

# FREE CLINIC NEWS

A quarterly newsletter to help keep you informed!

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## 2016 Free Clinic Appreciation Month Kick-Off

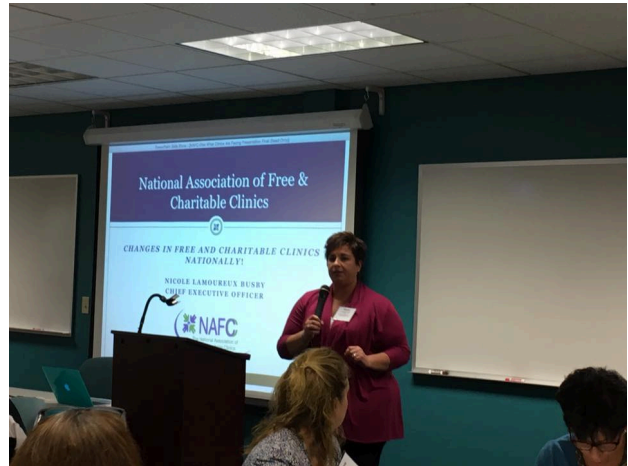
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Kick-Off event on November 30<sup>th</sup> and congratulations to all of the 2016 award winners! Volunteers in Ohio's free clinics are the backbone to the clinics service in their communities. Without dedicated volunteers, many of the clinics would not be able to meet the need in their communities.

Most of all, thank you to all of the free clinics across Ohio! We truly appreciate all of your hard work this past year! We love being able to recognize and celebrate your service to Ohio!



## 2016 Ohio Association of Free Clinics Highlights!

- The 2016 OAFc Annual Meeting was a success! We had the wonderful opportunity to learn about legislative and free clinics issues at the national level and what to look for after the election from Nicole Lamoureux Busby from the National Association of Free Clinics.
- This past year, our Executive Director Deb Miller has been working hard to advance our legislative agenda and make connections with state agencies, as well as, working with clinics and their boards on understanding changes after the ACA.
- The OAFc's Quality Care Standards have really grown this year and become an example across the nation! Deb had the opportunity to travel to Wisconsin and present our Standards to their State Association. The OAFc has also been working with the National Association to use our Standards as a template for a certification of Quality Care Standards.



- The OAFc experienced a lot of growth this year! We added 3 new staff members to serve our membership, as well as grew our AmeriCorps VISTA program to 19 year-long members and 26 summer members. Our Navigator Program is also serving over 24 counties this year!
- Not only did the staff at the OAFc grow, but we also added 3 new clinics to our membership! We are so excited to welcome **Collins Career Center Student Based Health Center**, **New Life Community Outreach Health and Wellness Center**, and **SOAR Student Run Free Clinic** to our membership!
- The Ohio Association of Free Clinics is partnering with the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics and

CareMessage to provide a competitive grant opportunity to Ohio's free clinics! CareMessage is a non-profit organization that empowers healthcare organizations with the mobile technology to improve health literacy and self-health management while fostering more efficient care delivery.

## 2016 Impactful Patient Stories



“This has been such a huge help and certainly a sigh of relief. I work full-time, but I am underinsured and this was a great resource. I am very thankful for a service like this and felt respected and cared for. More communities need services like this and I am thankful I have been able to benefit from this.” - OU-HCOM Heritage Community Clinic

“Timothy was referred to our clinic from the ER. He was homeless, jobless, and hopeless on top of severe behavior health and medical

diagnoses. He did not have insurance and had been turned away from several other healthcare providers before making his way to us. Within a week, Timothy had seen our counselors, Insurance Navigator, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, dentist, endocrinologist, and case manager. We found him a place to live, got his medication regulated, helped him find steady sources for food, and brought him to a point of stability. Within 2 months, Timothy was enrolled in a GED class and looking for work. His health was no longer a stumbling block for employment, and he was excited to be earning a living.” – Viola Startzman Clinic

