

# GENNESARET

# FREE

# CLINIC

Vol. 1 No. 3 October 1988

*NEWS* Welcome to all the new volunteers ready to serve the poor. The outreaching of the medical people of Indianapolis is truly a sign of extraordinary caring. Over and over, people cannot believe that nurses and doctors are giving with such generosity; gifts of time, supplies, and money are given to the homeless and indigent by more and more concerned people each day. All this work is a testimony of faith and the will of God in our lives.

+ Good News Mission is renovating an abandoned elementary school for use as a womens/childrens shelter and neighborhood youth outreach. Included in the plans is development of a dedicated clinic area. This will include space for 3 exam/treatment tables, washroom/toilet, office area, and permanent supply area. This facility will be a step toward providing sustained, high quality, and efficient medical care for the sheltered and neighborhood people on Indianapolis' near east side. To accomplish this goal, we need to raise \$10,500. This is a large sum of money and we need to raise it quickly so work on the clinic area will be finished with the rest of the building already underway. Please consider this amongst your other charity giving; should you be able to give send your checks for Good News

Mission to Dr. Jim Trippi, 3171 N. Meridian, 46208 so that they can delivered enmass. Thanks in advance.  
+ News of your good works is spreading fast. The Marion Co. Med Soc. Bulletin will have an article shortly and Evan Bayh was very interested in our clinic and offered his assistance. Nearly every day someone calls to offer their talents. The housestaff of Methodist Hosp. have enthusiastically pitched in.

+ Lilly Foundation gifts will be used at all the shelters that Gennesaret Free Clinic serves: All Saints Church (to be a full time family shelter), Lighthouse Mission, and Good News Mission. As part of the construction process All Saints food and medical ministry will temporarily be at Masonic Temple; Lighthouse Mission will be probably be in transition next fall. Each of the three new facilities include medical clinic provisions.

*Specialists* To help with difficult patient situations (with advice or follow-up) visits the following specialists have volunteered their services. They have agreed to donate their services only on a limited basis, so please refer sparingly.

Dr. Claire Bernadin OB-Gyn 926-7082

Dr. William Chapman Urology 872-0123

Dr. Frank Countryman. Psychiatry 257-9281

Dr. James Williams Urology 923-4542

Dr. Thomas McSoley ENT 923-5441

Drs. Alonzo / Oestrike Neuro 929-5828

Dr. David Denny Ophthalmology 293-1420

*Medical Wastes* It is very important that any medical wastes (eg. soiled gauzes, dressings, urine dip sticks) be removed from the shelter and disposed of at your office/hospital in the proper manner. Neighborhood children going through garbage have exposed themselves to disease and created nasty headlines.

*Scheduling Problems* Please make every effort to fulfill your scheduling commitment at the shelters or have a replacement to take your place. People are now counting on us to provide the advise, care, and treatment we can offer. Just mark your calenders with the dates you are scheduled. We aim to be a consistent and sustaining source of aid to people who have been able to depend upon little in their lives.

*Help Wanted* Their are definite needs that are presenting themselves over and over. If you know of nurses, dentists, podiatrists, or dental hygenists who would be sympathetic toward the medical needs of the homeless, please discuss what you are doing at Gennesaret Free Clinic with them. You will be amazed at how receptive good people are toward helping out. Have them call 924-5444 for more details.

*More to come* . . . Their are many new directions and possibilities we can now take. Hopefully, with new quarters in the respective shelters there will be secure places to leave supplies. Then at last we won't have to haul around that blasted trunk. We

will be discussing other sites to offer our services at if we continue to be blessed with an out-pouring of blessings. Should we have social worker, laboratory, or administrative support? Are you interested in planning a tuberculosis screening campaign? Should we consider helping to get a token family off the street, out of the shelters, and into an apartment? Lots of things to consider. Think about it.

*Indpls Homeless* We treat the homeless, but who are they? Dr. Marcie Taylor and Cathy Scott surveyed the sheltered homeless this March and their results are very revealing. About 50% are high school grads or above, 55% are residents of Indpls of 5 or more years, 45% are younger than 40 years, 50% had a permanent residence of their own within the last 1 year, 35% have been physically assaulted as a result of being homeless, only 41% are alcoholic, and only 17% have been hospitalized for mental problems. These persons were interviewed in shelters, but there are others who do not make it off the streets. Thanks to Marcie and Cathy for this information and the week they spent literally living on the street to get this.

*Matt. 25* Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me" when you did this to one of... mine.