



A Minute with Mercy



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Keep an eye out

 Giving Partners: Our fundraising Gala has been tentatively rescheduled for winter 2022. However, please consider supporting Mercy with a gift in early 2021.

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

Partnering with the McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program

Wayne Jackson, Executive Director, Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

Mercy Medicine Free Clinic has collaborative relationships with many organizations in the Pee Dee area, but none is more visible than with the McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program. For several years these family practice residents have been coming to Mercy two evenings per month to provide care and continue their

medical education. In the clinic the residents are exposed to a variety of interesting chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and other acute, but not life-threatening conditions.

This program not only allows Mercy Medicine to see certain patients in the evenings, which may be a more convenient time for them, but it also provides a teachable case mix for the residents and their attending physicians. Before the COVID-19 pandemic the residents were scheduled for two days per month, usually on a Monday evening from 5:00pm until around 7:30pm or until the last patient was seen. Now, due to a lower but recovering patient load the residents' clinic has been cut back to one Monday per month.

Ever since the relationship began with this program the residents' participation has been voluntary. However, this will change soon as Mercy Medicine will become a formal part of the residents' curriculum. This will provide some added structure and consistency in this relationship which will, in the long term, benefit Mercy's patients.



"Mercy Medicine is very important for the Residency Program. For the medical students and residents in training, serving the public most in need must be a formal training objective.

Professionalism is developed through service exposure. We are the beneficiaries of the Mercy Medicine relationship. Dr. N. B. Baroody, one of the original physician founders, served on our faculty for over twenty-five years and helped to foster this professional identity. We look forward to many more years in close partnership with the wonderful Mercy Medicine program and staff."
Gerard C. Jebaily, MD, MHA, CMD, Program Director, McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program

What's Going On With Mercy?

 The city approved the zoning for a new storage building on site. This will free up much needed office space in the clinic itself. Now, thanks to a grant from Women in Philanthropy, we can have it built.

 An updated eligibility process aims to provide a streamlined work flow that will result in more efficient use of resources and time.

 As a precaution against COVID-19, we are still screening each person and taking temperatures before anyone is allowed in the lobby.

 Mercy has received a grant through the City of Florence that will pay for much of our pharmaceutical and medical consult referral costs over the next two years.

I Was Sick and You Cared for Me

Rhonda has been a patient at Mercy since 2018. She came to us when she became too ill to keep her job resulting in loss of her health insurance and inability to pay for medical care.

Like so many of our patients, Rhonda has several chronic and acute conditions (some hereditary) that require both medications and deliberate healthy lifestyle choices to treat symptoms and the diseases themselves.

Rhonda enjoys interacting with Mercy staff when she comes for her appointments and appreciates the care she is provided.

“God has truly blessed me with all of the wonderful angels at Mercy. I am honestly getting better physically, mentally, and spiritually.”



Spotlight on... Jean Allison

Ms. Jean has been volunteering at Mercy Medicine since early 2012.

That's over 8 years of faithful weekly service with administrative tasks and helping in any other way requested of her. When asked what she likes about being involved with Mercy she said that she enjoys being able to do different jobs and not having to do the same thing all the time.

Ms. Jean enjoys spending time with her grandson and helping with his homework. She, also, loves having him go with her to church, which she has greatly missed since the start of the pandemic. She is so looking forward to the day when she can fellowship with her church family again, who she very much wants to see.

Thank you, Ms. Jean, for being a vital part of our administrative team.



Faith Perspective

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord”

Rev. Mary Finklea, Mercy board of directors



Thank you. Gracias. Merci. Asante sana. When you first learn a language, *please* and *thank you* are often the first and most important words a traveler can learn. *Please* and *thank you* are indeed magic words, just like Granny said, as they have the ability to bring people together. They connote respect, esteem, deference and simply good manners.

If you think about it, “please” and “thank you” are often our most used words in our prayer life as well. “Wow” (words of praise), “Help” (pleas and petitions), and “Sorry” (words of confession) are likely to top the list as well. During this season of thanksgiving and gratitude, I invite you to be generous in showing appreciation. Dust off a pen and some stationary and write an old-fashioned, handwritten thank you note. Be kind to your waiter with not just a substantial tip but with an authentic, genuine thank you. Consider looking up a beloved teacher and letting them know the impact they had on you, and share that same love for your neighbor.

