



SMC News September, 2020!

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From the Executive Director, Anne Faul

### Goodbyes Are Hard



Recently the SMC family reluctantly said “Goodbye and Good Luck” to some of our long-serving and beloved volunteers.

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. Although trained as an OB/GYN, Dr. Fisher quickly found that he was treating a lot of diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases since the clinic had a limited number of providers. 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. Lois helped update our donor database and supported various fundraisers, even grabbing a bag and acting as a “secret shopper” to encourage buyers during a clinic yard sale!

The risk of contracting COVID-19 forced Dr. Fisher to reluctantly step away from patient care in April. He and Lois continue to be vocal and active supporters of the clinic and they will be dearly missed when they move back to Charlotte to be near children and grandchildren in September.

To honor Dr. Fisher’s outstanding contributions to the clinic, the highest level of Volunteer Recognition has been named for him: The Dr. Carl Fisher Lifetime Achievement Level. This level recognizes those, like Dr. Fisher, who have contributed more than 5000 hours of volunteer service to the clinic. The only volunteer (other than Dr. Fisher) to reach this lofty level is our beloved nurse volunteer: Anne Duncan. (Story continued on pg. 2)



Dr. E. Carl Fisher and his wife, Lois

## Goodbyes are Hard, Continued

And that brings us to another reluctant “goodbye”

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 also followed up with patients who had been in the hospital, either as an in-patient or in the Emergency Department.

When COVID-19 struck, Anne contacted these patients more often to make sure they understood how to take care of their health and to ensure that they had food, medicine, and follow-up appointments as needed. At times, she was the only person that these patients talked to for days, and her patients eagerly anticipated her calls to lessen their feelings of isolation.

Anne told us in May of her intention to move to Charleston to be closer to family. Although we were happy for her, staff and volunteers were heartsick about her leaving. In July, a “Drive-by Goodbye” was held in her honor so that her many clinic friends could have a chance to wish Anne well on her move to Charleston.

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



## Meet Our Ambassadors

### Anne Whitaker

Anne Whitaker may be new to Pawleys Island, but she has a long history with Smith Medical Clinic.

Originally from Lynchburg Virginia, young Anne's pediatrician was Dr. Ed Vaden. Dr. Ed was one of the first Doctors recruited by Dr. Cathcart Smith to volunteer at the clinic in the 1980's. She also dated Dr. Vaden's son when she was in college, and heard more about Smith Clinic during that time.

Last year, as she and her husband were planning their retirement to Pawleys Island from Nashville, Tennessee, they began looking for a church to join. It was then that Anne remembered Smith Medical Clinic was on the campus of Holy Cross Episcopal Church. She immediately got in touch with our gala committee and donated to our gala Auction.



Since moving here, Anne has become a huge blessing to the clinic. What are some of the many things she has done? She has baked some of the best cookies we have ever tasted to brighten the days of our providers, staff and volunteers. She has made masks for our patients. She procured some of the best rare bourbons for our future gala. She has written letters to her neighbors, introducing them to Smith Medical Clinic, and she's been a fabulous sounding board to our committees. She does it all.

Anne says, "everyone has gifts and talents that they can, and should, share with others." She is a gift to Smith Clinic.



### Marianne Anderson

Pictured left is the Bible Study class at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church where longtime volunteer Marianne spoke about Smith Clinic and the services we provide.

## Tammy's Story: "I don't know what I would do without Smith Clinic."



Tammy Howell has been a Smith Clinic patient for over 10 years, having lost her insurance after her divorce. "Smith Clinic has been a lifesaver for me," she says, kind eyes sparkling above her mask. "I don't know what I would do without this place."

After a recent medical visit, Tammy Howell came to my office to tell me how much she appreciated the "wellness check" telephone calls she receives regularly from Anne Duncan, a SMC volunteer nurse. She said that the calls meant a lot to her, and that she was grateful to Anne for checking to make sure she was able to get her medicine and that she was doing ok, especially during the pandemic.

Tammy was working as a waitress when she started coming to the clinic. During the tourist season, she made decent money, however, during the off-season she often found it difficult to make ends meet. Always determined and hard-working, she held yard sales to earn a little extra income. Eventually, she found a job as a caregiver four nights a week. "I couldn't do it without the clinic," she says, "I have to take care of my diabetes and high blood pressure, otherwise, there is no way I could work those 12-hour shifts."

