

Tutwiler CLINIC & OUTREACH

Tutwiler, Mississippi

(662)345-8334

www.tutwilerclinic.org

Spring, 2015

Dear all of you good friends of the Tutwiler Clinic:

This past winter I again had the privilege of writing thank-you notes. This is how I do it: Cindy in Public Relations prepares notes in the beautiful cards designed by Sister Mary Bertoli, who used to live down the road from us before she retired. I pile a 2 inch bunch of the notes to be done on the counter in the clinic hall (good spot to stand with my tri-focals focusing just right!) I always put the pile of envelopes with the name and address face-up, so I can see where y'all live, and pray for all you people who so generously support our work here. And then I try not to scribble too much in my teeny-weeny handwriting as I send our love and gratitude to the four corners of our land.

Once upon a time this past December I found myself in a strange situation – I had just signed a



Photo by Kim White—[Healthleaders](#)

thank you note around Christmas time, sending a hug to the generous donor. I looked at what I had written and it sure enough looked like I had sent her a “bug” instead of a “hug”! Then I looked closer at the notes I had put in the “finished pile” Uh-oh! Here was one with 4 little mountains in my name – Annnne instead of only 2. You probably have guessed by now that my writing hand was a bit tired, so please forgive me if I “bugged” you by mistake! Just know that we are so very, very grateful to all of you 1,087 donors and often your family members as well – your caring hearts energize us, and give us strength to do things like tell a 70 year old he has leukemia, or hold the 81 year old’s hand as I described why she felt so weak (on hospice, now, for recurrent uterine cancer) while her daughters tried not to sob as they heard my words of love from God who was calling her Home...

So here’s a HUG for each of you, and prayers for many blessings for y’all, for your care and concern about our work here in the Mississippi Delta! (No bugs!)

Love,

Sister Anne Brooks, DD, and Staff



This is Tutwiler, Mississippi!

Enough said.

Post Christmas Message---

Perhaps you did not hear back from us if you sent holiday gifts from Amazon or Kohls. Sorry to say, their packing slips often do not give any indication of the sender. Just know that each box was deeply appreciated and our thanks still are guaranteed!

Christmas Outreach

To everyone who helped so many men, women and children have a very special holiday here in Tutwiler, hear the words from families who received toys for the kids and a surprise gift bag for Mom and/or Dad—

“These gifts will make a tremendous difference this year.”

“Thank you for your help. I send this with my love and my kids’ love.”

“Thank you for helping my family and myself out in our time of need.”

“I would truly like to thank you “guys” from the bottom of my heart. If it weren’t for you, I could not ever have had such a merry Christmas.”

“It feels good to know there’s good people in the world.”

Real Live Christmas Stories

Do you ever wonder how much kids remember from what you try to teach them? For me, gratitude will always stand the kids in good stead. We were finishing lunch at McDonald’s, (thanks to your gift cards) and their best behavior was so evident! Along comes an elderly gentleman and his wife--- “Can I buy these kids some ice cream?”

It was so neat to see every child on their own, go up to this man to say thanks! I think the kids were proud of themselves.



That’s My Blanket!

On these cold nights, any fleece blanket is most welcome! At Christmas, we received a special one with dogs all over it! Jamarion loved it--- and so did Zy’Lynn, his cousin who lives with him! Have you ever thought what it means to try to match a blanket when the first one came from “somewhere in the USA?” Impossible!! But we did at least find one with dogs---making for two happy children!



Zy’Lynn



Jamarion

Never too Late!

Your generosity as donors gave our children some very wonderful Christmas gifts! A week went by and a timid knock was heard on my door. There stood Tony holding out a bubble gum blow pop for me! “Thank you, Sr. Joann. This is for you!” What a special gift!



