

OPEN ARMS CLINIC

PROVIDING CHARITABLE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Holiday Newsletter



CONTACT

109 BIG A RD. • TOCCOA, GA 30577

PHONE: 1 (706) 886-0940 FAX: 1 (706) 886-0941 EMAIL: OPENARMSGA@GMAIL.COM

WWW.OPENARMSCLINICGA.COM

HOURS

TUESDAYS: 2PM-8PM • WEDNESDAYS: BY APPT. ONLY • THURSDAYS: 9AM-5PM

COMMUNITY

Holiday Calendar of Giving

12 Days of Christmas Edition

Ring in the holidays with a food drive tradition, co-sponsored by Open Arms Clinic and Neighbors 4 Neighbors, to help our community fight hunger among our neediest families. The Holidays can be a difficult time for many, especially for those living on a tight budget. With increased winter fuel bills, rising costs, alongside the seasonal pressures, many will find themselves in food crisis.

Beginning December 1st, collect and place the following items in a grocery bag or box. **Bring your donation to Open Arms Clinic (109 Big A Rd.) on or before December 12TH**. We will be there to receive you with gratitude and lots of holiday spirit.

Please call 1 (706) 491-8639 for more information, or email openarmsga@gmail.com OR Neighbors4Neighbors@windstream.net

OPEN ARMS CLINIC

HOURS FOR DONATION DROP OFF: TUESDAYS, 2PM-6PM • WEDNESDAYS, CALL FOR TIME THURSDAYS, 9AM-5PM

1: BOX OF CEREAL

2: PEANUT BUTTER & CRACKERS

3: BOXED MASHED POTATOES & POUCH OF DRIED GRAVY MIX

4: BOXED MAC & CHEESE

5: CANNED HAM (1LB OR MORE) & CANNED PINEAPPLE

6: CANNED CHICKEN

7: CAKE MIX & FROSTING

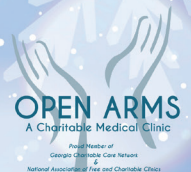
8: PACKAGE OF RICE & PACKAGE OF DRIED BEANS

9: PACKAGE OF PASTA & PASTA SAUCE

10: CANNED GREEN BEANS & CANNED CORN

11: CANNED SOUP (AT LEAST 3 CANS)

12: HOT CHOCOLATE MIX & CHRISTMAS CANDIES/COOKIES



Pictured are 6-year-old Maudy and 10-year-old Adler, children of volunteer Open Arms Clinic provider, Camilla Correia, filling up their shopping carts with items for our annual Holiday Food Drive. Maudy and Adler have been donating since our very first Holiday Food Drive, and the event has become a cherished family tradition that they look forward to every year.

Volunteers needed to help hand out Holiday Calendar of Giving Boxes on December 20th @ 9:30 AM. If interested, please email us at openarmsga@gmail.com or call/text Sherry at 1 (706) 491-8639.

COMMUNITY



The face of poverty isn't who you think. During the holidays, we tend to think of families with young children, but at Open Arms, we realize that many of our older citizens are straddling to have food on the table and face a bleak holiday season.

We've been receiving questions already regarding needs for our patients* during the holidays. If you would like to help or sponsor one or more of our patients, contact us.

**While we won't share names, we can share needs and situations.*

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER: UPDATED FLU, COVID, RSV, AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT MOST PHARMACIES. STAY HEALTHY, GET VACCINATED!

Support Stephens County

**Help Meet Basic Needs
this Holiday Season**

We are collecting personal items to distribute to organizations around Stephens County.

Purchased Amazon items will be shipped to Kelly O'Shields with Family Connection of Stephens County and distributed to partnering organizations at the beginning of 2024!

Questions? Call Kelly, at 706-244-5812



Scan to
shop the
Amazon
wishlist



family connection
OF STEPHENS COUNTY

EVENTS



Open Arms Clinic
Christmas Party

Friday, December 15th, 2023

5PM – 8PM

555 Rosedale St. • Toccoa



Bring a dish to share.
Sherry will provide the punch!



Please RSVP by text or call to I (706) 491-8639

Invitation extended to staff, volunteers, donors, and friends of the clinic!



