

National Volunteers Week

April 18-24

Jennifer Glover-Hawkins

The Free Medical Clinic would like to thank our volunteers for helping us meet our needs. In 2009, volunteers provided 11,298 hours of service worth an estimated \$383,058. We will be honoring them on April 22, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Brookland Baptist Conference Center at our Annual Volunteer Banquet. To RSVP please call 765-1503 ext 205 or email at volunteer@freemedclinic.org. In addition, we will host special events and drawings with an opportunity to win door prizes each day at the clinic. ■

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The Free Medical Clinic

Our Mission

To provide quality healthcare, at no cost, to residents of the community who cannot pay for such services and who have no health insurance.



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A Patient's Perspective

Elizabeth S. Wynn



Donna Lever
Patient, The Free Medical Clinic

Donna Lever has been a patient of The Free Medical Clinic for the last six years. She suffers from ailments such as hypertension as well as severe neck and back pain due to her scoliosis, arthritis and a bulging disc in her neck. In 2006, Lever had emergency surgery due to a brain hemorrhage. With the help and guidance from The Free Medical Clinic, Lever was able to get the life-saving medicine she desperately needed but could not afford. When asked what The Free Medical Clinic means to her, Lever said, "If it wasn't for the clinic, I do not know what I would do without insurance. The staff is very, very helpful and because of them I am able to get

the medications I need." Because of the clinic, Lever is able to see a chiropractor who is working to alleviate the excruciating pain in her neck and back. Lever also expressed her appreciation for the clinic's referrals to outside physicians. Lever is sent yearly to Palmetto Health Baptist for a mammogram and Palmetto Health Richland for women's services. Through all of the years and wonderful encounters with The Free Medical Clinic's staff, nurses, doctors, pharmacists and friendly volunteers, Lever is extremely grateful. ■

In the Spotlight

- Donna Lever
- Robert Bly
- 2010 Golf-Tennis Sports Classic Tournaments
- 25 Cents for 25 Years
- Jane Addams' Award
- National Volunteer Week

Wish List

- Donors
- Volunteers
- Bathroom renovations
- Front entrance awning
- Staff entrance awning
- Copier paper
- Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue)

Contact Us

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Dennis Coker,
Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight

Judy Cotchett Smith



Professor Robert Bly

Bob Bly first encountered The Free Medical Clinic on a cold morning in early April 2007 standing in line outside the building with a homeless man in need of medical care. When the two reached the door, registered and entered the treatment area, they came face to face with FMC's physician, Elizabeth Darragh, a former student of the retired USC professor of organic chemistry.

Bob was impressed with the loving care given by FMC and the specialty visits they arranged for the homeless man whom he and his wife had befriended the previous year.

About a year and a half ago when Bob was looking for a different volunteer opportunity The Free Medical Clinic seemed to be a match for his skills and interests. "I had seen what they were doing and was impressed. There are many homeless people in our community that need our help."

Bly has been a faithful volunteer doing important administrative functions. Most recently, he has spent two to three hours a day, two to three days a week entering data into Connecting Communities of Care, a statewide indigent care database. "His efforts are extremely valuable to our clinic," said Executive Director Dennis Coker, "and to those in SC who will be using the data to understand better the health care of our uninsured citizens."

Robert Bly, PhD, volunteer. Join him, won't you? ■



2010 Golf-Tennis Sports Classic Tournaments

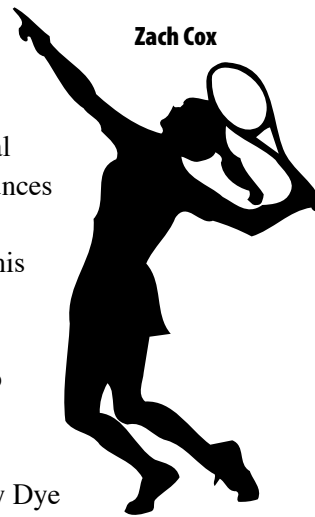
Columbia SC. The Free Medical Clinic proudly announces their upcoming 2010 summer golf and tennis

tournaments on June 18th and 19th!

