



A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your continued generosity and involvement, Smith Medical Clinic is heading into summer with great momentum. Our recent Palmetto Giving Day campaign and Annual Gala were both tremendous successes, and that is entirely due to the support of our incredible donors and volunteers. Your commitment makes our mission possible—and we are deeply grateful.

Our HerChoice women's health program is already having a powerful impact on the health of our community. From ensuring that screenings for breast and cervical cancer happen in a timely manner to equipping women with the tools and education they need to take control of their reproductive health, we are caring for those who are often too busy caring for others to prioritize their own well-being.

Our reach extends beyond physical health. Our mental health counselor, Beverly Crittenden, is making a meaningful difference not only for women but for entire families. She's helping patients navigate the stress and challenges of daily life, with a special focus on teens and young adults, who are facing increasing pressure in today's world. Many parents are unsure how to support their children through these times, and we are so grateful Beverly is here to help guide them.

We also mark a bittersweet milestone as we say farewell to our long-time Nurse Manager, Lisa Smargiassi, who is retiring after years of dedicated service. We're thrilled to welcome Patty Benedict, RN as her successor. Lisa and Patty have worked closely to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition for our patients, volunteers, and staff and we are excited and grateful that Lisa will continue to provide patient care as a nurse volunteer.

Finally, we are overjoyed to welcome so many new volunteers to the clinic. From medical professionals to IT experts to administrative and fundraising support, the breadth and depth of talent among our volunteers is truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing your time, skills, and compassion with those in our community who need it most.

Wishing you a joyful and restful summer—and as always, thank you for being a part of the Smith Medical Clinic family.

With gratitude,

Anne Faul

Executive Director

A Night to Remember:

Smith Medical Clinic's Annual Gala Sets New Record

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and attendees, this year's Gala raised over \$300,000—a record-breaking success that will directly support access to life-changing care for those who need it most.

A heartfelt thank you to Gala Committee Chair and SMC Board member Ashley DesMarteau, and her dedicated team, for planning such a joyful, memorable evening. And as always, our deepest gratitude goes to Woofie and Salters McClary, owners of Frank's Restaurant, for graciously hosting this event year after year.

A good time was had by all—and the impact will be felt by many.

Photos by Tanya Ackerman, Chasing the Light Photography



Thank you to our Gala Committee (pictured right above, left to right): Georgia Beaver, Trava Hendrix, Nikki McNair, Juli Dave, Rendi Ray, Kathleen Hughes, Ashley DesMarteau, Aixa Rodriguez-Mariani, Lisa Phelan, Helen Grothaus

A Clearer Future: How Smith Medical Clinic Helped Restore Sight and Health

When Mr. J first came to Smith Medical Clinic, he was facing serious health challenges. His diabetes had led to complications affecting his kidneys and vision, making everyday tasks difficult. But with the right care, persistence, and support from the clinic and our strategic partners, his journey has been nothing short of remarkable.

With an A1C of 5.8, Mr. J was working hard to manage his diabetes, but he needed help accessing medications and specialized care. Smith Medical Clinic Patient Navigator, Deya Sanchez, stepped in to assist with prescription access, ensuring he could stay on track with treatment.



After a routine diabetic eye exam, he was diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy and referred to a retina specialist. Ms. Sanchez was able to arrange critical eye injections to improve his vision through our partnership with Lions Vision Services - an essential step toward regaining his independence.

Between December 2023 and June 2024, Mr. J faced additional challenges, including kidney complications and a retinal detachment. But thanks to Ms. Sanchez's constant attention, quick referrals, financial assistance from Lions Vision Services, and a successful eye surgery, his condition began to improve. He remained committed to his follow-ups at Smith Medical Clinic and continued eye treatments to maintain progress. By mid-2024, his A1C remained stable at 6.1, and his vision continued to improve. With newfound confidence, he joined the YMCA through the clinic's partnership with this important community partner.

In February 2025, Ms. Sanchez coordinated another eye surgery for Mr. J., again with the help of Lions Vision Services. Just a few days later, during a follow-up, he shared the incredible news: "I can now read! It's life-changing."

With his vision restored and his A1C at 6.0, he's now driving again, attending morning workouts at the YMCA, and staying engaged in his health.

The Power of Partnerships in Patient Success

At Smith Medical Clinic, we know that quality healthcare extends beyond the walls of our clinic. With Ms. Sanchez helping patients navigate the complex world of specialty care referrals and our partnerships with organizations like Lions Vision Services and the YMCA we are able to offer life-changing resources to our patients—whether it's vision-saving treatments or wellness programs that empower them to take charge of their health. Through collaborative efforts, we ensure that patients like Mr. J don't just survive—they thrive.

Thanks to our generous donors and partners, Mr. J has not only regained his health but also his independence.

Meet Our Summer Interns

We're excited to welcome two talented summer interns from Coastal Carolina University to Smith Medical Clinic!



Joseph Pulcino: I'm senior at Coastal Carolina studying Sports Communications as well as Film and Production. I will be with Smith Medical Clinic for the summer as a videography and Photography intern. I hope to enhance Smith Medical's website, newsletters, and social media with my work through film and create content to gain more enhancements. After school, I plan on getting into broadcast production and hopefully directing the control rooms for live sports broadcasts. I am extremely excited about the summer and grateful for this opportunity!

