

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

"And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:56

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Volunteer Coordinators We announce with great pride and joy that Bonnie Fuller, RN and Sue Schneider, RN have become the volunteer coordinators for GFC. These two most capable and caring nurses have each committed to provide 10 hours weekly to the running of our clinics. They will be scheduling the doctors and nurses, managing the many details on a day to day basis, and will be planning for many aspects for the future. Ms Fuller will see to the operation of Good News (Saturday), Holy Family, and Lighthouse clinics as well as coordinating with the Bulter Pharmacy students while Ms Schneider will have Salvation Army, IEMC, and Good News (Tuesday). Sue will be valuable liason with the Medical Society Auxillary with which she serves as President. Already their impact is being felt with new ideas and enthusiasm. We aplaud their generosity and willingness to help the homeless.

Malpractice Insurance

It is an unpleasant thought, but providing medical care requires the health profession have liability protection. We are told by persons knowledgable in liability, that our risk is extremely low in providing primary medical care to the homeless on a volunteer basis. However, it is reasonable that we provide for insurance on a personal basis. Physicians are covered by their existing policies if they practice within the usual bounds of their coverage. It is prudent to advise ones carrier of your activities.

Nurses should also have personal malpractice

outside of their usual hospital policies according to some. One hospital administrator said the risk was so low as to not warrant coverage. However, because this concern has been raised, GFC will provide \$500 dollars for nursing malpractice insurance. Typical premiums for nursing malpractice are around \$50; if you need financial assistance, please call Bonnie Fuller, RN, 924-5444.

Summer time. . . And the livin' ain't so easy. When we think that homelessness is mainly a "winter-time" problem we minimize the difficulties of summer: services available during the winter months are cut back or suspended, heat exhaustion and violence increase on the streets, and more people compete for fewer resources during the summer.

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 Bernardin 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

Dr Duane Wagner Chiropractory/Rehab 297-4454

Dr Mike Farkas Dentistry 257-5599

Dr Robert Strokes Dentistry 283-4921

Drs Scott&Kathy Deasy Ob-Gyn 926-5825

Thanks With our new volunteer coordinators coming on, we need to thank those at Storer Schmidt and Associates who have given so much time and care to GFC. Many of the things that Pam Powers, Donna O'Donnell, and all the others have been doing each day will now be picked up by Sue and Bonnie. Pam especially has been the organizational back-bone to GFC and we thank her so much. The many gifts of all those noted (and those who have given so much that we don't have space for here) will continue to be needed at GFC and always be appreciated by the homeless.

News

+ Dr. Norman Hansen has offered his office equipment to GFC and the new clinic area at IEMC shelter (All Saints Church). He has been involved in making sure that facilities are being developed properly during the renovation. We are told the new shelter will open June 7. GFC has been asked to return shortly after reopening because of the valuable service offered.

+ Medical care for the homeless is becoming a concern nation-wide. Many different vehicles of addressing this health need are in place. The charity hospital, full time clinics and health teams, and volunteer efforts are known to function here and there. We hear of medical student clinics in Kentucky, California, and New York State. Our GFC is the only broad-based volunteer operation we know of however.

+ Good News Missions notes that their family shelter is constantly full requiring many to be turned away. The need for funds to renovate rooming areas for these women and children without a place to stay is great. Contact Rev. Wayne Scott 637-2897 with your donations.

+ Methodist Hospital has donated office furniture and equipment to our volunteer

coordinators office at Good News Missions. We hope to utilize this area shortly.

+ The Medical Society Auxiliary medicine drive has been delayed because of confusion over a recent FDA interpretation concerning medications. We need this vital source of medication; please pray that the needs of the homeless will be met.

Steering Committee

We have been privileged to have the advise of many concerned and wise people who meet quarterly as a "Steering Committee." It is necessary to get the right people together to grapple with some of the questions and the direction our clinic takes.

We recognize the Steering Committee with gratitude in this listing (alphabetically).

Anne Farringer, RN (Peoples Health-Homeless Initiative), Frank Lloyd, MD (Methodist Hospital Administration), Donna O'Donnell, RN and Pamela Powers, (Storer Schmidt and Associates), Phillip Price, Attny (Atlas & Reuben), Sue Schneider, RN (Medical Society Aux), Rev. Wayne Scott (Good News Ministries), William Storer, MD and James Trippi, MD (Storer Schmidt and Associates), Sally Van Osch (Methodist Hospital), Lori Wyman (Indpls. Episcopal Metro Council), and Anne Zerr, MD (Indiana University School of Medicine).

John 14:2

Weary over the topic of homelessness? The frustration and density of the problems can weigh us down. Here is what Jesus said about new housing starts. "There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you."