



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BARRIER ISLANDS FREE MEDICAL CLINIC HOSTS NINTH ANNUAL CELEBRITY GOLF INVITATIONAL FUNDRAISER**

*Tournament to be held on April 25, 2016 at Kiawah Island Club's Cassique golf course*

Social Media: Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic to host golf invitational at @KiawahClub's Cassique course. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/YWps1>. #chs.

**KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.** – The [Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic](#) (BIFMC), a non-profit organization that provides free health care to uninsured, low income adults who live or work on Johns, Wadmalaw and James Islands, is hosting its ninth annual [Celebrity Golf Invitational](#) fundraiser on April 25, 2016 at Kiawah Island Club's Cassique golf course. The tournament is the largest fundraiser of the year for BIFMC, and provides the operational costs for more than 300 monthly patient visits at the clinic.

The BIFMC provides healthcare options to the estimated 22 percent of residents on Johns, Wadmalaw and James Islands who live 200 percent below the Federal Poverty level and cannot pay for health insurance. The clinic provides free primary care and urgent care, including lab tests and imaging. They help patients address their medical needs – treating everything from a common cold to chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, coronary disease and depression.

"The clinic is fully funded through community donations, grants and fundraisers," said Brenda Falls, BIFMC Director. "At BIFMC, we don't receive any state or federal dollars, and our fundraising events make up about 25 percent of the revenue brought in by the clinic. The annual golf invitational, hosted on Kiawah Island, is our number one fundraiser, with eighty-two percent of each dollar raised going directly towards patient care."

Since opening its doors in 2008, BIFMC has provided more than 30,000 free office visits to the deserving residents in the community who may not have otherwise been able to see a doctor.

"The two founders of the clinic, Dr. Davis and Dr. Booth, were both retired physicians that lived on Kiawah and Seabrook," said Dr. Jim Hayes, Chairman of the Board of Directors for BIFMC. "The idea for the clinic came about from their observations of the need to provide medical care in a community with a large, uninsured population. They worked two years on the concept, vision and fundraising. Now, eight years later the clinic's grown rather significantly – BIFMC now has 35 volunteer doctors, 26 volunteer nurses and more than 75 administrative volunteers."

Doctors, nurses, interpreters, diabetic meters and strips, lab tests and x-rays (in-kind donation from Roper St. Francis Healthcare) are free for all patients. In addition, medicine is taken care of by the clinic. While each visit is free for the patient, the visit costs the clinic \$60 (compared to \$2,200 per visit to an emergency room).

"Kiawah Island Club is proud to host the BIFMC's golf invitational at Cassique," said Townsend Clarkson, Chief Operating Officer for Kiawah Partners. "The organization provides a need and service to our community, and we are happy to support its largest fundraising effort. We hope both golfers and sponsors will join us for a great event supporting a very worthy cause."

The golf tournament starts with lunch at noon followed by a shotgun start at 12:30pm. The four-player teams will play a scramble format. When play is complete, there will be a cocktail hour, silent auction, buffet dinner and awards ceremony.

To sponsor or play the Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic's Celebrity Golf Invitational, fill out the player reservation and sponsorship [form](#) that can be found online at [www.bifmc.org](http://www.bifmc.org).

For more information on the Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic, visit [www.bifmc.org](http://www.bifmc.org) or email [barrierislands01@gmail.com](mailto:barrierislands01@gmail.com).

#### **About Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic**

Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic (BIFMC) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that provides a medical home and continuing primary health care to uninsured adults living or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level of Johns, Wadmalaw and James Islands. By implementing the free clinic model of low-cost, volunteer-driven medical care, BIFMC is creating healthier workers and a healthier community. The clinic covers five medical specialties: primary care, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, ophthalmology and gynecology.

#### **About The Kiawah Island Club**

The Kiawah Island Club is a private membership club available to Kiawah property owners. The club includes two acclaimed golf courses, Cassique and The River Course. For more information, visit [kiawahislandclub.com](http://kiawahislandclub.com).

#### **About Cassique**

Cassique's 7,050-yard test ranges through maritime forests and along marshes where the Kiawah River meets the Atlantic Ocean. Since its opening in 2000, the Tom Watson-designed course has garnered numerous accolades and showcases the dramatic flare that has punctuated Watson's playing career. Watson's first solo design in North America, Cassique benefits from lessons learned en route to five British Open Championships. With its walkable layout, the par-72 links-style course is reminiscent of tracts found in Scotland and Ireland. Like those classic seaside settings, Cassique offers little protection from ocean winds, so Watson fashioned holes that could be played in numerous ways depending upon the conditions and the creativity of the golfer.

Contact:  
Arielle Alpino  
Obviouslee Marketing  
(843) 972-0712 ext. 151  
[Arielle@obviouslee.com](mailto:Arielle@obviouslee.com)

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