



AUGUSTA REGIONAL DENTAL CLINIC

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

I turned on my car radio the other day and heard a man saying, “We had no money, no experience, and no equipment - and we thought, “We’re ready to go!” He was talking about a large charitable organization he had helped to start many years ago. I immediately thought those words sounded very familiar!

30 years ago, affordable access to healthcare for the group we then called “the working poor” was almost non-existent. Community doctors, pharmacists, and hospital administrators, in addition to many lay people and government officials, were beginning to address those circumstances by trying to enact universal healthcare nationally and establishing volunteer free medical and dental clinics locally. In our area, the Waynesboro and Staunton hospitals were in the process of merging and building a new one in Fishersville. **Groups who had been working separately to start a free clinic in each city heard about each other and saw the benefits of having just one clinic that would serve the wider community.**

After that, the snowball was rolling! We had no money, no experience, and no equipment - but we thought, “We’re ready to go!” We asked for the money; we figured out what to do and did it; and we gathered the equipment. In only a few months’ time, we had just enough to make it work. **The Augusta Regional Free Clinic opened on September 9, 1993.** A patient once called the clinic **“a dispenser of hope.”**

If you are reading this newsletter, you are likely to be one of the many, many volunteers, donors, or staff members who have helped to dispense hope and help to thousands of patients over all this time. I cannot think of a better way to have spent my time.

Mary Timberlake, Emeritus Board Member.

30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Augusta Regional Clinic invite all past and current volunteers, staff members, donors and partners for a celebratory gala.

**September 9th, 6-9pm,
Barren Ridge Vineyard, Fishersville, VA 22939**

Come celebrate 30 years of service to the community and reconnect with all who have made this journey possible.

More information and tickets sale available soon.



PATIENT SPOTLIGHT - MEET KEYON!



**Keyon posing with
ARDC Office Manager Misty**

Keyon, now 14 years old, came to us in the spring of 2021 following a traumatic bicycle accident. Several teeth were severely damaged as a result of the accident. Part of Keyon's treatment was not covered by his insurance so his mom had to find a dentist that could restore his smile at an affordable rate.

After an initial consultation at the ARDC, we were able to provide Keyon with more than 12 extensive visits from our general dentists as well as our visiting specialist. He finally has his smile back and most importantly - he is pain free!

"We first came in after the bike accident and he had other issues as well. The clinic has been so supportive and has helped encourage healthy habits for my son. He's a teenager, so it can be tough. But everyone is so kind, never judgmental, and helps with whatever he needs.

We don't know what we would do without you guys! We are so grateful for all you've done for us and love you all!" said Keyon's mother.

YOU'RE INVITED! BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2023



**05/06/23 - 03:30pm
Basic City Brewery
Waynesboro
FREE and open to all**

Join us for an afternoon dedicated to music and philanthropy!

The ARDC is holding the 2nd edition of its fundraising concert.

This year, 4 terrific bands will compete for the public's vote in support of the ARDC mission:

**Soulcry
Glass Betty**

The Goodson Band

Little Marvin and The Martians

We hope you will join us for this new edition!