



# Mercy Medicine Clinic

**"I was sick and you cared for me." ~ Matthew 25:36**

## Lake City Free Medical Clinic Grand Opening

The Lake City Free Medical Clinic opened its doors to patients on January 7, heralding the advent of free medical care for the indigent and working poor of southern Florence County.

The new healthcare facility got down to business following a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening. The event drew a crowd of well-wishers that included state and local dignitaries, as well as area medical officials.

A number of the players who helped make the Lake City Free Medical Clinic a reality were also on hand to help it get off on the right foot. One of them was K.G. "Rusty" Smith, Jr., chairman of Florence County Council, who worked with other county officials to secure the clinic's site.

"We're proud to have been a part of this endeavor, and we feel that it will certainly enhance the quality of life for the residents of the southern region of Florence County," Smith said.

Lake City Mayor Lovith Anderson presented a check for \$5,000 to the

clinic on behalf of the Lake City Foundation. Another check in the amount of \$10,000 was presented during the ceremony by David Barr, president of the United Way of Florence County. Both checks will be applied toward helping the clinic maintain its operations.

Anderson emphasized that the creation of the Lake City Free Medical Clinic was another important stepping stone in improving health for the lower end of Florence County, while also stressing the great importance of volunteers



**Archie Kennedy and Kaye Allen**

throughout the process.

"God has truly smiled on us," he said. "We have taken a building that was not being used, but now will be utilized for the benefit of the citizens of this community and surrounding area."

The clinic's general manager, Archie Kennedy, credited the community effort, as well as Anderson's input and guidance, for helping the project to come to fruition.

"This has been a huge project of his and would not be here had it not been for his leadership," Kennedy said, also emphasizing the role played by Kaye Allen, Mercy Medicine Clinic's executive director.

"The real thanks must go to all those who are truly entitled to the recognition and appreciation for all that has been accomplished—the volunteers and many medical establishments driving this project from the beginning," she said. "Now it's time to start treating the many people this clinic is designed to serve."

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