Tony

Bargain Barn Happenings

1. Our Bargain Barn is definitely a gathering spot, a grapevine exchange and a “mall” where folks connect in many ways. Our customers have grown to love Mag, our manager, who goes out of her way to welcome anyone who comes. (cont. on p.3)



Magnolia Wilson

Doctor's Rounds

She was frail from cancer that had spread everywhere, and at 71 she didn't want any more treatment, or hospice. Her family had come with her, to urge her to start her care with hospice, which I was sure had not been explained properly to her. She had already had over 8 liters of fluid drained from her belly twice to help her breathe better. I sat beside her wheelchair, taking her cold hands into mine. I spoke about God's love for her, and how angels were gathering to go with her on her journey to her true Home, and why she didn't need to be afraid, because all the tough stuff was done – no more needles, just kind hospice nurses to give her medicine so nothing would hurt any more. I asked her if she had any questions for me, but she had none... So I hugged her and gave her back to her family. And 3 days later they called with the news I had expected. What a privilege to journey with her in those precious moments!

oOo

She had diabetes, lupus, kidney failure requiring dialysis for the past 10 years; stents in her heart; she had had a heart valve replaced already, her gall bladder and half her colon had been removed, and then she returned to us from yesterday's visit to the emergency room still not feeling better – We started this morning with the basics – Temperature was now 103.2! I fumed and called ER to give report and by golly, this time she was sent to ICU with the Infectious Disease doctor consulting! 43 year olds with that kind of incredible history shouldn't have a "Hi,.. good-bye" visit!

oOo

"Hey, doc!" he said as he passed me in the hall "I feel much better!" He was all bundled up against the cold and I hardly caught a glimpse of his face, but he sure made my day!

oOo

I recalled her photo, a gift from a photographer following me around on house calls that day 31 years ago. It showed a woman with 2 of her little children in the one room where they lived (with heat from open flame gas heaters) above the funeral home – the same funeral home where the body of young Emmett Till had been taken after his murder in 1955. Here was this woman, surprisingly, still looking well in spite of her breast cancer chemo treatments, this time here to get her blood pressure medicines before she ran out—and I thought of the pile of bricks that is all that remains of her previous dwelling-but she is alive and doing well in a different home, and it blessed my day with encouragement!

There was no way we could get him comfortable – he couldn't lie still; I gently touched his belly, sneaking up on the lower edge his liver and that was IT! He just about lifted off! Direct admit to the hospital, urgent gall bladder surgery, He did fine – and came by the clinic at discharge with some beautiful flowers for the staff!

oOo

Bargain Barn...(continued from p. 3)

She tells how she's brought some of her own perfume to share with women she knows have none. It's the glow on their faces that is her reward. These same women offer to help her any time they might be needed!

There had been a serious accident in the area one night. Hours after closing time, Mag got a call at home from a customer. "Just checking to see if you're ok." Kindness that goes around, comes around!

2. At one time or another, we've all received a "special invitation" to this or that. So did 7 women from Tutwiler----***"You are invited to shop at the Barn with a gift certificate from a special donor!"*** What a day it was! 'Do you think this will fit?' 'What do you think about this?' 'This is just what I like!' 'This time I can actually get myself something!'



Minnie, Joann, Ruthie, Takisha, Joyce, Sabrina and Barbara

As each woman took her bag with many beautiful items, of course there was gratitude, but also a unanimous response, "Can we maybe do this again?"

News from the Tutwiler Community Education Center (TCEC) (your neighbors down the block)

Christmas

December and the entire holiday season is a busy, but joyful, time at the Tutwiler Center and this past Christmas was no different. Many days were spent preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant. As always, it was wonderful and was enjoyed with record attendance! We hosted the Christmas Store where children could shop for a gift for mom and dad. The Senior Citizens Christmas lunch was so very nice. Each senior received a gift bag and a bag of candy, fruit and nuts, donated by a local business. Thanks to everyone who donated to make our toy giveaway a big hit with the children! Each of these events impacts the lives of the children and the families in the Tutwiler area. It could not happen without your continued support.

