

# *GENNESARET FREE CLINIC*

Vol. 2, No. 1

February, 1989

## Our New Mission Statement:

We are health professionals of Indianapolis who have heard a calling to offer our talents and training to the homeless and indigent. Through our volunteer effort, we endeavor to provide competent, accessible, and compassionate health care to the needy. Our faith moves us to show special respect and dignity to those who have been neglected; for we realize that is in such a healing encounter that we are all made more whole by God.

## First Anniversary of GFC

The meeting originally scheduled for January 25 never got past the planning stage, so it seemed appropriate to have this meeting as a celebration of our first year as well as a time to get together to share thoughts and concerns about what we are doing. Please plan on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 pm at our GFC at Good News Mission, 10 Rural St. Remember this is the old school building one door north of 2700 E. Washington St. Parking will be behind the Dutch Pantry and Good News Mission, behind the Pizza Hut, behind the School and on-street. Please join us for discussion and cake and Happy Birthday.

## News Items:

Have you heard all the many things GFC workers are doing. We have been extraordinarily busy at Lighthouse, Salvation Army, and Indpls. Family shelters these past months; often more than fifteen patients per visit. Holy Family has been visited by our GFC teams each week through the organization of Dr. Don Trainor and the residents of Methodist Hospital. A Saturday clinic at Good News Mission has opened to serve the neighborhood clients and we may shortly begin a third weekly session at Good News Missions for the women and children sheltered there beginning in early February. Several medical students will be joining us; hopefully they will experience sensitivity towards the medical needs of the indigent by their experience at GFC.

## Volunteer Coordinator:

We have begun the process of hiring a volunteer assistant or coordinator for GFC. This half-time person will facilitate delivery of the medical services by our volunteers. With our expanding duties and responsibilities, having a person who will keep "the ship running straight" is desperately needed.

At this point however, the money need

is great. It will take about \$25,000 for our budget of 1989. There are major expenses in providing employment, communications and reliability for our clinics. To this date expenses have been all donated by those who have seen the need and responded. Now we will need an even greater coming forth to meet these goals. If you can help financially, please send your contribution made out to Indpls Episcopal Metro Council- Medical Fund in care of Pamela Powers, Storer Schmidt and Assoc., 3171 North Meridian St., #200, Indpls 46208. Your contribution is tax deductible.

#### Scheduling, scheduling, scheduling

It might seem fairly straightforward to make arrangements for the doctors nurses and assistants to staff our clinic sessions. Amazingly, the eight weekly sessions have gone well and with a reliability enviable of a paid staff. After all we are volunteers and making an added session is difficult. But there have been some memory slips and forgotten sessions.

In hopes of making better communication between all those staffing a session, we encourage all persons to call each other the day before they are scheduled. For example, a nurse may call the doctor who is scheduled at the same session the day before to make sure of the time and place they will volunteer. This could eliminate lots of confusion and worry. Maybe rides could be shared or special items could be arranged. A call to the shelter by the doctor to confirm the clinic planned could also smooth some rough spots.

We hope the short bit of time it takes to contact each other will make for a better experience for all concerned.

#### Medications:

Through the good work of the Marion County Medical Society Auxillary and the parishioners of St. Albans Church, the spare sample medications we use have been collected and sorted. Several pharmaceutical representatives have provided some samples as well. We are very grateful for these medications we can provide at no expense to our patients. But demand is outstripping supply. This is especially true of antibiotics. We are now seeing upwards of 100 patients each week and providing them with enough medication for their illness is a tremendous undertaking. If you have extra samples you could bring to the sessions you attend, that would much appreciated. However, the office staff at Storer Schmidt and Associates begs you not to drop your extra meds at the office. This just "short-circuits" the collection/sorting being performed by the good people mentioned above. Also please try to keep notice of the needs that we are not keeping up with so we can all provide a better service.

#### Thought you'd like to hear:

- + One Saturday, a new GFC team came up short on free medications and supplies. They pitched together and raised money to help pay for the prescriptions needed.
- + Another Saturday, a team found half the children at a family shelter to have colds and ear aches. It took almost four

hours to treat all those children.

- + One doctor planned to volunteer at one of the shelters for Christmas Eve and brought one of the GEC trunks in order to provide medical care as well.
- + Several medical families are going together to the GEC sessions; their presence as a family serves as living testimony to those from broken families.
- + Two medical families made donations to GEC in the name of their friends and relatives as their Christmas gifts.
- + So many others acts of generosity seen only in the eyes of God.

#### Want Ads:

- Looking for a podiatrist to volunteer services as a specialist consultant or an instructor for several persons interested in learning more of primary foot care.
- Needed: a baby scale for Holy Family clinic area to check on the many infants.
- Needed: Dollies for the trunks to aid moving these monstrosities. An old, working one in someone's garage might be just what the doctor ( or nurse ) ordered.
- A person to volunteer as an unpaid volunteer coordinator and work 20 hours a week before funds can be raised.
- Persons to represent GEC at meetings of the Homeless Network, the medical committee on the Homeless of Indianapolis, and at speaking functions.
- Persons to pray for GEC and the concerns noted above.

#### Mark 6 :53-56

Having made the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret and tied up. No sooner

had they stepped out of the boat ten people recognized him, and started hurrying all through the countryside and brought the sick on stretchers to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, to village, or town, or farm, they laid down the sick in the open spaces, begging him to let them touch even the fringe of his cloak. And all those who touched him were cured.