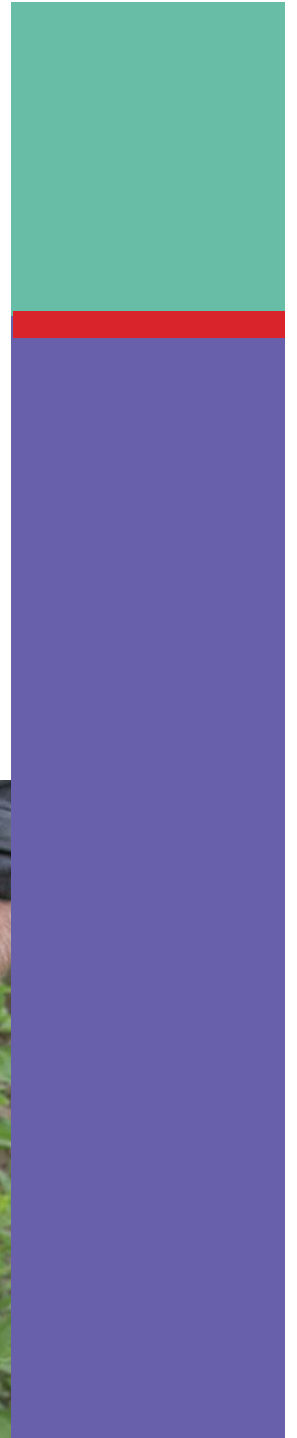


MY Meds

Medication Assistance Ministry
for the Toe River Valley



The Toe River Community

People Living in the Toe River Valley

- 20% of the elderly are living in poverty.
- 22.5% of the people are uninsured (2.3% higher than our state average).
- 50% of grandparents are caregivers and/or responsible for their grandchildren.
- The Valley has lost a tremendous amount of industry, and healthcare resources are limited, making this area one of the neediest in N.C.
- Many are making difficult choices between paying for needed medications or food.



The Typical MY Meds Client in 2011

- The average age of our clients is 48, with clients ranging from 10 to 90 years old.
- Their average yearly income is **\$12,765**.
- Clients average a need for 3 medications, which totals **\$9,500** a year that they would have to pay out of pocket.
- Clients include seniors living in poverty, the uninsured and under-insured, grandparents responsible for grandchildren, and families struggling through unemployment.

What is MY Meds?

- MY Meds works with various drug companies and physicians to obtain prescribed medications for individuals with chronic illnesses and also provides health education, counseling, and referrals to other community resources.
- Each year, *volunteers and staff invest 5,000 hours helping their neighbors* in the Toe River Valley. Over the course of a year, *MY Meds will invest 8 hours working with each client*, e.g. applications, telephone calls, correspondence, follow up, and consultation.
- MY Meds *guides 200 to 300 people each year to other agencies in the Toe River Valley* who are poised to help them with needs such as food, medical equipment, heating bills, and navigating healthcare choices like Medicare Part-D.
- Since 2002, MY Meds has requested *over \$9 million in medications* for uninsured and under-insured people who are often struggling with choosing between paying for needed medications or food.



Caring Volunteers Walking Alongside

MY Meds is a fully tax-deductible ministry established by LifeMinistries LLC, a subsidiary of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community. Givens Estates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

What Makes MY Meds Unique?

- MY Meds is the only medication assistance and health resource ministry serving Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey Counties.
- We partner with pharmaceutical companies, physicians, local and state-wide health systems, and churches to provide a strong foundation for serving people with health challenges.
- MY Meds operates on a bare bones budget of less than \$70,000; for every dollar invested in MY Meds, \$18 is returned to the community.
- This ministry enables people to receive critical medications, have more nutritious meals, spend more time with family, remain employed and live more productive lives.
- In 2011, the average cost of medications for our clients was \$9,500. With the help of MY Meds, clients only pay \$100 for an entire year's supply of their medications. Sponsorships are available for clients who cannot afford even this.



"You have saved my life."