“Since most migrants have no health insurance, lack transportation, and experience language barriers that would prevent them from obtaining affordable healthcare elsewhere, we offer medical services at no-cost to over 375 men and women with their families.” – Hartville Migrant Ministry



“A patient came in last week to thank us, he had not been able to afford a colonoscopy and was having some symptoms that were troubling. We were able to get him a free colonoscopy and they found stage 3 colon cancer. He was treated this past year and is doing well. He came to tell us ‘thanks for saving his life’ and that he never would have been able to be diagnosed without the clinic’s help.” - Xenos Free Clinic



## 2017 Clinic Storytelling Project!

OAFc needs your help! We are collecting stories from clinics across Ohio, just like the stories you read on the last page! We know one of the best advocates for free clinics are our patients and volunteers.

Over the next few months, Emily, the OAFc VISTA member, is going to be collecting stories from clinics to compile into one larger story for a great representation of what you all are doing in Ohio!

We need as much participation as possible! If you're interested in participating, please contact Emily at [eodle@ohiofreeclinics.org](mailto:eodle@ohiofreeclinics.org) for more info!



## VISTA Member Spotlight: Julie Gartland

Julie is serving at the Chagrin falls community center in Geauga county. Her focus this past month has been on planning and coordinating an event for the Lights on Afterschool program at her site. This program aims to help provide a safe place for the children of working families and to empower students to excel academically.



Julie was tasked with planning activities to showcase their program and to reach out to invite community members, federal officials, board of trustee members, as well as students and staff. Julie did an amazing job with this event; with 65 in attendance including the Assistant Super- Intendant. Even more impressive, the event ran at almost no cost! Julie was able to silicate donations for all the food, activity materials, as well as raffle prizes. Congratulations Juile! Great work!



## Calendar of Events

### December

- 23 **Christmas Eve (O AFC Closed ½ Day)**
- 26 **Christmas (O AFC Closed)**
- 30 **New Year's Eve (O AFC Closed ½ Day)**

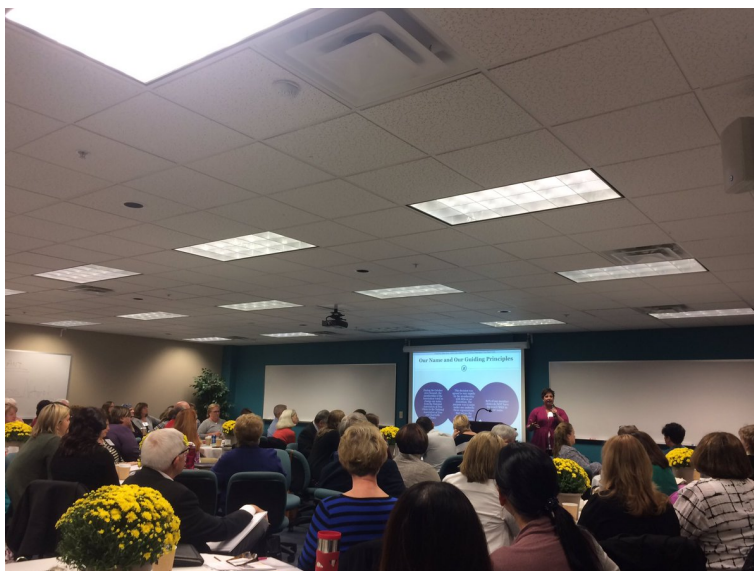
### January

- 2 **New Year's Day (O AFC Closed)**
- 10 **AmeriCorps VISTA Webinar – 11 a.m.**
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (O AFC Closed)**

### February

- 17 **O AFC Membership Packet Due**
- 20 **President's Day (O AFC Closed)**

The Education Committee is in charge of planning all of the O AFC workshops and meetings! If you're interested in helping the Education Committee, email [jfetzer@ohiofreeclinics.org](mailto:jfetzer@ohiofreeclinics.org) and she will add you to the roster!



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Save the Date!

March 10<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

OAFC Spring Workshop

More details to come!