

VCOM Students Provide Free Health Care in Jonesville, VA Birthplace of A.T. Still

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On Saturday May 10, 2008, two physician faculty members and thirty (30) students from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) hosted a health fair in Jonesville, Virginia. Jonesville is the birthplace of A.T. Still.

This health fair has been an annual event for VCOM for the past few years, organized by the VCOM student chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Physicians (ACOP).

Faculty and students provided free physicals, hearing and vision screens, and cholesterol and glucose screens to over sixty (60) members of the Jonesville community.

Free sports physicals were given to a number of students in preparation of the summer and fall sports seasons, while parents were educated about preventative health measures and the preparation of healthy snacks and meals for their families. Students also offered information to participants about health insurance, nutrition, and osteoporosis.

To make the event a "fun experience", children were entertained with coloring stations, promoting wellness. Children were rewarded for healthy behaviors with balloons, face painting, and free helmets provided by the VCOM student chapters of ACOP and the VCOM student chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACOEP).

Again this year, an emphasis at the fair was placed on educating the community of Jonesville about the osteopathic medical profession and the practice of OMM.

One participant noted that the reason she attended the health fair was for a manipulation treatment. "After coming last year and having my back manipulated by a student doctor, I wanted to attend again." Another attendee raved about his OMM treatment from a faculty member stating, "This is awesome. This is the best my back has ever felt. You need to move down here and open a practice."

VCOM students are already planning next year's event in Jonesville.

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