



# Free Clinic News

March 2009

414 N. FANT STREET, PO BOX 728, ANDERSON, SC 29622 ♦ 864.226.1294 ♦ WWW.ANDERSONFREECLINIC.ORG

## New Program Provides Colonoscopies

The Anderson Free Clinic is participating in a new program to provide free colon cancer screenings for qualified individuals.

The program provides free screening colonoscopies for the uninsured or underinsured poor.

A grant from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is funding the screening program. The program is administered by the South Carolina Gastroenterology Association and the Center for Colon Cancer Research at USC.

The program is open to men and women between the ages of 50-64 (45-64 for African Americans), who live in Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood and Laurens Counties. Patients must meet income guidelines and be uninsured or underinsured.

Residents of Anderson must qualify as patients of the Free Clinic to be eligible for the program.

Potential patients are also referred

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Donors Help Free Clinic Patients Sleep Better

In February, the Free Clinic started a campaign to provide a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine to every Free Clinic patient who needs one but cannot afford to purchase one. To date, community members have donated 8 CPAP machines, which means 8 Free Clinic patients now sleep better and are more rested and productive during their waking hours.

The Free Clinic is still accepting donations of CPAP machines. If you have a CPAP machine that is still working and is no longer needed, please consider donating it. Machines can be dropped off any time the clinic is open.

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Maureen Sartini

## BCBS Supports Honea Path Free Clinic

The Anderson Free Clinic received a \$50,000 grant from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation.

The grant, which was awarded in December, will be used to support the Anderson Free Clinic's satellite office in Honea Path.

The Honea Path clinic is run by Anderson Free Clinic staff and Honea Path volunteers. Doctors volunteer at the Honea Path Free Clinic two days a month, and the clinic is open two additional days for prescriptions to be picked up. All prescriptions are filled in Anderson and sent to Honea Path, where they are given to patients by a volunteer pharmacist.

Last year, the Honea Path Free Clinic provided 251 medical visits, 30 dental visits, and approximately 1,200 prescriptions.

The BlueCross BlueShield grant was presented at Trinity United Methodist Church by Harvey



Check presentation with (left to right) Amanda Berrier, Billy O'Dell, Harvey Galloway, Maureen Sartini, Renee McCormick, Mike Gambrell, and Earl Lollis Meyers

Galloway, BlueCross Foundation executive director. Galloway said the Foundation

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Medicus

Almost 100 physicians in Anderson volunteer with the Anderson Free Clinic as referral physicians, seeing Free Clinic patients in their own offices for free. These physicians and their staff provide specialty care that would not otherwise be available to patients at the Free Clinic.

For nearly 25 years, the physicians and staff at Medicus have accepted Free Clinic patients on a referral basis. For Free Clinic patients, the professionals at Medicus provide many services, including prevention of and treatment for diabetic eye problems and treatment for ear, nose, and

throat disorders and diseases. They also perform surgeries as necessary.

Each year, the Medicus practice sees more than 130 Free Clinic patients. Over the years, it is estimated that the practice has seen more than 1000 Free Clinic patients in their offices for free.



*Photo courtesy of Medicus staff*

## Colonoscopies (Continued from page 1)

by Carolina Health Centers, the Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County, and the Greater Greenwood United Ministry Free Clinic.

Once identified, patients are referred to Upstate Endoscopy in Anderson or Digestive Disease Group in Greenwood where the colonoscopies are performed. Doctors at these centers are waiving their fees and performing the procedures at cost. In Anderson, the doctors participating in the program are **Drs. Carl Lund, Shahzad Sheikh, M.P. Veerabagu, and David Wortham.**

According to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, colon cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States and is the second leading cause of cancer related deaths.

In 2005 (the most recent year for which statistics were available from the CDC), 72,007 men and 69,398 women were diagnosed with colon cancer. The same year, 26,781 men and 27,259 women died from colon cancer.

Although it is a deadly disease, colon cancer is also one of the most preventable cancers. The CDC estimates if everyone over the age of 50 had regular screenings, as many as 60% of

colon cancer deaths could be prevented.

Early detection is the key to prevention. Regular screenings are important because, according to the Center for Colon Cancer Research, the most common symptom is nothing. People should not wait for observable symptoms to appear before deciding to be screened.

The CDC urges everyone over the age of 50 to have regular screenings. Their statistics show less than 40% of colon cancers are detected early, due to low screening rates. If found early and treated, however, the five year survival rate is 90%.

For more information on colon cancer, please visit the CDC website, at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or the American Cancer Association, at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

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*The Free Clinic provides printed education materials to patients in its waiting room. To expand these materials to include educational videos on selected topics, including colon cancer, the Free Clinic is seeking a donation of a working TV and DVD player. Please contact Melissa Powell at 226-1294, ext. 224 for information about donating these items.*

The Anderson Free Clinic and its patients say thank you to these true Anderson heroes!

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*Physicians interested in volunteering at the clinic or on a referral basis may contact Executive Director Maureen Sartini at 864-226-1294, ext. 222 or [Maureen.Sartini@anmedhealth.org](mailto:Maureen.Sartini@anmedhealth.org).*

*Community members also volunteer at the clinic in many capacities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Kathryn Fedele at 864-226-1294, ext. 221 or [Kathryn.Fedele@anmedhealth.org](mailto:Kathryn.Fedele@anmedhealth.org).*

## Lights of Hope

Lights of Hope volunteer organizers Ben Phillips and Dennis Lavold stopped by the Free Clinic in January to present a check for \$1174.

