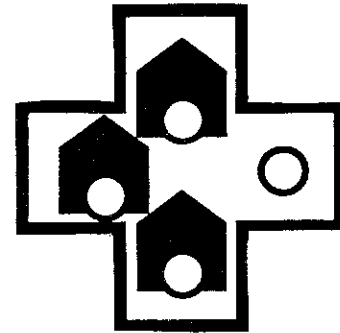

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



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

November, 1992

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

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at 262-5645 to sign-up or leave a message on the answering machine. **Please call right now to volunteer.**

Shelter Health Fair is coming!

As the winter season fast approaches, GFC once again will participate in the **Shelter Health Fair**. This year, St. Francis Hospital will sponsor the event. With the generous sponsorship of **St. Francis Hospital** we will be able to provide even better preventive health measures to the homeless and poor of Indianapolis. We again will be **screening for tuberculosis** exposure with skin tests. Those having positive skin tests will receive free chest x-rays at Wishard Hospital. If further treatment of tuberculosis is needed, the Marion County Health Department will provide outpatient follow-up or hospitalization through Wishard Hospital is available. **Childhood immunizations** are DPT, and Rubella/Mumps/ Measles and for adults DPT and influenza are available. Individuals at high risk for Hepatitis B will be referred to appropriate agencies for vaccination. **Screening for hypertension, diabetes, foot problems, skin cancers, and visual or hearing deficits will be available.** The St. Francis Hospital grant will also make available eye glasses and hearing aids to those who need them. Also as an incentive, scarfs, hats, and gloves will be available to those who participate.

The 1992 Shelter Health Fair will be the Fourth Annual Event. **Every year more have been served.** Last year 403 persons were provided services through this event that brings Marion County Health Department, Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program, Wishard Hospital, American Lung Association, American Red Cross, and Gennesaret Free Clinic together to help the homeless and poor.

For all this to run smoothly, GFC volunteers will be the key element. **We need your help to provide these vital preventative services.**

Can you give up an evening to provide preventative medical services to the poor? We will have a training and organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 pm at Northwood Christian Church on 46th and Central. The Shelter Health Fair sponsored by St. Francis Hospital will be Monday, December 7, 1992 at 7:00 pm. We need doctors, podiatrists, nurses, and many non-medical persons to staff the 12 shelters. Call Linda Schnellinger

Health Care Conference a Success

People from all over the Midwest came together to the 1992 **Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference**. A variety of speakers gave talks on several topics in indigent health care at the September conference. The day long conference included lectures, roundtable discussions, seminars on medical topics. 145 participants to the conference represented 6 states. Also at least 10 organizations displayed information in the conference lobby of the Indiana Government Center.

Dr. Philip Brickner, noted author and leader in the area of homeless medical needs, was the keynote speaker. He spent two days in Indianapolis for the conference. The first day included a tour of GFC facilities and meeting many people at local shelters. After a press conference and television taping, Dr. Brickner was guest at a conference supper. **Conference highlights** included new research findings from Dr. Joe G. N. Garcia on pulmonary diseases in migrant agricultural workers, a stirring discussion on the humanity of those afflicted with mental illness by Linda Frick, and an erudite talk of special considerations in hypertension of the poor by Dr. Myron Weinberger.

Dr. Brickner shared many insights during his time here. He observed that as opposed to many cities in the U.S., **Indianapolis seems to be keeping up with the homeless situation.** He felt that there were signs of hope here compared to so many places where things seem beyond any repair. Dr. Brickner was surprised that cases of active communicable tuberculosis are on the decline among the homeless in Indianapolis. The opposite is the case in most U.S. cities. We hope that this happy statistic is due in part to the weekly GFC clinics, the good work of People's HIP program, and the yearly Shelter Health Fair.

Dr. Brickner noted that " The Conference, from my angle, was first rate and the people you drew together represent excellently the best our country has to offer. Thanks very much for the opportunity to be with you."

News. . . News. . . News. . .