Tutwiler Quilters

The Tutwiler Quilters had a wonderful holiday season! The home quilters were busy making pot-holders, placemats, and table runners in festive holiday fabrics! For several years, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oxford, MS has hosted an exclusive show just for the Tutwiler Quilters each fall. This is a good show every year and this year we featured a new oven mitt and a cell phone bag holder. Both have been very popular items. Another big show for us is the Chimneyville Craft Show in Jackson, MS which draws shoppers from a several state area. Chimneyville is sponsored by the Craftsman Guild of Mississippi, so it is a quality show. This month, we will take our quilts to sell at the annual Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. April 11 is the ever popular Juke Joint Festival in downtown Clarksdale, MS, just 15 miles north on historic Highway 49. It is a fun, one-day sale which garners many new friends. You can find out more about our handmade quilts and quilted items, handmade in the African American tradition, by visiting our website: www.tutwilerquilters.com.

TUTWILER COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER STAFF

FULL TIME

Sr. Maureen Delaney SNJM, Executive Director
Lucinda Berryhill, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ann Willis-Mackey, Assistant to the Director
Mary Ann Meeks, Assistant to the Director

PART TIME

Shelley Ricker, Development Director
Genether Miller-Spurlock, Education Co-ordinator
Sr. Joann Blomme, O.P., Quilt Program
Gloria Young, Maintenance
Allie Lewis, Maintenance
Peggy Young, Children's Programs
Linda Johnson, James Webb, P.E. Teachers
6 Part time Coaches 12 Teen Helpers



MURALS

The beautiful, bright colorful murals our arts students created last summer have been mounted on buildings in downtown Tutwiler. They are enjoyed every day by area residents and visitors to Tutwiler. Local artist, Leslie Turner worked with students to find out their thoughts and dreams about the area in order to create the mural designs, which the students painted. We are so proud of the murals! They are very expressive and representative of our area as well as beautiful works of art. And, we have printed five note cards featuring the seven murals. They are for sale, along with our quilt note cards, \$8 for a package of 5. Contact the Center to order.

Annual Athletic Banquet

Each spring, our Athletic Banquet is a time for our coaches to recognize the students who work faithfully to improve their athletic skills at the TCEC gym. Students and their parents gather for an evening of good food, fellowship and to recognize the good work of each and every student. In addition to sports activities, speakers come to share inspiration with the athletes. Our Athletic Banquet this year is March 20 at 6:00 p.m. Pastor L. C. Tyler, Jr., from Union Grove Church in Clarksdale is our speaker this year. The banquet is a great outing for both parents and kids. Many trophies are handed out and the pride shines through on the face of each and every child!



TCEC Blues Band

The Blues Band began three years ago with support from blues harmonica performer and instructor, Jon Gindick. Heather Crosse, Lee Williams and David Dunavent share their music skills with children and teens two days a week here at the center. The budding musicians learn rhythm guitar, bass guitar and drums as well as other percussion instruments. Our students performed on the world famous Ground Zero Blues Club stage in downtown Clarksdale this month as part of the "Wearin' the Green, Singin' the Blues" fundraising event for the Jonestown Family Center for Education and Wellness. They were a real crowd pleaser! There were two college groups in the area working in Tutwiler and Jonestown during Spring Break, so they enjoyed the performance along with many friends, visitors and tourists from across the country!

This month, too, the band was featured on the renowned Thacker Mountain Radio show which was recorded on location in Sumner, Mississippi. Thacker Mountain is the University of Mississippi's public radio show which is produced in conjunction with Mississippi Public Broadcasting, the statewide public broadcasting radio and television company. The recording was at the historic Tallahatchie Mississippi County Courthouse in Sumner in front of a live audience. The show was then broadcast on MPB radio two times during the week and is available on the Thacker Mountain website, <http://www.thackermountain.com/archive/>. During the past year, the band performed at the First Annual Tutwiler Days and they were featured in the Delta Business Journal and Living Blues magazines!



