

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ABOUT US

Macon Volunteer Clinic began when retired physician Chapin Henley gathered a group of diverse volunteers together in fall 2001. They shared a dream to open a free clinic that would provide a medical home for working, uninsured residents of Bibb County. Group leaders visited the Hilton Head Volunteers in Medicine Clinic and other facilities in the Southeast. The research trips confirmed their initial beliefs, that a volunteer clinic was a crucial component in closing some of the healthcare gaps facing the Bibb County community.

A generous grant from McNeil Laboratories and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded training from the Volunteers in Medicine Institute. Coliseum Health System donated a rent-free building on Rogers Avenue, and the Community Foundation of Central

Georgia financed the site's renovation. The MedCen Community Health Foundation (now Navicent Health Foundation) supported research, promotion, and fundraising efforts to get the clinic started. The Peyton Anderson Foundation generously funded start-up costs ensuring the clinic's first year of success.

Local businesses and individuals joined the effort and donated numerous items and services to help make the Macon Volunteer Clinic a reality. Volunteers spoke to civic groups and churches, as well as corporations and foundations, further increasing support.

As a result of this community-wide effort, Macon Volunteer Clinic was incorporated in 2002, received its 501(c)(3) status the same year, and opened its doors February 2003. Since, Macon Volunteer Clinic has made great strides in providing exceptional service to the community, and in 2024 expanded services to all Central Georgia counties.



Executive Director: John McCard
Medical Director: Dr. Matt Astin

(478)755-1110 • Fax (478)259-6353
770 Walnut St. • Macon, GA 31201



maconvolunteerclinic.org

Macon Volunteer Clinic is a local 501(c)(3) organization.

Our Partners

Atrium Health Navicent Rehabilitation Hospital
Central Georgia Technical College
Georgia Charitable Care Network
LabCorp
Mercer University School of Medicine
National Association of Free Clinics
OrthoGeorgia
Piedmont Macon
United Way of Central Georgia



OUR SERVICES

not limited to:

- Primary Healthcare
- Dental Cleanings, Extractions & Restorative Care
- Non-narcotic Prescription Medication Assistance
- Cancer Screenings
- Gynecology
- Chiropractic
- Orthopedics
- Endocrinology
- Acupuncture
- Eye Exams
- Laboratory Analyses
- X-rays & Ultrasounds
- Other Diagnostic Services
- Nutrition Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling

Georgia continues to have one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. Those without insurance often choose to go without healthcare in order to pay for everyday needs.

Macon Volunteer Clinic provides free primary medical, dental, and eye care to uninsured working adults in Middle Georgia, whose income is equal to or less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

MEET PATIENT H

A patient at Macon Volunteer Clinic who wanted to share his story anonymously.

Patient H is a born performer—full of life, laughter, and talent. But when his health began to decline, everything changed. He suffered from limited use of one arm, chronic headaches, trouble breathing, and dental issues that made chewing difficult. The pain made it hard to work, and even harder to perform on stage. Without insurance, H hesitated to seek help.

He felt his circumstances were his fault and focused on caring for others instead of himself. But when the discomfort became too great to ignore, he turned to Macon Volunteer Clinic—and everything began to shift. At MVC, he found a team that treated him with dignity and respect. He no longer felt ashamed. With support from volunteer providers and staff like Dona, the dental coordinator, and Cherish, the office manager, he received the care he needed. The dental work he received, in particular, restored not just his

smile, but his confidence. As a performer, that meant everything.

“The clinic taught me it’s okay to take care of myself,” he said. “I can’t even begin to tell you how much of a blessing it’s been for my physical, emotional, financial, and mental health.”

To those who support the clinic, he offers heartfelt thanks: “I ain’t no crybaby, but I’m sincerely appreciative. It’s one of the best decisions you could ever make. You’re helping.”

The Macon Volunteer Clinic proudly celebrates the accomplishments of 2024, all thanks to the dedication and support of our volunteers. With volunteer numbers at robust levels, we facilitated 8,283 patient encounters and welcomed 125 new patients into our care network! A new cohort of volunteers has joined our journey, representing specialties such as endocrinology, neurology, acupuncture, dentistry, physical therapy, optometry, and more.

