



Quarter
Notes

6392 Murphy Drive - Morrow, Georgia 30260

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<http://godshep.org>

2010 Winter Issue

Dr. Good Shepherd says.....

This past year saw a record number of patients receive medical care at the Good Shepherd Clinic. Our staff provided medical care for 2,452 patients; an increase of 30% over 2008.

Your generous support has impacted many homes and families who are unable to provide for themselves. In spite of the poor economy, your financial support, your time and your talents as a volunteer made it possible for us to provide care for a record number of patients in 2009.

Just imagine for the next few moments as you read this: you are someone needing the care of a physician. You lost your job several months ago and your medical insurance has been cancelled. Income is scarce or nonexistent.

What funds you have must be used for food and shelter. This is the exact problem in our community that needs our services at the clinic.

Last year the clinic medical services grew in every area; blood tests, diabetic testing, free medications, etc. The vision of our founders continues as the clinic staff, volunteers and directors plan for the future.

We need additional physicians and nurses to volunteer on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings and afternoons. In addition we need office volunteers for various functions on each of the same days.

If you are willing to serve once a week or once a month for a four-hour shift, please contact the Clinic Administrator Lisa Page, or Jane Ennis at Godshep@bellsouth.net or by phone at 770-968-1310.

Expanded Services to Chronically Ill Patients bring Grants to Good Shepherd Clinic

**By Jane Ennis,
Assistant Clinic Administrator**

The Clinic was blessed with several grants in 2009 that will help to expand and provide more comprehensive services to our patients, many who suffer with chronic diseases. These grants will also enable us to continue to increase the number of new patients served by the Good Shepherd Clinic.

During the last quarter of 2009, grant partners included Kaiser Permanente (\$50,000); St. Luke's Episcopal Church (\$7,500); United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta in Collaboration with the Georgia Free Clinic Network (\$34,000) and the Clayton County Board of Commissions (\$10,000).

These grants will be used to respond to the needs of the majority of our patients – those who suffer with chronic diseases. And what exactly are chronic diseases?

A chronic disease is a disease that can be controlled but not cured; and it is a disease that lasts indefinitely. This summary definition was paraphrased from reviews of several professional medical articles that were presented as definitions for the general public. Additional notes included that the

number of chronically ill people is rapidly growing in the United States as the country's population ages.

Among the diseases that are presented in the greatest numbers at the Clinic include diabetes – type 1 and type 2, hypertension (high blood pressure), respiratory (asthma) and cardiovascular complications. Because each of these diseases requires constant monitoring, medication adjustments and on-going education to manage, the monies granted by these funders will provide additional staffing, medication, medical supplies, equipment and educational materials. In addition, some of these funds are ear-marked for technology advancement and remodeling/facility improvements.

These grants will enable the Clinic to employ part-time staff to assist with existing patients, whose visit does not require the services of a physician. This will free appointment time for new patient doctor visits.

As a supporter of Good Shepherd Clinic, it is our hope that should you meet anyone affiliated with these funding sources; please extend our appreciation for helping to care for our patients.

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Just like Baking Cookies!

By Lisa Page,
Clinic Administrator

As I stand here in my kitchen whipping up yet another batch of cookie dough, I ponder the situation at the Good Shepherd Clinic, i.e. what have we already accomplished and what do we want to accomplish in the future. You see, for me, the clinic’s past achievements and future endeavors parallel what’s going on in my kitchen.

My family recently replaced our old gas range with a brand new, squeaky clean, totally modern one – complete with five burners and no less than two ovens! I’ve been baking great cookies since the day it was installed. The clinic has also been “baking cookies” since the expansion was completed in November 2008.

During 2009 with a new facility and much more room, plus adding two additional Wednesday afternoon sessions, we increased our total patient visits by 27 percent or by adding more than 650 patient office visits. We have also been successful in partnering with medical providers in the community and now, thankfully, have some limited diagnostic testing options.

Southern Regional Medical Center continues to provide lab services. The number of volunteer medical and administrative staff has grown; and we have taken giant strides toward fully automating our patient records through collaboration with the Georgia Free Clinic Network and several other free clinics across the state.

As far as the future, we at Good Shepherd are looking forward to

celebrating our 10th year serving the folks of Clayton County. Our grant writing efforts have brought about funding that will enable us to add part-time medical assistants/phlebotomists, new medical equipment, and continue our efforts toward making the clinic totally modern with a technology overhaul as well as a new telephone system.

As of today, it looks like Good Shepherd will be busy “baking cookies” well into 2010 thanks to the continued support of the community in the form of contributions of both time and money. Let’s keep on cooking!

Good Shepherd Clinic Testimonials

Comments from a business donor....

“As I pulled into the parking lot of the church, the number of cars kind of blew me away. I did not for a moment consider that all of the cars would be clinic patrons. Upon entering the clinic though, my amazement was confirmed. The lobby was full, each and every seat, and the clinic as a whole was bustling with activity. I was able to look around at those waiting for services and saw folks who were not stripped of their dignity, but folks who were probably hard working and in need of just a little assistance. I felt very proud to be able to deliver a donation.”