GAME NIGHT

2024

ROARING TWENTIES GAME NIGHT

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OPEN ARMS CLINIC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024

7PM-10PM

AT THE TOCCOA ELKS LODGE

PRE-PURCHASE PRICE: \$40 PER TICKET

AT THE DOOR PRICE: \$50 PER TICKET

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER, AT OPEN ARMS CLINIC, OR AT JAMIESON TAX SERVICES
TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT:
WWW.OPENARMSCLINICGA.COM

UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 2024 AT MIDNIGHT

•TICKETS PURCHASED ONLINE WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR ON EVENT NIGHT•

\$5,000 FUNNY MONEY • BAR SNACKS • RAFFLES
PHOTO BOOTH • CORK PULL • DOOR PRIZES
CASH BAR



•1920s ATTIRE OPTIONAL•

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Check out the next 2 pages!

OPEN ARMS CLINIC

GAME NIGHT

2024 SPONSORSHIP MATRIX

“SUPPORTER” \$150	“SPONSOR” \$300	“TABLE SPONSOR” \$500	“TABLE BENEFACTOR” \$1,000+	“IN-KIND SUPPORTER” \$50+ RETAIL VALUE
Name on Website and Facebook	Name on Website and Facebook			Name on Website and Facebook
		Logo and name on Website and Facebook	Logo and name on Website and Facebook	
Link to sponsor website/Facebook	Link to sponsor website/Facebook	Link to sponsor website/Facebook	Link to sponsor website/Facebook	
Name on Flyer	Name on Flyer			
		Logo and name on flyer	Logo and name on flyer	
Listing on emails/press releases	Listing on emails/press releases	Listing on emails/press releases	Listing on emails/press releases	
Listing on poster at event	Listing on poster at event	Listing on poster at event	Listing on poster at event	Listing on poster at event
		Name/Logo on table card	Name/Logo on table card	
\$5,000 extra funny munny to use on Game Night				
	1 complimentary ticket			
		2 complimentary tickets		
			4 complimentary tickets	

For further assistance, please contact DeLisa Christ at 1 (727) 698-7696 OR delisa.christ@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.OPENARMSCLINICGA.COM

OPEN ARMS CLINIC



**EVENT NIGHT: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024
7PM – 10PM**

2024 SPONSORSHIP FORM

BUSINESS INFORMATION

BUSINESS NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____

WEBSITE ADDRESS: _____

FACEBOOK HANDLE: _____

CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION

NAME: _____ **PHONE #:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$ _____

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **OPEN ARMS CLINIC***

PLEASE MAIL THE COMPLETED SPONSORSHIP FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

**OPEN ARMS CLINIC
109 BIG A RD.
TOCCOA, GA 30577**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

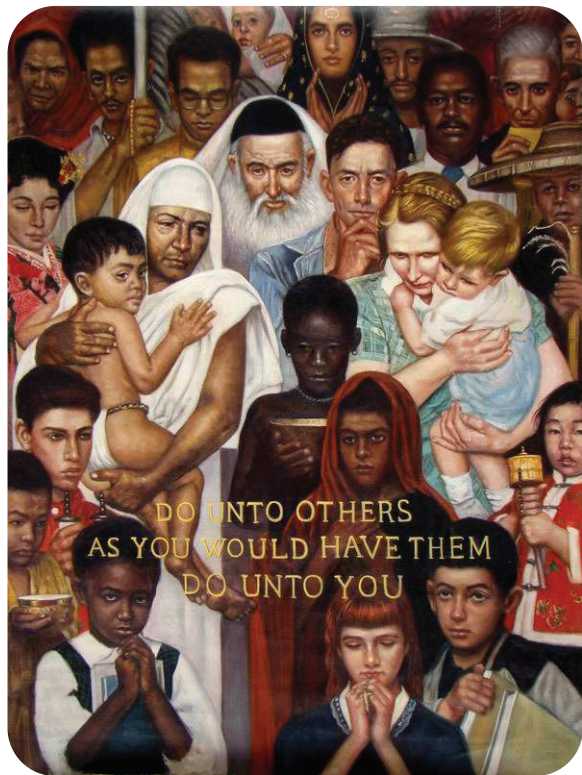
OPEN ARMS CLINIC IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT. YOUR SPONSORSHIP/DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.

