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Special Thanks
to
Total Lawn Care

for their generous and timely
donation of outdoor plantings.

Finished just in time for the Grand

Opening and Dedication,

these plantings will provide a

beautiful welcome to Free Clinic

visitors for years to come!



YES, I want to make a difference! Enclosed is my contribution to ensure vital health services to people who need it most.

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500
- \$1,000 Other: \$ _____

- I want to make a secure on-line donation with "Click & Pledge" at www.nrffreeclinic.org
- I wish to make a gift in Honor or in Memory of: _____

Please contact me about State of Virginia Tax Credits
(Limited credits available for \$500+ donation).

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities:

Name: _____

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Please complete and return to: Free Clinic of the New River Valley,
P.O. Box 371, Christiansburg, VA 24068-0371, Phone 540-381-0820

The Pulse

SPRING 2004



New Facility Brings Lasting Legacy To The New River Valley

The Free Clinic celebrated its *Grand Opening and Dedication* on April 1, 2004. Over 150 people were in attendance during the two and a half hour event. Mark Cruise with the Virginia Association of Free Clinics spoke at the dedication, noting that the Free Clinic's ability to work in partnership with the public and corporate sectors is a model to which others can look for how ordinary citizens can work together to help solve the mounting health care crisis.

The newly renovated 8,044 square foot facility in Christiansburg features more medical exam rooms, dental operatories, and pharmacy space, which will allow the Clinic to treat more patients with continued quality care. Richard Pantaleo, the Clinic director, praised the partners and contributors to the \$625,000 project whose lasting legacy will be the long-term health benefits to residents of the New River Valley.



(l. r.) Bob Rogers and Siti Salom of Architectural Alternatives; Mike Sexton, Community Housing Partners Corporation; and Richard Pantaleo, Free Clinic Executive Director

Moose Lodge Makes a Difference

Thanks to the vigilance and caring of Mrs. Jo Correll, a long-time Free Clinic volunteer, and a generous \$6,100 donation by the *Loyal Order of the Moose, Lodge 1470* in Christiansburg, Clinic doctors are now able to more effectively diagnose women's cervical and uterine cancer; and can more closely monitor medications for cardiovascular patients. The funds were used to purchase a Coloposcope, and a Prothrombin Time (or P.T.) machine. Prior to this, patients had to travel to Roanoke to receive this care which often resulted in patients either being unable to get to their appointments, or in Clinic physicians not receiving current test blood results.



(l. to r.) Harold Lester and Rick Cupp, Moose Lodge; Jo Correll, Patient Relations; and Carmen Willis, Medical Care Coordinator (Photo by Gene Morrell)

That is all changing now.

According to Carmen Willis, Medical Care Coordinator, "Women's health is a major issue, and there is a great need in Montgomery County and the surrounding areas for more cancer-preventative procedures. Likewise, patients with cardiovascular problems need frequent blood monitoring to check for possible clotting, and timely medication adjustment if necessary." For more information regarding women's health and chronic disease management call 381-0820, extension 24.



Dentist Joins Free Clinic Staff

Dr. Cameron Heydari began full-time at the Clinic in early February; and he is already making a significant contribution to meeting the oral health needs of residents of the New River Valley. In March alone, Dr. Heydari treated 240 patients with over \$34,000 worth of dental services. Dr. Heydari is a graduate of Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, and has extensive experience working in both the private and public health sectors. "I enjoy working at the Free Clinic," he said, "and it's great to help so many people that otherwise would go without treatment." Dr. Heydari also has in-depth training in oral surgery, and while in Tennessee, worked with the Oral Surgery Institute that provided treatment for the NFL Titans, and Nashville Hockey Team.

With a full-time dentist on staff, and a dedicated group of local volunteer dentists, the Clinic's Dental Program is now providing more comprehensive oral health procedures; and in partnership with Radford University's Waldron College, is providing patient education, dental health training for medical professionals, and raising community awareness. Look for more Dental Program developments in forthcoming issues of *The Pulse*.

ATTENTION FREE CLINIC SUPPORTERS

In case you are wondering...

- The Free Clinic of the New River Valley *greatly appreciates* its individual supporters!
- Your support makes it possible for us to serve over **3,200** people in our community each year, who need healthcare services, but cannot afford them.
- The Free Clinic receives 10% of its total operating budget directly from individual supporters.

A CALL TO ACTION

Do you know someone who would like to receive mailings from the Free Clinic?

We need your help to expand the circle of supporters who believe in the mission of the Free Clinic, and want to help us leverage more healthcare dollars into our community. You can *greatly contribute to this effort* by referring three of your friends to our mailing list. Your referrals will ensure that they receive important information on the critical developments at the Free Clinic, as well as the opportunity to become more involved.

If possible, please let your friends know you have referred them to us. Thank You!



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Address _____
Phone _____
2. Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
3. Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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(Information for making a contribution to the Free Clinic on the next page)