

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic

The Accolades Continue

Fall 2010



Susan Posey, Clinic co-founder, accepts Don Lucey Award on behalf of herself and Dr. Tom Smith from Dr. Don Lucey of the NCAFC.

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is proud to announce Susan Posey and Dr. Tom Smith as recipients of the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics (NCAFC) 2010 Don Lucey Award. Susan and Tom were

are uninsured, and the majority have incomes below the federal poverty level. In its first five years of operation, the Clinic has provided dental treatment to over 1,900 patients. Their dental needs have required over 20,000 procedures. The value of these services exceeds \$2,300,000.



Dr. Tom Smith, our beloved "mainstay" and Don Lucey Award co-recipient.

selected for this prestigious award for their efforts in establishing the Clinic in 2005 and for their continuing contributions.

"It is an honor to recognize Ms. Posey and Dr. Tom as 2010 Don Lucey Award recipients," said Jason Baisden, Executive Director of NCAFC. **"Free Dental Clinics can be challenging projects, but both had a vision to improve dental access in their community, and because of their remarkable work and passion for helping the medically uninsured, their vision became a reality."**

Dr. Don Lucey established one of North Carolina's first free clinics in 1985, Raleigh's Open Door Clinic. He later helped to establish the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics and was elected its first president. He has continued to devote his life to assisting free clinics. To honor him, the Don Lucey Award was established to recognize individuals who characterize the mission of quality health care for all.

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is unique in the state of North Carolina in the quantity and scope of its free services. Clinic patients

This is the first time the award has been shared by two individuals. The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is also the first dental clinic to receive the award.

5th Anniversary Celebration Includes Patrons / Volunteers

It was a gala celebration as patrons of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic gathered together with Board volunteers to celebrate five years of much needed free dental care for Western North Carolina residents.

"We have come so far," commented Ron Keller, who serves as Board Chairman and Head Tooth Fairy. **"In the five years since the Clinic opened its doors, we have alleviated much suffering and helped to put many lives that had been derailed by dental pain back on track."**

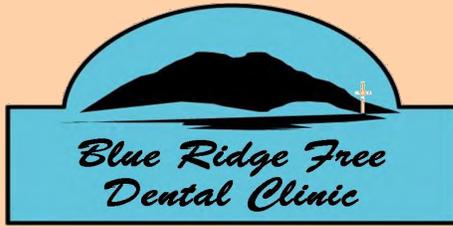
Entertainment was provided by Dr. Tom Smith of the Clinic, and food was served by those delightful Tooth Fairies. The evening ended in laughter as the "Fairies" debuted their now-infamous dance routine.

"You, the donors, make it all possible," concluded Ron.



Hosts Tom and Lynne Keating, Kaye and Ron Keller, aka "Big Wing, the Tooth Fairy."





Board of Directors

2010 Officers

Ron Keller—President
Jim Smith—VP/ Secretary
Bill Jacobs—Treasurer
Karen Minton—Executive Director

2010 Directors

Andrew Angle
Mike Grilli
Randolph Harry
Bill Jacobs
Lynne Keating
Ron Keller
Dr. Mel Livernois
Carl Norman
Jim Smith
Toby Summerour

Our Volunteer Dentists

Dr. Thomas Smith
Dr. Michelle McDonald
Dr. Mel Livernois
Dr. Chris Dyer
Dr. David Silverstein
Dr. David Jones
Dr. W. Craig Ashton
Dr. Tommy Day
Dr. Allen VanOverbeke



A Message from Our President Ron Keller

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common goal. It is also the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows normal people to attain exceptional results.

Although the history of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is short, it is one of continued success. The reason for the success is, of course, the people who are committed to our mission. It is the nine remarkably talented volunteer dentists who see the Clinic as a vehicle for giving back some of their individual success to our less fortunate Western North Carolina **neighbors. It's an Executive Director who is willing to stay up late at night calling patients to make sure they are recuperating satisfactorily following dental procedures. It's a dental staff and hygienist who have adapted to the complexities of working with nine different professionals, all of whom have unique chairside requirements. It's an expanded Board of Directors – now numbering ten – that share the vision required of a growing operation.**

This team is dedicated to the success of the Clinic or, as our **Mission Statement says, "We restore lives, one tooth at a time." They are willing to extend themselves to ensure the dental health of our patients. Our patients know and understand this commitment. They feel safe in our care and commit themselves to maintaining their dental care long after their final procedure. Magical things happen when our volunteers, staff and patients come together.**

The final piece of our team is **you**, the generous donor who understands our grassroots appeal. We receive no government grants or subsidies and depend exclusively on our own fundraising ingenuity to support a budget that will approach \$200,000 in 2010.

