

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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Pres. Bush Names GFC Point of Light!

We have just received word from President George Bush that the doctors, nurses, and members of GFC have been recognized as one of the administration's Thousand Points of Lights. Each day, an organization is chosen by the President as a point of light (GFC is number 366) to highlight that organization or individual for outstanding humanitarian service. On December 26, the more than 300 doctors, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, aides, donors, and concerned community members of Gennesaret Free Clinic will share this national award. It is a sign that the care that our health professionals provide is exemplary on a national scale. All GFC members can be proud that this award is for their selfless gifts of time, talent, and finances.

We hope that this award draws attention to the difficulties of the indigent in obtaining health care as well as the proper place of volunteer health care in America. This notice may encourage other medical professionals to become involved in the medical care of the homeless; please share your honor with others who might be interested in GFC.

This award could not have come about without the help of administrators like Nancy Gregori, R.N. who has served as 1990 Treasurer and Scheduling Coordinator. Donna O'Donnell, R.N. has been so instrumental in seeing to the medication and equipment needs of 6 shelter offices and the mobile unit. Dr. John Stone has worked many hours with the Dental clinics as has Dr. Pat Deheer with the podiatry clinic operations. Sue Schneider, R. N. has tirelessly promoted GFC throughout the state and has advised start-up volunteer clinics in Gary and Sherrill. The Junior League and Auxiliary members actively support GFC. But most importantly, GFC works because more than 300 dedicated health professionals freely give of themselves to those in need.

Truly many of the shelters, back alleys, and streets GFC serves are dark spots in our city. Many of the persons we serve are without hope. And sometimes our own lives are filled with shadows. Yet amidst the darkness in Indianapolis, the good works of GFC shine as a Point of Light (like a star once did on a cold Bethlehem night).

Dental Clinics

GFC now provides dental care through 3 dental offices located at Good News Center, Holy Family Shelter, and Dayspring Center. Thanks to the work of Dr. Stone who has constructed these facilities, equipped them, raised funds, and recruited volunteer dentists, dental care for the homeless is becoming a reality.

1990 Shelter Health Fair

Results show that our health fair effort was a success. This year more persons were screened (about 340), more services were offered, and new volunteers were involved. Early results suggest that tuberculosis was prevalent in exposures only. Several were referred for eye glasses and speech/hearing help. An increasing reality is that poverty steals one's self concept and personal preventive health care is not a high priority. More work is needed to encourage all those entitled to participate in programs provided for their own health.

Log Sheets

Log Sheets are present in all the GFC sites for use starting 1991. These sheets need to be filled out for every GFC session so that vital information can be recorded. By filling out the log sheets, we will have accurate counts of those served, the diagnosis, and care given can be tracked. Please fill out each of these log sheets so that future funding can be based on this information.

No Shows

More and more, the homeless have come

to depend on GFC sessions for their medical care. We are pleased to be there for these our neighbors in need. However, when our volunteers forget a session our care is interrupted. In order to help attendance by volunteers, please call beforehand to confirm your session with the nurse or doctor you are working with.

Christmas Thanks

Last issue many items were noted as being needed by GFC; everyone of those needs was seen to by members. But please do not think that all the work is done. The homeless and indigent are very much in need of the special gifts that you can provide.

Generous donations have been received from comedian David Letterman, the Homeless Network, and many concerned volunteers and citizens. Even the Pike Cub Scouts gave socks for the homeless.

Reflection

(from Fr. Clifford Vogelzang, 1989)

... Jesus is born in others through us. A modern author once wrote: "I sought Christ in the crib, and it was empty, I searched for him in Bethlehem, and he was gone. And an angel said, 'Seek him in the tenements and the hovels. Seek him in the hearts of the lonely, seek him among those who need him most. Seek him among your friends and family.' I fell on my knees before them ... for there lay my God."