Dear Friends of MVC,

The year 2024 marked a transformative chapter in the history of Macon Volunteer Clinic. From our humble beginnings in 2003 under the visionary leadership of Dr. Chapin Henley, we dared to dream big—to raise the funds, renovate a new space, and relocate to a new home in the heart of downtown Macon.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, community partners, foundations, and generous donors, we remained steadfast in our mission: to provide essential healthcare—at no cost—to hardworking individuals who cannot afford health insurance.

2024 MILESTONES

2024 Staff Transitions:



John McCard

Appointed Executive Director in May of 2024

The addition of John to the MVC team has brought new ideas and community connections to foster clinic growth for years to come.

Theresa Ferrari

Director of Operations as of July 2024

We welcomed Theresa as our new Director of Operations. With over 20 years of leadership experience at Stratford Academy, she brings valuable expertise to support our staff and mission.



This year, we proudly re-established in-house counseling services for our patients through a meaningful partnership with Mercer University School of Medicine's Marriage and Family Therapy program. Thanks to our dedicated intern, Lakeshie Robinson, we have been able to provide accessible, compassionate mental health care as part of our holistic approach to wellness.

Mental Health Medication Management

We began offering in-house mental health medication management through our volunteer Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, expanding access to critical behavioral health care.

While continuing to serve our patients each day, we undertook the ambitious task of securing the resources needed to bring to life the dreams of Dr. Henley and the volunteers who founded MVC twenty-two years ago.

Through your support, we successfully completed our capital campaign, renovated our new facility, and, in March 2025, made the move—despite the many challenges along the way. These milestones were made possible by the steadfast financial and spiritual support we received from all corners of our community.

As we look ahead to 2025, our commitment remains unchanged: to uphold our founding values and the belief that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare.

With your continued support, we will build upon our legacy of service and compassion. Our new home in downtown Macon will stand as a beacon of hope for future generations of Middle Georgians who share in this vision.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we will continue reaching for the stars and changing lives—one patient at a time.

With gratitude,



John McCard
Executive Director

Per Aspera ad Astra (Through Adversity to the Stars)

Streamlined Patient Communication



This year, we implemented CareMessage, a new communication platform that allows our clinical staff to connect with patients more efficiently through text messaging—improving appointment reminders, health education, and overall care coordination.

Holistic Care Expansion

Through a partnership with Dr. Rebecca Saunders and Amber Sproule of Peak Path Chiropractic, we added off-site chiropractic and nutritionist appointments to support whole-person care.



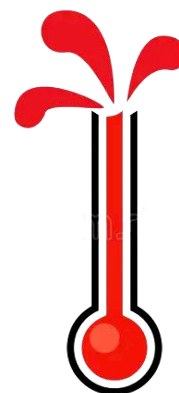
Building for the Future



We kicked off renovations at our future home, 770 Walnut Street, by breaking down walls—marking the first step in transforming the space into a larger, more modern clinic that will enhance care and better serve our patients and community.

Campaign Goal Surpassed

By December, we successfully completed our capital campaign—surpassing our \$2.5 million goal to fund renovations for our new home at 770 Walnut Street. Thank you to all who made this vision a reality!



The Need Many of our patients fall into the “coverage gap.” They earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and not enough to afford coverage with ACA (Obamacare) premiums. 28.68% of adults in the Middle Georgia counties we serve are uninsured. For these individuals, Macon Volunteer Clinic is often their only option for access to quality, compassionate healthcare.

Community Impact 2024

Accomplishments

8,283

Patient Encounters

Between 13-14% of adults in Middle Georgia have been diagnosed with diabetes. **42%** of adults in Macon, GA have been diagnosed with hypertension.

