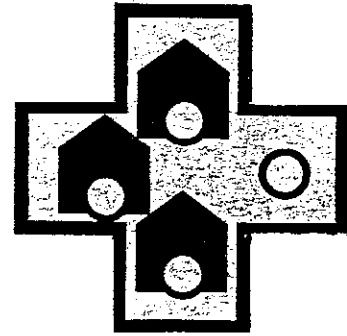

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



Volunteer Health Care for the Homeless and Poor

Clinics at Dayspring Center, Care Center, Lighthouse Mission, Salvations Army Adult Rehab., Holy Family Shelter, Mt. Olive Crisis Center, and Mobile Unit. Office at 631 E. N. Y., Indpls, IN 46202; (317) 262-5645

May, 1992

"... And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58

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Gennesaret Aids Indigent Clinic in Greenfield

Even in a rural community like Greenfield, Indiana poverty affects the ability to obtain health care. The working poor and unemployed of this rural community have had to seek care in the emergency room or through charity care from individual health care professionals. Now efforts are under way to change this.

Hancock County Hospital and its foundation are organizing a charitable clinic through a coalition of local health professionals to address the needs of the poor. Dr. Charles Taylor, a GFC volunteer, has been involved in the process to bring health care to the needy of his community as well. Presently, the clinic is starting up and about to provide free diagnostic care and treatment. The pharmacy of the Greenfield clinic is about to begin and that is where GFC will help out.

GFC receives abundant donations of medications and supplies. In some areas we receive a surplus, in other areas we are always short. As a measure of good will and to encourage the Greenfield start-up clinic, GFC will be providing medications and supplies out of our surplus. Hopefully, this will allow donations that were intended to help the poor to have a beneficial effect. It is always disappointing to see medication outdate before it can be put to good use.

GFC volunteers can be assured that this will not interrupt the supply of medications and supplies to our 17 weekly sessions. This will simply be a sharing of our good fortune in areas of surplus.

GFC wishes Dr. Taylor and the other Greenfield volunteers well in their pursuit of health care availability to the indigent.

Of note, there are numerous indigent and homeless medical clinics throughout Indiana. During the annual "Health Care for the Homeless and Poor" Conference this September 12 most of these professionals gather to share experiences, meet others in the same work, and learn from experts in the field. Plan now to attend this years conference.

Making A Donation of Medical Samples

Several times in the recent past, GFC volunteers have found evidence that GFC doctors have brought medications "from home" to the clinic sites. This shows involvement and concern for the running of the clinic. Furthermore, many doctors feel more comfortable with medications they prescribe in their own office.

However, problems have arisen from doctors bringing in their own medicine to the clinic. GFC has made it a policy to not dispense control substances (narcotics, sedatives, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, or pain relievers) because security is very lax in the shelters and these substances invite burglary and destruction. To date, GFC has had fewer than 6 break-ins to our supply stations with only antibiotics (which have street value to IV drug abusers) being taken. If GFC became known as a source of control substances, burglary would be a common problem. Furthermore, robbery might occur when GFC volunteers are going to and from cars or in the clinics. We have had extraordinarily few instances of concern and wish to keep it that way. Therefore, please do not bring control substances to the clinics. In general, this applies to antidepressants, muscle relaxants, and antiseizure medications as well. These medications are easily confused on the street as having value and abuse potential.

Our doctors have been great in bringing medications to the clinics, but quite frankly, did you ever see a physician stocking the shelves? This makes for unplanned work for other volunteers.

The bottom line is WE WANT YOUR SAMPLES; but could you please have the Indianapolis Medical Society Auxiliary pick them up. They are taken to our sorting room and distributed from there to the appropriate shelters or the mobile unit. For a pick-up of medical samples, please call the GFC office day or night (answering machine), and Linda Schnellinger will take care of the rest. Thanks to all for your cooperation.

NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...

