

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*Providing compassionate, skilled medical care
to those in need.*



January / February 2024

<https://gnfmcbeaufort.org>

STAFF & VOLUNTEER UPDATE



Drs. Folzenlogen, Baehren,
& Kessel

GNMC recently experienced a changing of the guard. Our beloved Medical Director for the past 3 years, **Steven Kessel, MD** passed the torch to **David Baehren, MD** at our Providers & Partners reception graciously hosted by **Mike & Dana Wheeler**. We will miss seeing him on a regular basis, but are glad to keep his strong ties to the clinic as the first member of GNMC's new Advisory Council. We also recognized **Doug Folzenlogen, MD** for taking the reins as Interim Medical Director during the transition.



Cassi Kilpatrick presented Dr. Kessel with a Heart Award as a token of gratitude for his leadership. It read "Thank you for Serving with a Joyful Heart," which is exactly what he did. Dr. Kessel is seen with Dana Wheeler on the right. Dana was his Volunteer RN at GNMC.



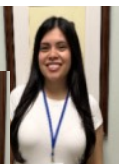
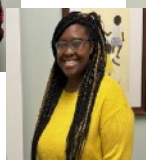
We bid a fond farewell to longtime volunteers, **Mike Masters** and **Jeanine Herring**, and to **Julie Clemmer, Lead RN**. Jeanine and Mike (pictured here) were staples at the front desk for many years, and Mike was our go-to for fixing things around the clinic. We were thrilled to see him recently as one of the singing Harbor Masters! Julie served with a generous heart supporting our patients, nurse volunteers, and providers. They will be dearly missed by all. We wish them the best in their journeys, are so grateful for them leaving GNMC better than they found it!



In January, we celebrated the First Work Anniversary of our Clinical Director, **Sarah Smith**, seen here. GNMC is blessed to have Sarah's expertise and energy in the clinic.



GNMC welcomed three new volunteers! **Michelle Jerome, RN** joined our Referrals team, and **Zoey Fraizer** and **Zahory Bernabe Villegas** joined as Intake volunteers.



CASSI'S CORNER

GNMC wrapped up another exciting year. We delivered \$4.6 million worth of medical services and prescriptions to our nearly 700 patients in 2023. Our 103 volunteers donated 9,875+ hours of service providing 3,626 total medical visits, 407 on-site lab tests, and 16,573 prescriptions provided at no charge. We provided 872 specialty care visits through referrals and over 2,900 labs and imaging tests. We also invested in the future of health-care by training 16 future nurses, one Community Health Worker, and 4 college interns.

The big news last year was our addition of transportation through our new partnership with Lowcountry Outreach, as well as our 22% growth in referrals to specialty care. As we improve our screening processes to include social determinants of health, we continue to reach out into the community to find partners to support those needs. We are grateful to have so many willing collaborators in the Lowcountry.

We continue to be so fortunate in our ability to recruit amazing talent to support our mission. Dr. Kessel and I welcomed Dr. David Baehren to our staff in January. Since Dr. Kessel shifted to our Advisory Council, Dr. Baehren now serves as the Medical Director of GNMC. He has a strong background in Emergency Medicine, and is also a published author. A fun fact and my favorite part of the story of recruiting Dr. Baehren is how and where we found him. Our paths first crossed while he was being a Good Neighbor, volunteering with his church mission group, LOVE BEAUFORT, from The Parish Church of St. Helena, on a lawn maintenance project. Once again, GNMC's Medical Director is not only a well respected physician, but one with a heart for service. We are truly blessed!

~ Cassi

GRANT NEWS

The conclusion of the year always marks a pivotal time for grant and partner funding, and this year has been no exception. We are privileged to continue our partnerships with esteemed organizations such as **AmVets Post 70 Ladies, Bargain Box, Coastal Community Foundation – Southern Lowcountry Grant, First Presbyterian Church, Friends of Callawassie Island, Old Village Association, Owenoke Foundation, Pledge the Pink Foundation, and St. Peter’s Catholic Church.**

GNMC is grateful for the ongoing grant support from the **Pledge the Pink Foundation**. For the first time GNMC received funding from a Pledge the Pink team (**Nathalie Howell and the Wandering Warriors**). Teams surpassing \$5,000 in fundraising can allocate 75% of the funds raised to the non-profit of their choice. We are so appreciative to be their chosen non-profit!



