



A Minute with Mercy



Mercy Medicine Free Clinic ~ 500 South Coit Street

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Keep an eye out

*Beerfest, sponsored by Mickey Finns to benefit MMFC, has been postponed until June 20, 2020.

*Spirit nights, sponsored by local restaurants, have been postponed until further notice.

*Our fundraising Gala has been tentatively scheduled for January, 2021.

Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information regarding these and other clinic news items.

Mercy Medicine and COVID-19 Response

Wayne Jackson, Executive Director, Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began the Pee Dee's health facilities have been testing, treating, or referring potentially infected patients to seek care.

Using CDC guidelines along with direction from our medical director, Dr. Steven Ross, and the Chief Nursing Officer, Mrs. Costa Cockfield for MUSC-Florence Medical Center, we have established protocols to identify and refer potentially infected patients for care as well as maximize the safety of our staff. Our goals during this time have been: First, treat our patients as usual to keep them healthy and less vulnerable to COVID-19 and second, keep as many out of the local ERs as possible to reduce exposure. MMFC has also continued accepting new

patients and providing emergency dental care.

In addition to our normal new patient enrollment procedure, we have initiated *Mercy Medicine's Interim Care Program*. Because of increased unemployment and financial insecurity in our area Mercy will now accept patients that have suddenly found themselves with no job or health insurance. These potential Interim Care patients will need to meet all other Mercy criteria like being a resident of Florence or Williamsburg Counties and being between the ages of 18-64.

Help us put the word out that MMFC is still serving those in need by providing health and dental care because yes, we are all in this together.

What's Going On With Mercy?

* Made possible by a grant from Delta Dental of South Carolina, we are now able to perform **restorations** (known to most of us as fillings) on site without having to make a referral appointment for our patients with a partner provider. We're excited to have the capability in-house. * The **Felician Center** in Kingstree has partnered with Mercy to provide additional support for Williamsburg County dental patients. Specifically, the Sisters will contribute \$200 (in addition to the \$100 already offered by the clinic) for patients requiring dentures or partials. * Our already great **provider staff has been expanded** by one volunteer dietitian, Emily Ewing, and one volunteer podiatrist, Dr. Jordanna Baker. These providers will deliver specialty care to our patients to enhance their quality of life beyond primary and dental care. * The **parking lot** received some much needed attention as it was repaved in mid-April. Thank you Bruce and Lee Foundation for this wonderful grant!

I Was Sick and You Cared for Me

When Ronald first became a patient here at Mercy Medicine, his chronic issues included obesity and diabetes. As a direct result of financial contributions from our caring donors, Ronald had access to prescriptions and education that would help to keep his diabetes in check. With support from our clinic staff, Ronald took responsibility for his health and dropped a substantial amount of weight, which led to him no longer needing to take diabetic medication. Ronald's success story does not end there. He has been helping to lead our "Prevent Type 2" class intended to encourage lifestyle changes that impact health and wellbeing (specifically, averting a diabetes diagnosis in at risk patients).

Spotlight On...Ruthelle



Mrs. Ruthelle, our Front Office Coordinator, has worked at Mercy Medicine Free Clinic since April 2016. Her daily routine includes being (in no particular order) first contact for callers

and visitors, medical records keeper and appointment maker, statistician, supply buyer, and hub of general clinic knowledge. When asked what she likes best about working here at Mercy Medicine, she said, "I get to help directly impact our patients' quality of life and I know God is using me to make a real difference." She has been known to wax philosophical or even tell a joke or two on occasion, which is not surprising considering how much she likes to laugh. Outside of work she spends as much time as she can with her friends and family. And if that time with loved ones is spent at the beach, that's all the better.

Healthy Pursuit

In light of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that has influenced the way the world has lived the past few months, here is some information found on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website. This includes habits that are beneficial not only during times of immediate need but, also, in every day life when there is no imminent threat of infection.