This poignant statement was voiced repeatedly by a widow in her 60's who received medication assistance and was directed to a local food pantry. With MY Meds help, she can now offset her cost of living with her medication savings.

Impact to the Community

Every dollar invested in MY Meds produces a significant return to the client and to the community. Helping our clients access needed medications keeps them out of the hospital and saves significant potential expenses related to hospitalization. Funds which would have been directed to cost of healthcare can now be allocated to other basic needs, including groceries, utilities, preventative care, and insurance.

For example, keeping just one person with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease out of the hospital saves \$10,215. 14% of our clients have this disease, and helping them access needed medications saves over \$286,000 in potential hospitalization costs which otherwise would have to be covered by the clients, taxpayers, or indigent care funds in the community. Other examples of medical cost savings are listed below.

Diagnosis	Average Charge per Case in Mitchell & Yancey Counties	Percentage of MY Meds Clients with Diagnosis	Total Savings if Inpatient Stay is Avoided
Diabetes	\$21,607	20%	\$864,280
Cardiovascular Disease	\$24,346	18%	\$876,456
Respiratory Disease	\$10,215	14%	\$286,020
Digestive Disease	\$15,932	11%	\$350,504
Mental Health	\$14,781	12%	\$354,744
NC Health Data Book State Center for Health Statistics - 2011			\$2,732,004



Over \$2.7 million could be saved because the individuals MY Meds serves are better able to manage their chronic illness.

MY Meds Leadership

Volunteer Board

The MY Meds Board is made up of volunteers and leaders from Mitchell and Yancey Counties who are aware of their communities' needs. They contribute time and resources and are instrumental in raising necessary funds for the operating budget.

MY Meds Board

Bruce Ikard, Chair	Spruce Pine	Civic Leader
Marvin Holland	Burnsville	County Commissioner
Jim Deaton	Burnsville	Public Health
Charles Gillespie	Burnsville	Retired Pharmacist
Mike Higgins	Burnsville	Retired School Counselor
Jennifer LeMieux	Spruce Pine	Community Corrections
Chris Morgan	Burnsville	Pastor
Becky Nance	Spruce Pine	Retired School Teacher
Bill Sears	Spruce Pine	Former School Superintendent
Jan Scott	Burnsville	Educations
Bill Sweetser	Spruce Pine	Pastor
Doris Terrell	Bakersville	Civic Leader
Garland Wampler	Burnsville	Retired Doctor



MY Meds volunteers and board members served a delicious meal at the annual "Night of the Arts" gourmet dinner and art auction. The 2011 event raised \$14,500 for clients needing assistance.

Our Partners

Collaborators

We collaborate with other organizations with common missions:

- Bakersville Community Medical Clinic
- Food Pantry/Meal Programs (MANNA Partners)
 - Angel Food Ministries
 - Bakersville Baptist Food Pantry
 - Crabtree Chapel - God's Hand Ministry
 - Grassy Creek Baptist - Box of Blessings
- Healthy Yancey
- Mountain Opportunity Center
- Shepherd's Staff
- Spruce Pine Medical Loan Closet
- Reconciliation House



Financial Partners

- Access II Care of WNC
- Asheville District Mission Society, United Methodist Church
- Bakersville Community Medical Clinic, Inc.
- Carolina First Bank, Burnsville and Spruce Pine
- Community Care of WNC
- Community Foundation of WNC
- First Presbyterian Church, Spruce Pine
- Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community
- Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church
- IBM Foundation
- Middle District Free Will Baptist Church
- Mission Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
- Mountain Air Residents' Community Fund
- NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission
- NC Office of Rural Health and Community Care
- Peterson's Chapel Church
- Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation
- Spruce Pine Community Hospital Foundation
- T. F. Trust

The above list represents total giving of \$5,000 or more to MY Meds since inception.

Your partnership with MY Meds will extend your impact on our local community by embracing their health and wellness needs!

Value of Medications Requested by
MY Meds
Total for all Years - Over \$9 Million

