

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation receives \$500,000 grant from the Duke Endowment**

*MORGANTON:* Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation recently received a \$500,000 grant through The Duke Endowment to develop a collaborative network of health care, through the Good Samaritan Clinic, for the uninsured whose incomes are between 100% - 200% of the federal poverty level.

Funds from the grant will support individuals whose incomes are too high to qualify for government-funded programs, but too low to enroll in the health insurance exchange.

Patients who qualify can receive general medical care at the Good Samaritan Clinic. If their need exceeds the services offered by the clinic they will then be referred to a local network of medical practices that have volunteered to provide the additional care.

Medical care provided to patients in the network will resemble that of those who have insurance. If needed they can receive specialty care, laboratory and radiology tests, among other services. Participants also receive medications at a discounted rate through the Good Samaritan Clinic.

Eve, a current patient of the clinic, is one of those individuals. She first came to the clinic because of hip pain, which resulted in a decrease of her mobility. Tests revealed severe degenerative joint disease in both hips. Her only solution was hip replacement. After connecting her with a surgeon, the staff at the clinic was able to arrange for hip replacement surgery. Now two months later, she is scheduled for a second hip replacement and is very optimistic. "Every day I thank God for Good Samaritan Clinic's people," she said. "Prior to coming here, I was at the lowest point in my life. Without Good Samaritan Clinic I may have taken desperate measures. I have never felt shamed or pitied. I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Those who receive medical care in a primary care setting improve their overall health status, which leads to increased confidence and self-sufficiency, and decreases the use of the emergency room or inpatient care in the hospital setting.

"The resources provided by the Duke Endowment will help our community organize a safety net for people who typically wait until their need is critical before receiving health care," says Will Cannon, president of the Board of Directors of Good Samaritan Clinic. "Promoting primary care for everyone in our community is not only the right thing to do...it's the wise thing to do."

Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the development, management and distribution of gifts that assist Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge in providing excellent healthcare in the local area. The organization manages over \$2.3 million dollars in 30 different projects that support Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge and community health organizations. In addition to these projects, the Foundation also seeks grant opportunities that support the system and the community. Since 2011, the Foundation has been

awarded over \$3.8 million dollars in support of the following: Cancer Program, Residency Program, Mountain Valley Health Center, Good Samaritan Clinic, Tobacco Prevention, and much more.

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

For more information about the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation or how you can support this community effort, please call 580-5365 or visit [www.brhcfoundation.org](http://www.brhcfoundation.org).