Tammy is also grateful to SMC for helping her get much-needed surgery this year. "I appreciate all of you. Everyone is so nice and helpful. You just don't know how much it means to me."

Thank YOU, Ms. Tammy, for your hard work and positive attitude towards taking care of your own health so you can take care of others.



Smith Medical Clinic has been selected by Bi-Lo as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program!

***For the month of September, Smith Medical Clinic will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at BI-LO, located at 115 Willbrook Boulevard, Pawleys Island SC.***

# Patient Partners

**Corks, LLC**

**Jason and Trava Hendrix**

**Fred Leuthauser and Kathleen Hughes**

**Theo and Janet Krapels**

**Dr. Michael Malone**

**Chad and Autumn O'Brien**

**Harold and Claudia Stowe**

**John Tindale**

## Charter Patient Partners

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Chris Arnold  
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Eric Braman  
Keith and Dreema Brunnemer  
Keith Bird and Nancy Laprade  
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Carl and Lois Fisher  
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George and Ruth Baxter Foundation  
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Deb Harris  
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Oma Hodges  
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Donald and Janel Rowland  
Isabelle Rowland  
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Rick and Laurie Russell  
Harold and Eva Scharfstein  
Esther Sharp  
Dale and Angie Short  
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Creative Landscapes, Inc.  
FASTSIGNS Of Myrtle Beach  
Satterfield Interior Design  
South State Bank  
Whitmire Fine Jewelry

## Faith-Based Patient Partners

Belin Joy Class  
Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
Grace Circle, Belin United Methodist Church  
Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church  
Precious Blood Of Christ Church  
St. Mary Our Lady Of Ransom Catholic

Church  
St. Paul's Waccamaw United Methodist Church

## In Memory of

Abraham Nelson  
Alfred Adams  
Alma Goehres  
Amelia Arthur McFaddin  
Ann Montalvan  
Annette Sweeney  
Bill Perry  
Brandon Vaughn Madden  
Calvin and Mary Jane Hughes  
Cathcart and Nancy Smith  
Charles and Frances Smith  
Christy and Josie  
Chuck Swenson  
Cliff Smith  
David Charles May  
Doug Reid  
Dr. Canon Beverly Currin  
Dr. Ed Vaden  
Dr. Putt Pryor  
Ed Hamilton  
Eleanor Armstrong  
Eleanor Laprade  
George Vickery  
Gerry Kenyon  
Gwen Orth  
Jesse and Pearl Lee, and Mildred Dyches  
John Erman  
John Robinson  
Marion Rogers Coxe, Jessie Coggeshall Rogers, Mary Rogers Field, and Bachman Smith, III  
Mary Jane Hughes  
Melvin Green Nauss  
Michael Coward  
Mildred McLaurin  
Nancy Braman  
Neal Gallagher  
Paul Noble  
Robert Wigglesworth  
Rosellen Wimsatt  
Roddy Bell  
Tinker Rybolt  
Tom Charleson  
Tootie Baroody  
Virginia Osley  
William Thomas Conroy

## Annual Patient Partners

Tanya Ackerman  
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Suzi Bateman  
Ed and Dawn Bell  
Wendy Belser  
Larry and Joan Bertolucci  
Mike Bivona  
Douglas and Margret Bloom  
Charlie and Sally Brodhead  
John and Marty Brownlow  
Margaret Bruno  
Thomas and Susan Bruns  
Simon and Anna Bula  
Harry and Becky Butler  
Georganne Byrd  
Lissa Byrd  
Mike and Elizabeth Calabrese  
J. Carey  
Janet Caruso  
Art Cates  
Nancy Cave  
Steve and Brenda Chapman  
Warner and Carol Cole  
Karonda Collins  
James and Jane Cooper  
Paul and Myrna Cott  
Robert and Kathy Cox  
Harry Crichton  
Lucille Jones and Julia Cripps  
Jean Cross  
George Cunningham and Dorothy Faul  
Blum Shapiro Foundation  
Dorothy D'Ambrosio  
Rick and Bonnie Danser  
Thomas and Elizabeth Davis  
Daryll Degraaf and Lavonne Wieringa  
Sloan Derrick  
Jonathan and Margaret Dieter  
Tucker Dieter  
Mark Doran  
Darrel and Joan Dore  
Richard and Caroline Drummond  
Anne Duncan  
Suzanne Edkins  
Carl Eggiman  
Scott and Sheila Ellison  
Harriett Enzor

