



## Rural Focus

July 2010

### The Benefit Bank of SC Reaches Million Dollar Mark in Returns

TBB-SC reached a major milestone recently by reporting that since December 2009, over one million dollars had been placed back in the hands of South Carolinians.

On a nationwide level, billions of dollars in public funds go untouched each year because applying for state and federal benefits such as Food Stamps or Medicaid is confusing, intimidating, time consuming, or embarrassing. Additional billions in tax credits are also left unclaimed due to lack of knowledge. The Benefit Bank removes these obstacles - bringing people closer to stability and closer to self-sufficiency.



Want more information regarding The Benefit Bank and how it is helping South Carolinians? Visit <http://www.thebenefitbank.com/SouthCarolina> or call 800-726-8774.

### The Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program Website now available on CMS.gov



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched the official website for the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. This website provides the most up-to-date, detailed information about the EHR incentive programs.

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals and hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

Bookmark this site and visit <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/> often to learn about who is eligible for the programs, how to register, meaningful use, upcoming EHR training and events, and much more!

## Position Available: Network Coordinator

Director sought to coordinate and supervise the activities of the Northeastern Rural Health Network, an eleven-member collaboration of the health and human service providers in Chesterfield, Dillon and Marlboro Counties in South Carolina. Excellent communication, supervision and knowledge of health care system is required. Experience working with



executive boards, writing and managing grant programs and working with multi-organizational projects is preferred. Must be able to handle high degree of detail and manage several ongoing projects at one time. BS/BA degree required.

If this describes you, please send your resume via e-mail to [NRHNDirector@gmail.com](mailto:NRHNDirector@gmail.com).

## SCORH Employee Receives Scholarship

Mary Jones Wilson was the 2009-2010 recipient of the Michael D. Jarrett Scholarship. This is the highest award given to a MPH student in the Department of Health Services Policy and Management. The scholarship is named for Michael D. Jarrett, an outstanding former Commissioner of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment and Control (DHEC). The award is competitive among students with a GPA of 3.5 or better, who demonstrate a commitment to public health and demonstrate a high potential for leadership.

Wilson is a native of Orangeburg, SC. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. degree in Chemistry, a minor in Psychology, and a cognate in dance. She has also received her Master's of Public Health with the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. While at USC, Mary Jones served as the Community Outreach chair of the Black Graduate Student Association and the Fundraising chair of the Healthcare Executives Student Association.



Wilson currently serves as the Director of Site Services with The Benefit Bank (TBB) of South Carolina.

## Closing the Prescription Drug Coverage Gap

The Affordable Care Act passed by Congress and signed by President Obama this year contains some important benefits for Medicare recipients.

If you have Medicare prescription drug coverage, and aren't already getting Medicare Extra Help, Medicare will automatically send you a one-time \$250 rebate check after you reach the coverage gap (also called the "donut hole") in 2010. This rebate is the first step toward closing the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap.

**Have questions about the \$250 rebate check or the Affordable Care Act and Medicare?** Please refer to the brochure *Medicare and the New Health Care Law--What it Means for You* that Medicare has sent you. You can also visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## SC Mission 2010 Needs Your Help

SC Mission 2010, in collaboration with SC Dental Association's DAD (Dental Access Days) event, is the first ever statewide healthcare event bringing South Carolina providers and volunteers together offering FREE dental, medical and vision services to low income uninsured residents!

### When

Friday, August 6th from 6 AM- 6 PM and Saturday, August 7th from 6 AM - 2 PM

### Where

Carolina First Center, Greenville, SC

### Purpose

The purpose of the event is two-fold: 1.) to meet immediate healthcare needs and 2.) to link patients served to a medical home and follow-up care.

### Services to Be Provided

Medical services will include general primary care services. Dental and vision services including fillings, extractions, cleanings and vision screenings. Enrollment/referral into state programs (such as food stamps and Medicaid) and health education will also be provided.

### SC Mission 2010 needs your help!

An event of this magnitude requires an array of supporters. Hundreds of volunteers are needed including clinical and general volunteers, donations of supplies and financial contributions.

Volunteers, click here for additional information on volunteer opportunities, donating to Mission 2010 and to register. Please contact Angel McCrea, the Volunteer Coordinator, by e-mail or call 803-744-3505.

Hospitals and suppliers, for information about providing supplies for the event, please contact

Erin Baxter, the Supply Coordinator, by e-mail or call 803-744-3512.

To learn more about Mission 2010, contact the Event Coordinators, Lara Hewitt at 803-744-3518 or Melanie Matney at 803-744-3556.



## Save The Date...

3rd Annual Low Country Healthy Start  
Infant Mortality Awareness Luncheon

Special Guest Speaker: Victoria Rowell

**September 17, 2010**  
12:00 Noon  
Cinema at Orangeburg Mall

Call 1-888-581-0319 for additional  
information



### Follow SCORH on Facebook

Come join us on facebook! Search "South Carolina Office of Rural Health" or "SCORH."

We will keep you up to date on any newsworthy items affecting healthcare in rural South Carolina. We also update on workshops, conferences, and other educational meetings.

If you have something you'd like us to share, join our facebook page, and/or email us at [info@scorh.net](mailto:info@scorh.net).



4



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