Director's Corner

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU

Recently, during a conversation at the clinic, the topic turned to telephones and how much they have changed. We laughingly recalled the wall mounted kitchen phones with curled cords that we stretched to their maximum capacity in our futile search for privacy during a phone conversation. We talked about party lines (with nosy neighbors listening in) and the antiquated concept of telephone operators who routed all long distance calls and would give you the time or date if you asked. That whole conversation diverged into a discussion of telephone operators and the job they did. I quietly wondered if anyone had their life changed by the empathy of a telephone operator as I had as a young teen.

Let me begin by telling you my parents divorced when I was 5. My father was a career soldier and was stationed all over the world at the will of the U.S. Army. I lived with my mother in a small town in SW Va., which I loved. My mother was an alcoholic and descended farther into the process each year. More often than not, I was the caregiver. I wanted so badly to have the family depicted on the church bulletin I saw when I



walked myself to church each Sunday. I sang in the choir, spent summers at my beloved Camp Bethel and was determined that my life as a grown-up would be different. I was turning 14, a straight A student who kept the situation at home a secret. Then came the fall of 1968. I went to spend the night with a new friend, only to discover when Sunday came that my mother was gone. Nowhere to be found. MOVED. Without me. The house was empty, there was no phone to call. Today, someone would have called DFCS. But there was no such agency in place for abandoned children then. Several days later, she called the mother of my friend and asked her to look after me "for a while". That "while" turned into three months of living in a household that was not mine, sharing clothes of my "instant sisters" and living in day-to-day uncertainty about what my future held. Beyond grateful for the kindnesses shown me, the unquestioning sharing of this family who had taken in a virtual stranger, I knew it was temporary. (As an aside, have you ever seen the movie, "Second Hand Lions"? Watching it for the first time was an emotional look back in time with names and places changed). Sure enough, eventually she showed back up and spirited me off (against my will) to the VA. Beach area where she was in a rental house with a strange man, who shared her passion for alcohol. I was enrolled in a new school and was once again responsible for myself, but without my beloved small

town and the support system that came with it.

One day I came home to discover the car, the man, the luggage and all the money was gone, and my mother was beyond reach in an alcoholic haze. I knew I had reached my limit for a 14-year-old and needed help. But who could I call? Who was there to help? I needed to reach an adult and the only adult in my life was my father who was currently stationed in Germany. I only had an address from a letter to go by. The only resource I was familiar with was...the Operator. I dialed 0 and when she picked up, I told her I needed help and had to reach my father in Germany. She didn't tell me that wasn't her job. She didn't tell me she could not do it. Instead she coaxed the whole story out of me. Accustomed to secrecy, it was so shameful for me to tell the story, but she made it much easier. I remember the relief of finally telling someone I was scared and for once, unsure of how to proceed. She asked me if I was safe and if there was food in the house. She took my fathers address and told me to stay by the phone and she would call me back.

Director's Corner (continued)