- * Keep your hands away from your face. Many viruses and bacteria enter your body via contact with your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- * Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. Washing your hands together with soap (antibacterial not necessary) helps reduce the amount of contaminants on the skin. If soap and water are unavailable, hand sanitizer is an acceptable temporary substitute.
- * Cover your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your arm to prevent droplets from being spread through the air or through direct contact.

Policies implemented specifically by Mercy Medicine during the pandemic consisted of screening everyone and taking temperatures before allowing entrance to the lobby, having everyone sanitize/wash their hands upon entering, doing as much business over the phone as possible, and limiting entry to patients only when they came in for their appointments.

Palate Pleasers ... Beef Pot Roast

Palate Pleasers cookbooks available for \$20

- 1 (3 to 5 lb) beef pot roast
- 1 packet Ranch dressing mix
- 1 packet Italian dressing mix
- 1 packet brown gravy mix
- 1/2 c. water



Place the roast in crock pot. Mix all other ingredients together and pour over pot roast. Cook on LOW for 8 to 10 hours.

Ride-A-Mile

Les Echols, Director, Community and Minority Enterprise, Greater Florence C of C

In December 2019, for the fifth consecutive year, Mercy Medicine Free Clinic collaborated with the Florence Chamber's Leadership Florence Class for the annual *Ride A Mile* program. Leadership Florence is a comprehensive nine-month program designed to identify, cultivate and motivate leadership for the Greater Florence area. The program was a partnership between the Florence Chamber and the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA). Other partners in the day-long session included Mercy Medicine, Poyner Adult Education, Florence-Darlington Technical College, and Lighthouse Ministries. The *Ride A Mile*, which simulated society and team-building exercises, took the 2020 class of 42 members on a ride with the PDRTA while visiting partner organizations allowing them to experience different socio-economic circumstances.

Mercy Medicine Free Clinic plays a vital part in the *Ride A Mile* program. Many Leadership Florence members have never visited a free clinic or been on public transportation. This program was developed to help community business leaders understand the importance of the programs and services that organizations like Mercy Medicine and other partners have to offer in our community.

The *Ride A Mile* program has gained state-wide recognition, as the Florence Chamber and PDRTA have twice presented it at the state-wide Regional Transportation Authority conference, last held in Hilton Head in the first quarter of 2020. The presentation brought recognition to Mercy Medicine and the people they serve in our communities.

From the Director's Desk

Wayne Jackson, Executive Director, Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

What a difference a few months has made in everyone's life! As a healthcare provider the COVID-19 pandemic has directly impacted Mercy's operations in several ways. Mercy has taken strict measures to ensure the safety of our staff and patients by closely following CDC guidelines and that of our medical leadership. Every patient (and potential patient and visitors) is carefully screened and temperature taken. The staff has isolation protocols in place if needed. Although Mercy is not doing COVID-19 testing the medical staff can refer, if indicated, a patient to resources that can provide testing and treatment, if necessary.

Even during the physical and economical uncertainty Mercy has remained open to supply needed chronic disease and emergency dental services to those who still require them. That need has not gone away. The clinic continues to expand its capacity by the formal agreement with the McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program and providing more comprehensive dental care for its deserving clients. Yes, God has continued to bless the Mercy Medicine Free Clinic in this global crisis—I never had any doubt He would stop.

"I was sick and you cared for me" ~ Matthew 25 ~



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Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

Mercy Presents at Your Location

Mercy Medicine welcomes any and every opportunity to spread the word (and The Word) about our mission and what we do to fulfill it. If you or your group are interested in having a representative from Mercy come speak at your meeting or gathering, when appropriate, please contact our office to set it up. As more people become aware of the services offered by our clinic, it increases our ability to minister to the communities that we serve. Our team is available to talk to churches, local government, and civic groups most any time, even on weekends.

*What We
Need*

While monetary support is always welcome and appreciated, another option for giving is by donating new/factory sealed supplies, including regular office items. We would ask that if you care to bring items to donate, please call the office first (843.667.9947) so that we can arrange to meet you at your vehicle to receive your gifts. This will help us to mitigate exposure by limiting the number of people who come in and out of the clinic.