2009 Fourth-Quarter Clinic Donors

- Tom Bennett
- Morris E. Braswell
- Debbie L. Bray
- Lecy G. Brunson
- Clayton County Board of Commissioners
- Faith United Methodist Women
- First Baptist Church of Morrow
- First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro
- Hiram Folds
- Gwen McQueen
- Virginia Merritt
- Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
- Margaret B. Shubert
- Langley C. Thomas
- Susan Wilson
- O.B. Wood
- Jane M. Young
- Frances T. Youngblood

Did You Know?

If you donate \$25 per month to the Good Shepherd Clinic, your donation provides insulin to one patient. A donation of \$50 per month provides \$350 worth of medical treatment.

The Good Shepherd Clinic Winter 2010

Design: Erin Fender
Layout/Editing: Mike Mead
Writers: Jane Enniss, Mike Mead, Lisa Page, Thomas Quisenberry, L.C. Thomas.

Volunteer Spotlight: Maggie Richardson

By Thomas Quisenberry

There is something contagious at the Good Shepherd Clinic. I am not referring to sniffles or aches, but something that each one of us should catch.

When I last walked into the Clinic, I heard loud, joyous laugh. Within seconds, it was joined by the happy expressions of others. Before you knew it, the laughter had caught on and there many people joining in on the moment of levity.

In the middle of this group, and no doubt the instigator, was Maggie Richardson. Maggie has volunteered at the clinic since February of 2006. She has done most everything in the clinic and currently works with patients on blood draws.

For many, the thought of a needle is scary and should be all out avoided. But with Maggie, fears subside, smiles replace frowns, and love is shared. Maggie told me that she loves her time in the clinic because she feels as if she

has been blessed and wants in turn to bless others.



Photo by Thomas Quisenberry

She told me that we are never too good to give back. The clinic is a better place with Maggie Richardson giving her time.

Do you feel the need to give back? Can you find a way to share your blessings with others? Feel free to contact the clinic to hear about volunteer opportunities.

MOST WANTED!

The Good Shepherd Clinic is in need of the following volunteer positions:

- Someone with a receptionist background to answer the telephone during Clinic open hours (Mondays from 3:30-9 p.m. & first/third Wednesdays from 1- 4 p.m.) and Wednesday afternoons.
- RN's
- MD's
- Also need physicians who will accept patient referrals for specialty care

Clinic 2010 Wish List

The following items are welcomed as a donation to keep the operating costs of the Clinic lower so that more dollar donations can go to our patients' care.

- Cotton Balls
- 8-1/2"x 11" White Copier Paper
- AA Batteries
- Scotch Tape
- Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes
- Small 4 oz Dixie Cups
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Silverware
- Napkins
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Medium Exam Gloves
- Extra Strength Tylenol Tablets
- Handi Wipes
- Staples
- Plain White Large Envelopes #10
- Alcohol Wipes (Not in the bottle)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Lined Writing Pads
- Flashlights & Batteries
- Power Strip Extension Cords
- Avery EZ Peel Labels #8460
- Dymo White File Folder Labels #30576
- Letter Size Clip Boards
- White Adhesive Labels for P-Touch Model PT150
- 8-1/2"X11 Yellow Copier Paper
- 8-1/2"X11 Blue Copier Paper
- Disposable Plates & Bowls
- Small Gladware Bowls with Lids

The Good Shepherd Clinic 2010 Directors

Alan L. Bergmann
 Angie Bell
 Eloise Belle Isle
 John Chafin
 Arnold Curtis
 Sam Jamison
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 Mitch Taylor
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 Susan A. Walsh
 Mary Ann Warlick
 Bert Watkins, Treasurer
 Jim Wood

The Good Shepherd Clinic Staff

Dr. Charles G. Johnson, Medical Director
Lisa Page, Clinic Administrator
Jane Enniss, Assistant Administrator
Chelsea Folds, Administrative Assistant
Millie Jones, Front Office Manager

About the Clinic

The Good Shepherd Clinic is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that offers free primary medical care for residents of Clayton County, who are not covered by an insurance program.

What Services Does The Clinic Provide?

- Primary medical care
- Patient health Education
- EKGs
- Laboratory Tests
- Selected surgical skin procedures
- Psychological counseling
- Evaluation by selected specialist
- Sample medications
- Pharmaceutical patient assistance program registration

If you would like to make a donation to the Clinic, please make your check payable to *The Good Shepherd Clinic, Inc.* and mail it to the address below.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Mark Your Calendars
The 10th annual
Tomato Sandwich Party**



**will be held
on Saturday,
August 7, 5-8 p.m.
Make plans to attend!**

The Good Shepherd Clinic

P.O. Box 6
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