93%
with Annual
Income under
\$35,000



1199

Medical Visits with an
MD or Nurse
Practitioner

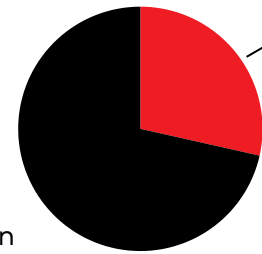
64%
Female

55%
Black or African
American



512

Cancer
Screenings



125
New
Patients

321
Unique
Patients



316

Dental Exams,
Cleanings, X-rays,
Fillings, & Extractions

Most Common Diagnoses - (1) Diabetes; (2) Hypertension; (3) Hyperlipidemia

\$1,668,103

in free medical services provided

\$2,821.06

total expense
per patient per year

Macon Volunteer Clinic is
100% funded by grants and donations.

Patient Eligibility

In order to qualify, a person must:

- Be actively working
- Reside in of one of the 13 North Central Health District Counties
- Be 18-64 years of age
- Be uninsured
- Have a valid SSN
- Have a current year tax return
- Earn at or below 200% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Level



\$802,229

in free non-narcotic prescription
medication assistance

153

active volunteers
(clinical and administrative)

4,936

TOTAL HOURS
VOLUNTEERED

**2025
Goals**

7,800 Encounters

500 Cancer Screenings

50% of patients with
diabetes with A1C of 7
or less

350 Dental visits

200 Patients will receive
prescription assistance

FAQs

Q: Isn't everyone covered by health insurance now under the Affordable Care Act?

No, not at all. Many people in Georgia and Macon-Bibb County remain uninsured even after the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The uninsured include:

- Adults who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford the federal insurance exchanges.
- Adults who are eligible for insurance on the federal exchange but who cannot afford the high co-pays and deductibles associated with even the most modest insurance plan available under the ACA.

Q: Where do MVC patients come from?

Macon Volunteer Clinic (MVC) patients are working, low-income adults who are not offered insurance by their employers and who cannot afford to purchase health insurance on their own. Many of our patients are service-industry employees who work at restaurants, dry cleaners, daycares, and hotels. They sit with elderly individuals, clean houses, and take care of children. They are the faces of the working uninsured in Middle Georgia. Without the services of MVC, patients report they would use the local emergency room or urgent care facilities.

Q: How does MVC impact the local community?

By providing quality healthcare to working, uninsured adults, Macon Volunteer Clinic contributes to the health and prosperity of our entire community. MVC provides primary medical, dental, and eye care, as well as medication assistance to adults with multiple and

complex medical problems who would otherwise end up in the emergency room due to lack of insurance. This reduces the amount of uncompensated care provided by local hospitals and helps MVC patients avoid additional health complications. The care provided at MVC helps lower the cost of healthcare for ALL residents of Middle Georgia. In fact, a University of Georgia study found that \$50,000 in emergency room costs is saved each year for every 100 patients treated by a charitable clinic in Georgia.

Q: Why is it so important to treat uninsured adults in Middle Georgia?

Healthcare costs and loss of productivity associated with lack of health insurance are staggering. The uninsured are much less likely to have primary care providers than the insured. They also receive less preventive care, dental care, chronic disease management, and behavioral health counseling. Those without insurance are often diagnosed at later, less treatable disease stages than those with insurance. Overall, people with no insurance have worse health outcomes, lower quality of life, and higher mortality rates. MVC patients benefit from a regular source of healthcare and medication assistance, as do the families who rely on their income and the employers who rely on their presence.

Q: Who provides MVC medical care?

MVC has over 150 volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, and other volunteers who generously donate their time to help care for patients in need. MVC medical care is overseen by an experienced board-certified physician who serves as Medical Director.



153
active volunteers

Our Volunteers

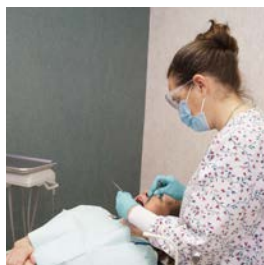
are physicians, dentists, nurses,
scribes, medical assistants, and
administrative helpers

INCLUDES: 100+ students (nursing, pre-med, medical, pre-dental, and dental hygiene), who are trained on-site



4,936

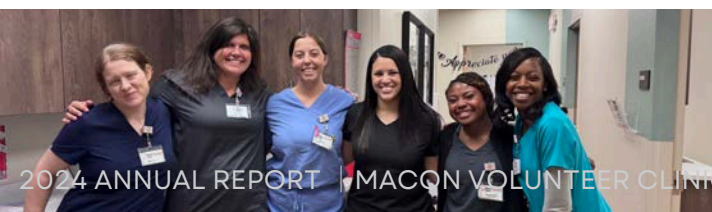
Total Hours Volunteered in 2024, Delivering Heartfelt Care



"This clinic serves as a pillar for an underserved community, while somehow also fostering the most supportive, kind, and educational environment for aspiring healthcare individuals such as myself. There is no shortage of care and empathy within those walls (and beyond) and our community is healthier because of it."