Several programs are now available for obtaining medications free of charge from pharmaceutical manufacturers. These programs in general require pre-registration and some paper work, however the free medication is very valuable for clients. Programs include the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Cardiovascular Access Program, the Searle Company Patients in Need Program, and the Roerig antibiotic program. Discuss programs such as these with your regional drug representative. They will often provide extra samples for your patients and GFC patients.

Indiana State Board of Health has distributed guidelines for immunization on heavy stock paper. We will be placing a set in each clinic facility shortly.

Have you noticed that several favorable articles have appeared in the local press to honor friends of GFC. Nellie Gold of Dayspring graced the front page with headlines, "Good as Gold." Linda Frick, of Midtown Mental health and speaker at the upcoming "Health Care for the Homeless and Poor" Conference was featured as well. GFC has been mentioned in the Methodist Hospital Annual Report and Indianapolis Junior League Annual Report.

GFC will submit an entry for the National Free Clinic Directory being compiled by the Bradley Free Clinic of Roanoke Valley, Inc. Several clinics around the State were suggested by GFC to be included.

St. Vincent Hospital conducts free cancer screening each Thursday at Hometowne House, 2401 N. Central Avenue. This program for the indigent includes mamograms, physician exams, flexible sigmoid exams, pap smears, urinalysis, hemocult, and prostate DRE. Referrals are then made to Dr. Anne Zerr of Wishard Clinics. Scheduling an appointment is at 925-1142.

Our GFC Clinic Log Sheets are beginning to generate interesting data (at last). We are seeing that antiinflammatory medications are the single most dispensed category of medication with seizure medications being the least dispensed medications. GFC treats 3:1 males over females, the 30 to 39 year age group is the most frequent age group (the 0 to 9 year group is second!)

Unfortunately, many of the log sheets are not carefully filled out. Please try to take an extra minute to fill these forms out so that we can have a reliable tally of how GFC serves.

Needed Now!

Persons who could represent GFC at local or regional meetings occurring during the working hours are urged to call the GFC office and volunteer.

Make that Extra Effort! Take the Extra Step!

by Mary Ann Wyand, GFC Board Member

During the GFC annual meeting on 2/5, Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith delivered an inspirational speech in which he congratulated GFC volunteers for their fine community service efforts. Then he asked if anyone had questions about the new city administration.

GFC Fund Raising Chair, Nancy Gregori, immediately raised her hand and asked, "Will you be our honorary chairman for the Gennesaret Free Clinic's new development campaign?"

Mayor Goldsmith smiled as the audience responded with laughter. Then he thanked her for the "honorary" designation and said he would be happy to support the clinic ministry.

As GFC volunteers, we need to make that extra effort, take that extra step, and seek that new opportunity to spread the good news of the GFC services and inform others of our needs.

Granted it's not easy for some people to talk about money. But when we believe in what GFC does -- we obviously do or we wouldn't be volunteering -- it's important to talk about it.

GFC Budget for 1992-93

by Dr. Jim Trippi

These pages have mentioned money needs for GFC more in the last few issues that almost the entire four preceding years. Why is that? It is certainly a different trend because we are a different clinic lately. GFC has grown and grown in the number of volunteers and persons we serve such that volunteers alone could not adequately handle all the tasks. This year we decided to hire our new Administrative Assistant. Linda has greatly helped our efficiency and delivery of care with several new programs in the works. But now our financial needs for medical supplies, salary, office supplies, and communications are overrunning funds. Our expenses are presently expected to exceed income by \$34,500 this year and next. Without everyone's help and some extensive efforts to raise outside donations we may not be able to continue as is. Raising outside funds is much easier when we feel the commitment of our volunteers and can pledge the continued involvement of our volunteers. Please consider a donation at this time.

Contributors... and Thanks!

Meridian Methodist Church, Erin Snyder, M.D., Patricia Rash, Marg Chrapla, Mark Varnaugh, Lizton Christian Church, Mary Ellea Brown, Robin Reagan, Robert Joseph, M.D., Carolyn Higgins, and Yolanda Gregori.