

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1999 - 2009

Reflections

By Dr. John C. Stuart, D.D.S.

The current premises of the Columbia Oral Health Clinic is the original site of the *Unique Dental Clinic*. Converted from an old garage, the space was filled with hand-me-down equipment, and by our present standards was pretty crude and cramped. In 1998, I was approached by Marilyn Curry to start up the operation with funds from several grant sources, and many efforts were made to “spruce” up the clinic. I donated my time, as we began seeing patients on January 2, 1999.

All patients seen were either living with HIV or AIDS, and were uninsured or underinsured. Women living at the Women’s Shelter were seen pro bono, because of the use of the building.



Before and After

The above pictures tell a tale that cannot be

rage that housed the original Columbia Oral Health Clinic, has been transformed into a state-

of-the-art facility serving the community it was established for. Thousands of patients have had their

oral health needs met at COHC, thanks to the vision and dedication of the original founders.

From Humble Beginnings



The Original Staff

From left to right, we can see that the original staff at the Columbia Oral Health Clinic, were enthusiastic about their accomplishments. Kathy Rednor, Paula Hines, Marilyn Mullins, Terri McKinder, Dr. John C. Stuart, Dr. John McMurray, and Robin.

and energy to ensure that the Columbia Oral Health Clinic would have a firm foundation, with lasting benefits to the HIV/AIDS positive and the uninsured/underinsured communities.

Dr. John McMurray, fresh from his general practice residency at Palmetto Richland Hospital, was hired to be the first full-time salaried dentist.

Only two staff members were salaried. All others donated their time, talents



The Dentist and His Assistant

Glimpses of night peep through the open blinds, as Dr. John C. Stuart and Dental Assistant, Robin labor after hours at Columbia Oral Health Clinic. Dr. Stuart donated his time to work at the dental clinic. He notes that, "At that time, we had a very compatible work-

ing relationship with the Women's Shelter, and the clinic operated with the above staff for three years."

Dr. Stuart states that he "bowed out" when Dr. McMurray came on board, to give him "complete control over the operation."



The Hygienist

The first stop at the Columbia Oral Health Clinic is the hygienist chair. Patients are prepared for evaluation and screenings, by having their teeth cleaned.

hygienist, working with a patient. The clinic was opened on Monday and Wednesday nights in the beginning, and the staff, all having full-time day jobs, were at times exhausted. After six months, the hours were cut to just Wednesday.

Here we see Kathy Rednor, COHC's first salaried

Dr. David A. Reznik, D.D.S.

Dr. David A. Reznik, is Chief of the Dental Service for the Grady Health System in Atlanta, Georgia. He also serves as Director of the Oral Health Center of Grady's Infectious Disease Program, which he founded 16 years ago. He has been providing oral health care services for people living with HIV disease in the Atlanta metropolitan area for over twenty-three-years. He is founder and president of the HIV Dent Alliance,

a non-profit organization of concerned healthcare providers committed to assuring access to high quality oral health care services for people living with HIV. Through this program, Dr. Reznik has provided technical assistance to numerous Ryan White Program Grantees.

COHC extends it's gratitude to Dr. Reznik for his consultation and support in the development of the Columbia Oral Health Clinic. Being an acquaintance of Ms. Marilyn

Curry, one of the founders of the Dental Clinic, Dr. Reznik was solicited because of his experience in setting up a similar dental clinic in Atlanta. He provided factual information about organizing and starting this type of operation. His input and expertise proved to be very valuable towards COHC's success.

Dr. Reznik was a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/-AIDS for four and a half years, and served as Chair of the Treatment and Care and Domestic sub-committees during his tenure. We at COHC salute Dr. Reznik.



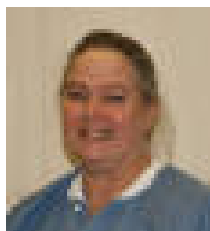
Dr. David A. Reznik, D.D.S.

FROM ALL OF US TO COHC PAST AND PRESENT

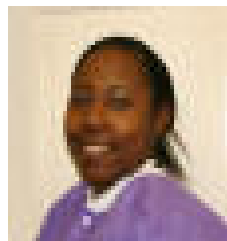
Current Dental Staff



James A. Green III, D.D.S.
Dentist



Alice Zimmerman, R.H.
Hygienist



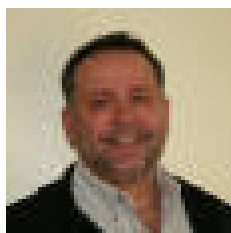
Chiquita Hill - Stephens, D.A.
Dental Assistant

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Current Administrative Staff



Bernice B. Tucker, M.A.
Director



Michael A. Negron
Patient Specialist



Dora D. Adams
Administrative Assistant

2009

THERE'S MORE TO COME

Look For More about COHC's 10th Anniversary Celebration in our next issue of THE FILLING STATION

An Historical Overview

Columbia Oral Health Clinic's origin was varied and somewhat complicated. According to testimonies from those who were there in the early years, the clinic went through many different transitions to make it the viable institution that it is today. Paula Hines, in her 1999 article in Sheltermvoice, (The Quarterly Newsletter of the Women's Shelter) gives an account of the excitement that she felt about the dental clinic. "1999 was a very exciting year for me at the shelter. In addition to coordinating the health clinic...I began coordinating the on-site dental center, currently serving HIV patients through the Columbia Oral Health Clinic, at the Women's Shelter. In one year the center provided over 300 hours of patient care. The caring team of Dr. Stuart, Dr. McMurray, Robin, Kathy and Terri offer more than just professional care. They take a personal interest in each patient and greet those patients with a smile, a joke and warm understanding. The appointments are in the evening (after the team has already worked a full day)."

In all actuality, the Columbia Oral Health Clinic is the product of three clinics merging to form one. Elisabeth McClendon, the former Administrator of COHC, writes, "...The following three clinics have been sharing a building and a staff. 1- **The Women's Shelter Dental Clinic (WSDC)** - ...Observing close at hand, the real needs of homeless women and men, Kathy Riley, and many other leaders of the Women's Shelter conceptualized and manifested dental solutions as part of a complete response package. 2- **The Columbia Oral Health Clinic (COHC)** incorporated in late 1999, in response to the critical impact of poor oral health combined with HIV among patients served by the Ryan White Clinic, and among Veterans living with HIV. 3- **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)** serving homeless Veterans."

Elizabth continues, "...The Vets Clinic had separated its patients from the general clinic population and had a separate administrative staff, run by a hard working volunteer, Pat Hynds. The Vets Clinic operated on Mondays using the facility and staff of the **WSDC**. The **WSDC**, managed by Paula Hines, operated the remainder of the week, by seeing the **WS** patients, and **COHC**'s patients. Although **COHC** had it's own Board of Directors, lead by founder, Marilyn Curry, and financial functions performed by Board members Dave Singletary and Ann Derrick.

"In the summer of 2006," Elisabeth continues, "**COHC** and **WSDC** made a decision to separate their patients into different days, as they progressed in the discussion of the **WS** handing over the running of the entire clinic to **COHC**." In 2008, **COHC** began managing the dental clinic as a separate entity from the Womans Shelter.

CONGRADULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Dr. John McGeary is COHC's contractual dentist. "I donated my old waiting room furniture to the Women's Shelter." He recalls, "It all went into the dental	clinic's waiting room. My office manager helped me with needed information to apply for grants. For many years I treated the	women at my office, and many times drove them home. Con-gradulations COHC on your 10th Year Anniversary. " Dr. John McGeary
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