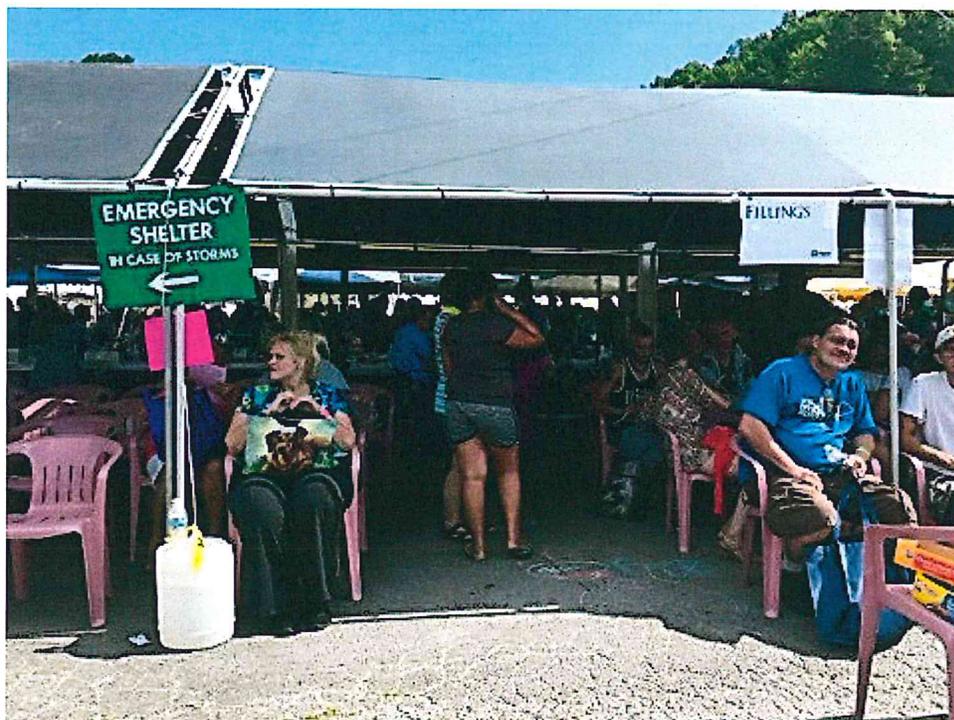


Virginia governor among those in attendance at RAM health clinic



By [Olivia Bailey](#), News Anchor/Reporter, obailey@wcyb.com
POSTED: 2:52 PM Jul 22 2016 UPDATED: 3:24 PM Jul 22 2016

WISE COUNTY,
Va. -



People in southwest Virginia tell us the Remote Area Medical clinic is providing them with medical visits that might save their lives. The event offering free medical care to those in need runs through the weekend.

More than 2,500 people will receive medical care in southwest Virginia this weekend they would not receive otherwise.

"We have diagnosed everything from brain tumors, breast cancer, lung cancer, those who are dealing with diabetes, hypertension, chronic diseases, as well as treating that have dental needs and eye needs as well," Wise RAM Coordinator Dr. Teresa Gardner said. "It is a tremendous asset to our region."

The RAM clinic has been operating in Wise for 17 years now providing potentially life-saving services.

Misty Clark drove from Dickenson County to get a mammogram after finding something that made her worry during a self-exam. She's 41 and hasn't ever had one before.

Clark said, "Well to me, it could save my life - it could save my life if I have breast cancer."

Melissa Hall has insurance, but she doesn't have dental coverage. She said seeing a dentist this weekend will provide much needed care.

"To me, that's the most important thing. Your smile - when you talk or anything about you," Hall said.

This year's event is expected to be one of the largest on record with additional resources being called in.

"I mean if you told me that we would be making hearing aids 17 years ago, I wouldn't have believed it was possible," Dr. Gardner said.

A group from Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is also on hand to provide more than 300 samples of the overdose reversal drug Nalaxone or Narcan.

"This area in southwest Virginia is especially hard hit, and we want to try to educate the community and get the drug out to where it's needed the most," Michele Thomas with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services said.

Among those in Wise County Friday was Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe.

"We're all into making sure everybody has access to healthcare," Gov. McAuliffe said. "It's the most important thing we can do," said.

The RAM clinic runs through Sunday. Dr. Gardner says the gates open at 6 a.m. each day and will stay open until the last patient is served.

Copyright © 2016 by WCYB. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.