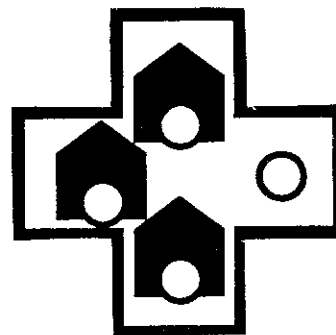

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



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

July, 1992

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

Vol.5, No. 5

Second Annual "Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference" set for September 12

Once again, in conjunction with the Indiana State Board of Health and Methodist Hospital of Indiana, GFC will sponsor a regional conference on medical care to the indigent. This years conference promises to offer more topics, speakers, and activities than last years very successful program.

This year, **Dr. Philip Brickner** will be our featured guest faculty member. He is a nationally recognized authority in medical care of the homeless and indigent. Author of multiple books, manuscripts, and position papers, Dr. Brickner wishes to offer his vast experience to the care givers in the midwest, but is very interested in hearing about our particular problems and successes. He will meet with members of the medical teams serving the homeless on Friday, September 11. There will be a reception/dinner that night for all interested in meeting with the faculty.

The conference is to be held in the new **Indiana Government Center conference facility** that will offer state of the art meeting equipment; the conference facilities will make this years conference truly enjoyable.

Come meet health professionals and volunteers from around the midwest, learn what is new in serving our clients, and be inspired by those who will reflect on their trials and successes in this work. Reserve **Saturday September 12** on your calendar today for the "Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference."

GFC Picnic - Come On!

Every year we get together and have a little fun too. Let's do it again! Nancy and Bob Gregori have again offered their home and pool/patio at 6745 Thoroughbred Dr. for the 1992 GFC picnic. **Saturday July 26 from**

2:00 to 5:00 pm you can count on a good time chatting with other GFC volunteers, having a splash in the pool, watching the tots play, and having some good picnic food. And of course, there will be neat **prizes** for those attending.

All you need to do to attend is RSVP to GFC Administrative Assistant, Linda Schnellinger at 262-5645 by July 22. Come on, it will be fun!

News! News!

+**Roxy Howser of MAP International** toured GFC facilities in June. This fact finding trip was to consider GFC for donations of medications to ease the burden on domestic missions. This may help reduce the amount of medications and supplies GFC must purchase to deliver our services.

+The Indianapolis Star reported on the murders of the two homeless men in early June. We mourn **Damon Morgan** and **Norman Overway** who were victims in life and death on the streets of our city.

+**Dr. Steve Pfeiffer** will become a regular GFC volunteer after a year of providing care every week for the indigent at Holy Cross food pantry. In this program supported by St. Vincent Hospital and GFC, Steve has been there for those who cannot afford health care at this near Eastside location. St. Vincent will continue this program after Steve joins the ranks of the rest of us "every-other-month" GFC volunteers. Thanks to Steve and St. V.

+GFC will begin an **Education Program** for our clients in health matters. Our GFC Board of Directors Health Services committee is investigating approaches and topics that would be most useful to our clients. If you would like to serve the homeless and poor on a personal basis and have a gift for instruction and communication, please call the GFC office to volunteer. You need not be a medical professional to serve, but nurses and medical people would certainly have their experience and training to draw on in making this an exciting program. We intend to stay away from the boring health class format. Rather,

How to Order Supplies

Haven't you been frustrated by not having what you need at a clinic session and not knowing how to get it for the next session? Maybe worse, you see the note you left last time asking for supplies that still have not been delivered to your clinic site.

We think that there is a way to speed what is needed to where it is needed. And once again our Administrative Assistant, Linda Schnellinger is the answer. Or perhaps, more specifically Linda's **GFC answering machine** is the answer.

Next time you are at Lighthouse or wherever and it is late in the evening and you are out of a needed item, call 262-5645 and put your message on the GFC answering machine. Linda can quickly call the shelter captains and get supplies on the way. Try it!

Medical Donations Brought to Clinics

GFC volunteers who clean and restock our 7 GFC sites are pulling their hair out over well meaning GFC doctors and nurses who bring supplies to their sessions. We know that you are trying to do your part, but please just call Linda at 262-5645 and a **pick-up will be arranged by the Medical Society Auxiliary volunteers**. This will save the extra work of sorting at the site and taking the extras back to our warehouse. Thanks for helping out.

Stories...

Recently at Holy Family Shelter, spouses **Dr. Steve and R. N. Lori Datena** saw a battered woman. Her injuries were so severe she was in shock and required emergency transportation to Wishard Hospital. Trauma surgeons and ICU nurses unfortunately need their talents in the GFC clinics too.

At Mount Olive Crisis Center, **Dr. John Krol** was seeing the usual medical problems, when little Joshua Curry could not be ignored. He was almost tripped over. At two years old, Joshua could not walk; in fact he just dragged his wobbly legs behind him. Arrangements were made with the Methodist Pediatric Clinic. Work up is underway and the media may use this curly headed tot for a feature story. Best wishes and hopes for improvement to Joshua.

Donors to GFC

(with thanks!) Elaine Kovalcik, Philip Price, Yolanda Gregori, Nan Ross, Indpls A.D.C. Charities, UMW Meridian Street Methodist Church, The Ober Foundation, Dr. and Mrs. David Denny, Dr. Robert Shellman, Dr. Harry Siderys, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Beardsley, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Kernek, Traders Point Christian Church, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Weir, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Kiessling, Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Blitz, Dr. Robert Weller, Shaw-Burkhardt-Brenner Foundation, Dr. Carl Sputh, Drs. David Rardon and Karen Mahakian, Hanny Soetjahja, Second Presbyterian Church, Mr. and Mrs. Brent Eckhart, and Doris Garret.

Reflections. . .

(Ed. Note: **Dr. Janelle Goetcheus** spoke at the 1992 IU School of Medicine graduation and alumni celebrations. A Marion, Indiana native and IU alumnus, she presently heads the Columbia Road Health Service

and Christ House (homeless and indigent services) in Washington D. C. She and her family reside above the homeless transitional medical facility to be close to those they serve. A tireless but gentle advocate for the disenfranchised, she met with GFC volunteers during her visit and was a true inspiration.)

I'm learning too that so much of what I do here, and have been doing here is **for the poor**, rather than **with the poor**. I long to learn how just to be with the poor. I sometimes feel that the **doing part** keeps us from the **being part**, and that the most significant thing we can do is just be together in solidarity, sharing the pain. Out of that pain we can then begin to speak out together. I'm not sure that it's optional to do otherwise. That's part of my journey and part of my hope for Christ House, that as we live in a more intimate way with the people who will come to stay with us, I will learn that a little more.

I have a real sense of being given a great deal just by being with those who are poor. The poor have a deep sense of God's love and a deep sense of sharing faith even in the midst of tremendous suffering. They feel that God is with them. I think he is too.

(from *Sojourner* Jan. 1985 p. 20)