Erika Houser

Lead Volunteer (MA - Scribe)





"I've been able to see firsthand how deeply impactful and compassionate, accessible healthcare can be. The clinic provides essential medical services to uninsured members of our community, people who often have nowhere else to turn, and being part of that mission is highly rewarding."

Garv Patel

Lead Volunteer
(All Areas - including dental)

"As a student, it's been an outstanding opportunity to learn in a real-world setting, where the team not only provides top-quality care but also takes the time to teach and guide us. It's been an amazing place to grow both personally and professionally."

Olivia Young

Lead Training Volunteer
(All Areas)



OUR DONORS

We are grateful for the gifts given to the clinic by individuals, families, businesses, and organizations. Your generosity makes our work possible.

"In 2001, Dr. Chapin Henley and dedicated volunteers founded Macon Volunteer Clinic to close healthcare gaps and serve those in need in our community. The Peyton Anderson Foundation was honored to have the opportunity to invest in that visionary concept and we are equally proud today to support the Macon Volunteer Clinic with this grant. We believe in the Clinic's mission to provide vital healthcare services to those in need, and we are honored to contribute to their efforts. This funding will help ensure that more individuals in the Macon community have access to the care they deserve, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact the new facility will have on the health and well-being of the region."

Karen Lambert

The Peyton Anderson Foundation

Donated \$500,000 to MVC in 2024

\$1,084,895 donated since their support began

"The work of the Macon Volunteer Clinic is a tremendous blessing to our city. Mulberry Street United Methodist Church is honored to be a community partner with the MVC as they extend love and care to the uninsured. We pray their work will continue to bring healing and hope to Macon for years to come."

Rev. Jack Varnell

Pastor - Mulberry St. UMC

Building leased to MVC for \$1/year for 30 years

"America today is blessed with the finest medical care in history. Yet, people sometimes face circumstances that prevent them from accessing this care. Macon is a very caring community with leaders of "yesterday" like Chapin Henley who recognized the need and acted by starting the Macon Volunteer Clinic. For those of us with no medical training to contribute, we are thankful for the opportunity to help in a small way through monthly financial support. We want to encourage others to consider how they might help financially or in some other way."

Alfred and Sydney Sams

Monthly Donor since 2019

BUILDING SPONSORS

Platinum Level

The Beverly Burgess Meadors Charitable Trust

Diamond Level

Anonymous Foundation

The Peyton Anderson Foundation

Macon-Bibb County Commission 2023,
led by Mayor Lester Miller

Gold Level

Thomas Nelson Abdella MD
Foundation

Thomas C. Burke Foundation
Lynn and Alan Neal Foundation
Truist Foundation

Silver Level

Dr. Gary Bernstein
Delta Dental Community Foundation
E. J. Grassmann Trust
Episcopal Community Foundation
Fickling Family Foundation

Bronze Level

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Dianne Brannen
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W. Patrick and Kathy Roche
Joe Sam and Betsy Robinson
David and Sondralyn
Thompson

Macon Volunteer Clinic receives no state or federal funding, and no patient is ever charged a fee for our services. Our clinic is 100% philanthropy-funded by donors like you!

YOUR DONATIONS GO A LONG WAY AT MACON VOLUNTEER CLINIC! HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION.

In 2024, the average cost per patient at Macon Volunteer Clinic was \$2,821.06 – or just \$110.60 for each encounter with our incredible staff and devoted volunteers. When you consider what a single trip to the doctor might cost elsewhere, it's clear how impactful your support truly is. Thanks to our generous donors, patients receive high-quality care completely free of charge.

