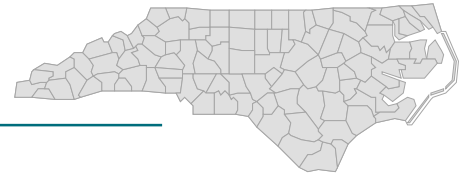


OutReach



A Publication of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

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For more information about the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust or about specific grant programs, contact the Trust office in Winston-Salem.

**Phone: (336) 723-1456 or (800) 485-9080 -N.C. only
Fax: (336) 723-7765
Website: www.kbr.org**



One of the state's most recent innovations in the education of allied health professionals is the Impact² program, which prepares mildly mentally retarded students for work as certified nursing assistants (CNAs). The program is a cooperative project of Bell House, Inc. in Greensboro, Guilford Technical Community College, and the McIver Education Center, also in Greensboro. Read more about this program in the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust's annual report which will be distributed in late January.

Trust Responds To Growing Health Needs Of North Carolina's Financially Needy

The growing number of individuals and families in our state who have very limited access to medical care has created a manpower shortage in many health care fields. In response to growing needs and projected shortages, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has awarded substantial grants over the past five years toward establishing or expanding educational programs for training allied health professionals. The term, *allied health professionals*, refers to the following: physician assistants and family nurse practitioners, who are licensed to treat patients and write prescriptions; occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants; physical therapists; respiratory therapists; dental hygienists; and certified nursing assistants.

Education programs for these health professionals are based at major colleges and universities as well as

at community colleges. The programs attract local students who want to build careers that allow them to remain in their geographic areas.

The following paragraphs profile some of the allied health education programs established in various areas of the state over the past decade. All are supported by the Trust. They undergird efforts to resolve manpower shortages and provide quality medical and dental care to low-income populations in rural areas of our state. At the same time, they provide educational opportunities to North Carolina students.

Ultimately, these programs have the potential to raise the quality of life for North Carolinians in every corner of the state.

(Continued on Page 3)

Words of Appreciation . . .

"I am writing on behalf of the Domestic Violence Commission to extend my gratitude to the Kate B. Reynolds foundation for accepting abbreviated proposals from domestic violence service providers who sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Floyd.

As you know, these providers operate on very tight budgets. Any additional costs or burdens can easily take a toll on the volume of service they are able to provide. I am greatly encouraged about the situation and again extend my appreciation for your responsiveness and willingness to consider their requests. . ."

-Domestic Violence Commission, NC Dept. of Administration

"We thank you in advance for your help. All of us are grateful that all of you are here for us and our sister agencies in the East. The Lighthouse was extremely fortunate that no one was hurt and that our Guardian Angels above protected all of us from harm. May God bless you for your important work throughout North Carolina and for addressing the needs of so many."

-The Lighthouse of Wayne County, Inc.

"Any available funds that would assist us in recovering our loss would be a great help. We have little margin for this kind of financial interruption in our budget. Again, thank you for your concern."

-Ocracoke Health Center

Perspectives

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND A TRUST "FIRST"

By Ray Cope

For many people of our state, the final year of this century was a memorable one. The floods that followed Hurricane Floyd caused devastation of historic proportions. Not any of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents saw anything that compares with this disaster situation.

As news of the disaster spread, North Carolinians aligned themselves and their resources for supportive action. Truckloads of food, water, household goods, clothing, and personal items were sent from every corner of the state in an effort to supply the basic needs of the thousands of families who were totally washed out of their homes. The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was among the first to respond with emergency funding.

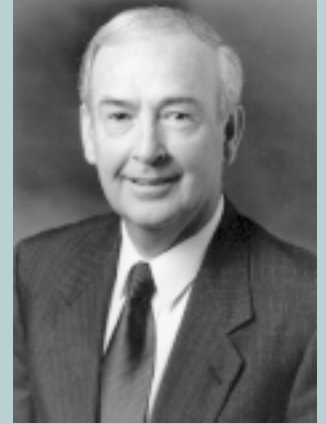
We announced that the Trust would set aside \$2 million for recovery funding, which would be made available immediately to nonprofit health care agencies in Eastern North Carolina. We anticipated requests for rebuilding or repairing structural damage to agency facilities and for replacing equipment and supplies. We also expected a number of requests for funds to cover lost operating revenue.

