

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

Vol. 4, No. 3

May, 1991

Rugby Event to Benefit GFC

This May 18 the National High School Rugby Championship will be in Indianapolis. The event will be at Lake Sullivan (by the Major Taylor Velodrome) at the city rugby field. The organizers want a nice crowd especially since this will be televised. They hoped GFC could rally a decent crowd if the event would also benefit GFC by offering us the gate receipts. We hope that GFC will receive funds to cover needed support services. But we need all GFC members to help. Please sell the tickets enclosed here (or use them yourself) and send the money to Gennesaret Free Clinic, 3171 North Meridian #200, Indianapolis, In 46208. If you can sell more tickets, please call for more tickets at 924-5444 during business hours or 842-4863 after hours. This will be a fun event (and probably your first Rugby experience) that will definitely benefit GFC. There is not much time so please pitch in.

Medical Matters

Dr. Keith Wrenn reports in Archives of Internal Medicine, April 1991, on "Immersion Foot: A Problem of the Homeless in the 1990's." He notes "although many terms have been applied to this syndrome, the single term immersion foot should be used for all such nonfreezing injuries. It is characterized by white, wrinkled, painful soles and, with more prolonged exposure, by the involvement of the dorsum of the foot." Conservative measures usually work such as drying (at least 8 hours out of every day), bed rest, elevation of the legs, and

nonsteroidal inflammatory agents for pain relief.

"Depending on the clinical situation, the patient's underlying immune status, and the ability to follow these patients over time, antibiotics might be indicated in certain instances," said Wrenn. Also "historic protective measures, including petroleum grease, lard, tallow, whale oil, zinc oxide, wax paper, linseed oil, and waterproof leg bags of silk have proven ineffective."

Names in News

Roger Craig of Lighthouse Mission will head the 1991 Homeless Network. Thanks to Sr. Nancy Crowder of Holy Family Shelter for her work in leading the network. GFC representatives Sue Schneider and Nancy Gregori to the Homeless Network and Network Health Committee continue to speak for volunteer health care to the homeless at these important gatherings.

Joe and Frances Bubalo will be leaving Indy for Portland, Oregon this June. GFC will miss them for their warm and supportive influences. Joe, a Hooks Pharmacist, has been organizing many of our supply shelves, recruiting other pharmacists, and developing new systems for inventory. Frances, will receive her medical degree now, but has already done much to help the medical needs of the homeless in Indy by leading the IU Student Medical Clinic at Wheeler Mission and by being an advisor to GFC. Good luck to you both.

Dr. Don Trainor spoke to the Lake County Medical Society about his 3 years with GFC.

Thought you'd like to know

+ A GFC team seeing a man with leg pain discovered a bone mass on physical exam. The patient had been seen at two other institutions and dismissed as arthritis. He was discouraged that nobody seemed to care about his worsening condition. He was referred on to orthopedic clinic where his bone tumor was treated.

+ GFC volunteers saw 349 patients at the 1990 Shelter Health Fair. Screenings were very successful for tuberculosis (finding a very low rate of exposure and no active cases!) Each year since GFC and Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program has been treating the homeless, the number of tuberculosis cases has decreased.

+ The winter epidemics of respiratory illness that go through the family shelters are finally over. On some nights, dedicated GFC teams would be at Holy Family Shelter until very late seeing nearly every child. Thanks to all those who worked so hard treating coughs, congestion, and fevers.

+ Volunteer Dental Care is now a reality through GFC's three weekly sessions. Tuesdays at Dayspring and Good News Mission and Thursday at Holy Family Mission. This is such a needed service and our dentists are doing outstanding work. Dr. Joe HeideIman, an oral surgeon, has also volunteered to see patients in his downtown office (262-4838) for difficult extractions. Needed now is a way to provide dental prophylaxis especially for the children. GFC is working on a way to get dental hygienists involved.

+ Many of our finest GFC doctors are now leaving residency and starting their practices or furthering their training in other locales. We salute them for their dedication and compassion; their careers are already heading in the right direction. Thanks for all you have done to ease

the hurt of those of Indy's most needy!

+ GFC is seeking funds to purchase crutches, canes, splints, and accessories for our 7 facilities. These supplies are costly and are used quickly.

Conference Plans Continue

Planning is well underway for the September 14 conference in Indianapolis to be entitled "Health Care for the Homeless and Poor." We hope to gather all the Indiana and regional workers for this Saturday event for exchange of medical, organizational, and sociologic information. Many excellent speakers and interesting seminars promise a stimulating day. Watch for details.

Reflection

I Dream a World

I dream a world where man
No other will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day,
a world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head,
And joy, like a pearl,
Attend the needs of all mankind.
Of such I dream-
Our world!

by Langston Hughes

(submitted by Judith Nabors, Crawfordsville)