



HELPING OUR COMMUNITY BY HELPING EACH OTHER.

## Saying Goodbye to Long-Time Volunteers

Anne Duncan volunteered at Smith Clinic as a nurse for many years and, most recently, has been responsible for following up with some of our most vulnerable patients after their visits to the clinic. She has decided that it is time she move closer to her family, and sold her home here in Pawleys Island.



In July, a "Drive-by Goodbye" was held in her honor so that her many clinic friends could have a chance to wish her well on her move to Charleston. We will miss Anne very much.



Carl Fisher, MD, has taken care of patients at SMC for nearly 30 years. He started volunteering when he and his wife, Lois, started spending time in Pawleys Island while both were still working in Charlotte.

In 2008, Dr. Fisher graciously agreed to be the interim Medical Director when that position was unexpectedly vacated. Assured by the ED and Board of Directors that it would be short-term, he remained in that "temporary" position for 10 years!

In addition to providing patient care, Dr. Fisher and his wife, Lois, have always been great champions for Smith Clinic, recruiting new volunteers, engaging donors, and enthusiastically promoting the clinic to funders.

**Please join us in wishing Anne, Carl, and Lois the very best that life has to offer as they move on to their new adventures!**

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## Jere's Story: "Smith Medical Clinic saved my life"

Jere is an active 64-year-old man and a hard worker, but he hadn't felt right lately. He wasn't a complainer, but he told his wife that his knees were

bothering him and he just didn't have any energy. When his wife shared her concern with a Smith Medical Clinic volunteer, the volunteer suggested that she make an appointment for Gere.

After listening to Jere's symptoms, Fred Polando, PA, diagnosed him with congestive heart failure and immediately sent him to the emergency room.

Jere had a stroke at the hospital. "The doctors said if I been home when it happened, I would have either died or have suffered permanent brain damage," Jere said, and then added, thoughtfully, "I wouldn't have gone to the hospital. I would have laid in bed thinking I would feel better soon."

Jere is not alone. The Cleveland Clinic recently surveyed over 500 men aged 18 to 70 across America and found that only three in five men get an annual physical. Just over 40% go to the doctor when they fear they have a serious medical condition.

Gere has now realized how important it is to take control of his health. He will continue to have regular appointments at Smith Medical Clinic. "I want to be here for my family and to enjoy as many sunrises and sunsets as I can."



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## Larry's Story: "If it weren't for you guys... I wouldn't be sitting here."

Larry didn't have health insurance and was struggling with keeping his diabetes under control. A friend suggested that he come to Smith Clinic. At first, he balked at coming to a clinic, but he eventually came and found out that he had a lot more going on than he anticipated.

Click play below to hear Larry's story!



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## Operation Sight: Restoring Vision, Improving lives

Our patient Reneé has qualified for free cataract surgery through Operation Sight. Operation Sight is an organization located in Mount Pleasant, SC, that provides free cataract surgery for low-income, uninsured patients.

Reneé said she could never have gotten through the qualification process if it had not been for the diligence

and patience of our provider, Mary Clay. Reneé said that there was a lot of paperwork and many steps in the process, but she couldn't be more grateful to be receiving the gift of sight.



### Debra's Story: Renewed Hearing

Smith Medical Clinic has partnered with Rick Steighner of the Coastal Hearing Center to provide free hearing screenings once a month at the Pawleys Island Clinic. Debra had been struggling with her hearing for awhile, so decided to come in and get her ears checked. When it was discovered that she had hearing loss, she was able to work with Rick and the CHC to get hearing aids at a greatly reduced cost.

The inability to hear and communicate can result in negative feelings of shame, inadequacy and humiliation, as it can be embarrassing to feel left out or worry about responding inappropriately in social situations.

Debra feels as if her life has been restored to her, and she is so grateful to Rick and the CHC for their help!

To help make a difference in the lives of patients like Jere, Larry, Reneé, and Debra, click [HERE](#).

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### Third Annual PILBA Festival of Wreaths

In an effort to help uninsured residents of Georgetown County through the Smith Medical Clinic, you are invited and encouraged to participate in the Third Annual PILBA Festival of Wreaths! So get those festive and creative

juices flowing by designing a wreath and donating it to the festival. All proceeds from the Festival of Wreaths will be donated to the Smith Medical Clinic!

This year's event will be held Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19 at a location TBA. Admission to the Wreath Fest is free to PILBA Members and Contributing Artists. The public is invited to attend: tickets are \$20 in advance, \$20 at the door and include two beverage tickets.

We would love for you to participate! Please let us know if you would like to create a wreath as soon as possible, but at least by November 13 so we can get you in the program. To enter, contact Troi or Leigh (phone numbers below), or email [JoinPILBA@gmail.com](mailto:JoinPILBA@gmail.com).

Wreath drop off will be Tuesday, November 17, from 2–6 p.m. To have your wreath picked up OR to volunteer to work in the store, call or text Troi Kaz at 843–455–4523, or Leigh Hope at 843–241–5628. If you would like your wreath to be sponsored, we can help partner you with a business.

Thank you for your help and support of our great community!

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**Speaking of holidays, donations in honor of others make great gifts! During the holiday season, Smith Medical Clinic will send special cards notifying recipients that a donation has been made in their honor. This is a great way to get in the spirit of giving while also helping someone in our community that needs medical care and can't afford it.**



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**Visit our website at [www.smithfreeclinic.org](http://www.smithfreeclinic.org) to learn more about the clinic**