## Summer 2017



From Anne Faul, ED: "We've had an amazing year so far!"

SMC has already experienced amazing growth and success in 2017:

- 1000 patients, including 252 new patients, have received care from 207 volunteers in 2,773 visits
- 775 patients have been seen in our new Pawleys Island facility.
- Our annual gala at Franks Outback completely sold out and raised over \$170,000 for patient care.
- Patient care hours have expanded at both the Georgetown and Pawleys Island locations.
- The number of vision care clinics offered has doubled.
- Pat Ames, ANP is doing a wonderful job in her role as the new SMC Clinical Director.
- Operations Director, Dina Wells, raised nearly \$15,000 on Palmetto Giving Day.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our volunteers and supporters. Thanks to you, uninsured folks in our community who need medical attention but have no way to pay for it can receive free medical care. Thanks for all you do to build a healthier, more resilient community!



## IN OUR PATIENTS' WORDS:

"Smith Medical again has helped us. My son has been sick for awhile, but we never had money to go to the doctor. All of the staff is great, not like most places where if you don't have the funds, you are treated like a welfare case. Sometimes people get down on their luck. Here at Smith Clinic everyone is treated the same." -Jennifer S.

## Sold-Out Crowd Enjoys Beautiful Evening at Frank's Outback



This year's Smith Clinic Gala was a fantastic success. On April 23rd, more than 250 SMC supporters converged on Frank's Outback for an incredible evening of fun, fellowship and philanthropy. The sold- out crowd enthusiastically bid on over 60 auction items while sampling an amazing array of delicious temptations and libations – all in the gorgeous setting of Frank's Outback.

Under the skillful direction of gala chair Kathleen Hughes and a fun-loving planning team, this year's gala featured exciting auction items including luxurious accommodations in exotic destinations like Tuscany, Steamboat Springs, Portugal and Telluride. Auctioneer Joe Exum entertained the crowd with infectious enthusiasm as he encouraged spirited, but friendly competitive bidding on popular live auction items. Silent auction packages included one-of-a-kind experiences like paddling a Dragon Boat on the Waccamaw River or touring Georgetown County in a private plane. From spa treatments to keg parties with live bands, there was truly something for everyone.

More than just the perennial social event of the spring season, the Smith Clinic Gala is a community-wide gathering of individuals and businesses that want to make a difference in Georgetown County. Thanks to the generosity of Woofie and Salters McClary, owners of Franks, sponsors, donors and supporters, over \$170,000 was raised to support Smith Medical Clinic's mission: to provide free medical care for low-income people in Georgetown County that do not have health insurance.

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#### **Patient Partners**

Patient Partners is an annual giving program for donors who contribute \$250 or more to the clinic every year. Why \$250? Because it costs just \$250 to provide complete medical care for a Smith Medical Clinic patient for a full year. Heartfelt "thanks" to our Patient Partners who directly and dramatically improve the lives of those in need right here in our community.

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## **Reducing Isolation for Homeless Patients**

With assistance from Verizon Wireless, SMC is piloting a program to provide a free cell phone with unlimited calling and text to homeless or near-homeless patients. Patients who receive the phones agree to answer calls or return calls from the clinic within 4 hours or risk having the phone deactivated. Our assumption at the beginning of the pilot was that patients



would benefit by being able to contact the clinic and other agencies to access services. What we discovered, however, is that empowering patients to connect with friends and family has had even more impact. To date, the only phone that has been deactivated was at the patient's request because, as a result of being able to get in touch with family, he got a place to live and a job — and even-

tually his own cell phone. Another dramatic example of the impact of the cell phone program was a patient who told us that without the phone and constant phone support from SMC and her mom while she was on the streets, she never would have gotten into rehab for heroin addiction. She just celebrated 90 days clean and sober. We are meeting with the Verizon rep to discuss expanding the program from 10 patients to 20 over the summer.

#### Thank you for Supporting Palmetto Giving Day!

Many, many thanks go out to all our supporters who helped make Palmetto Giving Day a huge success. Dina Wells, SMC Operations Director, spent months planning the clinic's participation in this wonderful event. PGD culminated in 24-hours of giving and a fun "live" event at the Hammock Shops in Pawleys Island on May 2.



Thanks to the generosity of the Tamsberg Family Foundation, the clinic received matching funds for donations made on May 2, which helped raise nearly \$15,000, exceeding our goal

May 2, which helped raise nearly \$15,000, exceeding our goal for the event. These funds will be put to good use, providing specialty care for SMC patients. Thanks to everyone who contributed to Palmetto Giving Day and thanks to Dina for organizing a great SMC campaign!

#### **Get Involved!**

#### Refer a Patient

Every day, we interact with people who need care. We're accepting new patients that:

- 1. Live in Georgetown County
- 2. Do not have medical insurance, Medicaid or Medicare
- 3. Household income falls below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

#### Volunteer

Join us as a volunteer! All skills needed. Special projects available Contact Dina Wells at dwells@smithfreeclinic.org

#### **Support the Clinic**

Every \$1 donated generates nearly \$10 in health care services Become a Patient Partner and provide complete medical care for a patient for \$250 per year. Visit our website to learn more. www.smithfreeclinic.org

### Volunteer Spotlight: Eric Robles



Eric Robles is a valued member of the SMC volunteer corps since October 2016, following his graduation from Coastal Carolina University. His ambition is to become a medical doctor and his early acceptance to four

medical schools affirms that he can and will achieve his goal. If you spend any time at all with this remarkable young man, you will also realize that he can achieve most anything he sets his sights on!

Eric is the only son in a family of four children. He has three sisters: a twin who is a behavioral therapist working with autistic children, an older sister who is an occupational therapist, and a younger sister who is a student at Waccamaw Middle School. Eric's parents, Maria and Arturo Robles, are the people he most admires, and he believes that life's greatest sadness would be the loss of family. "(it) has not been easy for my parents as first generation immigrants, but with a strong family/friend support system, we have been able to achieve what would have been otherwise impossible," said Eric.

Eric was born in Kansas, but lived most of his life before high school in Colorado. The move to South Carolina was hard for him because he had to leave his childhood friends and make new friends in a new and very different place. Despite his initial reluctance to be uprooted, he was able to adjust to the change and was very successful in high school and college.

In addition to volunteering at the clinic multiple days each week, Eric works full-time at Waccamaw and Georgetown Hospitals as an Emergency Department medical scribe. As if that weren't enough, he also works at Oceans One Restaurant.

"We are amazed and grateful that Eric finds the time to volunteer," exclaims Anne Faul, Executive Director. "We are so thankful to have Eric's help—he displays remarkable maturity, skill and poise. Patients and volunteers just love him!"

As a volunteer at the clinic, Eric wears several hats. He acts as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients during their medical visits, schedules patient appointments, answers the patient line, while also transcribing medical charts into the clinic electronic health record. "I want to be able to reach a broader population to help bring healthcare to those who find it inaccessible due to barriers, be it language or financial."

Amazingly, Eric has been accepted to MUSC in Charleston, the USC-Schools of Medicine in Columbia and Greenville, the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, and the St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Very few applicants have the luxury of choosing between four medical schools, but Eric modestly admits that he was surprised that he was accepted at all four schools.

It is so very evident that Eric will bring great skill and compassion to his medical career. We hope that Smith Medical Clinic contributed in some way to his development – he certainly has contributed mightily to the patients served here at the clinic! We will miss you, Eric!

Smith Medical Clinic 99 Baskervill Drive Pawleys Island, SC 29585

"Helping our community by helping each other."

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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.