

# GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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## City-Wide T.B. Screening

GFC will be part of a major effort to screen for tuberculosis among the homeless persons of Indianapolis. Along with Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program and the Marion County Health Department and in association with Wishard, Methodist, and Veterans Hospitals, we will attempt to find the prevalence of tuberculosis in those in shelters, those employed in the shelters, and as many as possible still on the streets. This will be done by placing PPD tests on those to be screened at all the shelters and sites at the same time (the evening of Nov 13) and having them all read at the same time (the early morning of Nov 16). This project may help to uncover some persons with tuberculosis who might not have been caught otherwise. We also plan to administer influenza and pneumonia vaccines as necessary during this screening. This undertaking could make a significant impact on the overall health of those in the shelters we serve. To accomplish this goal we must make a united effort to volunteer a couple extra hours. We anticipate the need for 176 persons (88 clerks and 88 doctors and nurses) to help in this program (each to attend one instruction session and one 2 hour TB screening session). Please mark these dates down on your calendars and plan on making an evening planning session on either Monday Nov. 6 or Thurs Nov. 9. Please try to help in this important program and pray for this to benefit those we serve. More details to follow.

## Gennesaret Free Clinic, Inc.

After 15 months of informal existence, our humble little clinic is now incorporated. Until this time our accounts have been held by The Indianapolis Episcopal Metro Council. We very much appreciate their help for the care and advise they have provided over these months. Their generosity has allowed us to grow and become a separate body. It is now time to have a separate identity as well as the extra flexibility and protection this allows.

Also we hope to make this January a new start with a committed core of administrators. If you would like to give extra time to GFC or know of someone with vision and leadership who could serve as a board member please contact Nancy Gregori - 293-9864.

As part of this new start, we hope to make a concerted effort to be financially independent. Last newsletter, an appeal for contributions from members was answered by only one person. This is not characteristic of GFC volunteerism and involvement. Please consider a contribution (\$25 for practicing physicians and \$10 for residents and nurses) for postal, printing, stationery, and medical equipment expenses. Please send contributions to Dr. Jim Trippi, 3171 North Meridian, 46208.

At this time GFC, Inc. is NOT an IRS tax-free charitable organization. But this is in the process.

For all the legal work we offer sincere thanks to our GFC Attorney, Phillip V. Price of Atlas & Reuben, Consolidated Bldg 634-2200. Mr. Price specializes in medical disability - general law.

## Welcome

Most of you already know of the fine job Nancy Gregori, R. N. is doing as our new scheduling coordinator. Schedules are really organized now thanks to Nancy! She is doing her part from home now while we all await her second child. She can be reached at 293-9864; thanks to the Gregori's for the gift of an answering machine, too.

## Schedule changes

A note of congratulations to those at Dayspring Center (formerly All Saints Church and Shelter) upon their opening. The construction continues as the finishing touches are put on. Of concern is that almost as soon as the doors were opened, this family shelter reached capacity and has been there ever since. This has been the case at the other family shelters around the city as well.

Already questions are arising about whether there are enough shelter facilities for women and children even after adding many new beds this last year. Best wishes and blessings to those at Dayspring.

Also please note that we have temporarily discontinued our visits to Lighthouse Missions. In that their temporary facility has a limited number of residents and others brought from Wheeler mission overflow have the opportunity to see Dr. Vega and the Peoples team the day before, we feel the limited number medical problems does not warrant weekly visits. We will resume our weekly clinics at the new Lighthouse facility in December. We are sorry for those who volunteered their time at Lighthouse Mission and had no requests for medical need.

## Thanks for the picnic

Our thanks to those who gave so much time and effort to the GFC picnic. Our special thanks to

sponsors of the many fine door prizes: G. Thrapp Jeweler, Fox Studios, Sigman Gallery of Fine Art, George's Place, Meridian Hair Design, Something Different Restaurant, Marco's Restaurant, Bristol Laboratories, Pfizer Laboratories, and McNeil Pharmaceuticals. Thanks again and see you next year!

## Did you Know?

+ One Saturday an entire "medical family" staffed one of our clinics seeing about 12 patients. All the patients remarked that it was good to have one family helping other families.

+ Plans are underway to develop a volunteer dental clinic. Already much work on the part of Dr. John Stone has produced equipment and volunteers. Perhaps a fall start-up will be possible.

+ Dr. Anne Zerr and David Labby of IU Medical School are developing a medical school curriculum for medical care of the homeless. This may involve many students in indigent care; the medical student rotation may be associated with GFC.

+ A march for housing will take place in Washington on October 6-8. Buses from Indpls are \$55 leaving Friday, 6 pm and returning Sunday 9 am. For tickets, Housing Now!, Box 88413, Indpls, IN 46203.

+ Antibiotics and vitamins are already running low. We may be forced to purchase medications if our demand is as high as previous winters.

+ Many people are surprised that they have never heard of the good work that GFC volunteers are doing. They often decide to help once they are aware of what is involved. This past Saturday a woman said she was looking for something more to do now that her children were off to school. When she heard about GFC, she signed up for the TB screening and the clinics..