



A Minute with Mercy



Mercy Medicine Free Clinic ~ 500 South Coit Street

Inside this issue:

Director's Desk	2
Spotlight On	2
Faith Perspective	2
Palate Pleaser	3
Cont from Front	3
Healthy Pursuit	BC

Keep an eye out

✚ Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching! May we remember (all the year through) to thank God for all He is to us.

✚ We hope to begin Spirit Nights again in the near future. If you know of a restaurant that may want to sponsor a month, please let us know so we can contact them.

In past newsletters, we have referenced how donated funds are used, but it is time we give you a few particulars. A typical year may see a shift in the types of income we receive and where it comes from; like COVID-19 supplements, and one-time, large grants. In this article, though, we will focus on a general overview of what we consider typical annual budget items.

We sometimes receive grants from organizations such as The Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation and the Women In Philanthropy, but those grants are usually project specific - repaving the parking lot and constructing a storage building, for example. They are not funds that we can apply as needed to operate the clinic on a daily basis. That is why it is so important for us to have other, non-restrictive income. This means monetary donations from individuals, churches, businesses, and other groups that believe as much in our ministry as



To Our Donors...

we do.

A large portion of our general funding, equating to about 30% of our total annual revenue, comes through The United Way of Florence and the South Carolina Free Clinic Association. We do not apply for any federal third party payor healthcare funding which may

place limitations on the faith-based aspects of how Mercy cares for our patients such as asking if we may pray with someone when he or she needs some spiritual support. We want to ensure that the clinic stays connected to the ministry which is what the founding physicians intended when they established Mercy Medicine.

Now, let's talk stewardship. How do we stretch the dollars you entrust to us? Regarding staffing there are generally 11 to 15 paid staff members, depending on the needs of the clinic, mostly part-time. Each one works for less than the going local rate for their position.

(Cont on page 3)

What's Going On With Mercy?

✚ Each year, United Way of Florence hosts its annual Day of Caring in September, when local businesses select and perform needed services for area nonprofits. This year, Mercy Medicine was adopted by Duke Energy Progress, who

had a lot on their plate at once. Duke needed to send workers to help restore post-Hurricane Ida utilities, so we were grateful to have Mercy Medicine interior painting, minor repairs, etc. prioritized for October.

✚ The annual Ride-A-Mile event, coordinated by the Florence County Chamber of Commerce for their Leadership Florence program, takes place mid-December. Participants will experience public transportation via PDRTA,

possibly for the first time in their lives. The will, also, interact with local businesses and service providers to experience first hand what is available to some of the lowest-income populations in our area.

From the Director's Desk

Wayne Jackson

As we "gear up" for the holidays and the traditional giving season it is appropriate that we thank the lifeblood of Mercy Medicine, our donors. Our blessings come in many forms such as volunteers of all descriptions, in-kind services from our two large medical centers, technical support from Hillsouth, and from other generous sources. However, if not for our faithful and extremely generous cash donors Mercy's mission would come to a grinding halt very quickly. I want to especially thank those that originally gave to our cancelled fundraising gala this Fall but morphed into a fundraising campaign. For safety reasons during the recent COVID infection resurgence we agreed to use an abundance of caution and cancel. The board and I thank those that gave anyway in spite of no gala this year. God willing, we are tentatively planning for a live fundraiser in the November 2022 timeframe. Stay tuned for details as that time approaches. Once again, a heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to God's work here at Mercy Medicine—a special place.



Spotlight on...

Yakia Graham-Foxe, PT

Kia came to the clinic in January 2021 as a volunteer provider. She is a licensed physical therapist and owner of Get Muvin Physical

Therapy, which is her mobile/in-home physical therapy practice. She provides physical therapy services to people living in Florence and surrounding areas. Kia has practiced physical therapy for almost 10 years, and she has worked in many different settings including: acute care, inpatient rehab, skilled nursing facility and outpatient. She has a strong interest in outpatient orthopedics, and she is currently pursuing her manual therapy certification. She offered her services to us because she truly wants to give back to the community and help others. Of her partnership with Mercy Medicine Free Clinic, she says, "I am thankful for the opportunity to serve my community." In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.

Thank you, Kia, for continuing to help His people. Hebrews 6:10

Faith Perspective

An Attitude of Gratitude

Dr. Michael C. Crawford, Mercy board of directors

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our Salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (Psalm 95:1-2, NKJV). The 95th Psalm is a call to worship. Worship that is joyful, wonderful, and filled with thanksgiving. The LORD is the "Rock of our salvation." It is also a call to live with gratitude in our hearts. To recognize God's creation, in all its beauty and grandeur; to know His presence, even in the midst of our wilderness experiences; and to accept His chastisement when we stray in hope that obedience will follow. All with an attitude of gratitude.

During this time of year we gather together and express our thankfulness to God for the many blessings that we have received. Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful and unspoiled holiday. A time to be with family and friends. To share our joys and at times, even our hardships. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the gratitude that we ought to carry in our hearts, every day of our lives.