Health care in rural eastern North Carolina depends on a fragile network of rural and community health centers, county health departments, and hospitals. When these organizations can't operate and be open to the public, their problems are exacerbated.

For the first time in the Trust's history, the board gave the staff authority to respond to flood-relief requests without going through regular application procedures. In the face of catastrophic devastation, we agreed to accept letters from agencies describing the damages they had incurred.

Since the announcement, we have awarded grants to 27 eastern North Carolina health care nonprofits. As we had expected, many of the letters requested support for lost operating income. To this point, we have sent checks totaling \$584,132.

This type of abbreviated application procedure allowed the Kate B. Reynolds Trust to be among the first in helping to ensure that adequate health care would be available to the people of our state. We are proud to have been part of the early effort and plan to continue our support as the people and agencies of eastern North Carolina rebuild.



Special Note:

On December 31, 1999, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust concluded its abbreviated application period for recovery assistance funding for eastern North Carolina nonprofit health care agencies. However, the Trust will continue to consider funding for rebuilding or repairing structural damage to agency facilities, replacing agency equipment and supplies, and covering losses in operating revenue. Grants will not be awarded for losses covered by insurance. Applicants should follow the regular application process.

For additional information, call the Trust office at 1-800-485-9080 or visit the website at www.kbr.org.

Two programs supported by the Trust address the severe shortage of mid-level practitioners (physician assistants and family nurse practitioners) statewide, particularly in rural eastern areas. In North Carolina overall, there is one primary care practitioner for every 1,343 people; in the eastern region, the ratio is one practitioner for every 2,898 people. The American Academy of Physician Assistants reported that 6.8 positions were available for each new PA who graduated in 1995. A Fayetteville Area Health Education Center (AHEC) survey forecasts a need for 146 new physician assistants in 2000.

The Physician Assistant Training Program at the East Carolina University School of Allied Health Sciences in Greenville is the first state-supported program of its type in the state. The first class of 20 students was admitted in May 1997. The program emphasizes primary care and much of its clinical training will be done in rural sites under the direction of primary care providers – all of whom treat Medicaid recipients.

The Physician Assistant Training Program gives admission preference to North Carolinians, in hopes that local students who have completed the course will remain in the area after graduation. Past experience in other allied health programs offered at the school indicates that approximately 80 percent of its graduates stay in North Carolina and 50 percent in the eastern region.

The Trust awarded \$667,344 to this program.

The Physician Assistant Program at Methodist College, Inc. in Fayetteville was established to relieve the severe shortages of mid-level practitioners in southeastern North Carolina. This program also offers on-site training in rural health practices, including public health departments. It gives admissions preference to students from the underserved southeastern region of the state and further encourages graduates to remain in the area by offering a tuition forgiveness program for those who practice within a specified area.

The Trust awarded \$59,255 to this program.

Projections made in separate studies completed by the Bureau of Health Professions and the Pew Health Professions Commission forecast the need to double the number of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives working in the state by the year 2000. The studies also suggested that approximately 300 nurse practitioners will be needed in the western region of the state.

The Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Program is one of several programs that have been developed to relieve the shortage of mid-level health professionals in western North Carolina. The program is part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, based in Asheville, and is sponsored

jointly by the School of Nursing, Mountain AHEC, and the Asheville Graduate Center. The program allows nurses who are already working and living in the region to remain in their home communities to complete their study.

For immediate benefits to the area, the post master's program requires approximately half the credits of a degree program and can be completed in 18-20 months of part-time study. This program provides a community-based cooperative distance learning model of training that encourages established residents to remain in the community. The Trust awarded \$137,358 to this program.

Demographics indicate that the nearly 550,000 residents of Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, Catawba, Watauga, and Wilkes counties in the northwestern area of the state have very limited access to good dental health care. Within the area, there is one dental hygienist for every 4,784 people as compared to a state ratio of one per 2,419. Public health clinics have six-month long waiting lists, and 38 percent of kindergartners in the nine-county area display lack of proper dental treatment.

Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory is serving as the lead agency for a consortium of five community colleges (Caldwell, Catawba, Mitchell, Western Piedmont, and Wilkes) and the local AHEC for the development of a dental hygiene program to serve the northwest area of the state. The consortium encourages broad participation. Students receive practical training in a clinical lab on the Catawba campus but complete general or related coursework at their "home" institution. The first class of 20 hygienists will graduate in May 2000.

