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Alliance Acute Care Clinic Opens to Overwhelming Need



Alliance staff member Robin Richardson, with Page High MSN, NP-C of Triangle Medical Professionals, LLC and Alliance volunteer Kirby Varnadoe-Russ together in Alliance's new acute care clinic.

On June 8th, 2009 Alliance Medical Ministry launched the Alliance Acute Care Clinic, providing same-day medical care to the working uninsured in Wake County. With no public announcement or press, the waiting room was filled with patients, at least half of whom were new to Alliance and were able to establish care and be seen on the same day. While there are urgent care centers available for the insured population, very few options exist in Wake County to support the working uninsured. In addition, the demand for services continues to surge due to the ongoing economic crisis. For many, the only alternative is the ER, at a cost that can range from several hundred dollars to a thousand dollars or more. Left untreated, minor issues can grow into more serious health concerns, the consequences of which include need for ongoing treatment, decreased quality of life, increased absenteeism, and greater overall cost of medical care to the individual and society as a whole.

The Alliance Acute Care Clinic provides treatment for common illnesses, such as cough & cold, flu, strep throat, earache, minor skin infections, and other minor complaints. To be eligible for services, prospective patients must be adult resident of Wake County, have no private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, and be employed or living with a family member who is employed. The cost per visit is \$25 for low-income patients served by Alliance and includes lab testing and most medications.

Made possible through a grant from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, the clinic is located at Alliance's Grace Clinic. The Acute Care Clinic has been operating on a three day per week schedule, but will move to a Monday through Friday 2pm – 8pm schedule beginning in August. For a personal tour of the acute and primary care clinics at Alliance, call Tonia at 919.250-9254.

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First-time Prostate Screening at Alliance a Collaborative Event



Alliance waiting room full for first-time screening event

In partnership with Rex Cancer Center and community support that included the American Cancer Society, YMCA, El Pueblo, and Wake County Human Services, Alliance hosted its first ever Prostate & Testicular Screening on May 2nd 2009 to further the efforts of serving the uninsured of Wake County with preventative care. "There is a community-wide desire to increase screening opportunities for uninsured and minority populations, who are most often present with advanced disease and have higher death rates of screenable cancers" says Regina Heroux, RN, MS, OCN, Program & Outreach Director at Alliance. Forty-four men were screened, nearly 90% having never been screened before for Prostate Cancer. Of the 44 men, 75% were Hispanic and 25% African-American. At least five patients seen received follow-up and evaluation of prostate-related problems. In addition to offering the PSA blood test and prostate and testicular exam, bilingual volunteers from the community agencies listed above were on-hand to answer specific questions and provide educational materials on early detection and other pertinent men's health issues. Evaluations were very positive, with one notable comment that gives us reason to continue our efforts: "offering such an event really helped decrease my fear of cancer that runs in my family; now I know what I can do to decrease my risks...thank you."

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Outreach Events with Alliance Medical Ministry

- June 30, 2009** Building Healthy Communities — Faith Leaders Forum, Sponsored by Wake County Human Services
- July 11, 2009** Rex Mobile Mammography screening & breast health information. Co-sponsored by Rex Hospital
Held at Alliance Medical Ministry
- July 16, 2009** Healthy Communities Day at St. Augustine College. Co-sponsored by WakeMed Health and Hospitals
- August 15, 2009** Chavis Park Community Health Event — free blood pressures. Co-sponsored by YMCA and WakeMed Health and Hospitals
- October 3, 2009** Annual Breast Cancer Screening — free mammography for age appropriate patients
Held at Alliance Medical Ministry 8:30 - 11:30 am
- October 2009 (TBA)** Annual Community Health Fair with North Raleigh Rotary, El Pueblo & Rich Adelman
Held at the Hope and Healing Wellness Center

Support Alliance Medical Ministry through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Support the work of Alliance Medical Ministry and help provide quality medical care for the working uninsured by making a gift through the Research Triangle Area Combined Federal Campaign.

Designate your gift to Alliance Medical Ministry using code **89394**



2009 Love Thy Neighbor Campaign Update

Alliance's Love Thy Neighbor Campaign, now in full swing, is our annual effort to raise the needed unrestricted funds in support of the high-quality medical care provided to the working uninsured. The ongoing job losses and benefit cuts has increased demand for services. Our neighbors in Wake County continue to lose their health benefits. This means a significant increase in demand for Alliance services.

