

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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Mobile GFC to Start this Summer

GFC will begin service through a mobile program to those in medical need at Harbor Light Mission, at downtown single room occupancy hotels, and with the Mission on Wheels late this summer. Thanks to the generosity of Junior League of Indianapolis, Methodist Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, St. Vincent Hospital, Community Hospital, and many GFC members and friends we now have sufficient funds to purchase a recreation vehicle. Junior League has taken a special interest in our work and want to be involved through the mobile clinic. The Indianapolis Hospital Coalition feels it important that the medical community all take part in helping the homeless. Through community support of this GFC project we hope for a good start by August 1, 1990.

To begin our medical visits, we will need volunteers to go out and recruit drivers. We hope to enlist drivers from amongst professional drivers in our community. Police, fire, or emergency professionals might be ideal persons to help us. The driver need not have a special license (chauffeurs licenses not required). Could some persons please consider taking on this one time project. We will need drivers for week-ends and some week days. We can begin with as few as ten drivers but may need upto 40 drivers when we are fully running. Our drivers

will volunteer only about once every 6 to 8 weeks with no anticipated services to be provided during the coldest month or two of the year.

Also, week-ends have been a difficult time to get physician volunteers. If you can volunteer for an occassional week-end on the mobile clinic, please call Nancy Gregori, 293-9864. We are needing new nurse and physician volunteers as well for our on-site clinics. Why not ask your doctor, dentist, or friend to help with GFC?

GFC, Trippi IVY Winners

The 1990 Indianapolis Volunteer of the Year organization and individual awards went to GFC. GFC was selected by the United Way and the Volunteer Action Center from among more than 200 groups in the Indianapolis area as the annual winner. GFC was awarded the distinction for "typifying outstanding volunteerism." The individual volunteer award to Dr. Jim Trippi was received "on behalf of the more than 200 doctors, nurses, medical professionals, and friends who give their time and talents to the homeless." He said, "... people will volunteer; they want to help. If given the oppurtunity to use their skills to help the needy, they will deliver. We recognize donated time as a precious gift and try to treat it as such." See the award plaque hanging in your clinic during 1990. Congratulations to all!

In the mail . . .

(from D.C. Duck, President of Lighthouse Mission) ". . . I am particularly and especially grateful on behalf of the Lighthouse Mission of Indianapolis for the expansion of your services to our clients by adding Monday night to the Thursday night session.

I wonder sometimes if you ever can know (or have any way to know) how very much it means to our homeless people at Lighthouse (as well as to those of us who have some responsibility in keeping the place operating) to have the professional experience and care of your volunteers to the many and varied physical needs of the men (and occasionally women) at the Lighthouse.

If there is some way (which I am unaware of) that you could pass on our great appreciation to the many volunteers in Gennesaret (whether we've had them yet at the Lighthouse or not) we would be so grateful for your letting them know we deeply appreciate them and all that they are doing."

Announcements

+ Anybody having an address change or phone number change is asked to contact Nancy Gregori, R. N. 293-9864.

+ L. S. Ayres is having a grand opening of their Castleton store and ticket sales for the event will go to the charities selling the tickets. If anyone would like to sell tickets and arrange for six volunteers to be at the opening, GFC could receive needed funds for medications.

+ Antibiotics are greatly needed in all the GFC sites. We just purchased \$1200

worth of ampicillin, tylenol, and adult vitamins that we hope will last the summer. But fall and winter are the times of greatest demand for antibiotics; if you have spare samples, can contribute money to purchase medications, or can persuade your institution to help with medication, please don't forget the homeless we serve at GFC.

+ Anybody interested in helping with the medical aspects of the Indianapolis Evangelical Congress this summer is urged to contact Dr. Jesse Dias at 926-0521. She said there is an opportunity to help with the Torch Run that will begin the ecumenical conference of 60,000 this August.

+ It is getting to be vacation time and nice weather, and it is easy to overlook your scheduled times to volunteer at GFC sites. Please reschedule with someone on your list if you can not make it; it is a good idea to call the nurse or doctor you will be working with to introduce yourself and make sure the whole team makes the session.

+ Notice that all the GFC shelter medical rooms have working, wall mounted ear-eye scopes. It must be a miracle! We are trying to get the other dental offices up and running and may have opportunity to start limited lab tests in the future. This has come about through the intensive work of Donna O'Donnell, R. N. and her associates. Think about how smoothly scheduling is going these days; all this is Nancy Gregori, R. N.'s gift to GFC. We now have a recreation vehicle and community wide recognition thanks to Sue Scheinder, R. N. Thanks again for all you do for GFC.