A half hour later, the phone rang and my new adult friend and confidante, "the Operator", told me she had contacted the American Red Cross and they were locating my father. She said someone would be coming to my door in the next few minutes. Sure enough, minutes later, the doorbell rang and there stood a young man with a pizza and soda. Not a pizza delivery man mind you. Just a young man. I didn't question then, but wonder now, how did she arrange that? What hoops must she have jumped through? But the pizza was certainly not the pinnacle of her accomplishments. All through that evening and into the wee hours of the morning, she called me every half hour. We talked through my homework, we talked about our favorite songs on the radio, we talked about friendships and homesickness. She was calm when I had tears, encouraging when I was hopeless and somehow we made it through the long night. I slept in the chair by the phone, in a strange city awaiting an unknown voice on the other end of the line. At 3 in the morning, the phone rang and "My Operator" told me she was connecting me to my father and would remain on the line to make sure the connection was not lost. Through the static crackle of a difficult connection, I heard his miraculous voice. I couldn't speak for crying. "She" broke in and filled him in on the current situation. I was to later discover she had rallied the American Red Cross who had located my father in a field exercise on the Czechoslovakian border. He was talking to me from a field phone patched through to a local land line, connected to an international operator and finally to "my Operator". Based on what she had told them, the Red Cross had already arranged his flight to the United States and then on to Va. Beach. Overcome with the situation he reassured me over and over that he would be there within 24 hours. The call was short, and when it ended the silence was deafening. Until "she" spoke up. She told me to go to bed, not to leave the house (even to go to school) and told me she would stay in touch with me until my father arrived. My mother would awaken only to assuage her thirst and descend once again into a stupor. I was afraid to tell her what I had done. Despite the bleak situation surrounding me in the present, I had hope. Late in the morning, the phone rang and as promised it was "her" trusted voice. We resumed our schedule from the previous night. She maintained regular updates with the Red Cross about where my father was according to their travel reservations. I resumed my position on the chair and awaited my calls from the best friend I had ever had sharing my adolescent dreams and fears. When the knock came on the door and I heard the familiar voice on the other side, I threw myself into his arms. Over the next half hour, I related the story of all that had happened and when the phone rang again, my father answered it. With a voice laden with emotion he told her how much he appreciated her "looking after me" and "going above and beyond her duties" to locate him and reunite us. I then said my final farewell to "the Operator". I never got her name.

I didn't fully realize the impact of her actions on that day. What would have happened to that young girl if "the Operator" hadn't taken on this seemingly insurmountable task? Where would I be today if my father had not stepped back into my life at that age to give me the guidance and care he supplied? There, of course, is more to tell..but that in itself is another entirely different story.

She may be nameless, but she changed not only the few hours I knew her, but the trajectory of my future. She also changed how I would forever approach life. It may seem insurmountable, but it is my JOB (as a caring human being) to attempt to solve the problems of others if they are presented to me. No task is too small or too large. I will do my best to find a solution, a helper, an agency, funding...the list goes on. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". It's an edict shared in some version across the many cultures of our world. I try to live by it.

And so, this Christmas and in the coming year, I challenge you to be like my role model, my "Operator" who didn't turn away from a difficult task and in doing so changed a life. In her honor, I wish you the Merriest of Christmases. To her, as always I say a silent prayer that her life has been daily blessed and offer up my eternal gratitude for helping shape me as an adult. She may have been just an "Operator" to most, but to me; she was my salvation. Thank you is such a small phrase..but it's all I have. She may be aged or even dead..but she lives on in my memory and in the life I lead. May our story inspire you to give as she gave.*

Merry Christmas my friends, Merry Christmas.

Love, Sherry

*This story from my life is told in the hope you will receive it without judgement. It is a hard tale to recount for me and I appreciate your kindness as you receive it.

GIVE TAKE

LENDING CLOSET

These are items donated to us to redistribute to anyone in the community that may need them

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Rollators
- Shower Chairs
- Potty Chairs
- Adult Diapers
- Bed Pads
- Canes
- Crutches
- Colostomy Supplies
- Nebulizers & Tubing
- Oxygen Tubing

WHAT WE NEED

Listed below are items that we are in need of in order to help maintain our office and provide for our patients and the community

- Copy Paper
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Hand Soap
- Sticky Notes
- AAA Batteries
- AA Batteries
- Staples
- Garbage Bags (4gal, 8gal, 13gal, & 30gal)
- Closed-Toed Shoes (men's & women's good condition)
- Jackets (men's & women's good condition)

Do you or someone you know have medications that you are no longer using? As a free clinic in the state of Georgia, we are allowed to accept these medications. If we cannot use it, we will properly dispose of it for you.

We have several carloads of donations for Samaritan's Purse. If you are going anywhere near Boone, Wilkesboro, or Blowing Rock, NC, please consider dropping a load off for us. For information on their mission, please check out their website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Volunteers Needed!



