

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

Volunteer Medical Services for the Homeless

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

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3rd Annual Shelter Health Fair set for December 9.

Plans are underway for the 1991 Shelter Health Fair. This is the major preventive health care activity of GFC for the homeless. Along with Peoples' Homeless Initiative Program, Marion County Health Department, the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, and the American Lung Association, GFC has sponsored this event since 1989. From the start it was an innovative program that sought to canvass the homeless shelters in one night to provide immunization, tuberculosis screening, and general health awareness. This year we will be providing tuberculosis skin testing and follow-up chest x-rays and therapy, immunizations for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertusis. Also childhood immunizations will be available. Screening will be available for hypertension, diabetes, and skin cancer. Vision tests will be available and prescriptions for eye glasses will be filled that evening. Education concerning HIV prevention and infection, and substance abuse will be offered.

This full scale program will require many volunteers from our physician, nurse, and non-medical staff. We are applying our experience from past years to make this an efficient and productive volunteer experience.

We will offer our clients an incentive of

gloves, socks, and hat for participating in this years fair. If you can spare an evening to learn about your task on either December 3 or 4; and can volunteer on Monday December 9 (either daytime or evening hours) please call Dr. Jim Trippi at 924-5444. Each year more persons are reached through this program; please help make this years Shelter Health Fair a success.

GFC Gets New Supply Facility

Through the hard work of Donna O'Donnell, R.N. and Patti Eradic, both GFC Board of Directors, the new GFC supply area is taking shape. Located on 16th Street near Busch Stadium, this new facility will have several advantages for GFC operations. Our new area is located on the first floor eliminating the need to carry heavy packages up and down stairs. Wide door access allows truck loading. New sturdy shelving and sorting space will streamline medication delivery. The added cleanliness and more pleasant surroundings have been donated by the Indianapolis Labor Unions. St. Francis Hospital has provided funding for the renovation of this facility. Our heartfelt thanks to them.

Our appreciation especially goes to those who work so diligently to distribute supplies to our medical staff.

NEWS... NEWS... NEW...

+ The new GFC brochure has been included in this mailing to you. Please check it over and share it with a friend. Perhaps this pamphlet could be used to answer questions about GFC that you may be asked by interested colleagues. If you have suggestions for the next printing of this brochure please submit them to Mary Ann Wyand, GFC Board member at 236-1570. Thanks for a job well done, Mary Ann.

+ 9 Methodist housestaff physicians recently volunteered to serve the homeless and indigent through GFC. What a great response! Welcome aboard!

+ The September conference "Healthcare for the Homeless and Poor" was attended by 175 professionals from around the midwest. This overwhelmingly positive response and enthusiasm towards the program and speakers has led to planning for a 1992 expanded conference. GFC volunteers helped to provide what one speaker called "the best conference on medical care for the homeless ever given."

Many good ideas came out that will help GFC provide better care to the indigent men, women, and children that we serve.

+ Medical samples are often available for the asking. If GFC doctors and nurses could collect samples of needed medications like antibiotics, skin preparations, cold remedies, or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, GFC expenditures could be reduced. Also if you have shampoo bottles or soap bars (especially hotel size) they could be distributed to the homeless people on the van. These people are not in shelters and

cannot obtain many hygiene supplies. Please have the Inpls. Medical Society Auxiliary collect medications or supplies. Call Ms. Kanda Rink at 873-4883.

Reflection

(This note submitted on a 3 x 5 card was recently received from a GFC client.)

"Dear Dr.,

Thank you so much for helping me get eyeglasses. I'm the red-headed guy that you referred to Dr. Jaffe. I really appreciate it. God bless you and thanks for restoring my faith. There really are people who want to help those who need it.

P. W. "

At this time of year when we thank God for all our blessings, please personally receive the above message on behalf of the more than 5000 patients that we have treated over this last year. There could be no better expression of gratitude from our patients toward their volunteer GFC medical doctors, nurses, dentists, hygienists, podiatrists, drivers, clerks, pharmacists, shelter captains, board members, and financial supporters than this simple statement. Happy Thanksgiving.