There are many ways to give: online, by mail, or in person. Setting up a recurring monthly or annual gift is simple and ensures your generosity keeps making a difference all year long.

We also welcome sponsorships for our events and in-kind contributions. Legacy gifts, stock transfers, and donations of bonds are wonderful ways to give—just speak with your financial advisor for guidance.

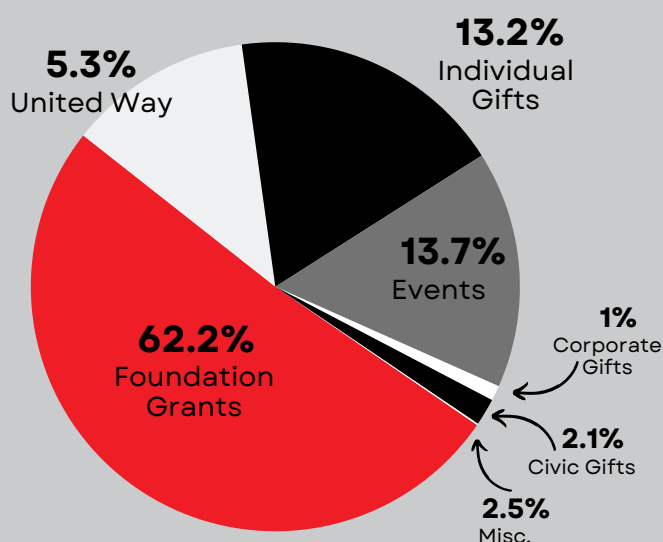
Want to honor someone special? A tribute gift in memory or celebration of a loved one or healthcare provider is a meaningful way to support the Clinic's mission. We'll notify the honoree (or their family) of your thoughtful donation. Contributions can also be made to our Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to help sustain our services into the future.

Every gift counts, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors. You help us provide life-changing care to our neighbors in Middle Georgia counties who need it most.

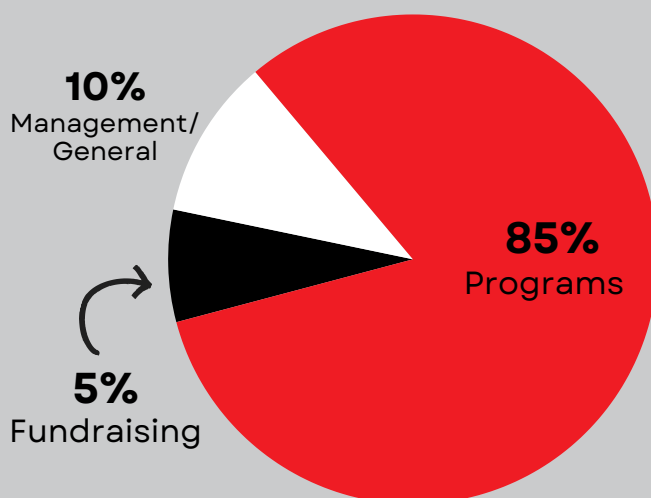


To Learn More,
Contact Julia Norman,
Director of Development:
(478)755-1110, ext. 227
jnorman@maconvolunteerclinic.org

REVENUES



EXPENSES



*Macon Volunteer Clinic is a local 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.*

What a year 2024 was for the Macon Volunteer Clinic! While continuing our usual services, we have added more in-house counseling and regular eye services with our Healthcare Hero, Dr. Frey.

The return of orthopedics is also on the horizon. Preparations were made to move to our new location. As always, we were able to launch some volunteers into their healthcare careers, and gained some new faces that provide tireless service to the patients in our community.

We cannot do what we do without you. Your time, expertise, and donations enable us to provide first class care to patients in Central Georgia, and to expand even further.



Matt Astin, MD MPH MBA FACEP FAAEM FACHE
Medical Director
Macon Volunteer Clinic



Lakeshie Robinson

MFT Intern through Mercer LMFT Program

For Lakeshie Robinson, joining Macon Volunteer Clinic as a Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) intern was more than a professional opportunity—it was personal.

