

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

Vol 4 No 2

GFC Opens Administrative Office

After answering machines, home phones, and working out of basements and off of kitchen tables, GFC will soon have better facilities to assist members and the public. The Indianapolis Medical Society will provide office space in their new office building at 530 E. New York St. Furthermore, GFC will employ office staff to answer phone questions, assist members, and provide secretarial assistance. Colleen Brown of Bank One has worked hard to secure donations of used furniture and a computer. Shortly, our phone number will be available and calls will be answered 24 hours a day. Watch for details. Thanks to IMS and Bank One!

GFC wins CASPER Award

On February 25, GFC was awarded the CASPER (Community Appreciation of Service in Public Enlightenment and Relations) from the Community Service Council of the United Way. GFC was recognized under the Agency-Organization category. Dr. Brashear, president of the CSC, noted that GFC had been selected as winner before other recent awards have been given us. It is apparent that the Indianapolis community has received the work of GFC most kindly. With these honors has come increased attention and the realization that there is responsibility to be more dependable and competent as well.

March-April, 1991

Conference on Homeless Health Care in INDY in Sept.

In order to bring medical professionals from Indiana together, a conference is being planned at the Indiana State Board of Health Building. GFC will be the local host of the Saturday event scheduled for September 14. The conference will be an opportunity to learn the latest in homeless medical information, share ideas with other workers from around the state, to be challenged by interesting discussions, and to hear leaders in the field. Also influential politicians and state officials are slated to address the conference. Please mark the day on your calendar and plan to attend; we believe that your volunteering serving the homeless will be more effective and enjoyable as a result of this conference.

Rugby Event to benefit GFC

The National High School Rugby Championships will be in Indianapolis on May 17-18 and GFC has been chosen as the charitable recipient of the tournament. We hope to have a shoe drive to collect barely used shoes to provide the homeless. Our clinic will receive notice in the program, advertising, and television programming. Finally, GFC will receive all gate proceeds. This event could provide added exposure in the community, encourage other communities, and help financially. We will have tickets to sell; they will be available soon.

Did you know?

+ GFC speakers have given presentations on our service to the poor and homeless at the following locations since the first of the year: Augusta Christian Church, American Medical Association Auxiliary National Leadership Conference, Winona and St. Vincents hospitals, Batesville Catholic highschoolers, Pike Twnshp Lions Club, and the Indiana United Way Convention.

+ GFC Board members for 1991 are Monette Draper (Attorney, GFC treasurer), Patti Eralic (Deputy director, Indiana Depart. of Labor), Nancy Gregori, R.N. (GFC Volunteer Coordinator) Harold Heffner (Executive Vice Pres. Indianapolis Medical Society), Frank Iacona (Tax Counsel, Eli Lilly and Co.), Richard Lundeen, D.P.M. (Podiatrist), Jeanie Purtle (Director, Mt. Olive Crisis Center), Phillip Price (attorney, GFC, V. Pres), Sue Schneider, R. N. (IMS Auxiliary Pres, GFC Secretary), John Stone, D.D.S. (Prof Emeritus, IU School of Dentistry, William Storer, M. D. (Cardiologist), Don Trainor, M.D., Physician, Methodist Neighborhood Health Center), James Trippi, M.D. (Cardiologist, GFC Pres), Mary Ann Wyand (Journalist, Criterion), Ann Zerr, M.D. (Asst Prof, IU School of Medicine).

+ GFC has received ample donations from Searle and Dan Rosenfeld for the treatment of hypertension.

+ Dr. Rob Weller and Linda Watkins, R. N. were the GFC medical professionals who successfully resuscitated the homeless man at Lighthouse Mission in January. They were recognized for their compassion and competence at the GFC

Annual meeting. John Shaughnessy of the Indianapolis Star noted their story in his column.

+ Log Sheets are being compiled by computer programers now. Please complete these forms accurately so that we can analyze the numbers of homeless we treat. Thanks to all who have been so cooperative already.

Reflection

From *Give them Shelter*, Michael Moran
Resurrection Press Mineola, NY (C) 1990, p.13.

(The Interfaith Nutrition Network(INN) of Long Island, NY has 16 soup kitchens and 6 shelter buildings in operation since the early 80's.)

How can Jews or Christians live up to the most sacred lessons of their religion and turn their backs on God's favorites? Truly the rejected are such for our God has a preferential option for poor people.

I used to think that religion would be the salvation of the poor. I now believe the poor will be the salvation of the religion. There are too many hungry and homeless people with us today. If our churches and synagogues turn them away, we are nothing but hypocrites. We must join forces and help eradicate hunger and homelessness in this wealthy nation. And that's what our volunteers try to do.