

## VOLUNTEER INFO

### We need YOU!

TFC has plenty of opportunities for both clinical and lay-volunteers, from doctors, nurses, counselors, and nutritionists, to those who work in reception, help in the garden, or assist staff with patient outreach - and more! And we're taking every precaution to keep you safe when you're here.

Email [volunteer@thefreeclinics.org](mailto:volunteer@thefreeclinics.org) to learn more and get started.

THANK YOU, 2020 SPONSORS!

### Presenting Sponsors



### Leaders

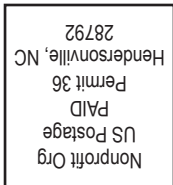


### Champions



Summer 2020  
Community Impact Focus:  
Polk County

Return Service Requested



## A Message from Our Executive Director: Judith Long



The Free Clinics began serving Polk County in 2008 and has continually deepened our care with that community over the past 12 years.

TFC is inherently collaborative, believing that ***we can do more together than any one organization can do alone.*** As TFC was engaging Polk community leaders about the needs for the community, affordable medications was always top of the list. But opening a pharmacy is an extremely expensive endeavor. We began exploring possible relationships with local partners, and St. Luke's Hospital enthusiastically entered into first the conversation, and then a truly innovative relationship.

Pharmacy laws are very strict, appropriately so, but it does mean a bit of a delicate dance to find the right relationship that adheres to the law, meets the needs of the community, and is not unnecessarily burdensome to the organizations involved.

**St. Luke's Hospital is the perfect partner with TFC to provide life-saving medications for our neighbors in need.** TFC is the legal dispensing pharmacy (which enables access of millions of dollars worth of free medications); St. Luke's Pharmacy is the delivery site. This relationship enables affordable, life-saving medications locally in Columbus, thus reducing the barrier of geography and transportation, and does so in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. Last year, our partnership with St. Luke's provided 2,684 prescriptions valued at \$582,359 to 95 unique patients.

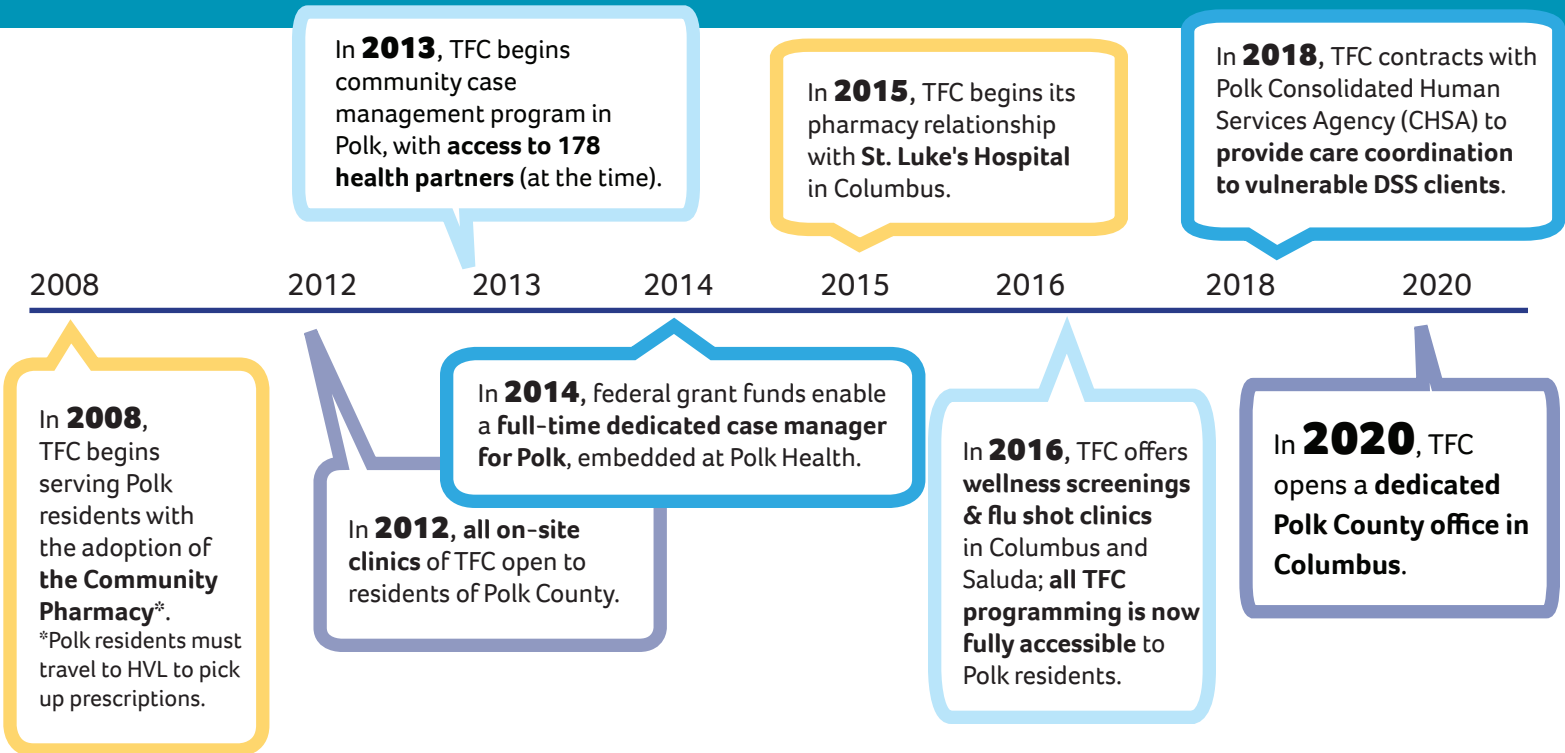
We are excited to deepen our service to Polk County even more, as we open our new office and welcome our neighbors in need. Come visit us at **60 Walker Street, Columbus NC, 28722.**