We here at Mercy Medicine are indeed most grateful for our donors, supporters, volunteers and clients. Above all, we thank God for this wonderful ministry that makes a difference to so many people.

Palate Pleasers ... Apples with Bleu Cheese

Palate Pleasers cookbooks available for \$20

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
2 oz. Bleu cheese
6 Winesap apples
6 oz. walnuts, chopped
Paprika
Bibb lettuce

Soften cheeses and combine.
Peel and core apples. Cut into wedges and spread with cheese mixture. Top with walnuts; sprinkle with paprika and serve on lettuce leaves.



Day of Caring



The United Way of Florence County's annual Day of Caring was Friday, September 18th. Otis Elevator of Florence selected Mercy Medicine as their community project from a list of local nonprofits in need of services and, oh boy, did they deliver!

A whole day's worth of efforts resulted in the crew of 14 volunteers doing everything from changing light bulbs, electrical work, carpentry and painting (they even moved office furniture), to landscaping, pressure washing sidewalks, and repairing the eye-sore of a wooden fence on the back of clinic property.

Thank you, Otis Elevator team, for serving your community by donating your time, materials, and skills to Mercy Medicine!

From the Director's Desk Wayne Jackson

Mercy Medicine has recently entered a joint project with the University of South Carolina School of Public Health called the Health Literacy Initiative. Mercy Medicine, along with other selected clinics in South Carolina, is working with USC to help educate patients on what basic questions to ask a healthcare provider to receive better care. These questions are applicable, not only to a visit to Mercy Medicine but wherever the patient receives medical care to include visits to a pharmacy.

These questions are:

- 1) What is my main problem?
- 2) What do I need to do?
- 3) Why is it important for me to do this?

Upon arriving for an appointment at Mercy Medicine every patient is given a brochure which briefly explains the program. Next, a volunteer will proceed with a prescribed interview with the patient before he/she sees the provider. After this interaction with the provider a nurse conducts a second program interview. The process is completed when the patient returns some weeks later for a follow-up appointment and the final interview regarding the program is conducted.

This data is compiled and sent to USC for analysis to see the medium and long-term impacts of the initiative. Mercy is proud to be part of this much needed program.

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



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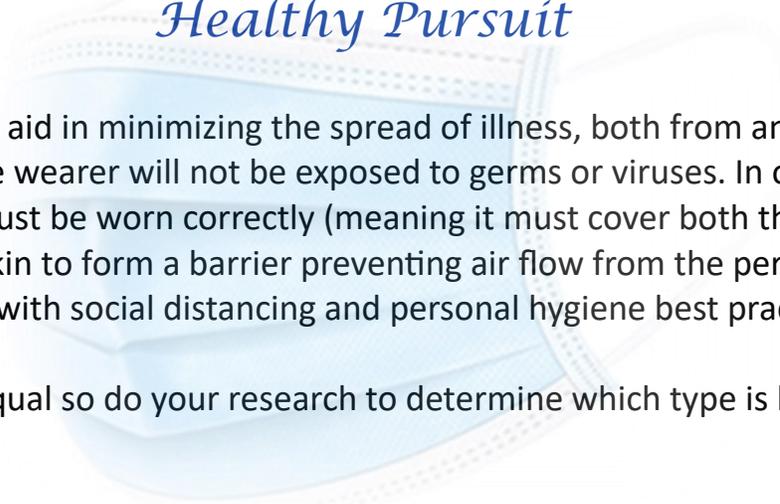


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Healthy Pursuit



Masks are tools intended to aid in minimizing the spread of illness, both from and to the wearer. They are not a guarantee that the wearer will not be exposed to germs or viruses. In order to reap the most healthful benefits, masks must be worn correctly (meaning it must cover both the mouth and nose, and the edges must touch the skin to form a barrier preventing air flow from the perimeter) and consistently, and be used in conjunction with social distancing and personal hygiene best practices.

Not all masks are created equal so do your research to determine which type is best suited for your needs.

What We Need

Mercy understands the generosity of spirit behind each donation that is presented to the clinic. As appreciative as we are that you think of us when you want to donate unused medications (OTC and prescription) and prescription devices (like CPAP machines) that have outlasted their usefulness for you, we can no longer accept those particular items from private donors.

Monetary gifts, office supplies, and some non-prescription devices (like walkers, for example) are still gratefully accepted. If you would like to know what we need before you make a donation, please call or email the office and we will be glad to give you that information.