Please give a generous gift of health as a part of the 2009 Love Thy Neighbor Campaign. Contact Tonia Zampieri at (919)250-9254 to give a Love Thy Neighbor Campaign gift, or visit our website at: www.AllianceMedicalMinistry.org to make an easy online donation today!

Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to write to you for the first time as executive director. As a co-founder and board member, I've always felt close to Alliance, but the experience gained over the past few months has given me insight that you only get from "walking the walk".

The most striking observation I see is the constant demand for basic health care services needed by so many in our community. From when the lights go on at 8am until they are shut off at 8pm, both waiting rooms are full, exam rooms occupied and doctors and staff actively working to provide excellent care to our 7,500 uninsured patients.

With the demand so high and additional clinic space available, we responded by opening an acute care clinic in June with the support of a one-year grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. The concept was to provide affordable, same-day service to new and established patients with minor illnesses. We also introduced a touch screen system for registration and surveying to improve check-in and get immediate feedback from our patients.

With referrals only from existing patients, or new patients calling the office, frankly, on the first day, I was concerned no one would show up! Needless to say, that concern was unfounded. By noon the waiting room was overflowing with patients — and that was two hours before the clinic even opened. As we worked through the initial kinks, that first day was wonderfully chaotic.

But by days-end, we realized something more basic had happened. Through our desire to serve and be better stewards of your gifts and this building, a critical new program had been added to Alliance. Over the days and weeks since opening, we have continued to improve the process and now offer acute care services Monday-Friday from 2:00-8:00 pm.



Alliance Meditation Garden under construction earlier this summer

Earlier this summer, we dramatically changed the look and functionality of the Alliance website. Complete with our own blog, AMM Now, e-newsletter registration and links to our Facebook Fan page and Twitter account, we've made it much easier (and fun) to stay connected to Alliance. Please visit www.AllianceMedicalMinistry.org today and take a brief moment to give us your email.

This month marks the official completion of the construction with the last brick placed in the Meditation Garden! A four-year journey from concept to reality has been actualized, with thousands more patients being served in our new clinic as a result.

Finally, If you have not visited the Grace Clinic at Alliance recently, I invite you to stop by for a tour. You can see first-hand how your contributions are making a critical difference to each and every patient we see at Alliance. Please remember that your support is critical to our mission of providing affordable primary care to the working uninsured. I hope you will give generously to our Love Thy Neighbor Annual Fund Campaign.

Sincerely,

Sean Harrison, Co-Founder & Executive Director



Alliance In-kind Donations January through June 2009

Alliance is grateful to the following donors for their in-kind gifts of service and/or supplies for the clinic.

Allscripts
Ms. Maria Kiser
Mr. Peter Williams
Mr. and Mrs. David Otteni
Stanford White, Inc.
Bland Landscaping
Sonitrol Security
Dr. John Lane
Anthony Alarcon
WakeMed Health and Hospitals
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Gregory Godwin, A Carolina Locksmith
SAS Institute, Inc.

Mission of Alliance Medical Ministry

Alliance Medical Ministry is a faith-led medical ministry serving the uninsured working poor in need of affordable primary medical care.

Alliance is a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable corporation that relies on donations from individuals, corporations, the faith-based community, and foundations to serve the uninsured working people of Wake County.



Dr. Anne McLaurin Joins AMM

After actively volunteering in our Saturday clinic, Dr. Anne McLaurin joined Alliance as a part-time physician this spring. She is board certified in family practice and has devoted 31 years to health care in Wake County, including tenures at Wake Health Services, Wake Women's Correctional Facility, her own private practice and SAS Institute's Health Care Center, where she spent 13 years prior to joining Alliance. Dr. McLaurin currently sits on the Wake County School Board. She and her husband Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker have two grown children.

Patient Feature: James Barlow

Our goal at Alliance is to provide a health care home for our patients, particularly those with complex medical conditions. The basic concept of a health care home is to provide patients with a personal physician, a whole-person orientation, coordination of care and using health IT to manage care and outcomes. Mr. James Barlow has called Alliance his medical home for nearly two years, initially coming in with severe pain in his hands and knees. Since becoming a patient he has quit smoking, his cholesterol, once a problem, is now under control and he is almost completely pain free. "James is a model patient!", says Dr. Tara Lewis, Alliance's Medical Director. When asked what he likes best about coming to Alliance for care, James says, "All the staff are always supportive and friendly, they don't judge me, and they listen to what I have to say."

