

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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July, 1989

GFC Summertime Picnic!

This is the summertime event you have been waiting for: the First GFC picnic. On Sunday August 20, from morning until night, we have the most amazing picnic for GFC volunteers and their families. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, we have reserved the fabulous grounds of the St. Maur Hospitality Center, 4615 Michigan Rd. for a day of outdoor games, barbecue, boating and fishing, and general good times. The place has a stocked pond with boats for your fishing enjoyment; and for the city types don't despair, the pavillion is air-conditioned. Even if it is a rainy day we will stay dry and still have a good time with games and eating. Now, please do not expect this to be a free ride. It will be a PITCH-IN! Please bring your own table service and something to pass around; we will shoot for a meal around 4:30 pm but come as early in the morning or afternoon as you like for the fun and games. There may be a small fee for fishing and boats also. Let's all get together for a good time at the picnic; see you there.

Help on the way

Dr. Willis Taylor has offered several hours each week to help with the many jobs it takes to keep our clinics operating. He will be stocking medicines, keeping inventory, and supplying the different sites and chests with the right medicines. As you can imagine, this is a mammoth undertaking and we thank Dr. Taylor in advance for his good intentions. Thanks to all those who have prepared a way for this service to the homeless through our volunteer clinics.

News... News... News

+ Dayspring shelter (Previously All Saints Episcopal Church) held a grand opening for its' new facility on June 6. Plenty of attention was drawn to the needs of the homeless as well as the advances that have been made towards these ends. The new facility will have a medical room. The development of this room is being overseen through the generosity of Dr. Norman Hansen. We hope to begin our clinic at Dayspring in early August; watch for notices and schedules.

+ Work has begun on a new patient intake form. We hope that this form will provide uniformity amongst homeless health care (Peoples Health Care will also use it) as well as the possibility of data collection by Dr. Zerr to better understand the medical needs and services for the homeless.

+ Holy Family has begun a project to make their clinic area more inviting and private. A separating wall, a sink, and new decorating will make the visit to the GFC team more pleasant. If anyone has a 27" air-conditioner for this room it is sorely needed.

+ Lighthouse Missions is presently at their Westside temporary location while their downtown Market St. facility is completely rebuilt. God speed to the construction workers.

+ Planning has already begun on a city-wide tuberculosis screening of the homeless of Indianapolis. We hope that many GFC volunteers will help to make this effort a success. Preliminary ideas anticipate the screening for the fall of 1989. More details to follow.

Thanks and regrets

It is with regrets that we have learned that Bonnie Fuller, R.N. will no longer be able to meet the demands of volunteer coordinator. In the time she served, she lent a tremendous degree of organization to scheduling and the affairs of GFC. Many thanks and best wishes.

Did you know?

+ That the Marion Co. Medical Society has again made our supply of medication possible by their annual collection of unused medical samples. Their concern is evident by their steadfastness in collecting these medications year after year and by the other good things they do for GFC. For example the incoming president donated her induction gift to the homeless through a contribution to GFC.

+ Good News Missions, Holy Family Shelter, Lighthouse Missions, Wheeler Missions do not have air-conditioning.

+ The family shelters of Indianapolis continue to have high occupancy rates even during the summer months.

+ During the warmest months of the summer the shelters experience many seeking safety because of increasing street violence.

+ We see many of those we treat in our clinics on the streets downtown. The kindly welcome and consolation we offer in our clinics seems even harder to apply when we see the same person panhandling on the corner.

+ Most volunteers to GFC come by word of mouth.

When a volunteer has a good experience and shares that with a co-worker, the seed for a new volunteer is often planted. Let others know about what you are doing for the homeless and allow others to take part also.

+ Baby scales and new equipment for the family shelters will soon arrive thanks to generous contributors.

Would you consider?

With expenses for GFC rising and funds hard to come by, GFC is in need of help. This news letter costs about \$100 per mailing, some medicine and equipment is not available through donations, and we are not able to hire an assistant for day to day operations. Unfortunately, competition for charity donations is high and our clinic does not meet most criteria for institutional gifts.

Our volunteers have given so much already, will one more request be more than can be tolerated? A relatively small contribution by our many volunteers could make things work. A suggested offering by doctors in practice of \$25, nurses and resident physicians of \$5 or \$10, would pay for office expenses and buy some equipment. This suggestion is for your consideration and is certainly not obligatory.

Reflection

If each note of music were to say: one note does not make a symphony, there would be no symphony.

If each word were to say: one word does not make a book, there would be no book.

If each drop of water were to say: one drop does not make an ocean, there would be no ocean.

If each seed were to say: one grain does not make a field of corn, there would be no harvest.

If each one of us were to say: one act of love cannot save mankind, there would be no justice and peace on earth.

The symphony needs each note

The book needs each word

The house needs each brick

The ocean needs each drop of water

The harvest needs each grain of wheat

The whole of humanity needs you as and where you are. You are unique. No one can take your place. Michel Quoist, The Breath of Love