Gratitude is something that I am filled with every time I meet with the Mercy Medicine staff and share with them a devotional from God's Word. As we discuss in board meetings the many patients that are receiving assistance, I am thankful. When I contemplate the generosity of our many donors, who make this ministry possible, I am grateful. In working with Mercy Medicine and all who are involved, an attitude of gratitude is easy to maintain. *Thank you for being a blessing to others.*

Palate Pleasers ... Venison Chili

2 pkg. McCormick Tex-Mex chili seasoning
 2 lb. ground venison
 1 onion, diced
 2 (15 oz.) cans diced tomatoes
 2 cans red kidney beans
 2 cans black beans
 1 to 2 cans tomato sauce (add to taste)

Brown meat in skillet. While meat is cooking, add beans, tomatoes, and seasoning to a crock pot. Stir well and set on HIGH. Add browned meat. Sauté onions in skillet until tender and add to chili. Heat mixture on HIGH and, when heated thoroughly, turn crock pot down to LOW. Let cook for 4 to 8 hours and taste as it cooks.

Palate Pleasers cookbooks available for \$20



(Cont from page 1)

And there are no benefits apart from paid vacation and sick time. That means that the amount spent on payroll and administrative costs is, on average, about 50% less per employee than it might be someplace else. Even though there are services that we must pay full price for, like utilities and insurance, we are fortunate to receive a discount on IT support thanks to our partner HillSouth. Also, the software programs we use for clinic operations and budgeting were donated by companies such as ACS, Athena.Net, and Dentrax. Some of our plumbing and maintenance services have also been performed by people associated with the clinic and by local business volunteer groups, at low or no cost. Because we do not have contracts with specific suppliers, we are able to do price comparisons when ordering supplies.

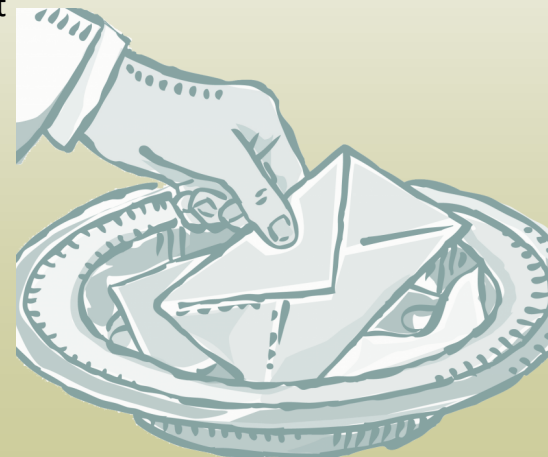
As far as medical and dental care costs, you are likely aware that we have partnerships with numerous specialist providers that care for our patients. Many of those who are unable to provide free services do offer the clinic a reduced rate. One specific example of this is with medications. While patients are eligible to use a free, mail-order pharmacy called Welvista, there are still some medications that are either not available through that provider or they have not yet been approved for that service before they need their first prescription. In those cases, Medicine Mart here in Florence allows us to fill prescriptions there and then bills Mercy Medicine at a considerable discount. This helps to ensure that, even though our patients cannot afford to pay for medications, there are no gaps that occur in their treatment. And because a vast majority of our patients have chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and COPD that require regular refills, medication costs accounts for about 5% of our yearly patient care expenses.

In addition to medical and dental visits, some things that fall under “patient care” here in the clinic include: sanitizing the lobby and exam rooms frequently and between each use; disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) for use by staff members when working with patients; and tech services such as our office internet. Overall, considering the amount spent each month to operate the clinic, including everything from direct patient care to administrative overhead, the clinic is averaging about \$250 to \$300 per patient visit.

That, my friends, is a rudimentary overview of Mercy Medicine’s types of donations and costs. God is our solid foundation and, like Aaron and Hur holding up Moses’ hands when he became weary (Exodus 17:12), you are our support system. We appreciate it more than you realize.

We know that individuals as well as organizations are accountable for how we use what God has entrusted to us and that is how we operate.

“The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord.” ~Psalm 24:1~



“I was sick and you cared for me” ~ Matthew 25 ~

Healthy Pursuit

The definition of “addiction” adopted by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Board of Directors in 2019 is, “a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual’s life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences.”

Addiction treatment will only be successful when the person makes the decision that they want help changing their life. Even then, withdrawal symptoms can be unpleasant, and in some substance abuse cases, may be fatal. Please don’t try to beat it alone. Medical supervision is always advised. A medical professional can, also, help treat co-occurring conditions such as depression and OCD. Long-term family/community support is often required.

To read the full article, go to www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/323465.

If you or someone you love are ready to seek treatment for an addiction, here are some contacts to help get you started.

Pee Dee MHC

(serves Florence, Darlington, and Marion counties)

125 E Cheves St, Florence, SC 29506

(843) 317-4073

Waccamaw MHC

(serves Williamsburg,, Horry, and Georgetown counties)

501 Nelson Blvd, Kingstree, SC 29556

(843) 354-5453



Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

500 South Coit Street

Florence, SC 29501

Website

www.mercymedicine.org



Mercy Medicine Free Clinic