Natalie Erhard  
Joseph and Sandra Fee  
Philip and Meg Filiatrault  
David Fink  
Patrick and Tracie Fisher  
Richard and Vicki Flathers  
Walter and Winnie George  
Karen Glendinning  
Carolyn Gonyea  
Emerson and Jane Gower  
Vicki Grant  
Kenneth and Joy Griffith  
Brian and Gloria Haas  
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Frank And Nancy Hawkins  
Clark and Ginny Hayes  
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Jeffrey and Michele Herwig  
Marianne Hight  
Rock and Lib Hinson  
Bill, Laura, and Carter Huffman  
Gail Huffman-Joley  
Fred Leuthauser and Kathleen Hughes  
Glen and Libby Insley  
Henry and Betty Jobe  
Joanna Jones  
Louis and Andi Jones, III  
Larry and Kathy Judge  
Paul and Mary Jo Karre  
Catherine Kelley  
Tom and Theresa Kendrick  
Jim and Cissy Knapp  
Sam and Kay Koonce  
Catherine Kremzner  
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Jonathan Mackey  
Richard and Pamela Mahany  
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William Marchal  
Jan Mashman  
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Marion and Janet Parsons  
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James and Amy Swartz  
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Edward and Sydney Taylor  
Michael Thomas  
William and Christine Thompson  
Michael and Celie Travis  
Sharon Valentine  
Susan Wallace  
Olin and Linda Warren  
Bruce and Holly Watts  
Dina Wells  
Jim and Rita Whalen  
Benton and Elisabeth Williamson  
Payton and Angela Worley  
Phyllis Wrigglesworth  
Owen and Dawn Wright



Like and Follow us on Facebook: **Smith Medical Clinic, Inc.**,  
and on Instagram: **@smithmedicalclinic!**

## 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 Gere's symptoms, Fred Polando, PA, diagnosed him with congestive heart failure and immediately sent him to the emergency room. Gere 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," Gere 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."

Gere 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."



Jere (far right) pictured with his wife, brother, and sister-in-law



**Big thanks to Target Circle for their giving program and to our community for all of your support! You went out and cast your votes, and made Smith Medical Clinic the nonprofit recipient for the month of June 2020.**

**We can't thank you enough!**

## Chuck Swenson

Chuck Swenson, a retired school administrator, died July 20 at the Lakes at Litchfield. He was 97.

Mr. Swenson worked with Dr. Cathcart Smith to help refurbish a mobile home, fixing walls, stairs, and adding cabinets, that would become the very first Smith Medical Clinic building.

He was born Charles Nathaniel Swenson, Sept. 19, 1922, in Chicago, the son of Albin F. Swenson and the former Jennie R. Olson. He grew up in Erie, Pa. His father was an engineer with General Electric who died when Chuck was 3. His mother took in boarders during the Depression. He graduated from North Park College in Chicago and served in the Navy as a chaplain's assistant during World War II. During training at Middlebury College in Vermont, he met and married the former Betty Lou Chamberlain.

Mr. Swenson attended Yale Divinity School and intended to go into the ministry. He worked summers at a boys camp in Vermont run by his father-in-law, a teacher at Rye Country Day School in New York. That experience led him to earn a teaching degree from the New York State Teachers College in Oswego.

He had been an avid woodworker since childhood and started teaching industrial arts, which was also known as shop class.