Lights of Hope is a non profit organization that stages an annual holiday festival of lights to benefit local charities in Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, and Hart counties.

Each year more than 60 displays are set up and illuminated for the enjoyment of the many carloads of adults and children who visit the displays in Darwin Wright Park off Liberty Highway in Anderson.

During the 2008 season, Lights of Hope raised more than \$16,000 for local charities.



*Check presentation with (left to right) Ben Phillips, Maureen Sartini, and Dennis Lavold*

**BCBS** *(Continued from page 1)*

was pleased to help ensure the health of Anderson County citizens.

Since 2003, the Foundation has donated more than \$22 million to organizations dedicated to improving the health of South Carolina residents and expanding access to health care.

Several community leaders were present at the event, including state Rep. Mike Gambrell and state Sen. Billy O'Dell.

Praising the staff and volunteers of the Honea Path Free Clinic, O'Dell said, "These efforts are a prime example of people coming together to help those that need it most, and we are proud of what they do for all of us."

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*For information on volunteering at the Honea Path Free Clinic, please contact Honea Path Clinic Coordinator Margaret Gibbs, R.N. at 864-226-1294.*

**Golf Tournament to Benefit the Free Clinic**

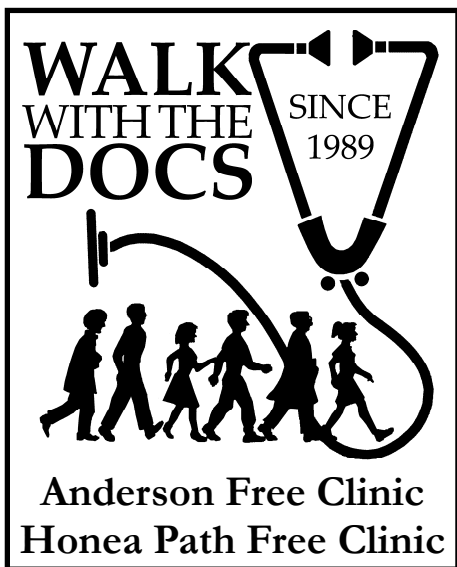
Hosted by the Electric City Rotary Club

On **Friday, May 1, 2009** at Brookstone Meadows

Lunch at 12:00 p.m.  
Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

\$50/person or \$200/team  
Hole sponsors \$200

For more information contact  
Jeanie.Stoker@anmedhealth.org.



**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

**In Anderson**

**9:45 a.m.**

Chris Taylor Memorial Park at the Civic Center

**In Honea Path**

**11:00 a.m.**

Honea Path Middle School Football Field

**REGISTRATION**

- ♦ Register in person at the Anderson Free Clinic until Friday, March 20, 2009.
- ♦ Register by mail and pick up your shirts at the Anderson Free Clinic or one of the other 8 convenient locations. Please visit our web site at [www.andersonfreeclinic.org/walk.htm](http://www.andersonfreeclinic.org/walk.htm) for a complete listing.
- ♦ Register at the *Walk*. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in Anderson and at 10:15 a.m. in Honea Path.

Each \$25 registration includes one T-shirt. Additional donations are appreciated!

Mail this form with your check to:  
Anderson Free Clinic  
PO Box 728 ♦ Anderson, SC 29622

For more information:  
Web Site: [www.andersonfreeclinic.org](http://www.andersonfreeclinic.org)  
Phone: 864-226-1294 Fax: 864-261-4543

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the information below:

- Donation:  \$25       \$250  
 \$50       \$500  
 \$100       \$1,000  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- My donation is \$100 or more, and I would like to receive sponsor recognition.  
 (Information about sponsorship levels can be found on the Free Clinic web site or by calling 864-226-1294, ext. 224)

(A limited number of long-sleeved shirts will be available while supplies last. Some sizes may sell out: please pick up your shirts early!)



Anderson Free Clinic  
PO Box 728  
Anderson, SC 29622

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 419  
Anderson, SC

## Dine Out & Support the Free Clinic!

On **Friday, March 20, 2009** eat at one of the following participating restaurants and help raise money for the Free Clinic. On this day, these Anderson restaurants will donate **10% of their proceeds from lunch and dinner** (unless otherwise noted) to the Free Clinic.

**Jax** (lunch only)  
112 North Main Street

**Main Street Deli**  
305 South Main Street

**Matty's**  
121 North Main Street

**Ooh La Lolly**  
315 North Main Street

More restaurants will be listed on our web site at [www.andersonfreeclinic.org](http://www.andersonfreeclinic.org).

Thanks to the Anderson Medical Alliance for arranging this unique fundraiser for the Free Clinic in honor of Doctors' Day!

## ANDERSON FREE CLINIC DAY ~ FRIDAY, MARCH 13 *Wear Your Walk Shirt to Work!*

In recognition of the Anderson Free Clinic's 25-year history of providing quality medical care, dental care, and pharmacy services to low-income, uninsured residents of Anderson, Mayor Terence Roberts and the Anderson City Council have declared Friday, March 13 to be Anderson Free Clinic Day. In a proclamation presented on Monday, February 23, Mayor Roberts and the City Council encouraged all those who live and work in Anderson to wear their *Walk* shirts to work that day.

**Be one of the first 25 businesses to send us a picture of your office staff wearing their *Walk* shirts, and we'll publish the picture and your business' name and contact information in one of our upcoming newsletters.** Pictures can be e-mailed to [Melissa.Powell2@anmedhealth.org](mailto:Melissa.Powell2@anmedhealth.org) or can be dropped off at the Anderson Free Clinic during open hours.

*The Free Clinic News* is a publication of the  
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