WE ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF RECEPTIONISTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING OPENINGS:

- 5TH THURSDAYS (AS THEY OCCUR), 9AM-1PM

Duties include taking calls, answering the window/door, taking medication orders, etc. Computer skills helpful, but we will teach you what you need to know. Schedules are flexible, as needed for personal schedule conflicts.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH US, PLEASE STOP BY DURING OPEN HOURS, GIVE US A CALL, OR SEND US AN EMAIL!

VOLUNTEERS

PROVIDERS/PHYSICIANS

- *MEDICAL DIRECTOR:* DR. THOMAS YATES, NGPG
- DR. HARRY McDONALD
- DR. LENKA NOVOTNA
- DR. ROBERT QUICK
- *MEDICAL DIRECTOR:* DR. JIM WADE, SCHPG
- DR. TOD BETHEA
- CAMILLA CORREIA, PA
- TRAVIS DOBBS, PA

DENTISTS

- DR. SAMUEL CASTILLO • DR. VASCO LOWERY • DR. BETH LOWERY

OPTOMETRISTS

- DR. ASHLEY FORTNEY • DR. LINDSAY MARTIN • DR. KEN SCHNEIDER • DR. KEVIN VANDERHOEF

PHYSICAL THERAPY

- DEBRA YATES, PT / *PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIALISTS* • ANGIE KING, PT / *SOUTHERN REHAB*

PHARMACY

- STEVE SPRUILL, RPH • JEB WATKINS, RPH • SAMMY BROWN, RPH • MADDOX DRUGS

NURSING

- CALLIE SMITH • JUDY GARNER • CAROL DONNELLY • MARIE MAYNER • SUZANNE McDONALD
- SHARI JALOVICK • DEANA BETHEA • BEVERLY GARSIDE • JOY MCCOLLUM • BOB KARRAM

RECEPTIONISTS

- MARGARET GUNN • KAREN CONKLE • SUSAN MAGEE • WINDY CHARLES • CAROL GRUBER
- SUSAN PATTON • JAYNE SNELL • LAKIE MEEKS • SHARON BROWN • PAT WEBB

REGISTRARS

- JOHN "BARNEY" COLLINS • FRANK PATTON • AL KOLE

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS

- DREMA BEAVERS, *MERCER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE*

MISC. VOLUNTEERS

- DAVE SCHREIBER • JIM DONNELLY • JERRY SNELL
- PHIL GRUBER • GEORGE BEAVERS • GLENN GARNER
- MEN OF THE COMMUNITY
- ...AND MANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE THEIR TIME, WHEN NEEDED

MEAL PROVIDERS

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT, A LOCAL RESTAURANT DONATED MEALS TO FEED OUR VOLUNTEERS



STAFF

- SHERRY BEAVERS, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*
- VANESSA SMITH, *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & REFERRAL COORDINATOR*
- DONNA DISQUE, *LEGACY LINK* • SHERRI STEPHENS, *LEGACY LINK* • BILL STEPHENS, *LEGACY LINK*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- MICHELLE JAMIESON, *CHAIR* • JOHN "BARNEY" COLLINS, *CO-CHAIR*
- PHYLLIS AYERS, *TREASURER* • STACY MILLER, *SECRETARY*
- FREDDA WHEELER • BRIAN ROCKWELL • DENNIS WILSON • SHARLEEN STINESPRING
- JOLEY STRICKLAND • DELISA CHRIST • GAIL FRY • PAM JONES

SPECIALTY REFERRAL SERVICES

- STEPHENS COUNTY HOSPITAL • NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL • NEGMC • NGPG • AVITA • GIVINGHEALTH
- CLEAVER MEDICAL GROUP, *DERMATOLOGY*

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- NEIGHBORS 4 NEIGHBORS • STEPHENS COUNTY CONNECTIONS • SALVATION ARMY
- NINTH DISTRICT • HABITAT FOR HUMANITY • LIONS CLUB
- LEGACY LINK • CHURCHES OF THE COMMUNITY



OPEN ARMS

A Charitable Medical Clinic

Proud Member of
Georgia Charitable Care Network
&
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

TO OUR NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS:
YOU ARE OUR GREATEST AMBASSADORS. PLEASE SHARE OUR STORY WITH YOUR CHURCH, YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND CO-WORKERS.