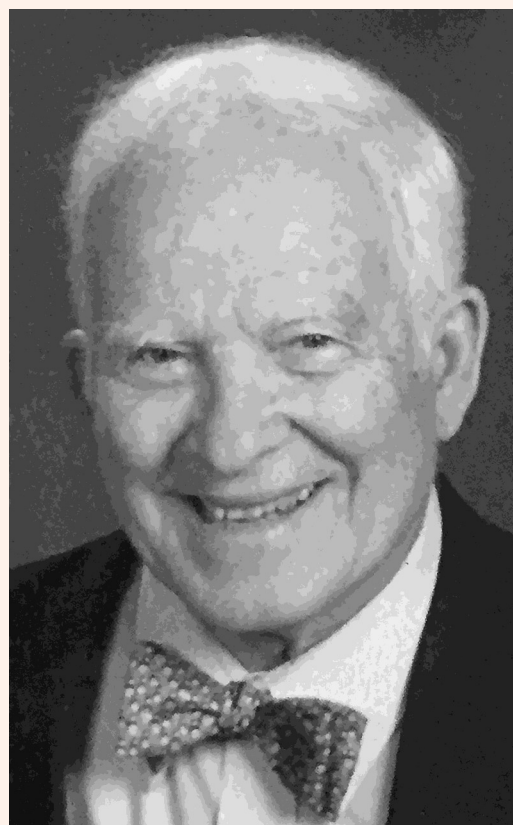
He taught in Vermont and New York before taking a position as a guidance counselor at Pocantico Hills Central School District in the Rockefeller estate in New York. He earned a master's degree from Hunter College and later became the assistant administrator at the district, overseeing the expansion of the school and its integration in the 1970s. He received the annual humanitarian award from the local radio station.

Mr. Swenson retired in 1979 and moved with his wife to North Litchfield Beach. He was a member and lay reader at All Saints Church, where he also sang in the choir and helped start the preschool. He worked with Ruby Forsythe at Holy Cross Faith Memorial School, tutoring students and helping maintain the campus. It was during this time that he became involved with Dr. Smith, setting up a mobile home on the site that became what is now the Smith Medical Clinic.

After the death of his wife in 1986, Mr. Swenson married the former Greta A. Lindquist, a teacher in Santa Barbara, Calif., where they lived until her retirement. He worked in the facilities department at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. He was also involved in church missions that took him to Kenya and Nepal to build schools and built homes in the U.S.

The couple moved to Michigan, where Greta Swenson died in 2017. Mr. Swenson returned to the Pawleys Island area to live at the Lakes at Litchfield. His last building project was a model sailboat that he sailed in the lakes.

He is survived by his son, Charles R. Swenson (Squeaky), and grandson, Trevor E. Swenson, all of Pawleys Island; and several nieces and nephews.





## Meet Smith Medical Clinic's Newest Employee



We are thrilled to announce that LaDezsha Elmore has accepted the Administrative Assistant position here at SMC. She will be working at the Pawleys Island clinic part-time, 4 days a week.

As many of you know, LaDezsha completed a 1-year internship with Smith Medical Clinic in 2019/2020. During that time, she assisted with all aspects of the administrative function of the clinic, concentrating on medical records management, scheduling, and answering patient inquiries. She established a reputation throughout the clinic for her positive attitude and excellent work ethic.

LaDezsha is currently pursuing an Associates Degree in Biology at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in preparation for her goal of attending medical school. She is a Certified Medical Assistant and is also certified in Phlebotomy and EKG. Prior to joining SMC, LaDezsha worked in retail sales.

Please join us in welcoming LeDezsha (back) to Smith Medical Clinic!

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## Same Employee, New Position

Brandy Price Beckford has been the Operations Coordinator at the clinic for several years already. She has played many roles, from answering phone calls to ordering office supplies to implementing new technologies (much to everyone's dismay).

Brandy is now taking on the role of Marketing and Systems Support Specialist to support fundraising and publicity for the Clinic. Don't worry, she will still come fix the computer when you need it. Congrats Brandy!



**Smith Medical Clinic, Inc.**

99 Baskervill Drive

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

## Dr. Cathcart Smith

Smith Medical Clinic was established in 1985 by Dr. Cathcart Smith and his wife Nancy in an 8-foot wide trailer with office and medical equipment from Dr. Smith's former medical office. Initially, Dr. Smith recruited five retired doctors and a dozen nurses to volunteer at the Clinic. This volunteer model has become a Smith Clinic tradition. Today, over 200 volunteers, aided by a small, part-time staff and financial support from our community, provide complete medical care for over 2,000 low-income, uninsured, Georgetown County residents a year for less than \$250 per patient per year.

*“ For years, I had suggested to many retirees who had come under my care that they should consider retiring to something rather than from something.”*

### Contact Us

Call for information about our services and volunteer opportunities.

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Georgetown, SC 29440

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