Furthermore, we are pleased to welcome new supporters into our network, including **Lighthouse Christian Church, Rotary Club of the Lowcountry, and Tidal Creek Fellowship.**

As we stepped into the new year, GNMC reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing collaborations with **Beaufort County Human Services Alliance, State of SC DHHS Contract, and St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.** Additionally, we are thrilled to forge new alliances with partners such as **Charter One Realty and Laughing Acres Family Foundation.**

In January, GNMC hosted the **Women in Philanthropy** Grants in Action Team for a tour of the clinic and lunch. We had so much fun sharing our mission and providing stories and insight into our critical work in Beaufort. Thank you for taking the time to visit us and see first-hand the impact of your generous support.



We extended a warm welcome and tour to **Friends of Callawassie Island**, represented by Grants Coordinator Jeff Funky and President Susan Silver.

Dr. Baehren, Susan Silver, Cassi Kilpatrick, Janie Lackman, Jeff Funky



Executive Director, Cassi Kilpatrick, and Development Director, Janie Lackman, were presented with a check from the **Charter One Realty** team. Thank you Charter One for supporting our mission!

Cassi, Janie, and Michael Mark of Charter One holding the check

OUTREACH



In December, Volunteer **Dene McCain, RN**, represented GNMC by receiving a donation from **Rotary Club of the Lowcountry** (pictured on left). In January, **Leadership Beaufort** (seen on the right) visited GNMC. We also had the privilege of presenting at the **2024 Beaufort Senior Leadership Class**, followed by a tour of our clinic to further expand on the services we offer.



We also participated in the **Expo at the Downtown Beaufort Library** alongside other local non-profit partners. We always welcome opportunities to share our mission in the community.



GNMC staff and volunteer board members attended the **South Carolina Free Clinic Association (SCFCA) Conference** in Greenville, SC. This experience provided opportunities to connect with Free Clinic Leaders and stakeholders from across the state.

GNMC was recognized for our **AmeriCorps** Community Health Worker program, as we showed a 45% improvement in health outcomes and positive change in health behaviors of enrolled clients in 2023! GNMC was also asked to present on two of our partnerships that allow us to provide unique services to our patients: transportation assistance and transitioning patients to other primary care when they are no longer eligible for our services. GNMC was excited to learn more about the new **Roadmap to Health Equity** program, sponsored by **NAFC, Americares and Loyola University**. GNMC agreed to be an “early adopter” in gathering important data as an effort to support this initiative being driven by BCBS and the SCFCA. We look forward to sharing the positive outcomes.

See <https://www.healthroadmap.org/about-roadmap/>



Vanessa Cortes, Susie Roos, Janie Lackman, Lisa Wilt, Dr. Baehren, Sarah Smith, Cassi Kilpatrick at the conference



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives





COMMUNITY PARTNERS



GNMC continues to reach out into the community to get the services needed to treat our patients. We could not serve our mission without our community partners.

Wise Vision Care, LLC, has agreed to continue assisting our patients in need of eyewear. Join us in thanking Dr. Farah Wise and her team for supporting our patients.



GNMC benefitted from our partnership with **Community Foundation of the Lowcountry** as they hosted the **Lowcountry Executive Director Leadership Program**. Join us in congratulating our Executive Director, **Cassi Kilpatrick**, and all the graduates on their completion and graduation from the program. Local nonprofit leaders took part in the yearlong program, facilitated by Neil Sklarew, an experienced executive coach and former manager of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits consulting group.



The 2023 program graduates are (pictured from left with Neil Sklarew) **Cassi Kilpatrick (Good Neighbor Medical Clinic)**, Leah Arnold (Hilton Head Island Recreation Center), Lili Coleman (Meals on Wheels Bluffton-Hilton Head), Dr. John Newman (Volunteers in Medicine Hilton Head Island), Dr. Ponchitta Young (Agape Family Life Center), and Constance Martin-Witter (Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen).

Thank you to Pepsi for the generous donation of water for our volunteers and patients, with special thanks for delivering it to the clinic.




