

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

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Butler Pharmacy Students to bring New Services to GFC

Starting March 11, the Butler University Pharmacy students will become an important new link in the GFC service to the poor. Many, many students from years 1 - 5 have volunteered to help provide better delivery of our medical supplies. They will organize the medical supplies trunk, transport it to the clinic, and counsel the clients in the use of the "prescription" the physician provides. This will improve upon the present system by helping to catch outdated samples, insuring adequate and appropriate supplies, and providing the patient with more complete instructions. Initially, the Butler pharmacy students will go to the IEMC -Masonic kitchen and Brightwood Shelter on Saturday, the Good News Mission on Tuesday, and the Lighthouse Mission on Thursday. Of course, the pharmacy students will be under the physicians orders but doctors will not be asked to provide instructions or direction to the pharmacy students. We anticipate this to be a very valuable service for GFC patients and existing staff. We hope the Butler pharmacy students will find their experience at GFC to be inspiring and lead toward a better understanding of the needs of the indigent for their career ahead.

Homeless Network Grant to GFC

The Homeless Network of Indianapolis has announced that Gennesaret Free

Clinic will receive \$2,000 in funds for medical supplies to serve the homeless. The money was raised from the Batsheva concert this past Thanksgiving. Plans for the money will include purchase of medications not available in sample form eg. antiseptics and dressings, baby scales for the family shelters, and routine expenses for equipment eq. dollies for the carts. Please remember that last years budget for medical supplies was even greater than the money now received and your contributions are still needed to help in the delivery of medical care to the poor.

Contributions should be made to Indpls. Episcopal Metro Council- Medical Fund GFC and sent to Pam Powers, Storer Schmidt & Associates, 3171 North Meridian #200, Indpls, IN 46208. They are tax-deductible.

Dr. Zerr to Research GFC

Dr. Ann Zerr, General Medicine Fellow at Indiana University School of Medicine will be involving GFC in her public health research. Already a devoted physician with GFC, Dr. Zerr has begun to spend extra time at GFC through her research interests. This participation will start shortly with expanded intake forms that will us to better inventory supplies and follow demographics. Dr. Zerr may be able to provide valuable analysis concerning clinic use patterns, expense at a volunteer clinic verses established hospital clinic or emergency room, and obtain better exposure of the fine work that GFC teams are presently providing. The possibility of funds to help our Clinic also exist. We wish Dr. Zerr the best in her efforts.

Reminder

With all the complexities our system presently has we strongly recommend that you contact other members of the GFC team prior to going to the clinic site. Because medical students, pharmacy students, and new members may be present it helps to know who to expect for your clinic. Also, making sure the supplies are brought to your site will be facilitated. Calling before a clinic will help to prevent no-shows too.

Free Medication

It is the aim of GFC to provide free medication and supplies to those not able to provide for themselves. With the funds we receive, we could not even come close to purchase medications for even one week. We depend upon the generosity of pharmaceutical companies and physicians for free samples. This year again the Medical Society Auxillary of Marion Co. will collect spare samples to support our clinic.

The parishioners of St. Alban's Church will sort these medications for us. It is best that the medication go through this channel to make our operation most effective. Of course physicians can bring their own samples because in essence our clinic is merely individual doctors providing care and dispensing sample medication with the help of nurses and assistants.

We have tried to include forms from the Searle Co. who will provide free medication to needy individuals through private pharmacies. A prescription for a Searle medication eg. Calan (verapamil), Aldactazide (spironolactone/thiazide),

Diulo (metolazone), Aminophyllin (aminophylline), Flagyl (metronidazole), and Nitrodisc(nitroglycerin) are available.

AMA promotes giving 50 Hours

A recent movement towards volunteerism has taken root in profession societies. The legal societies and now the American Medical Association has endorsed volunteer work for the poor. The paradigm of volunteer work totaling 50 hours a year by every physician would make a tremendous improvement in the health needs of the indigent. GFC physicans, nurses, and assistants are already working towards making burdens lighter for the unfortunate. We need others who are willing to give of themselves; if you know someone who would like to donate their time, offer their compassion, and be willing to reach out to help the homeless send their name to Dr. Jim Trippi, 924-5444 so that they might be contacted.

Donations

We could really use some desk equipment (chair, desk, light, and stationery) for our Volunteer Coordinator. Also funds for a phone, photocopying, heating and electricity, and salary are needed right now. Please pray for them.

Already equipment (including a complete set of plastic surgical instruments), medications, and some donations have been received.

If you have extra supplies, please think about GFC; if we do not use the supplies we often find someone who can.

Changes . . .

The near future will bring changes in the shelters we serve. The Indpls. Episcopal Metro Council Brightwood shelter will soon close. The anticipated opening of the renovated family shelter at All Saints Church (16th and Central) is projected for June. Until that time we will continue to serve the Lunch program at Masonic Temple on Saturday A.M..

The Lighthouse Mission is also rumored to close its present facility in preparation for demolition and rebuilding. The timing has not been officially given , but it would appear imminent. We will try to keep everyone informed of necessary shcedule or location changes.

Foot Clinic

Nurse Anne Farringer of People's Health Center Homeless Initiative Program has a foot clinic on March 24, 8-10 a.m. at 1625 East Washington Street (Shepherd Community). A free foot exam, foot soak and pair of socks are available.

Marion County Health Department

Loraine Kelly of the Marion Co. Health Dept. informs us that many services are available to our patients. For children, Immunization Clinic is at Midtown 524 E. 16 th St on Tuesday 1-3 p.m.

Appointments for Well Child check-ups, Adolescent Pregnancy Clinic, and Family Practice team Clinics can be scheduled through 927-5916.

Many community services are available to the patients we see. An excellent source for this is the "rainbow book" available in our trunks.

Did you know?

That Good News Mission has opened its new family shelter. Already they are at maximum capacity; there is a desparate need for funds to renovate further areas to be able to expand the number of clients who could be served. If you can help in even a small way, please contact Rev. Wayne Scott at 637-2862.

That GFC has a remarkably high attendance record some consider good even for paid staff. The dedication of GFC workers is a tribute. Recently, one worker resigned on the day scheduled for a clinic. Searching for a replacement was time-consuming and fruitless. The clinic was cancelled to the dismay of the shelter director who worried about several sick kids. Minutes later another GFC doctor called asking for more time to volunteer and took that evening clinic. And we thank God!

Easter Greetings

The disenfranchised that we serve at GFC know well the dispair and discouragement from Psalm 22 and the Cross: " My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... But I am a worm and no man, the butt of Men, laughing-stock of the people. All who see me deride me."

May our visits to those in need be a source of relief and encouragement to them. With our help, God can bring about a "resurrection " to the shattered lives we treat. May our touch be one of healing and gentleness and help ease the burdens of the suffering.

Best wishes for a joyous Easter to you and the homeless of Indianapolis.