



Mercy Medicine Clinic

April 2008

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

The Many Blessings Bestowed by Volunteers

Volunteers are generally recognized as a driving force wherever they are found. Nowhere else, perhaps, is this more evident than in a place that provides medical care.

That is especially true here at Mercy Medicine Clinic where volunteers make up the vast bulk of our workforce. It is safe to say that, without them, it would be virtually impossible to provide the degree of professionalism in quality medical services that we strive to offer every day.

Adding to the base of existing physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners are those individuals who are gradually being molded for a career in the medical realm. Free clinics such as Mercy Medicine represent the perfect training ground for students who are interested in pursuing such professions as nursing.

Many of those come from local area schools such as Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College. One of them is FMU student Cadie Raines who recently wrote about what has inspired her to pursue a career in nursing.

"When I started college, I was pretty sure I wanted to be a nurse, but I was not 100 percent sure," Cadie said. "At the end of my freshman year, I decided I was going to switch my major to Chemistry to be a pharmacist."

"I am not sure what changed my mind,



Cadie Raines

but I did. So, the beginning of my sophomore year, I was enrolled in an honors literature course entitled *Literature and Society*. A requirement for the course is to do volunteer work to become more active in the community."

"I began my volunteer work at Mercy Medicine, the free health clinic in

Florence. By doing this and working with the nurse there, I saw firsthand the rewards of being a nurse. The patients there are so appreciative of the time given to them by the doctors and nurses, and I saw how much of an influence a nurse can be in a person's life."

"The little time I have spent at Mercy Medicine has made me fall in love with the work of a nurse and has truly made me want to be a great influence in others' lives by serving them in the health field."

"I have made up my mind that I do not want to be the person filling up these patients' prescriptions and taking care of their medications, but rather the one taking care of them in their time of need."

We are very thankful for the blessing of having someone like Cadie giving her time to help those less fortunate at Mercy Medicine Clinic. Even more gratifying is the fact that she is one of many other young volunteers who are gaining insightful field experience in nursing while also giving back to the indigent and working poor of our area.

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