828.697.8422

info@thefreeclinics.org

## Expanding Our Footprint in the Foothills

Over the past twelve years, our relationship with our neighbors in Polk County has grown both wider and deeper. As we have added services, we have also cultivated local partnerships, such as the one we have with St. Luke's Hospital. In February 2015, TFC and St. Luke's entered a unique and innovative relationship for pharmacy support. TFC now dispenses prescriptions from our medication supply and transports them to St. Luke's pharmacy for delivery to our patients there. This relationship ensures that TFC patients have local access to medications (no longer having to visit the Hendersonville pharmacy) and that they have access to medication teaching by a pharmacist. Our new, dedicated office in Columbus continues our efforts in removing barriers to healthcare access for our neighbors in need in Polk.



### Polk County by the Numbers (2018-19)

**6,647** ..... Encounters for 365 unduplicated patients

**2,336** ..... Prescriptions dispensed

**\$94,200** ..... TFC's organizational investment

**\$1,390,180** ..... Total value of care

**\$14.75** ..... Return on investment for every \$ spent in Polk

### Polk Services

- Medications in partnership with St. Luke's Hospital
- Case Management, including...
  - ...access to specialty care
  - ...care coordination
  - ...diagnostic testing
  - ...surgical services

## Talking with Jada Scruggs, CCMA - Polk County Case Manager

### When and how did you become involved with TFC?

In 2013 my husband became a patient at The Free Clinics. We had no insurance and he was diagnosed with diabetes. We were amazed at the programs TFC had to offer! If it weren't for the services they offered us, my husband would not been able to get his insulin and other medications that were prescribed

to him. Not long after, I became the Polk County case manager in December of 2014. I knew that this was where I needed to be to make a difference in other people lives as The Free Clinics made a difference in our lives.

### How do you feel about opening the new office?

I am so excited about the new location because I have a wonderful space to assist the patients in Polk County. I'm looking forward to expanding our services to more people. Now that I am in a permanent location, I will be more accessible to the people that are in need of our service. The new location is convenient for the people in Polk County, in downtown Columbus, with easy access to doctors' offices and other resources. I am exited to see where this leads me and Polk County!



Jada Scruggs is seen here in her brand new Polk County office, located in downtown Columbus less than 1.5 miles from St. Luke's Hospital.