Alex Pope: I'm an intern at Smith Medical Clinic with the RISE Program. I am a senior at Coastal Carolina University studying Public Health and Dietetics. My career goal is to be a Registered Dietitian, so I am very excited to help patients better their nutrition! Here at Smith Clinic, I will be doing healthy recipes, nutrition education, food sampling, and more. I am so excited to help out here!



Meet Our New Board Member



Brooke Cox Howard, M.H.A., a dynamic and visionary leader in healthcare operations with over 15 years of experience driving strategic growth and operational excellence. As Vice President of Operations at Tideland Health, Brooke oversees a wide range of service lines and leads diverse teams dedicated to improving patient care. We are excited to welcome Brooke to our board and look forward to the insight and expertise she brings to our mission!

Join our Patient Partners Giving Program!

Join your neighbors in becoming a Patient Partner and help provide life-saving medical care to those in our community who have no insurance and can't afford to see a doctor. Your support ensures that every person—regardless of income—can access the care they need with dignity.

DONATE



Patient Partner

\$250 - \$999

Provide free medical care for one patient for an entire year.

Program Partner

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Give patients and their families access to local YMCA facilities and wellness programs.

Clinic Partner

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Support extended clinic hours so working patients can access care outside of traditional schedules.

Founders Circle

\$10,000+

Join our Founder's Circle and provide sustaining support for the future of compassionate, community-based care.



Palmetto Giving Day Success: THANK YOU!

We're thrilled to share that, thanks to your generosity, Smith Medical Clinic exceeded our Palmetto Giving Day goal—raising nearly \$130,000 to support free healthcare for our low-income, uninsured neighbors.

This incredible success wouldn't have been possible without so many of you who gave online, mailed checks, and answered the call to give. Special thanks to our matching donors, including the Georgetown Lions Club and Franks on Front, whose challenge gifts helped amplify every dollar raised.

We are deeply grateful to the Bunnelle Foundation for making this event possible, and to every donor who gave so generously this year. Because of you, hope and healing are within reach for hundreds of our most vulnerable neighbors.

What's New!

We're proud to announce a major step forward in patient care: **Smith Medical Clinic will soon be implementing Epic**. With generous assistance from **MUSC and Tideland Health**, this transition will finally move us off paper charts and allow for **seamless integration** with both systems. This exciting project will be led by our new Clinical Informaticist.

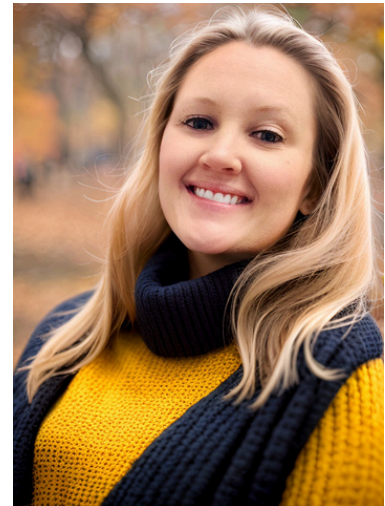
Meet our Clinical Informaticist!

My name is **Katie Pence**, and I'm excited to join Smith Medical Clinic as the Clinical Informaticist! I come from a clinical background with over 14 years of experience.

At Smith Medical Clinic, I'll be working closely with our providers, nurses, scribes, and administrative staff to:

- Support and optimize our EHR systems (eClinicalWorks now, and Epic soon),
- Optimize clinical workflows and documentation,
- Train staff and volunteers on EHR best practices,
- Create, recruit, and oversee the medical scribe program,
- Ensure data integrity and HIPAA compliance,
- Collaborate with healthcare partners like Tideland Health and MUSC to improve care coordination and data exchange.

My goal is to make sure our clinic continues to run smoothly and efficiently. I am looking forward to learning from and working with everyone!



A Note from Our New Chief Development Officer



I'm honored to introduce myself as the new Chief Development Officer at Smith Medical Clinic. With deep gratitude for the work already accomplished by this incredible community, I'm excited to join you in building the next chapter of impact.

In the coming months, I'll be focused on reconnecting with past Patient Partners, establishing our first-ever Planned Giving program, and creating meaningful opportunities for you to support the Clinic's mission. As I begin to plant deeper roots of engagement in Georgetown and Pawleys Island, I look forward to getting to know you, hearing your stories, and working together to strengthen the care we provide to our neighbors in need.

With appreciation,
Amanda Crawford

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Staying Connected: The Clinic's Free Cell Phone Program

At Smith Medical Clinic, we believe communication is a critical part of quality care. That's why we offer free cell phones to patients who don't have a landline or another reliable way to stay in touch—especially those who are unhoused.

What began as a practical solution for appointment reminders, transportation

coordination, and prescription refill updates has grown into something much more powerful. For many patients, these phones have become a lifeline—helping them reconnect with family, stay in touch with friends, and feel a renewed sense of stability and dignity.

"I had gone almost a year without speaking to my mother because I didn't have a way to get in touch and I didn't have a steady address. She was the first person I called when I got the SMC phone—she couldn't believe it was me! We talked for an hour and now we speak at least once a week."

— Mr. F, SMC Patient

Research shows that social connection plays a vital role in physical and mental health—especially for people experiencing homelessness. Studies have found that strong social ties are linked to lower rates of depression, better chronic disease management, and even improved chances of securing housing and employment.

This small tool has made a big difference, proving that staying connected is more than just convenient—it's essential to healing and hope.





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