Senior Citizens TRIAD

Once a month, the Center partners with the Tallahatchie Sheriff's office to welcome senior citizens from throughout Tallahatchie County to the TRIAD meeting. TRIAD stands for The Right Information And Direction. The citizens gather for singing, fellowship and a guest speaker. We had Senator David Jordan talk about his book and sign copies along with Sister Mary Bertoli who talked about her recent book release. Most recently, a representative from Entergy shared with the seniors about how to lower their energy bills and how to keep warm and safe during the cold winter months. A healthy lunch, usually with a "southern dish" or two is served before the participants are transported home in the TCEC vans. The Center hosts senior citizens the other Wednesday mornings for fellowship, sometimes a craft project or a speaker, exercise, singing and a healthy lunch. Sometimes a "field trip" is the Wednesday seniors' event. That may include a fishing trip in warm weather or a shopping trip to a nearby town.



Basketball Benefit

Our Spring Basketball Benefit brings many people and families to the TCEC gym on a Saturday for good, family fun and fund raising for the Center. Basketball teams square off to the delight of the crowd. During this Benefit Game, the Center is having a raffle, too. Gifts include cash (\$100, \$50, \$25), a phone, backpacks, basketball, and much more. Tickets sell 6 for \$5 with all the proceeds benefitting the Tutwiler Center and Gym facility. The Center benefits from the sale of the concessions and we accept donations!

Habitat for Humanity

Since beginning 29 years ago, West Tallahatchie Habitat for Humanity has built 44 homes for local residents! Most recently, we had high school students from Urbana, IL, University of Chicago medical students and students from Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, come work on homes currently under construction. Scheduled to come are students from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville; Holy Names University students from Oakland, CA and students from St. George School in Newton, PA. Along with the building of the homes, friendships are built and meals are shared with one common goal, to combine talents and build safe homes for families.

Also, last year, more than 40 area women worked on building a home during National Women Build Week which will take place this year May 3-10. West Tallahatchie Habitat will be recruiting area women to volunteer again this year. Additional information is

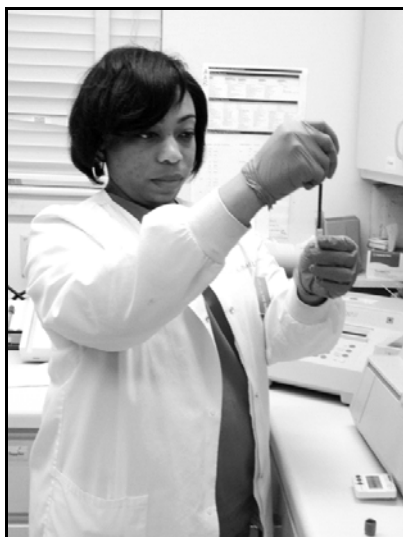
5 available at our website, www.wthabitat.org.

Welcome, Charity

In December, 2014, Charity Davis, MLT, joined the medical staff as the Lab Manager. Charity received her Medical Laboratory Technology degree from Mississippi Delta Community College. After 4 years of evening and night shifts at a hospital, Charity likes working days and having weekends off.

In high school she always knew that she wanted a career in the medical field. She would hear of the doctor saying 'we have to run tests'. "Now I am one of the people behind the scene actually doing the testing. I absolutely love what I do and I am even more delighted now that I am working in a clinic setting. I love having patient contact."

Charity's experience has enabled her to quickly adjust to the instruments and procedures of in the clinic lab. Welcome aboard!



**Charity Davis
MLT**

Medicine Needs for Spring, 2015

Countdown to Spring!

Daffodils poked through melting ice and snow. Can spring be far behind? As seasons change the need for medication continues.

Our list of prescription samples needed includes: (Sorry, we are unable to use medication that has already been prescribed for someone else)

ACE inhibitors, Calcium channel blockers, B-beta blockers

Inhalers

Anti-lipids (Zocor, Lipitor)

Antibiotics (Keflex, Amoxicillen, Zithromax, Septra)

Oral diabetic meds

We can use the generic over the counter medicines such as

Prilosec, Pepcid

Claritin

NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Aleve, Aspirin 81 mg, Naproxyn)

Sugar free cough, cold and sinus medicines (not liquids)

Creams such as Hydrocortisone, antibiotic, anti-fungal creams

Supplies:

Band-aids 3 inch wide, ace wraps (news, 2,3,4,6, inch non-adhesive)

Sterile 4 x 4s

Test strips for "Vital" glucometers

Staff of the Tutwiler Clinic

MEDICAL

Sister Anne Brooks, D.O.