Do you know how Good Neighbor Patients qualify to become members at our clinic? See our updated website for details: www.gnfmcbeaufort.org

!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

Spring brings a flurry of activity to the Lowcountry. We relish opportunities to engage with our local partners. The following is a list of upcoming events:

- **March 1-2**, GNMC will proudly support our giving partner, **The Beaufort Charities**, during their annual **Palooza in the Park**.
- **March 8** marks an exciting collaboration as GNMC joins forces with the **Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation** to host **Coffee with Colleagues** in partnership with the **Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce**. Join us at the Addiction Medicine Clinic from **8:30-9:30 am** for engaging conversations and networking opportunities.
- **March 9 from 5-7pm** **St. John's Lutheran Church** will host a delightful **Chili Cook-off** to benefit GNMC. Come show your support while enjoying fun competition between Pastors and local chefs.
- **April 20** GNMC will lend a hand to our supporters at the **Old Village Association** for their annual **Soft Shell Crab Festival**.
- **April 27-28, 3rd Annual GNMC Pickleball Classic Tournament** at the **Beaufort Yacht & Sailing Club**. This tournament promises excitement for players and spectators alike. Opportunities to get involved include playing, sponsoring, volunteering, and more. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE SILENT AUCTION!** Visit our website for more details and to register at <https://gnfmcbeaufort.org>



St. John's
Lutheran Church
*Sharing God's Grace,
Serving Through Love*



Good Neighbor
Medical Clinic

Annual Community
Chili Cookoff
to benefit the Good Neighbor Medical Clinic

St. John's Lutheran Church
157 Lady's Island Drive, Beaufort SC
March 9, from 5-7 pm

COMPETE!
*Enter your chili for bragging rights and fun prizes.
"Celebrity" Judges will conduct blind judging!
All chili should be brought in a crockpot and must
arrive by 4:45 pm to be judged. See "rules" on reverse.*

AND EAT!
*Minimum Donation: \$8 per person/\$24 per family
Donations received at the door.
ALL donations given go to the Good Neighbor Clinic.*

GNMC Pickleball Classic



APRIL 27 & 28

**Beaufort Yacht
& Sailing Club**

gnfmcbeaufort.org

SHOUT OUTS!



A **SHOUT OUT** to **Ingrid Schweitzer** for dedicating extra time and energy to revising the Front Desk Manual and helping with volunteer training.

A **SHOUT OUT** to **Carol Gelormino** for assisting with volunteer training.

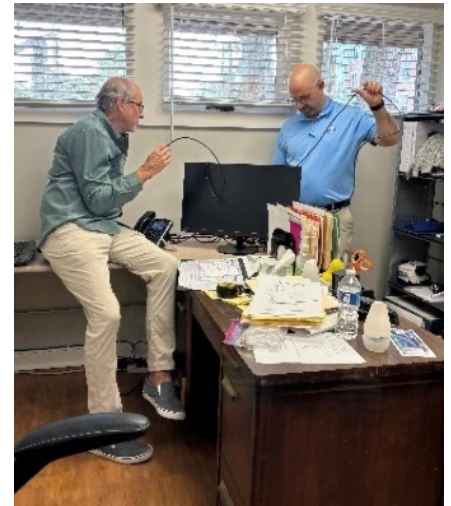
A **SHOUT OUT** to **Jeff Mason** and **Carl Kilpatrick** for moving and setting up desks throughout the clinic.

A **SHOUT OUT** to **Charlotte Perry** for an excellent job presenting at Peer-to-Peer training for AmeriCorps on her role as a Community Health Worker at GNMC.

A **SHOUT OUT** to **Jan House** for donating socks to be given out to our patients.

A **SHOUT OUT** to **Kathy Tupper, Kathy Shields, Pam Goldschmidt, Dene McCain** and **Patricia Bowman, NP** for volunteering during an inclement weather day.

A **SHOUT OUT** to **Dene McCain**, for getting a microwave donated by Barbara Guille, and for covering the clinic while staff attended the SCFCA Conference.



Board of Directors

James Grimsley, *Chair* ~ Lisa Wilt, *Vice Chair* ~ Alice Moss, *Treasurer* ~ Susan Roos, DNP, *Secretary*
Karen Carroll, DNP ~ Dana Wheeler, RN, MSN ~ The Rev. Dr. E. Ann Nobles
Kathy Baxley ~ Fred Washington, Jr.



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