Alliance Patient Speaks on National Health Care Reform

Health care reform is a major priority in Washington and North Carolina. There are estimated to be over 2 Million people in the state and 120,000 in Wake County without health insurance. Alliance patient Gail Johnson spoke at a Health Care Forum on July 22, 2009 in Raleigh and told her story about the financial, physical and emotional cost of being uninsured. Though working for the same company for the past five years, she does not have employer-sponsored medical benefits. In the past Gail was not able to afford routine diabetes medication and testing supplies that cost 30% of her total monthly income, nor did she have a primary care provider directing her care. During that time period, her health deteriorated to where her condition forced her to WakeMed's Emergency Room.

Since establishing a health care home at Alliance, Dr. Lewis is Gail's personal physician and she qualifies for reduced fee medications with the help of Dr. Emswiler. Overall, her health and outlook on life has dramatically improved. She says " I'll never be able to pay off the hospital bill from my ER visit, but at Alliance I'm able to receive consistent and quality care that I can afford. More people need the kind of care I receive" Her comment brought cheers to the crowd.

For more information on this event, visit the full article on our website at: www.AllianceMedicalMinistry.org



AMM Medical Director Dr. Tara Lewis, left, with Alliance patient Gail Johnson.

Alliance Receives Duke Endowment Grant to Grow Primary Care Clinic

In June Alliance received a second grant from The Duke Endowment, a private Foundation serving the people of North and South Carolina, to fund an additional full-time physician at Alliance. This grant, in partnership with WakeMed Health and Hospitals, will allow Alliance to dramatically expand the number of patients seen in the primary care clinic, where demand has increased by over 50% since last year. The addition of a new full-time physician at Alliance will significantly increase provider capacity and improve our ability to provide Alliance patients with a health care home.

The Duke Endowment, in Charlotte, NC, seeks to fulfill the legacy of James B. Duke by enriching lives and communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children's services. Since its inception in 1924, the Endowment has awarded more than \$2.6 billion in grants.

Mike Mizeur of Blue Cross & Blue Shield South Carolina Joins Alliance Board of Directors

Mike Mizeur, VP Finance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, joined the Alliance Medical Ministry Board of Directors in May of 2009. Mr. Mizeur has been with BCBS of South Carolina for 11 years. In addition to his VP responsibilities, Mike is also President of the company's Companion Capital Management, where he leads mergers and acquisitions and strategic investment activity. Prior to BCBS, Mike worked with Earnst & Young for seven years, most recently as a Consulting Senior Manager.

Mike holds a Master's degree in taxation from DePaul University in Chicago and earned his MBA from Duke University Fuqua School of Business. He holds the professional distinctions of Fellow in the Academy of Healthcare Management (FAHM) and Fellow in the Life Management Institute (FLMI).

Mike and his family reside in Cary, North Carolina. Alliance is honored to have Mike as part of the organization's board of directors.



David Irwin Named as Alliance Volunteer Angel

David Irwin is a seasoned Alliance volunteer, having been part of the Alliance team for the past three summers during his college break. His experience and understanding of the clinic front office and back office operations make David another gem Alliance is fortunate to have. As a recent graduate from UNC Chapel Hill, David has his heart set on medicine and plans to attend medical school or graduate school in Micro Biology in the fall. His commitment to service, get it done attitude and computer skills make David an invaluable volunteer. We look forward to May 2010 and hope to see David back again! Thank you David for all you do at Alliance!

Local OB/GYN Performs at Solo Recital in Support of Alliance

On May 8th 2009 Dr. John Lane, with Raleigh based Dr. John Lane Obstetrics & Gynecology, hosted and performed a solo piano recital to benefit Alliance Medical Ministry. Held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Raleigh, Dr. Lane's skill and years of practice were on display as he performed works from Chopin, Mozart, Bach and Beethoven, among others. We want to send a warm thank you to Dr. Lane who, through his beautiful music and post-event reception, raised \$2,000 in support of Alliance.

Have an idea for your own fundraising event? Call Tonia at (919) 250-9254 for support and other fun ideas.