The Trust awarded \$552,930 to this program.

Registered occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants apply a holistic approach to helping developmentally disabled patients — or patients who have become disabled by injury or illness — regain their daily living skills. In North Carolina and across the nation, occupational therapist graduates are in high demand, typically receiving seven job offers before graduation. A Comprehensive Manpower Survey completed by Coastal AHEC indicates a current need for more than 50 occupational therapy assistants in the southeastern North Carolina area that includes Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, New Hanover, and Pender counties. In rural areas in the western part of the state, the shortage is also substantial. Community health agencies cannot compete with salaries offered by hospitals and for-profit agencies; therefore, the needs of underinsured or uninsured individuals often are not met.

Meet Susie Gordon ...



Anyone who calls or visits the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust office in Winston-Salem knows Susie Gordon.

She is the Trust's secretary/receptionist, whose greetings to guests or callers always convey the graciousness, warmth, and accessibility of the entire Trust staff.

"I love my job because I greet and talk with nice people every day," she said.

But Gordon's responsibilities extend beyond managing the front desk. Over the past five years, she has played an integral role in supporting the Trust staff. Whether gathering and assembling printed materials in preparation for advisory board meetings ... planning luncheons and special events ... or unjamming the copy machine, she is vital to the work of the Trust.

"I think all people have God-given gifts, and one of mine is to enjoy helping people," Gordon said. "That's why my job at the Trust is perfect for me."

Gordon is a native of Lynchburg, Va., but she has been in Winston-Salem since shortly after college.

She and her husband Larry are active members of Maple Springs United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem.

Outside of work, she also finds time for aerobics classes, reading, and participating in an investment club for women only.

(Continued on Page 4)

Important Dates:

Satellite Offices

Satellite offices will be open according to the following schedule:

- Greenville –
March 6-10, 2000
Asheville –
June 12-16, 2000
Fayetteville –
December 4-8, 2000

Health Care

Grant Applications
Due: March 15, 2000
September 15, 2000

Poor and Needy

Grant Applications
Due: May 1, 2000
August 1, 2000

Organizations are eligible for grants from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust if they have qualified for exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations [as defined by Section 509(a) of the Code]; or are public instrumentalities. Grants are not awarded to individuals.

Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory has expanded its Occupational Therapy (OT) program from 16 to 30 per class. Students receive clinical experience in program sites that have been established in nearby elementary schools. Typically, more than 90 percent of Lenoir-Rhyne's OT graduates now work in North Carolina.

The Trust awarded \$275,000 to this program.

Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington has established one of only two Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) programs east of Raleigh. The program requires two years for completion, including a focus on practical training in the second year.

The Trust awarded \$392,584 to this program.

Rural Rockingham County is medically underserved with a 20-percent higher citizen-to-care provider ratio than the state average. Within the county, there are above-average incidences of asthma and other pulmonary diseases among aging residents and among children. The incidence of AIDS/HIV and the respiratory complications that accompany it is also above average. In Rockingham, Guilford, and Alamance counties, more than 50 respiratory therapists are needed, and there are no respiratory therapy programs in Guilford or Alamance counties.

Rockingham Community College in Wentworth has started a two-year training program for respiratory therapists, which enrolled its first students in January 1999. The program will train 12 to 15 students per year. Community colleges in both Guilford and

Alamance counties have endorsed the program and are assisting in placing students in clinical sites for training and in placement for employment.

The Trust awarded \$192,500 to this program.

As early as the late 1980s, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics identified national shortages of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants with annual shortages projected to continue through 2000. Studies by the North Carolina AHEC program have confirmed the shortages and identified geographic distribution of physical therapy professionals as an additional problem resulting in an even more acute shortage of personnel in rural areas.

Winston-Salem State University received approval from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and established a degree program in Physical Therapy in the early 1990s. Approximately 18 students graduate from the program annually. Students receive pre-clinical courses at WSSU, clinical courses in the allied health building on the Wake Forest University School of Medicine campus, and clinical experience in the major hospitals and rehabilitation centers in the city.

In a collaborative program, Forsyth Technical Community College, also in Winston-Salem, simultaneously established a Physical Therapy Assistant program. The director of the Physical Therapy program also heads the Physical Therapy Assistant program at the community college, and students in both programs share facilities, faculty, and library resources.

The Trust awarded \$695,950 to this program.

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