Nawal S. Shekhawat, M.D.

Kerrin Flowers, FNP-BC Sabrina Easter, AGNP-C

Sister Cora Lee Middleton, RN

C.J. Aldridge, RN Josie K. Smith, RN

Katina White, RN

Jewel Unruh, RN* Annie Williams RN*

Charity Davis, MLT

CeeCee Collins, LPN Carolyn Mack, LPN

Shelly Hill Dianna Rushing

Chanda Lee Gloria Davis

Maxine Stanley*

OFFICE

Geneva Byrd, Office Manager

JoJo Gipson Annette Maiden

Ranee Smith Betty Barbieri*

Sandra Brown*

SUPPORT STAFF

Dorothy Dodd Gloria Jones

Teresa Farmer Janessa Harris*

Magnolia Wilson* Sister Joann Blomme

Cindy Herring

(*Part-time)

Medical Students



Sonja Pennington, R.N., (right) is checking notes with her preceptor, Kerrin Flowers, FNP-BC, after seeing a patient. Sonja attends Delta State University in the Nurse Practitioner program and is doing her clinical rotation at Tutwiler Clinic.



Dr. Brooks reviews x-ray films with student doctors Alley Ronaldi, third year medical student at University of Mississippi School of Medicine, and Sara English, third year medical student at William Carey University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Alley and Sara were at the Clinic for a month-long rotation in Family Medicine.

Needs List

Socks – men, women, children;
Bingo prizes for senior citizens;
Wide-brim fishing hats for senior citizens;
Baseball caps and t-shirt overruns;

Back packs and filler paper;
Children/adult word search books;

Personal products-
soap, deodorant; toothpaste, toothbrushes
hand lotion in smaller size bottles/tubes;

Household items for Bargain Barn
-silverware, rugs, curtains, pots, pans, bowls,
fry pans,
-towels.

Quilting needs
-quilting thread: dark green and maroon;
-corduroy solids: at least a yard long;
-new bed sheets for quilt backs:
--180 or more thread count
--navy, cream, maroon

Farewell...

The Tutwiler Clinic staff is a close-knit family and we celebrate everything together. On February 21, we gathered for a final celebration of life for our dear friend and co-worker, Bobbie McDaniel.

Miss Bobbie joined the Clinic staff in 2006 and she made sure that the patients and staff were in a clean and healthy place. She loved the birthday parties at the Clinic and still came to them even after poor health forced her to retire.



She will be missed by her seven brothers and sisters, four children, three grandchildren, and by her thirty sisters at the Tutwiler Clinic.

Miss Bobbie



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Return Service Requested

Reminders:
If you ship items to the Clinic, put a copy of your mailing label inside the box.
You can still have your newsletter e-mailed! Notify cindyherring71@yahoo.com

Quilts		approximate size		Postage	
Twin	66" x 96"	\$ 325.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
Full	81" x 96"	\$ 350.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
Queen	90" x 102"	\$ 375.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	
King	108" x 102"	\$ 400.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	
Baby	36" x 48"	\$ 80.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
Bags					
		\$ 25.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
Table Runners		\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
Place Mats (set of 4)		\$ 40.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
Pot Holders		\$ 7.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	
Wall Hangings					
36" x 48"		\$ 80.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
20" x 40"		\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
12" x 18"		\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	
Cards		\$ 1.50 each or...5 for \$ 7.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	

Donations graciously accepted and always
needed
All donations are tax-exempt!
Tutwiler Clinic
_____Wherever most needed
The Tutwiler Community Education Center
_____program
The Tutwiler Clinic and
the Tutwiler Community Education are both
a 501(c)(3) charity.
Thank you for all you send—large and small!
Have you considered
including the Tutwiler Clinic in your will ?