



304 Summit Street • Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 274-2267 • (828) 274-2093 fax

<https://www.bcmonline.org/pa>



Dear Friend,

Buncombe County Medical Society's Foundation (BCMSF) is the charitable arm of the Buncombe County Medical Society, an organization founded in 1885, whose membership today exceeds 800 physicians. In the tradition of giving back to their community, these caring and concerned physicians created Project Access. Since its inception in 1996, the program has received national acclaim for creating and propagating a model that can be used anywhere to provide medical services to low-income uninsured people. Volunteer physicians make this program succeed by seeing up to 20 patients free-of-charge each year. Last year, patients in our county received more than \$10 million of free care from doctors, hospitals and pharmacies participating in Project Access. Difficult economic times and unprecedented natural disasters have combined to cause an alarming increase in the number of low-income uninsured in our community. When Project Access began in 1996, there were 15,000. Today that number has grown to over 50,000 – and that's just in Buncombe County alone!

Project Access has met this swelling tide head-on with unparalleled devotion and commitment. Nationally renowned, it has been adopted in dozens of communities all across the country. Locally, persistence and unflagging efforts have allowed many residents without insurance to minimize their sick time, continue their growth as productive employees, and preserve their families. Improved access to health care, chronic disease management, the reduction of racial health disparities, and support for end-of-life initiatives are all serious issues that BCMS Foundation is addressing to improve the health of our community.

On Saturday, February 9th, 2008, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, we will have our sixth annual **Heartstrings** ride for BCMSF Project Access at the Asheville Mall. It's a fun and exciting "Spinning"[®] (indoor cycling) event that demonstrates our emphasis on healthy activities, raises community awareness of BCMS Foundation's Project Access, and generates important financial resources for Project Access.

Please let your "heartstrings" pull you into joining this worthwhile and compassionate community effort as my sponsor. Each of us riding in the event has a personal fund-raising goal of \$200, and I need your support. Please use the sponsorship form below to help me raise the resources BCMSF Project Access needs to keep providing medications, medical services and renewed hope.

-----return this section to BCMSF Project Access- 304 Summit St. – Asheville, NC 28803 - fax (828) 274-1825-----

**Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ to sponsor
_____ as a rider in the 2008 Heartstrings event to benefit
BCMSF Project Access.**

My check payable to the Buncombe County Medical Society Foundation is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS OTHER: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on card (print): _____

Signature: _____

Please accept my pledge and contact me at a later time about payment options.

Name: _____ Phone: _____