

History of Brock Hughes Free Clinic

Established in 1995, Brock Hughes Free Clinic was formed by nurses from Wythe County Community Hospital to meet the health care needs of the uninsured, low income residents of Wythe and Bland Counties. The clinic was named in honor of the late Dr. C. Brock Hughes who was a long-time pediatrician and much admired member of the medical community in Wythe County.

Originally under the umbrella of HOPE, Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc., Brock Hughes Free Clinic became its own independent, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) entity in 2004 when the clinic realized the potential growth and need for its own board.

Brock Hughes Free Clinic provides quality primary care, ancillary health care services, prescription medications, health education, and nutrition counseling. In addition, referral arrangements are made with Wythe County Community Hospital, Counts Drug and multiple specialty providers enabling the patients to receive radiology services, laboratory testing, and other specialty medical services that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

The clinic also acts as a training site for students seeking nursing and medical degrees as well as students seeking community hours to fulfill their tuition waiver obligations. The clinic has working agreements with Wytheville Community College and VCOM but has also worked with Bluefield College, Western Carolina University and Walden University to name a few.

During the last twenty years, the clinic has relocated four times:

- Originally housed at the Wythe County Health Department, the clinic operated one night per week with volunteer staff from Wythe County Community Hospital. In 1996, a grant was awarded to the clinic enabling them hire a part-time Ex. Director to handle the daily operations. The clinic operated at this site with no overhead.
- After an offer for a larger free space, the clinic relocated to Edgemont Center in 1997. It ran with a part-time Executive Director and volunteer physicians until 1999 when the clinic was awarded a grant allowing them to hire a part-time Nurse Practitioner and Receptionist.
- In 2010 the clinic relocated to 105 W. Pine Street after being given a 90 day notice to vacate the premises at Edgemont Center. After years of operating with minor overhead, the clinic realized a huge expense increase after taking on a \$1,500 per month rent plus utility expenses.
- In December 2014, Brock Hughes Free Clinic moved to its new location at 450 W. Monroe Street. Grants were written for renovation expenses and the clinic is debt free after the \$225,000 renovation project. Total value of the entire building project is \$600,000.