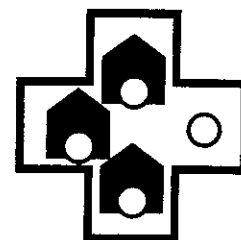


GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



Volunteer Health Care for the Homeless and Poor

Clinics at Dayspring Center, Care Center, Lighthouse Mission, Salvation Army Adult Rehab, Holy Family Shelter, Allison Christian Community Center, and Mobile Unit. Office at Indpls Medical Society, 631 E. New York Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317) 262-5645

October-November, 1993

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

Vol. 6 No. 7

Shelter Health Fair set for December 6

GFC and several community organizations will once again engage in promoting **preventative medicine** for the homeless of Indianapolis. While our 17 weekly medical and dental sessions are mainly to address crisis problems, GFC early on recognized the importance of preventative medicine.

This will be our **fifth annual shelter health fair**. Plans are to incorporate the more successful aspects of previous fairs such as **free eyeglasses and tuberculosis testing** for this year's event. Also plans include standard adult and childhood vaccines, **flu shots, blood pressure, blood glucose screening, podiatry, dental, and skin cancer screening.**

As an incentive to participate, **free socks, winter hats, gloves, and scarves** will be provided.

Gennesaret Free Clinic has traditionally been the source of the many health professionals to make this endeavor work. So many volunteers are needed since the **fair will take place in all 12 Indianapolis homeless shelters at the same time!** This arrangement cuts down in the duplication and absenteeism that would occur due to migration of the homeless from shelter to shelter.

This yearly shelter health fair in December has become a "Christmas tradition" for some who wish to live the advent message. For others, the holidays are a perfect time to wish good-will to humankind in a special way. Others involve their children in this charitable work for the broadening experience.

Once again many community agencies are involved in this extensive community event. Along with GFC, the **Marion County Health Department, Peoples Health Homeless Initiative Program, American Lung**

Association, American Red Cross, and Wishard Memorial Hospital will take part. **St. Francis Hospital** will once again generously underwrite the Shelter Health Fair which enables the free eyeglasses program as well as the winter clothing incentives.

We need physicians, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, and other health professionals to bring this program to the homeless. There will be a training session on November 30 for 1 1/2 hours followed the next week by the Shelter Health Fair on Monday afternoon and evening, December 6th. Shifts on Monday will be about 2 hours long. **Please call 262-5645 now** to enlist and show your concern.

Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference hears Dr. Leininger

Transcultural Health Care and its implications for the poor and homeless was the focus of remarks by **Dr. Madeleine Leininger**, nurse anthropologist of Wayne State University at the annual HCHP Conference. She discussed the importance of recognizing cultural differences, preferences, and expectations of our culturally diverse patients. Her remarks were well received by the 250+ participants at the Indiana Government Center.

Preceding the Saturday conference, the Friday night **reception and art gala** featured works of the poor. This unique and challenging exhibit included art works from children in juvenile homes or public housing projects, photographic exhibits of the homeless of Indiana, and poetry/prose of the poor. Performances of music, dramatic interpretation, and youth gospel music from the "Awesome Choir of Indianapolis" enlivened the evening. The art invoked dismay, shock, mirth, and inspiration for those attending the gala.

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

+ **Dr. Donald Trainor** was nominated by GFC for the Mayor's Volunteer Partnership Award. Don has been a leader in health care for the homeless since the late 1980's when he began seeing patients at Holy Family Shelter during his residency years. This was before GFC was even organized! He then folded his efforts into GFC and has served with distinction the homeless and poor as a full-time internist-pediatrician at the **Methodist Health Net**, as a GFC Board of Director chairing the Medical Services committee, and as a dependable volunteer GFC physician. Thanks for all your good work, Don!

+ **Mt. Olive Baptist Crisis Center Shelter** on W. 16th Street has reopened after renovation this past summer. Our medical facility has been cleaned up by GFC members.

+ Instructions for handling **lead poisoning** in children will be available in all family shelters. If a parent presents with child's screening lead level, just follow the guidelines for therapy outlined and make the appropriate referral. Also **conversion tables for pediatric doses and permissible medications during pregnancy** will be posted in all clinic sites.

+ For those making their schedules out long in advance, the **GFC Annual Meeting will be February 9**. This year's celebration will be at the downtown **Propileam**, a fine old home on the near Northside.

+ **The Free Clinic Foundation of America Newsletter** is available in the GFC office. Dr. Jim Trippi recently submitted an article entitled, **Ten Steps to Bolster Your Volunteer Clinic**.

+ New programs for the homeless are in the news. At **Lighthouse Mission**, a program to train **workers in restaurant employment** has been started. The program will be called the "Fisherman Plan" after the notion that providing man a meal feeds him for a day, teaching him to fish feeds him for a lifetime. **People's Health Homeless Initiative Plan and the IU School of Dentistry** will provide student dentists to the facilities at People's Health on 10th Street for the homeless. We are happy that they will add to the services of GFC dentists who have been serving the homeless for 2 years.

+ The Mortality and Morbidity Report from the Center for Disease Control notes shocking statistics for **domestic violence**. They report that "34% of adults report witnessing a man beating his wife or girlfriend and that 14% of women report that a husband or boyfriend has been violent with them."

+ GFC mourns the passing of mobile unit volunteer **Merrilyn Engel**.

Clinic Site Meetings

Dr. John Mitchell has recommended that **GFC volunteers who staff the same clinic site should get together**. Plans are being made for volunteer meetings to discuss experiences and ideas that are specific to that GFC site. We will be trying to do this in informal settings in our homes. This will be a chance to meet some of the other folks on your schedule and to improve the GFC operation at your site. A GFC Board member will be present to answer questions and return your thoughts to the next Board meeting. Watch for details or **call if you wish to host your site**.

GFC Donors

Many thanks to those who have so generously given to support health care to the indigent: Donald & Christine Kreipke, Central Stainless, Inc., The Ober Foundation, Telephone Pioneers of America, Inc. Hoosier State Chapter #16, Michael and Catherine Coscia, Sharon Flaningham, James and Linda Trippi, Yolanda Gregori, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church.

Reflection

There is a spiritual quality in every human being; that no one is beyond redemption; that often those who have been cast into the outer darkness of "insanity" can be reclaimed and restored to health and good citizenship.

Wm. O. Douglas

All living things are individual instruments. . . We are members of a vast cosmic orchestra, in which each living instrument is essential to the complementary and harmonious playing of the whole.

J. Allen Boone

