

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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GFC to Seek Mobile Clinic

As announced at the GFC Second Anniversary Celebration, GFC has started the process of developing a mobile medical clinic. We hope to purchase a used camping vehicle and refurbish it in time to begin operation by the fall of 1990. This vehicle could bring our primary medical care to the homeless and destitute of Indianapolis who are not in the shelters we presently service. We envision weekend (and some week-day) trips by GFC to parks and places where homeless congregate along with the Mission on Wheels vehicle, going to some of the hotels where families occupy one room without toilet facilities, and parking near some of the shelters not presently welcoming on-site clinics. Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program would be able to utilize the van as well. The van will be large enough to stand up inside, have toilet facilities, carry medications and equipment, be equipped with a cellular telephone, have good heating and air-conditioning, and enough space for a patient, nurse, doctor, and driver-clerk-security person. This same program has been successful in other large cities such as Cincinnati and Providence. We anticipate encountering more severe and urgent medical problems on the van than those we see on-site in the shelters. But, we believe that in reaching out to these most unfortunate persons, that the benefits will be greater.

The expense of this endeavor is considerable. We estimate that the vehicle can be obtained for between \$12-15,000, refurbishment may cost

\$2-3,000, equipment and telephone \$1500, maintenance to be about \$1 per mile, and insurance/licensing about \$12-15,000 over 3 years. The total 3 year expense for the mobile clinic is estimated at \$45,000. We have begun seeking sources of funding for this mobile clinic. Already it is clear that multiple sources of funding will be needed for so large a budget.

GFC will be in a favorable position in competing with all the many deserving charities if our volunteer membership is firmly behind this project. We would be able to approach charitable foundations with confidence and conviction if our members would pledge to work on the van and financially support its operation. There are many demands on all our resources, but please consider what you can spare in order to see the GFC vehicle become a reality. If everyone gives according to their ability, we will have genuine ownership in the mobile clinic. Securing funding for the balance will be much easier at that point. At this time we ask for your pledge (already \$850 has been donated by GFC members); we need your support and prayers to make this work. Please call Nancy Gregori at 293- 9864 with your pledge.

Children's Vitamins

Vitamins for all sheltered children have been ordered and should arrive soon. When distributed to the clinic sites, please dispense at least a 100 count bottle to the parent/guardian for each child with instructions in their use. This would be a good job for our nurses at the family clinics. Hopefully, this will supplement the nutrition of these kids.

Dental Clinic Opens!

The GFC Dental Clinic has opened and our volunteer dentists are seeing patients. The wonderful facility with complete x-ray, surgical, and examination capabilities is at Good News Missions at Rural and Washington Streets. Our dentists can perform dental exams, do x-rays, scale teeth, stabilize dental emergencies, do fillings, and perform simple extractions. Already the dentists have been in heavy demand and their time is very much appreciated. Plans are for dental facilities to be developed at Holy Family Shelter and DaySpring Center shortly and possibly others elsewhere after that. It is impressive to see our dentists performing quality work for the homeless at this convenient setting. We have admiration and more than a little amazement at the logistics that Dr. John Stone has pulled off in getting this dental clinic going. Already Dr. Stone has recruited 18 dentists but he says many more will be needed to staff the many sites he plans.

2nd Anniversary Event

The GFC Second Anniversary Celebration at the Governor's Residence was a smashing success. Attended by more than one hundred volunteers and their guests, the time to socialize, browse, and meet Mrs. Susan Bayh will be long remembered. The entire event was donated thanks to the efforts of Sue Schneider and Nancy Gregori. We especially wish to thank Governor and Mrs. Evan Bayh for the use of the Governor's Residence and Susan's presence and kind remarks, Wendell Fowler Catering for the excellent service, Crawford's Bakery for the wonderful cake, Classic Floral and Art Service for the fantastic floral arrangements, and Dr. Robert Gregori for the invitations. Most of all we thank all the GFC volunteers for their time and

talents in the service of the homeless of Indianapolis.

Announcements

+ Good News Center will have an Open House and Banquet dinner on May 5th. It promises to be a gala event which will include an auction. Seats are \$25 and can be reserved through Rev. Wayne Moyer of Good News Center, 637-2916.

+ The Marion County Medical Society Auxiliary will again canvass the doctor's offices of Indianapolis collecting spare medical supplies on April 9th and 10th. Please support their efforts by providing any current medications that could be used in our shelter clinics. This is the main source of our medication; GFC thanks the Auxiliary for this massive effort.

+ The medical professionals of Evansville are considering starting a medical clinic similar to GFC. Please remember them in your prayers.

+ Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program did not receive additional funding through the government grants. We will try to cooperate to with the HIP effort and provide what assistance and or overlap we can. Most important is that those in need are assisted.

Reflection

From "Lord, When Did We See You?" Weavings Vol V No 2. by Wendy Wright (writing about the Omaha Catholic Worker House and interviewing a guest) these challenging words: "... she told us a little about her daily struggles. "Them other places, them shelters or soup kitchens, they treat you like you were nothing. But here-- you know you matter. You're a person here. Them clinics-- when you go in, they use rubber gloves-- don't want to touch you or nothing. Here they care." Hopefully, GFC is a place that shows we care.