

Miss Viola: Finding Health and Hope in a Medical Home



After 39 years in the meat-packing industry, Viola was laid off. For the first time in her working life, she had no insurance and she couldn't afford to go to the doctor when she got sick. Viola remembers riding by the Coweta Samaritan Clinic, *"Let's stop here. Maybe they can give me something for the cough."*

What Viola found that day at the Clinic was so much more than just treatment for her respiratory infection and allergies. Dr. Kay Crosby did a thorough exam to assess and treat every aspect of Viola's health. In the process, Viola found a medical home. She remembers, *"This was one of the best experiences I've ever had in my life with doctors. In 39 years of working, I just never experienced anything quite like this."*

Viola was able to have a long-overdue mammogram and an ultrasound to rule out thyroid disease, thanks to the Clinic's generous community partners. The optometrist who donates time at the Clinic fitted Viola with new prescription glasses for \$15, a price she could afford. Viola learned from the Clinic dietician how to address her high cholesterol. *"They put me on track with eating right and exercise, and I've never felt better in my life,"* she adds.

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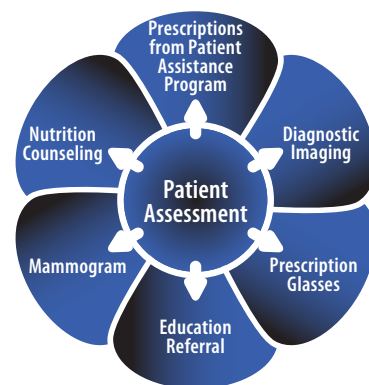
With new hope in her heart, Viola took a big step. She learned from a Clinic volunteer about GED classes she could take to earn her high school diploma—something she had missed by going to work at an early age.

In Viola's words, *"When God opened this door for me, I looked through and said, I can do this. Let me just do a whole makeover on myself."* In December 2017, Viola passed her final high school exam and will soon take the Accuplacer test to enroll in college-level courses in culinary arts.

Inspired by the volunteers and staff of Coweta Samaritan who give people high-quality medical care, Viola dreams of someday cooking the best food for those who need it most. She knows firsthand, *"There's nothing better than being taken care of by somebody that you know genuinely cares about your well-being."*

Viola's gratitude for the Clinic's supporters sums it up well: *"This Clinic is not to be taken for granted. It helps so many people, and it's done with love. I thank God for all the nurses and doctors who give back to the people who come to this Clinic. You're changing lives. You've redirected my life. All I can say is, 'God, I thank you.'"*

Viola's patient assessment opened the door to care and support that changed her life.



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