“I first heard about the clinic through my mom,” Lakeshie recalls. “She was a patient here and always spoke so highly of the care she received. Even without insurance, she felt truly seen and respected. That left a lasting impression on me.”

Motivated by her mother’s experience and her own passion for emotional wellness, Lakeshie reached out to the clinic in 2024 to begin her internship as part of a new partnership with Mercer University’s MFT program. She was drawn to the clinic’s reputation for compassionate, client-centered care and its unwavering commitment to underserved communities.

“Interning at Macon Volunteer Clinic has been transformative,” she says. “It’s deepened my understanding of the barriers so many people face in accessing basic healthcare. More than anything, it’s shown me the power of compassion and community in overcoming those challenges.”

As a future therapist with a calling to serve rural populations, Lakeshie has seen firsthand how a safe, supportive environment can begin the process of healing.

“My clients here have taught me so much about resilience and trust. Many face overwhelming challenges—medical issues, financial stress, emotional trauma—but they still show up, ready to do the work. They’ve reminded me that healing often starts with being heard and treated with dignity.”

Her time at the clinic has also shaped her personally and professionally, reinforcing her desire to be both clinically skilled and deeply empathetic.

“This experience has strengthened my commitment to being a socially conscious therapist—someone who is present, patient, and truly connected to the people I serve. I want to help close the gap in mental health access, especially in rural areas where stigma and scarcity still exist.”

Lakeshie Robinson’s journey is a powerful reminder of how one person’s story can come full circle—how a daughter inspired by her mother’s care now plays a vital role in giving that same care to others.

Message from the Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the Chair of the Board, it is my pleasure to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights our organization's steadfast commitment to providing essential healthcare services to our hardworking Middle Georgia community. Over the past year, we moved into our new, larger, and purpose-built facility on Walnut Street while our dedicated team of volunteers and staff continued to work tirelessly to enhance the reach and impact of the clinic.

In this report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our achievements, milestones, and the positive outcomes we've achieved together. It reflects the collective efforts of our compassionate volunteers, the support of our community partners, and the resilience of our patients. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of Macon Volunteer Clinic.

Your unwavering support empowers us to continue our mission of making quality healthcare accessible to all.

As we look ahead, the need for our services is greater than ever as we navigate these challenging economic times. The challenges may be great, but so is our resolve to make a lasting impact. Only together can we build a healthier and stronger community. Thank you for your ongoing support, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information about our initiatives.

Sincerely,



Gary Bernstein
MD, FACS, MBA

Chairman of the Board
Macon Volunteer Clinic

MEET PATIENT C

A patient at Macon Volunteer Clinic who wanted to share her story anonymously.

Patient C is a Macon native who had driven by Macon Volunteer Clinic's Rogers Avenue location for years. She knew people who had received care there, so when she lost her health insurance, she decided to give the clinic a try—hoping she, too, could find support. Her initial needs were straightforward: managing hypertension and accessing affordable prescriptions. But over time, chronic mobility issues made her situation more complex. Although recently approved for disability, she now faces a

mandatory two-year waiting period for Medicare. In the meantime, Macon Volunteer Clinic is her only source of medical care. "Without the clinic's help, I don't know what I'd do," she says.

She's currently working with volunteer orthopedic surgeon Dr. Hudspeth in hopes of qualifying for a procedure that could relieve her pain and restore some of her independence. "There's hope again," she says. "A path forward."

But C's challenges haven't only been physical. After the loss of her mother—her greatest emotional support—she found herself overwhelmed with grief. Through counseling sessions

with Lakeshie Robinson, MVC's volunteer therapist, she found a safe, confidential space to express her feelings. "Talking to her helped me deal with the pain. It gave me peace." Reflecting on how different her life might be without the clinic, she says, "I'd be crazy. I'd be dead." The pain, isolation, and uncertainty would have been too much to bear alone. "When I walk through the doors, I feel safe," she says. "All my needs are met, and the care I get here is just as good, if not better, than if I had insurance." To those who support the clinic, Patient C is clear: "It's needed. I hope they stay around and keep up the good work—helping me and others like me."

