

ACORN Newsletter

CLINIC



WINTER 2019

23320 North SR 235
Brooker, FL 32622

(352) 485-1133 Medical Clinic
(352) 485-2772 Dental Clinic

www.acornclinic.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

MEDICAL CLINIC CLOSES

With the closure of the Medical Clinic on October 31st, the



ACORN Clinic patients from rural Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties are seeking new medical homes. After 45 years of operations, the Medical Clinic was forced to close its doors due to changes across the nation that have resulted in reduced support for rural health. Over the last 10 years this led to the loss of several important funding sources for ACORN Clinic. According to Lynda McCarthy, who served as a nurse at ACORN for 17 years, "A lot of our patients have been coming here since we've opened, so this is really devastating to them." Receptionist Pat Clemons, a 16 year employee, remarked, "I have learned so much and have truly enjoyed my time here both with our patients and my co-workers." ACORN's patients have remained the clinic's top priority as staff and volunteers have assisted them in finding other places they can receive medical services. For example, staff created a map showing 12 other sliding fee scale primary care clinics operating in ACORN's service area that was given to patients.

The ACORN Clinic will continue to support members of the surrounding community. The Dental Clinic remains up and running and continues to provide comprehensive and affordable dental care – a large gap in our community.

As we reflect on our many achievements over the last 45 years, we are filled with a deep sense of pride and profound sense of accomplishment. **We count on you, our Friends of ACORN, to continue to support our mission to serve low-income, uninsured residents in our primarily rural service area through our Dental Clinic.**

Medical Clinic staff in last days of operations: Spring Williams, Sandra Topp, Pat Clemons, Michelle Farland, & Lynda McCarthy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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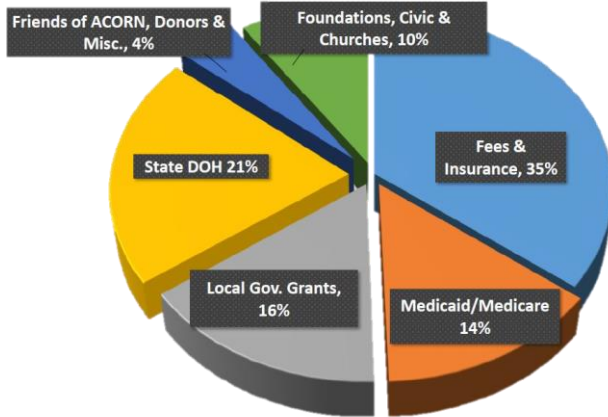
Paayal Bhakta, DMD
Dental Director

Candice King, MBA, MAE
Executive Director

Partial funding provided by:
Alachua County CAPP & CHOICES
AEC TRUST
Bradford County
Capital City Bank Group
City of Gainesville
Clay Electric Foundation
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dharma Endowment Foundation
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Grace Presbyterian Church
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Public Charities
Trinity United Methodist Church
University of FL and UF Health
UF Medical Guild
United Way of North Central FL
Union County
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Women's Giving Circle of North Central Florida

ACORN Clinic Operating Revenue 2018: \$1.3 million

[Additional \$77,291 donations for Capital Campaign]



WHO WE SERVED in 2018

We effectively expand our contribute to the community through time philanthropy with

13,991 volunteer hours valued at **\$1.06 MILLION**

AGE

Under 21	16%
21-64	57%
65+	27%

RACE

White	69%
African American	21%
Hispanic & Other	10%

90% of patients
WERE AT OR BELOW

150% of the Federal
Poverty Level
Guidelines

PATIENTS RECEIVED
\$592,011 IN DONATED
MEDICINES & SUPPLIES



2,881
UNIQUE
PATIENTS

26
COUNTIES

ALACHUA 54%
BRADFORD 18%
UNION 10%
OTHER 18%



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).

Friends of ACORN

In 2018 alone, nearly 14,000 volunteer hours were logged at ACORN Clinic.

Our amazing volunteers offer continuous help with tasks in and out of the clinic and have done so since the clinic's opening in 1974. Volunteers are an essential component of the ACORN Clinic miracle. They allow us to be able to touch countless lives and affordably serve thousands of patients every year.

In 2019, we are excited to announce that Dr. Runi Foster, a long-time ACORN Clinic volunteer, was awarded the *Community Educator Award* at the First Annual UF Mobile Outreach Clinic's Grassroots Gala. Despite a busy career as a pulmonologist, Dr. Foster has dedicated 25 years to helping ACORN patients both by serving on the Board of Directors and by providing specialty lung care in the Medical Clinic. While doing so, she mentored both students and staff. In addition to the time she spent at ACORN, Dr. Foster also generously donated medical

At the Gala: Dr. Runi Foster, Executive Director Candice King, and Runi's husband, Dr. Craig Foster.

equipment used to treat and assist ACORN's patients. For her years of excellent, selfless service and mentorship, we offer our deep thanks to Dr. Foster and feel she is most deserving of the *Community Educator Award*. This award and Dr. Foster's service to ACORN Clinic represent the passion, compassion, and dedication of all ACORN Clinic volunteers through the last 45 years!

Dr. Runi Foster is presented award by Dr. Grant Harrell.



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 support we are not able to fulfil our mission. We assure you that your donation will be well managed to provide direct patient care in our Dental Clinic.

Donate online at www.acornclinic.org to send us your donation/contact information or mail to

**ACORN Clinic
23320 N. State Rd. 235
Brooker, FL 32622**

QUESTIONS: ACORN@acornclinic.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone: _____

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. **Best Wishes to You and Yours in 2020!**