

## WellMed fetes its patients

By **STEVE STEINER**

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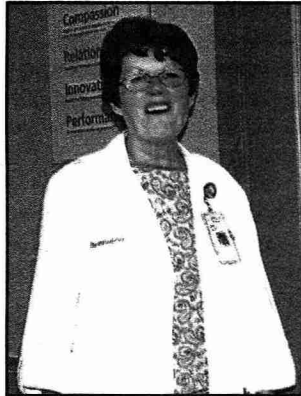
It was patient appreciation day at WellMed this past Wednesday, July 20, a day to express appreciation to those who have chosen to place their health concerns in the hands of Dr. Alicia Saunders and her staff, which now also includes Dr. Alexis Silva.

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m., WellMed clients attended a reception and were feted with light and healthy finger foods, as well as several flavors of ice cream and toppings.

Among those attending was Laverne Marsh, from Bartow, who said she had been a patient of Dr. Saunders — whom she called a great doctor — for the past 20 years, prior to Saunders joining WellMed. Although pleased with the treatment prior to WellMed, Marsh liked the transformation.

“Since Dr. Saunders joined, it’s been wonderful,” said Marsh. “I really enjoy it more than before. They have a great staff, every one of them.”

Seated alongside Marsh were Tom and Sue Fessel,



**Dr. Alicia Saunders welcomes everyone who is attending Patient Appreciation Day at WellMed.**

from Lake Wales. The couple started coming to WellMed this past year.

“Our neighbor across the street recommended WellMed,” said Tom Fessel. He then told of the reason he and his wife now came to WellMed. A previous doctor of theirs, one they had been seeing for a number of years had mistreated his wife. “She was scheduled for knee surgery and he canceled it the day before and never told us why, except to say she didn’t need it.”

When the Fessels tried to find out, the doctor stopped taking their phone calls, so they went to another doctor who said



**Barbara O'Connell is all smiles as she pulls the first number in bingo.**

Sue Fessel needed surgery. But a short while later he too changed his mind and suddenly stopped taking their calls. The Fessels said they later found out the two doctors were also friends and it prompted them to wonder whether that was the reason the second doctor behaved the way he did. So after their neighbor told them about Saunders and WellMed, they made an appointment to see her.

They are grateful to their neighbor and they added they’ve never been treated as well as they have.

“She’s wonderful,” said Sue Fessel.

Patient appreciation day, said Susan Willis, the office manager, will be held the third Wednesday of every month, and the next one will be Aug. 17.

### About WellMed at Bartow

WellMed at Bartow is located at 2020 Flamingo Drive, Bartow. Call 863-

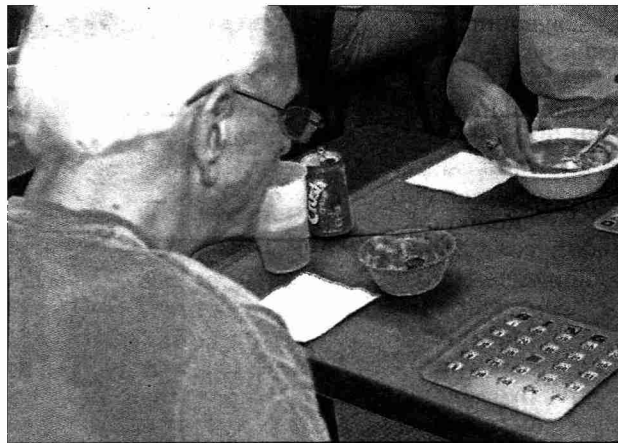


533-4104, or visit: [www.wellmedhealthcare.com](http://www.wellmedhealthcare.com).



PHOTOS BY STEVE STEINER

Patients of **WellMed** attend the inaugural Patient Appreciation Day at the facility. This will be a monthly event according to Susan Willis, the office manager.



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**Nope, not a single number on this bingo card has yet been called.**