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Building Bridges

Carolis Boone's road to better health began with a single step



The AAMC Community Clinic on Forest Drive sees 7,500 visits per year. The team includes (left-right) Eman Al-Samrri, MD; Monique Mounce, PharmD; Sharon Cameron; Tonya Harman and Huguette Calixto. Carolis "CB" Boone is center.

Carolis "CB" Boone had fallen on hard times when he showed up at the AAMC Community Clinic on Forest Drive in 2013.

"I was living in a shed on Old Annapolis Neck Road," says CB, who is 71. "I had no water, no electricity."

CB was battling high blood pressure, diabetes and tobacco use. He didn't have clean clothes or a steady source of food or money. He does not read or write.

"Mr. Boone came to us for medical care," says Eman Al-Samrri, MD, a physician at the clinic. "But it was

clear that if we didn't help him with these other issues, his health would not improve."

So the team cared for CB as if he were family. It was the beginning of what would become a lasting relationship built on trust.

CB saw Dr. Al-Samrri each week at the clinic. He also saw pharmacist Monique Mounce, who helped him manage his medications. Kay Concha, nurse case manager with Johns Hopkins HealthCare, found CB a permanent place to live at Morris Blum Senior Apartments through the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis.

The clinic team made sure he had enough food and clean clothes. Tonya Hartman, clinic coordinator, helped CB obtain health insurance so he could pay for his medications. Because he doesn't read, Tonya helped him find his apartment by placing a picture of a dog on his door. She held his hand while he had his blood drawn, and helped him quit drinking and smoking.

As for CB, he did his part — he showed up for his appointments each week. Now, he sees the Community Clinic team at Morris Blum, where he lives, and he says he is feeling and living better than he ever has.

"They make sure I take my medicine. No drinking or smoking — I do what I'm told," smiles CB.

"He uplifts us," says Monique.

Dr. Al-Samrri agrees. "This is why I went to medical school — to treat the whole person, beyond medicine. A smile on Mr. Boone's face makes my day."



Community Clinics » AAMC Community Clinics see patients of all ages, from newborns to the elderly. They take most health insurance plans and operate on a sliding scale for self-paying patients based on certain guidelines. For more information, visit AAMCCommunityClinics.org.