

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 Annual Meeting on Feb 7

To begin our fourth year, the Annual GFC Celebration and Anniversary Meeting will take place on February 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Schnull-Rauch House at 3050 North Meridian Street. This is the mansion located just north of the Childrens' Museum with parking available from the Illinois side (in the Childrens' Museum lots). The evening will include display of the White House letter of President Bush to GFC members, a presentation of awards to key GFC outstanding volunteers, and a review of the last year with the goals for 1991.

We have invited MAYOR WILLIAM HUDNUT and hope he will be able to meet GFC members and say a few words.

We will have the GFC mobile medical unit (a converted recreation vehicle) at the meeting for you to tour and inspect as well. If you have not seen it, you will find it very interesting.

Please stop on the way home, come after supper, or find time at the end of your day to celebrate GFC, meet fellow volunteers, see the Junior League Schnull-Rauch House, see the GFC mobile medical unit, and meet the Mayor. We think this is a fitting way to begin our fourth year of providing volunteer health care to the homeless. In three years, we have come quite far, but the need is so great that we have really only begun.

GFC Team Saves Life

In early January, a GFC doctor and nurse were seeing homeless men and women at Lighthouse Mission. As the medical team was involved with the usual medical problems (upper respiratory infections, foot problems, skin rashes, and high blood pressure elevations) that the men have, the team was summoned to the bedside of a man having a seizure. The team found the man in cardiac arrest and began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while the emergency ambulance was en route. The emergency squad performed cardioversion for ventricular fibrillation and sinus rhythm was restored. The patient was hospitalized at Wishard Hospital and fully recovered. He has been discharged and is doing well.

This single instance so typifies the self-sacrifice and medical competence of GFC volunteers in serving the homeless. GFC has always been concerned to provide the best care possible (under the circumstances) with an added measure of compassion. This dramatic example is symbolic of the more than 100 patient visits each week made by GFC volunteers. All these silent healing encounters are no less heroic.

We will honor this GFC Team at the Annual GFC Meeting on February 7, 1991 at 6:00 to 8:00pm at 3050 North Meridian Street. Please plan to attend.

NEWS

+ Log sheets are now available in all GFC sites. Please fill in all questions with staff names and patient visits. This is necessary for obtaining grants and gifts from many sources needing exact statistics on services delivered.

+ Shelter captains have volunteered to call all volunteers to remind them of their upcoming volunteer session as well as to check-up on the clinic site and supplies. Please relay any concerns about supplies and attendance to these persons. Their names are posted at the clinic site. (Karen Deconsy - Holy Family, John Fralich- Lighthouse and Salvation Army, Janet Storer/Mary Strohl- Good News, Linda Trippi- Dayspring, Eriel Hall-Mobile Unit).

+ Christmas donations were received by GFC from many volunteers and friends. These funds will help to keep supplies current and will help in providing a smoother and more efficient clinic operation. Thanks to all.

+ Bill 252 before the Indiana State Senate this legislation session is entitled "Immunity from Civil Liability for Physicians who Provide Free Medical Care." This legislation could be of great benefit to physicians who have retired but still wish to volunteer their talents or those whose liability coverage is restricted to certain locations or duties. GFC physicians would receive additional liability coverage through legislation. Copies of this proposed law are available from Dr. Jim Trippi at 924-5444. If you can support this legislation, State Senator Richard Thompson at 232-9459 is

sponsoring this bill and should be informed of your opinion.

+ GFC is forming several committees through the Board of Directors. GFC volunteers are invited to participate and offer their talents.

The committees are listed with their proposed duties: Medical Policy-determine medical programs and guidelines; Planning- investigate future needs and develop long range goals and initiate programs to address needs; Volunteer Services- to see to volunteer needs and promotion of services; Finance- to budget expenses and raise funds to cover needs; Conference- to develop GFC meetings

On Sharing the Breath of Life

By Sandra Marek Behringer after the resuscitation of a homeless man by a GFC team.

My brother,
you are unclean
your clothes are torn
your feet infected
your home
the corner of an alley
but I know you.
You are
the icon of God
and I
seeing His face
in yours
hold your value
above gold.
Live
my friend
and praise Him
with my breath.
Praise Him.