

# Volunteer Connection

**Harrisonburg-  
Rockingham  
Free Clinic**  
25 West Water Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 433-5431

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## Salute to an Outstanding Volunteer

By Nels M. K. Åkerson

### Visionary Academic

If anyone values opportunity, it's Lyubov Slashcheva. As a Pre-Dental Biology major at Eastern Mennonite University, taking the Dental Admission Test, is one of her priorities. Her free moments are spent deeply engrossed in a DAT study guide, which was the case before our interview. This Russian interpreter for the Free Clinic doesn't waste a moment. Five schools, including University of Baltimore, West Virginia University, University of North Carolina, University of Pittsburgh, and Virginia Commonwealth University, received her dental school application. When asked why VCU appeals, the frequenter of the EMU Dean's List expounded upon her overall campus visit impression. At the school, she said service is emphasized, and envisions that serving others will equip her well for dentistry. In-state tuition and proximity to home also helps, she added. As her dental school interviews come this fall, she still has time to choose.

After she dons EMU's royal blue gown this December, the visionary plans to travel. She will spend four months in Gracias, Honduras and Mayobamba, Peru with the Luke Society, serving in two dental clinics, respectively. The Luke Society will support her as she educates communities about preventive medicine, stimulates community development, and builds community missions with a local pastor, all so local individuals can care for themselves. With 3.5 years of Spanish under her belt, Lyubov is slightly nervous for the time away, but is positive it will be an opportunity for growth. This experience, the forward-thinker hopes, will give hands-on dental experience and a picture of what rural dentistry abroad is like.



### Family-rooted Worker

While being a highly disciplined student, Lyubov also values her family and church community. When she can't be found arduously studying for the next exam, serving others, or spending time in extra-curricular activities, the youngest of three relaxes at home with her parents. Throughout the year, she intentionally leaves her evenings free.

During the day, she keeps herself moving, if one hasn't noticed at the Free Clinic. She donates her time to other dental clinics in the area, and works two jobs. Dr. David Kenee, Dr. Steven Gardener, and Dr. Stacie Dietz, all in the dentistry field, receive Lyubov's helping hands. She also tutors struggling students in organic chemistry and biology, and works in Park View at the Early Learning Center. Church fits into her schedule, too. At her home congregation of First Russian Baptist, she co-directs a choir that meets three times a week and attends a weekly youth prayer meeting. She also plays flute in a band, the hardworker innocently divulged. "I like a strict schedule", Lyubov matter-of-factly explained. After pondering how she spends her free time, she chuckled and said she can't live with free time. "After I graduate, maybe I'll learn how."

### Patient Persevering Teampayer

"Chart-hunting takes patience, perseverance and teamwork." When asked what her first memory of the Free Clinic is, the Russian interpreter thoughtfully laughed as she recounted a teamwork experience. On a hectic Clinic evening, Lyubov couldn't find a chart. It wasn't in the usual places, so she asked Marilyn, if she knew. Marilyn guessed the back wall, but Lyubov assured her it wasn't there. When Marilyn slipped out of the busy clinic, however, she found the chart, to Lyubov's grateful surprise. This experience demonstrates how easily Lyubov collaborates. If it wasn't for her Turner Ashby English teacher, Mrs. Grimm, however, who encouraged her to apply to the Free Clinic, Lyubov never would have begun working here in June 2009. Keith Gnagey mentioned, Lyubov "is a team player and looks for work to be done".

She cherishes the common ground built at the Free Clinic between medical professionals, clients, and volunteers. Others, she hopes, "would value the opportunity that the Free Clinic presents to do a job willingly and well while belonging to the larger effort". A quintessential example of this mindset, she embodies her dream. With a soft laugh, she concluded she's excited for dentistry school and is open to the possibilities that lay ahead.

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- ◇ The Clinic will be closed **Thursday November 24th and Friday November 25th** for Thanksgiving.
- ◇ There are **no scheduled Wednesday Evening Clinics for November 23rd and December 21st.**
- ◇ We will be closed **Friday December 23rd through Monday January 2nd** for Winter Holidays.

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." ~Edward Everett Hale

## New Scheduling System

The Clinic is going to an internet-based scheduling system for our Providers and Nurses!! We are in the process of obtaining a program called *VOLGISTICS* to manage the schedule. Traditional methods for scheduling will still be available but for those who have internet access this will be a real time-saver! *Volgistics* is a program to that will allow you to access the schedule anywhere, anytime from any internet connected computer. By signing in with a secure password, you will be able to check your schedule, fill openings, receive updates, and more. The schedule coordinator will be able to send automatic schedule reminders and "help needed" messages to volunteers who meet the opening's requirements. If you are a Nurse or Provider, you will be receiving information via e-mail about it very soon with instructions on how to sign in. Have fun with it!!



- Janice Gandy, Clinical Services Director

**A Note From the Executive Director:** Launching the next 20 years at the Free Clinic: On October 1<sup>st</sup> the Free Clinic launched "An Apple a Day...promoting wellness at the Free Clinic" campaign with free apples for all as part of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to Showalter's Orchard, Ryan's Fruit Market, Onyx Hill Orchard, and Turkey Knob Orchard for providing the apples. A special video made its debut at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 21. To view this new 5 minute video stop by the volunteer sign-in counter and press the start button.

The Free Clinic is involved in the following initiatives:

- Identify new uses for the third floor as the Harrisonburg Rockingham Dental Clinic moves to their new location late in 2012
- Introduce new software for patient scheduling, eligibility, and pharmacy
- Launch *Volgistics* offering new on-line resources to assist healthcare professional volunteers with managing their work schedules Identify health services needed in the future

I am encouraged that many of our donors have been generous recognizing the financial challenge facing the Free Clinic as an important health safety net provider in this community. However, as the Free Clinic approaches the end of 2011 we currently have a cash deficit of over \$100,000. Last year (2010), the Free Clinic had a cash deficit of \$50,062 and we needed to "dip into rainy day funds" to maintain our operation and services. We need your continued support in order to avoid using reserve funds for FY 2011. Your donations in November and December are needed to keep the Free Clinic in sound fiscal condition.

You are great team to work with,  
Keith Gnagey, Executive Director

## Updated Front Desk Office Hours Effective December 1st

Thank you **Turkey Hill Growers, Showalter Orchard, Onyx Hill Orchard, and Ryan's Orchard** for donating so many wonderful apples to help commemorate the Harrisonburg Rockingham's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The patients and volunteers had the most apple- delicious October ever!

- Monday through Thursday 9:00am—2:00 pm
- Now we also offer Afternoon & evening hours on Wednesdays 2:00 pm—7:30pm and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 5:30-7:30pm



& thank you **Evergrowin' Greenhouse** for the beautiful mums at our 20th Celebration dinner!

## Inclement Weather Information

The following locations will have information about closing the Free Clinic due to snow and ice (usually by 7:00am):

WSVA (550 AM)

WHSV, TV-3, website: [www.whsv.com/closings](http://www.whsv.com/closings)

The HR Free Clinic phone message (540-433-5431) will tell you if the Clinic will be closed because of bad weather. If the weather is bad, please check one of these sources for information related to Free Clinic services when winter weather sets in.

