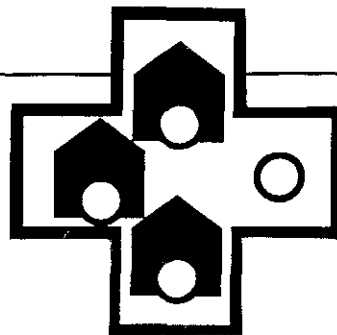

GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



Volunteer Health Care for the Homeless and Poor

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

February, 1993

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

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Peoples to offer Labs

For quite some time GFC volunteer physicians and nurses have desired laboratory tests to better assess our patients medical problems. We have pursued the options of having simple laboratory equipment at all our sites. This **equipment would be difficult to operate** as well as taking time away from patient interaction. Furthermore, new laws from the federal government (CLIA) closely regulate testing and standardization making this practically impossible. Private firms have been contacted but arrangements have not succeeded. We have even considered contracting out testing at the going rate, but many of our doctors and nurses feel **it might be difficult to find patients and institute treatments** days after their volunteer session.

Up until this time, organizing this service in a decentralized system like GFC defied the best of planners. Now, however, with GFC coordinating x-ray studies through our **Administrative Assistant, Linda Schnellinger**, a precedent has been set.

Discussions with **Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program (HIP) Director Lena Hackett and Medical Director Mat Vega, M. D.** have provided an answer to our patients needs. It is a fact that the homeless persons that GFC provide services to are also the HIP patients that Dr. Vega cares for every day. Dr. Vega and the HIP team provide in-depth health care and continuity to the homeless each weekday. GFC volunteers are present during evenings and weekends but it is difficult to provide laboratory services during these off-hours.

Recently, HIP has offered to see those patients for whom laboratory studies may be helpful. A GFC physician who wishes a laboratory study to be done, will refer the patient to HIP. **HIP will assess the patient, decide on the particular test to be performed, perform the study, and**

follow-up with the patient to make any therapeutic change.

GFC physicians will be able to refer those persons who require more time and involvement than is possible in a single volunteer session. Most importantly, the poor and homeless will be getting more comprehensive health care.

To make a consult to HIP for a laboratory study, **just call the GFC answering machine at 262-5645** during your evening or weekend session and leave the patients name, age, locality, diagnosis, and test needed. Linda will take care of the contact with HIP the next workday and arrange for transportation.

Annual Meeting Set for February 3

GFC is about to complete **5 full years of service**. That is a reason to celebrate! Who could have imagined GFC now from such humble beginnings.

Come celebrate with all the GFC volunteers. There will be a festive atmosphere at the **Hudson Institute from 6-8 pm**. Remember past GFC events and stories, elect new GFC Board of Directors, and plan for new 1993 goals for GFC. Details of the evening (with directions) will be arriving shortly. Stop in for a minute on the way home or come to meet GFC volunteers over hor d'oeuvres. **Just plan on coming** to start off year number 6!

Patient Education Program

GFC is about to embark on a new health service to our patients through the help of **Banc One**. In order to better see to the complete health needs of the homeless and poor, **Nancy Gregori, Pam DeBourbon**, and others have started a **health education** offering to our clients. Please consider taking part or suggest this idea to a friend (without medical training) who still wishes to help. See the enclosure in this issue.

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

+ The **1992 Shelter Health Fair** was a resounding success. 555 patients were seen (up from 437 last year). More services than ever were provided. The hat, scarf, and gloves for each client drew many as did the visual screening and free eye-glasses. To all GFC volunteers who helped, thanks so much!

+ **Many persons contributed to GFC** in their own way during the Christmas season. Methodist cardiovascular nurses collected personal hygiene items, **Orthopedics Indianapolis** employees collected socks, and **Achilles Podiatry Group** collected shoes for the homeless. Thanks to all!

+ Please continue to fill out the **Log sheets** at each session. These sheets allow GFC to document to others the work we volunteer. With careful recording, GFC will be able to justify fund-raising, equipment expenditures, and direct services to the most needed areas. **It just takes a second to document your good works.**

+ **Patricia McCormick** serves GFC clients by sponsoring support groups and offering counseling in sexual abuse. Through her special training and understanding of these issues, GFC clients are receiving help.

+ **Dr. Henry Olivier plans to speak** to his church group about his GFC experiences. If you wish to spread the news about GFC, slides, printed material, and prepared speeches are available.

+ **Hooks Drugs** has been supplying **personal hygiene** items for distribution on the GFC mobile unit. These are very popular items.

+ **For referrals** to specialists, for labs, and X-ray studies, **call 262-5645** during the session and leave the details on the **GFC answering machine**. Arrangements will be made the next working day.

Donors

Since our last newsletter, many individuals have helped GFC through **very generous donations**. Through these gifts, GFC will be able to expand services. **Thanks!**

Donors since the last newsletter are: Mr & Mrs William Pfeifer, Michelle Morgan, Erin Snyder MD, Harry Siderys MD, Cindy Ziperman, Richard Lundeen DPM, Radiologic Specialists of Indiana, Jackie Kaisbeck, Kay Yune, Joan Wurster, Patty Rash, Nicholas Noyes, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Joan Daly, Sharon Gilmor, Yoland Gregori, Dr & Mrs Robert Gregori, Judith Culpepper MD, Mr & Mrs Morris Wyman, Mr & Mrs James Teter, Deborah Ciancone MD, Dr & Mrs Donald Stogsdill, Donna Holl, Mary Ann Cates, Marla Misamore, Suzanne Montgomery MD, Edward Langston MD, Lorna Girod, Madge Romberger, Dr & Mrs Michael Yacko, Cummins Employees Combined Charities Fund, Mr & Mrs James Brillhart, Mary Frank, Dr & Mrs Jack Horvath, Dr & Mrs Dwight Schuster, Dr & Mrs Thomas Draper, Dr & Mrs Philip Kirlin, Dr & Mrs Frank Throop, Dr & Mrs Francis Price, Susan Schneider, Mr & Mrs Gerald Walthall, Dr & Mrs Edwin Campbell, Mr & Mrs Manuel DeBono, Mr & Mrs Douglas Strohl, Mr & Mrs Stafford Pile, Dr & Mrs James Trippi, Dr & Mrs Thomas Southern, Mr & Mrs Michael Tann, Mr & Mrs Phillip Price, Dr & Mrs Richard Schnute, Kathleen Cohenour MD, Mary Ellen Brown, Central Stainless Equipment, Hoosier Warehouses, Dr & Mrs Richard Kovacs, Dr & Mrs Russell Valentine, Dr & Mrs Kirk Parr, Matthew Mick MD, Dr & Mrs Barry Crevey, Dr & Mrs William Storer, Dr & Mrs Paul Schmidt, David Rardon MD, and Karen Mahakian MD.

Reflection

When the song of the angels is stilled
the star in the sky is gone,
the kings have gone home,
the shepherds are back with their flocks,

Then the work of Christmas begins,
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people.