

ACORN Newsletter

CLINIC



WINTER 2014

23320 North SR 235
Brooker, FL 32622

(352) 4-85-1133 Medical Clinic
(352) 4-85-2772 Dental Clinic

www.acornclinic.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

Celebrating 40 years with reunion, laughter and music

The walls of the United Church of Gainesville's Reimer Fellowship Hall held more than acorn-themed decorations on a late November evening. Long-time volunteers, supporters and patients came together for a night of laughter and to blow out 40 anniversary candles. This year marked the 40th anniversary of ACORN Clinic, a milestone that could not have been achieved without some help. Throughout the night, the hall would fill to over 100 guests. On one side of the room, a previous volunteer locked eyes with another and hurried to embrace one another.



Near them, inside jokes from the last 40 years were revived. Retiree David Gold, RDH, reminisced about the days he spent at ACORN clinic as the only male employee. "It was absolutely wonderful working at the ACORN clinic," Gold said. The night continued with speeches and testimonials like Gold's. Memorabilia surrounded the hall while a silent auction sponsored by the Gainesville Fine Arts Association gave guests artwork to enjoy.

As guests chatted and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, they listened to the music of the Bella Luna Band. In attendance was also a former executive director, Marilyn Mesh, who has served the clinic for 28 years. "This woman was a fabulous director of ACORN clinic," Glenn Dixon said at the microphone. Audience

members nodded and clapped their hands in agreement. In 1973, Dixon, former pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, played a role in the founding of the clinic. Dixon also served as ACORN's treasurer for 16 years. "If you're

doing something that's important, people will support it," Dixon said. Several patients were in attendance as well. Margaret Small and Berry Hoffman both gave testimonials about ACORN Clinic's impact on their lives. "Sandra Topp (staff ARNP) saved my life and that's the truth," Small said. "I love the ACORN Clinic. They make you feel like a person not a number," Hoffman remarked.

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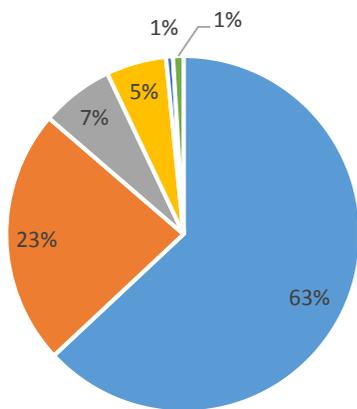
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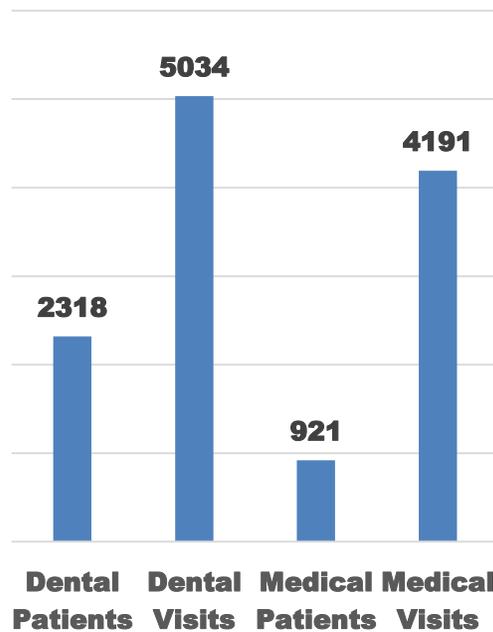
Candice King, MBA, MAE
Executive Director

Income Sources



- Patient Revenue
- Grants & Foundations
- United Way
- Friends of ACORN
- Church & Civic
- Endowment

Nov. 1, 2013 - Oct. 31, 2014



In a survey, 54% (medical) and 36% (dental) of our patients said that without ACORN Clinic they would have gone to the emergency room for their current health issue!

Partial funding provided by:
Alachua County CAPP
Bradford County
FL Blue Foundation
FL Dental Health Foundation
FL State Employees' Charitable Campaign
NE FL-SE GA Combined Federal Campaign
State of Florida, Dept. of Health
Susan G. Komen
Union County
UF Campaign for Charities
United Way of North Central FL



Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, Inc. (dba ACORN Clinic) is a tax exempt 501(c) (3) organization registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (CH189).

Become a Friend of ACORN

Please renew your support or become a Friend of ACORN. Your donation will help support our ongoing operations. Without your help we are not able to fulfil our mission. We assure you that your donation will be well managed to provide direct patient care.

Donate online at www.acornclinic.org or send us your donation/contact information to:
ACORN Clinic
23320 N. State Rd. 235
Brooker, FL 32622

Name: _____

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Thanks to the thousands of individuals and organizations who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to make ACORN Clinic successful over the last 40 years. You know who you are, and we rely on your continued support.



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Founding Memories from Dr. Glenn Dickson (retired pastor, Westminster Presbyterian)



Happy Taylor, 1974

In 1973, I met Harriet (Happy) Taylor, a VISTA volunteer in the Montechoa Gordon area of Alachua County. We toured the area and witnessed the sub-standard housing of migrant workers where a rusty school bus propped on concrete blocks housed an entire family. We decided something should be done and brought the issue to other members of Westminster Presbyterian and to the United Church of Gainesville (UCG.) At our first board meeting, Mark Beard suggested the name Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, or ACORN, for our corporate name. During ACORN's first two years, we employed Harriet and she often told us of the healthcare issues she encountered. She told us of taking people to the County Health Department only to be denied help because they could not prove they paid their utility bills. Realizing there were doctors from both churches willing to help, we began to host a weekly health clinic in LaCrosse. After a year, the town needed the building for office space, so we put our equipment in storage. We purchased a military surplus trailer for \$100 and a local farmer rented us property to serve as our new clinic site. But, the parking lot became a quagmire when it rained and we began, again, to look for another site. In the early 1980s, we purchased three acres of land and moved the trailer to the current location. Soon after, we purchased a second trailer and attached it to the first. Later a local developer offered to donate a house to us if we agreed to move it. With the addition of this new house, we were able to eliminate the trailers and gain more space. In 1989, we acquired a second building and joined it to the first, creating the dental clinic. Starting in 1989, much of ACORN's support came from United Way. Many local organizations began supporting ACORN as well: United Church of Gainesville, Westminster Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Episcopal, B'Nai Israel synagogue, and many more. Many people served on the Board of Directors and as volunteers and did a terrific job. It is through everyone's combined efforts that make ACORN what it is today.