



CFWNC and Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation fund Purchase of Ultrasound Equipment for Yancey Clinic

The Community Foundation and the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation partnered to purchase urgently-needed ultrasound equipment for the Blue Ridge Medical Center Yancey Campus. The equipment will support better care for Mitchell, Yancey and some Madison County patients. An estimated 2,000 OB/GYN patients will benefit from the ultrasound equipment each year, and primary care doctors at the clinic will also use the ultrasound for expanded diagnostics.

The Community Foundation contributed \$18,500 in matching funds - \$10,000 through the Janirve Sudden or Urgent Need (SUN) grant program and \$8,500 with other CFWNC discretionary funds. The Foundation's SUN Grants assist human service organizations experiencing an unforeseen, unbudgeted crisis impacting their ability to provide critical services.

“Recruitment of physicians for our hospital clinics has been challenging for the past two years with fewer doctors seeking to practice in rural areas,” said Nancy H. Lindeman, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation. “We did not anticipate having a full-time OB/GYN at the Yancey Campus. When we retained an OB/GYN physician to work out of our Blue Ridge Medical Center in Yancey County in August 2013, after the budget for FY2014 was in place, there were no funds earmarked for this type of equipment. Faced with budget constraints, we needed help to purchase the equipment. We are truly thankful for this generous measure of support for the patients in our rural communities.”

“The fact that the clinic now has a physician focusing on women’s healthcare needs in Yancey County, where no OB/GYN services were available, and that this physician has access to the necessary equipment is a vast improvement in the level of service for patients,” said CFWNC President Elizabeth Brazas. “Prior to the purchase, patients were required to make a 30-mile round trip to Spruce Pine for ultrasound diagnostics, and the time and money involved represented a significant barrier for many women. We were pleased that the hospital was able to meet our match to fully fund the purchase.”