CLINIC STAFF



John McCard
Executive
Director



Dr. Matt Astin
Medical Director



Blair Cook
Nurse
Practitioner



Theresa Ferrari
Director of
Operations



Merry Gardner
Care Manager



Sydni Gilbert
Volunteer and
Communications
Specialist



Dona Gurley
Dental
Coordinator



Julia Norman
Director of
Development



Terri Rogers
Patient Assistance
Coordinator
Medical Assistant



Cherish Walker
Office Manager



Sammeria Whipple
BSN, RN
Nurse Manager

Since 2003, Macon Volunteer Clinic has provided over 100,000 patient encounters and served almost 5,000 unique patients.

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IN GRACIOUS MEMORY OF



DR. CHAPIN HENLEY

AUGUST 1938 - JULY 2024

Dr. Chapin Henley's life was a testament to unwavering compassion, visionary leadership, and an unshakable commitment to the well-being of others. His legacy is not only etched in the milestones he achieved, but in the thousands of lives he so humbly and profoundly touched.

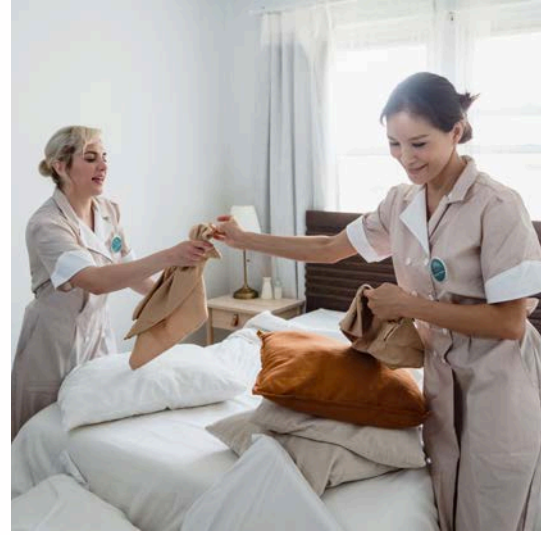
As a distinguished OBGYN, Dr. Henley brought more than 5,000 lives into the world, leaving an enduring imprint on generations of families. His skill and devotion to women's health advanced care for countless patients, but it was his kindness and humanity that made him truly unforgettable.

In 2003, driven by a deep love for his community and a calling to serve those most in need, Dr. Henley founded the Macon Volunteer Clinic. It stands today as a living reflection of his generous spirit—a place of healing, dignity, and hope for the uninsured. From its inception, he remained its guiding light, offering not just medical care, but compassion without condition.

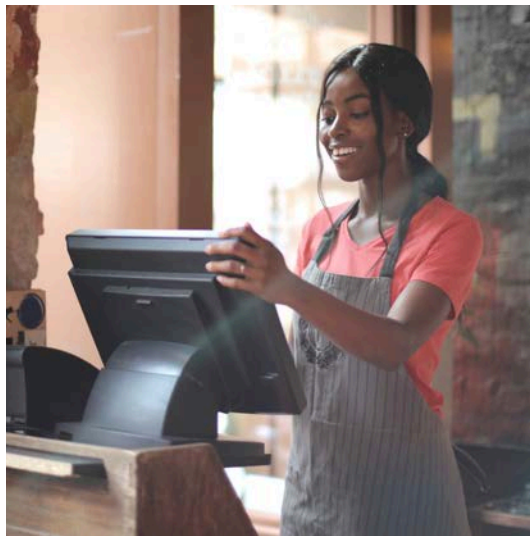
Dr. Henley was more than a physician; he was a healer of hearts and a champion for the vulnerable. Though he may no longer walk among us, his legacy lives on—in every patient served, every volunteer inspired, and every life made better by his vision.

His presence will be forever felt within the walls of Macon Volunteer Clinic and in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

**How many
hardworking
neighbors
could we help
today?**



**Someone you
know may be
an eligible
patient.**



**Help us
achieve our
mission.
Spread the
word. Make a
donation.
Volunteer. ❤️**



100% Philanthropy-funded
Healthcare with Heart

maconvolunteerclinic.org