Call for Art

Expressions of MERCI

Project Overview:

MERCI Clinic is a nonprofit organization that offers free, compassionate healthcare to individuals with limited means who reside in New Bern, Craven County and the surrounding eastern North Carolina. Services include primary care, specialty care, dental care, pharmacy and lab services, referrals and patient access coordination, free of charge to the patient.

Founded in 1996, MERCI clinic is celebrating 30th years of service in 2026. As part of the celebration, MERCI is seeking artwork to feature on greeting cards, totes~~-~~bags, and other printed and digital media. These will be used to thank donors, volunteers, and patrons. MERCI is seeking original artwork from artists in eastern North Carolina to feature on these products. Selected artists will receive an honorarium in exchange for granting a use copyright to MERCI Clinic, as well as the opportunity to have their artwork featured on physical products, MERCI's website, and for a limited exhibition in their space April – June of 2026

In support of our local nonprofits, and our efforts to connect local artists with unique opportunities, this Call for Art is being operated by Craven Arts Council & Gallery, the local arts agency for Craven County. Craven Arts Council and Gallery is a 501c3 organization who mission is to promote the arts and culture within our region.

Important Dates:

Call Opens: January 1, 2026

Call Closes: April 1, 2026

Artist Notification: April 30th, 2026

Eligibility:

This Call for Art is open to all artists 18 years or older, residing within Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Jones, Lenior, Onslow, and Pamlico Counties. Artists may submit their images of artwork in any medium, style, or theme; however, artists are encouraged to review the MERCI Clinic Inspiration document, which will help artists understand and interpret the core values, mission, history, and purpose of MERCI Clinic.

All artworks submitted must have been created by the artist, and be their sole, unencumbered original intellectual property. Artwork should not feature references to the year and be minimal on text.

Submission Process

For this Call for Art, we are seeking images of original artworks that embody the core values and mission of MERCI Clinic. Artists are referred the MERCI Clinic Inspiration Document, Appendix A, found at the end of this document. Artist do not have to submit or display the original artwork.

All artists will submit their images through the online submission form at www.cravenarts.org/merci. Artists may submit up to three (3) images for consideration. Artist will also be asked to submit their website and/or social media, and a short artist biography. Artist requiring assistance with the submission process may contact Craven Arts Council & Gallery at 252-638-2577 or info@cravenarts.org. All images should be high resolution (300 dpi or higher). Artists understand that works will be cropped and/or scaled, at MERCI Clinic's sole discretion, to fit the constraints of the greeting cards (4.25"x6") and/or tote bag (15"x16").

Submissions will be reviewed and winners selected by the Board of Directors of MERCI Clinic. Artists should refrain from making any contact with Board Members, and understand that attempts to do so may result in their works being pulled from consideration.

All artists submitting understand that if their image is chosen, they will enter a contract with MERCI Clinic to grant a perpetual use copyright to the organization, for use in marketing, promotion, printing, and any other business use by the organization, in print, digital, and other media forms.

Prizes:

Grand Prize (image used for tote bags and cards): $225

Card Winners (3): $75

Questions and Concerns

Artists may contact Craven Arts Council & Gallery at 252-638-2577 or info@cravenarts.org with questions or concerns regarding this call for art. Please do not contact MERCI Clinic regarding this Call for Art.

MERCI Clinic

Expressions of MERCI: Art inspired by kindness, caring and compassion

Piece must embody the following:

1. MERCI Clinic Mission:

To deliver the best compassionate, community-based, and comprehensive, quality healthcare and limited dental care — to underinsured and uninsured, low-income adults, while addressing the social determinants of health that impact their well-being.

2. Values

M	Matthew 25:40 (*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*)
E	Engage
R	Responsive
C	Care
I	Impact

3. Testimonials

"I've never felt this grateful in my life. In a little over two months, I went from nearly blind, jobless and homeless to gaining both my eyesight and a job! MERCI has given me a second chance in life and health. The staff have been so helpful… They've checked on me every day. What a wonderful group of angels we have right here in New Bern."

"MERCI Clinic is truly a place with kindness, who listen and care for all peoples. My doctor is very knowledgeable and always tries to help me for a better outcome. I am so thankful to MERCI Clinic and the amazing nurses and doctors. MERCI Clinic tries to help and find wvery solution to better your health. Dr Davis is byond amazing human. I am so happy to have found this wonderful place. My health did improve greatly." Patient VE

"I am grateful they have helped me"

4. Reference Photos/History

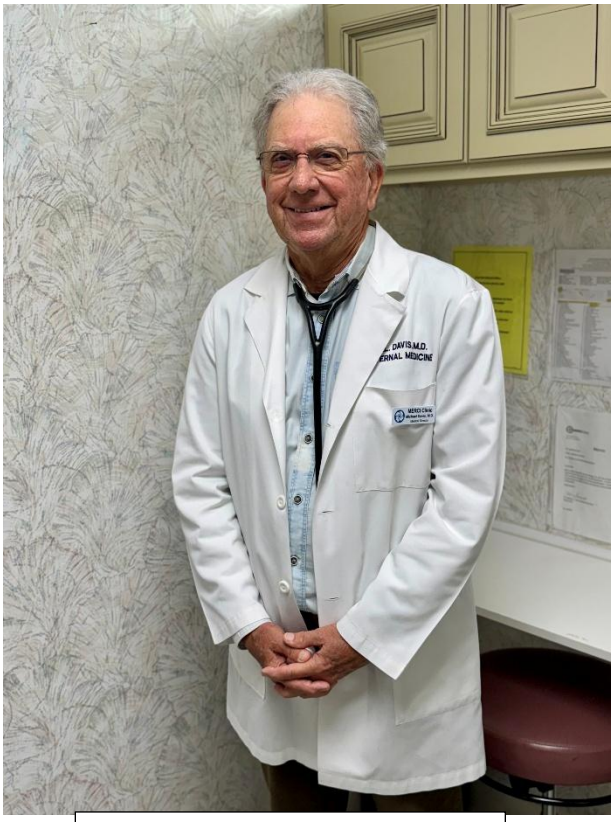
Please refer to intro to MERCI document

MERCI Clinic Volunteer

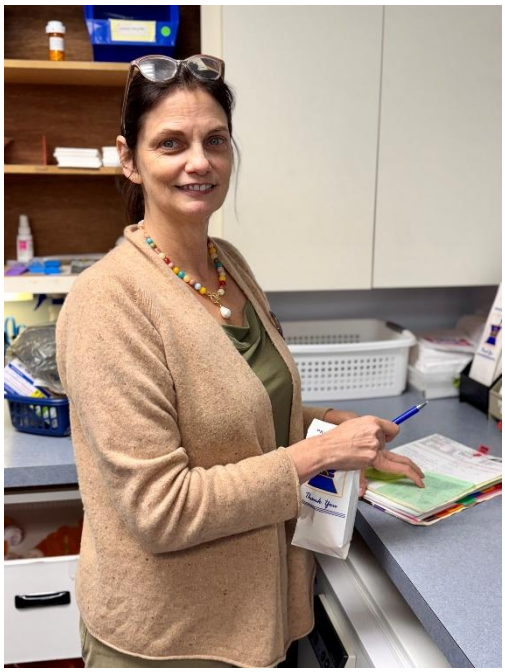
MERCI Clinic Dental Exam Room

MERCI Clinic Lab/Phlebotomy

MERCI Clinic Exam Room



Dr. Davis Medical Director



MERCI Clinic Pharmacist

MERCI Clinic Patient Access Coordinator