+ **Sandy Cerimele and John Fralich**, GFC volunteers and site Captains at Lighthouse and Salvation Army Adult Rehab, wrote in behalf of the homeless of Indianapolis in the *Star*. During the time of Hurricane Andrew relief drives, they wrote "As we drive our donations to shopping centers and grocery stores we are driving right by our own Indianapolis residents and families who are not the "new homeless (of Homestead, Fla.)," but the homeless in our own city."

+ **The United Way** has rejected the GFC application for funding.

+ **Nancy Gregori and Frank Iacona** greeted President Bush as GFC representatives during his Indianapolis visit. They and other Thousand Points of Light representatives were able to tour Air Force One as well as meet the President and Mrs. Bush.

+ Please feel free to distribute hand-outs from *Instructions for Patients* (pediatric and adult) now in the clinics made possible by **Walter Jordan** of W.B. Saunders Company.

+ The Indianapolis **medical transcriptionists** group has designated GFC as their charitable recipient. They have offered outstanding volunteer skills.

+ **In Memoriam** +. GFC mourns the loss of **Jerry Fuller**, one of our first mobile unit drivers. His help, smile, and willingness to serve those in need will be missed but not forgotten. Our condolences to Joyce and Bonnie (wife and daughter), both GFC volunteers.

GFC Donors

With deepest thanks, we recognize our latest GFC volunteers: Terri Hayhurst, Junior League of Indianapolis, Gene A. White, Center for Leadership Development, Mike Swartz, Stephen McKinney, Glen Bingle, William Powers, William Clark, Yolanda Gregori, Robert and Anne Pentland, James Grande, Mary Louise Porter, Patricia Picha, Central Stainless Steel.

Please do not forget the homeless and GFC this Holiday Season.

Medical Matters

Now as the **upper respiratory infection** season approaches, the clinics have been stocked with cough syrup, decongestants, and antibiotics. Sometimes, it is hard to keep up with all the sneezes, coughs, and fevers. These guidelines by **Sherry Gilliland, M. D.**, Pediatrician and GFC volunteer, may help during your next clinic visit.

Otitis Media

1st Line- TMP-SMX or Amoxicillin

Recurrent- Ceclor, Pediazole, Augmentin (unless pt has diarrhea), or Suprax

Do Not Use- Erythromycin alone if <5 yrs, 1st generation cephalosporins, or tetracyclines if <7yrs.

Exudative Pharyngitis

1st line- PCN VK or Erythromycin

Alternatives- Cephalosporins, Amoxicillin, or Augmentin

Do Not Use- TMP-SMX

Doses

Amoxicillin, Ceclor, Augmentin 40mg/kg/d/TID (16-24# 125mgTID, 25-33# 187mgTID, >33# 250mgTID)

TMP-SMX, Suprax 8-10mg/kg/d/BID (16-24# 1tspBID, 25-33# 1 1/2 tspBID, >33# 2tspBID)

Pediazole, Erythromycin 30-50mg/kg/d/TID (16-24# 100mgTID, 25-44# 200mgTID, 44-66# 300mgTID, >66# 400mgTID)

Reflection

The title reads "Why Is That Man Sleeping on the Ground." The picture shows a disheveled man sleeping on a heating grate in front of an affluent department store display. Denise Foley writes on how to explain homelessness to your children in *Sesame Street Parents Guide*. Many pointers are given on how to teach our children about homelessness. Suggestions include, "it's important when talking about homelessness to young children to reassure them "Mommy and Daddy are working very hard so that it will not happen to us." The article emphasizes to keep the child's empathy alive by focusing on similarities, not differences between the homeless and ourselves.

It is apparent from this article and others that homelessness is here to stay. Homelessness was something we all learned about as adults. With the exception of a few hobos and winos downtown, there were no homeless when we were children. Now we are to teach our youngest that homelessness is a fact of life in America. But that it is a fact of life for somebody else and not us.

Imagine the despair for the Mommy and Daddy who cannot keep their children from poverty by working hard because they have no employment. Or what it must be like to be so despondent or lonely that the only way to escape the pain is through alcohol. Or what will this do to the next generation of Americans who grow up accepting homelessness? And what more will they learn to accept as adults?

This Thanksgiving, might we thank God for our blessings. Might we ask for the courage and generosity to share them with those less fortunate. And pray for our children and what they are learning about what life is like.