

# GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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## Celebrate GFC Day!

September 27, 1990 was announced by Mayor Hudnut as Gennesaret Free Clinic Day in Indianapolis. In the official document from the City-County Office Building, GFC was honored for its work in medical care of the homeless. The announcement is yet one more expression of gratitude from the community for the gift of time and talent that GFC members are known for. We look forward to the day when there is no need for our services because there are no longer any persons without the basic necessities.

## Mobile Clinic to begin Saturdays

On Saturday mornings, about 80 to 100 homeless persons congregate at Meridian and North Streets (the place they call Flag Park) to meet the van that distributes socks, hats, sandwiches, and encouragement. We hope to be there starting in November, to offer free medical care and medication. Our 24 foot mobile home-medical vehicle will be a welcome site to those in medical need as one of the only sources of medical care to the indigent on the weekend. Anyone interested in helping, please call Ms. Jeanie Malone 257-8139. We already have numerous medical students and community activists who have signed up as drivers. We now need doctors and nurses to provide this service; please tell a colleague or consider this yourself.

## Homeless Medical Care in NYC

Dr. Mark Dollar works at the Lambs Clinic in Times Square but he doesn't treat tourists or Broadway actors; he is the only medical care for the 60,000 homeless in New York City. He decided that he needed to do something different when he started working in a church basement clinic on 45th Street in 1988. Since that time, the clinic has been recognized as a haven by the needy in that area. They see about 250 persons each month and note that foot problems, substance abuse, well child care, skin disorders, and ENT problems are the most common disorders (in decreasing frequency). They have had difficulty recruiting members of the medical community to assist at the clinic. GFC has made suggestions on ways to incorporate volunteers into the program that already seem to be working. If you are vacationing in NYC and wish to see the Lambs Clinic, Dr. Dollar says to stop in and say hello.

## Thank you Column

- + A long time friend recently sent \$500 for medications. Thanks; it is already spent and more childrens antibiotics are being delivered to the family shelters.
- + Two interested non-medical persons are sending monthly donations because they believe the money is going to a good cause. (Can you think of another charity that has no overhead, no personel expenses, and serves the poor).

Thank yous (continued)

+ A computer programmer thought he would do what he could to help GFC. He put a plea for help for volunteers and a computer donation on a computer bulletin board.

+ A nursing student has driven the mobile clinic twice on short notice to help out.

+ A volunteer driver has taken the mobile clinic in for routine maintenance during his work day.

+ 13 GFC teams each week see the homeless and perform equally heroic deeds. We thank God for all of you.

### Don't Forget

+ Vitamins are available at all the family shelters and should be given to all children for daily use.

+ December 3 is this year's Health Fair in the Indianapolis Shelters sponsored by the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis.

Please mark this date and either November 27 or 28 as training sessions. It will only take two of your evenings to bring a comprehensive medical screening to all the homeless of Indianapolis.

+ Call the other members of your team the day before your session; there have been a number of unfortunate mix-ups when persons do not make their session or show up at the wrong location.

### NEEDED NOW

If you have any antibiotic samples you can part with, please call the Medical Society Auxiliary ( Mary Teter ) at 846-1942 for collection. We are using antibiotics in great quantities because of

all the children and adults with respiratory infections. If you wish to make a monetary contribution for antibiotics, that would be great!

If anybody is comfortable with finances and would like to help, GFC needs you as Treasurer. If this is your gift, please call Dr. Jim Trippi at 924-5444.

We will be using new inventory sheets at each of the shelters (similar to the forms in the van). These will help keep track of medication used and numbers of patients seen. We need everyone's cooperation in filling these out.

### Reflection

(from a letter to GFC from Otis R. Bowen, M.D. - former Governor of Indiana and U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services quoting Edgar A. Guest)

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one anyday.

I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.

...

The best of all the preachers, are the men who live their creeds;

For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

...

I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give.

But there's not misunderstanding in how you act and how you give.