This year's Golf Tournament will be held at the Windermere Club in Blythewood on Saturday, June 19th. The Windermere Club course, introduced in 1987, was designed by Dye Designs, the same designers of the TPC at Sawgrass and Harbour Town courses. The tournament will be a four-player modified captain's choice, or tramble competition. Individuals and teams are welcome, with the cost for a full four-man team at \$400 and the cost for an individual at \$125. Prizes will be awarded for the top teams, and there will even be a chance to win one million dollars for a hole-in-one. The shotgun start will be at noon on Saturday. Entries must be received by June 14th and can be sent to Bill Chandler at billchandler@longcreekplantation.com.

This year's Tennis Tournament to benefit The Free Medical Clinic will be held on Friday, June 18th and Saturday, June 19th at the Plantation Club at Longcreek. Another one of Blythewood's extraordinary sports facilities, the Plantation Club is a state-of-the-art tennis facility. The tournament this year will be doubles only and will take advantage of the facility's hard courts and clay courts. The entry fee for a doubles team is \$50.00 and the cost to attend the award ceremony is \$35.00. Prizes will be awarded to winners in each bracket. Entries must be received by June 14th and can be sent to tennis@longcreekplantation.com.

For more information regarding the tournaments, registration forms, or corporate sponsorships, please contact Jennifer Glover-Hawkins with The Free Medical Clinic at 803-765-1503 ext. 205 or volunteer@freemedclinic.org. ■



Zach Cox

25 CENTS for 25 Years Campaign

Tammie Epps

Well Supported By The Community

In this tight economy, raising an additional \$4,000 is an accomplishment, and that's exactly what the "25 Cents for 25 Years" campaign raised. "It was a fairly easy ask," said Carol Krebs, mission committee member at Bethel United Methodist Church. Krebs' church raised almost \$400 for the campaign, and she said that having the large jug near the entrance to the Sanctuary helped. "I wrote a series of four bulletin messages that gave information about The Free Medical Clinic and the service they have provided to the community over the past 25 years and asked our congregation to participate. It was a good time of year for the appeal and it went pretty well. We would have liked for it to be more, but we were happy to help in this small way."

The "25 Cents for 25 Years" campaign was designed to collect as many quarters or coins as possible in a water cooler container. The fundraiser started Oct. 1 and was slated to end Dec. 1 but was extended until April 1. The Free Medical Clinic provided the containers, including pickup and delivery, and promotional posters. Participants placed the containers in central, visible locations to allow others to donate.

In addition to organizations, like churches, that participated, a jug was placed in the lobby of the Clinic itself, which also raised \$400. Jennifer Glover-Hawkins, volunteer coordinator at the Clinic, said those who receive care at the center were willing to do whatever they could to help. "Our patients honor the care they receive at our Clinic, and although many of them don't have much, they are willing to do what they can. That's really rewarding."

The Clinic would like to extend a special thanks to all who participated in the campaign, including:

- A.C. Flora High School
- Anonymous Donors from *Doctors Lounge* event
- Barnes, Alford, Stork & Johnson, LLP
- Bethel UMC
- Bethel UMC Joy SS Class
- Hawthorne Pharmacy
- Hopkins Middle School
- JoAnne Day
- Laurel Endocrine Associates
- St. Joseph Catholic School
- Our Lady Of The Hills Catholic Church
- Providence Family Practice
- Patients of The Free Medical Clinic
- Schlotzsky's Deli
- Vapor Yest And Balance Company, LLC
- Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church

If you are interested in making a donation to The Free Medical Clinic, call Jennifer Glover-Hawkins at 765-1503 ext. 205 or volunteer@freemedclinic.org. ■

On April 1, 2010, The Free Medical Clinic was the recipient of The Jane Addams' Award given by the Human Services Program and Human Services Alumnae of Midlands Technical College at their 7th Annual Jane Addams' Award Gala held at Seawell's Banquet & Reception Center. The award is given to organizations who exemplify outstanding work in the community. ■