The Free Dental Clinic is continuing its development as a singularly remarkable clinic. As far as we know, there is no other free clinic that treats such a broad range of disabling dental conditions, providing much more than the simple extractions offered at most free clinics. These exceptional services, provided to carefully screened patients, are expanding the remarkable impact that your Free Dental Clinic is having on the lives of our mountain neighbors. We can all be justifiably proud of what is being accomplished with your charitable dollars.

Thank you for your continued support!

Since inception, the Clinic has treated over 1,900 patients, performing more than 20,000 procedures valued at well over \$2.3 million dollars.

News Highlights from 2010



BRFDC volunteer assistant Alisha Fricks helps at MOM.

Tooth Fairies, Clinic Volunteers make the scene in Sylva

Volunteers from the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic assisted at the Missions of Mercy (MOM) clinic in Sylva last spring. In addition, those inimitable Tooth Fairies made a “celebrity appearance” to add levity to the weekend and provide

support for the patients and staff. About 350 patients were treated. Tooth Fairy “Lavender” and Executive Director Karen Minton also attended MOM in Asheville in August.



Tooth Fairies Big Wing, DeCay, and Duke pose with an MOM volunteer.

Therapy Dog Immortalized in Literature

Clients and staff arriving on Wednesday mornings for the past four years have been greeted by a tail wag and a smile from our BRFDC therapy dog. Jessie, a golden retriever, now 14 years old and semi-retired, visits weekly to lower blood pressures, offer distraction from pain and anxiety, and elicit smiles. Jessie has also joined the Tooth Fairies for special occasions.

Jessie’s career, along with that of her litter mate, Lily, is chronicled in a new book.

Just for the Moment: The Remarkable Gift of the Therapy Dog shares the stories of Lily and Jessie who have served health care facilities, schools, and libraries in our mountain communities for eight years. The book is available at independent booksellers and www.therapydogstories.com.



Clinic Welcomes Three New Board Members

The Board is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Randolph H. Harry (left) is the Senior Pastor of the Cashiers United Methodist Church. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees from the University of North Carolina and his Master of Divinity degree from Erskine Theological Seminary in SC. After 12 years as an attorney in Virginia, he joined the ministry and originally pastored St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Brevard. He moved to Cashiers in 2009 with his wife, Kristen, and daughter, Wren. His favorite pastime is hiking.

Dr. Mel Livernois (center) moved to Cullowhee Mtn. in 2006 with his spouse of 39 years, Linda. A 1971 graduate of The University of Michigan, he practiced dentistry for 35 years in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he was appointed to the

role of Dental Examiner for the State Board of Dentistry. In 1991, he was among the first group of five U.S. dentists to use computer aided manufacturing in his practice. The father of two daughters, he is committed to contributing his skills to the ongoing service of the Free Dental Clinic.

Mike Grilli (right) is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island. A former Vice President of Sales for computer companies running national and international sales organizations, he is also the past owner of The Library Restaurant. Mike is now retired and enjoys golfing. He has four children and three grandchildren, who undoubtedly will enjoy seeing him dressed as “Jelly Bean,” the Tooth Fairy.



Rotary Clubs Team Up for Kids

The Rotary Clubs of Highlands and Cashiers teamed up in July to raise money for the Children’s Dental Health Project, a joint project of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic and the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley. Now in its third year, the project provides free dental screenings, fluoride rinses, and oral hygiene education to the children in Cashiers schools. The project has since been adopted by the Rotary Clubs of Highlands for Highlands kids.



Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic
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(828) 743-3393

**We restore lives,
one tooth at a time.**



www.blueridgefreedentalclinic.org



Find the Dancing Tooth Fairies of Jackson County on You Tube!



Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic delivers high-quality dental care to people who cannot otherwise afford these critically needed services. Motivated by the beliefs and core values of our contributors and founding churches, we restore lives, one tooth at a time.

The Free Dental Clinic is located upstairs in Laurel Terrace on Highway 64 East, downtown Cashiers, NC. The Clinic can be reached at (828) 743-3393.