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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC OF NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY
“Providing the gift of health to those in need”

16th Annual Taste of the Town Benefit & Auction Sends Guests on Safari

Front Royal, VA (September 13, 2012) — The Free Medical Clinic of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Inc. will host its 16th Annual Taste of the Town Benefit & Auction Thursday, September 13th, 2012 at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal, Virginia. This year’s theme, “Sunset on Safari,” will let guests escape to the wilds of Africa to raise funds to provide quality medical care to the uninsured, low-income residents of our community.

The rhythm of the beating drum will lure guests into a wilderness, home to zebras and giraffes, for an elegant evening on safari. Ghana native and Winchester resident, Alex Odei, will be performing wearing traditional Ghana attire using drums he had specially made in Africa for Opequon Presbyterian Church, where he is a member.

A highlight of the evening will be the live auction, featuring an extraordinary 5-night private African safari provided by African Temptations. African Temptations specializes in the creation of custom designed, luxury, tented and/or lodge Safaris and Vacations of a Lifetime to Africa. African Temptations President, Quentin Gascioigne has travelled to Winchester from South Africa for the occasion.

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Twelve area restaurants will offer a culinary sampling, vying for the coveted People's Choice Award, selected by attendees, and the Critic's Choice Award, chosen by guest judge, Chef Jared Katz. Katz originally hails from New Orleans where most recently he was Executive Chef at Restaurant Indigo until it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He is currently with Gordon Biersch Restaurant Brewery in Northern Virginia.

Hundreds of volunteers, sponsors, area restaurants and wine shops, auction item donors, and individuals have been steadfast supporters of this important fundraiser for the Free Medical Clinic. Virginia National Bank is the event's Signature Sponsor for the ninth consecutive year.

The Free Medical Clinic of Northern Shenandoah Valley was founded in 1986 to provide medical care to low-income individuals who do not have access to health insurance. The Free Medical Clinic is a private, non-profit organization whose services are provided primarily by volunteers.

Free Medical Clinics across the Commonwealth of Virginia were set up to provide high quality and high value care for individuals who are uninsured.

In 2011, the FMC had over 250 volunteers that provided more than 4,000 hours of service to the Clinic. Last year, the Clinic treated 1048 patients, provided 9366 patient visits, and screened 532 new patients for services.

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Schedule of Events:

6:00-6:30 PM - Guests Arrive to Beating of drums from Ghana, Wine Reception

7 PM - Tasting Begins

8 PM - Remarks by Vicki McClelland, FMC and Jim Youngblood, Virginia National Bank; Presentation of Awards

9 PM - Live Auction

If you would like more information please contact Vicki McClelland, please call Vicki at (540) 536-1681 or e-mail at vmcclelland@fmcwinchester.org