the extractions were completed, we led Cassie and a friend who was serving as her driver into the lab. As we opened the door, revealing the gifts, both girls burst into tears, as did all of us on staff.

Cassie's upper extractions are scheduled for 2012, and she will receive an "immediate denture," pending permanent dentures when her gums are fully healed. By the end of the year, she will have a beautiful new set of teeth for a charming smile.

More about the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

Last Fall, filmmaker Chris Hutson, through a grant from the Community Bible Church, created a video documentary about the Clinic with an introduction by the renowned Dr. Pete Dawson. The film highlights the development of the Clinic from its infancy, featuring interviews with the people who were there and made it happen. History seamlessly blends into the present with real patient stories, followed by a glimpse of our vision for tomorrow.

You can view this video on the Clinic website: www.blueridgefreedentalclinic.org

Children's Dental Health Projects –

An unknown aspect of the rich history of Appalachian Western North Carolina is the often hidden, tragic, and appalling notion of "dentures by age 30." Sociologists refer to this as a cyclic cultural tradition, handed down from one generation to the next. Dentists and hygienists think of it as a tragedy preventable with early dental care and education.

In 2007, Robby Cahill, a retired US Marine Colonel and Clinic volunteer, decided that enough is enough. As a Director of the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, he convinced the Board to declare war on the lack of dental care and education for local children. With the Club's sponsorship and guidance from the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, the Children's Dental Health Project became a reality. Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School, both in the Cashiers area, came on board, adopting this new program that would change the lives of their students – academically, medically, and socially.

Students, typically through Grade 5, are given a weekly fluoride swish and spit rinse; tooth brushes, paste, and floss are also supplied. Once a year, a volunteer dentist provides each child with an oral exam and a detailed report on cavities, plaque, and orthodontic status, with recommendations sent home to parents. Tooth Fairies visit and teach brushing, flossing, and eating habits for healthy teeth.

The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands MountainTop learned about the success of the Children's Dental Health Project through the Tooth Fairies and Cashiers Rotary. In the late fall of 2009, Robby helped these Rotary Clubs adopt and apply the Cashiers template. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Rotary Club of Highlands Mountaintop, the Children's Dental Health Project began at The Highlands School in grades K-5 in January, 2010.

Many thanks go to school officials and teachers who helped with the Project.

Today there are almost 500 children in the Children's Dental Health Projects in Cashiers and Highlands, NC. Volunteer dentists, school teachers and parents who are involved with the program see the lives of the children entrusted to their care improved - one tooth at a time.

