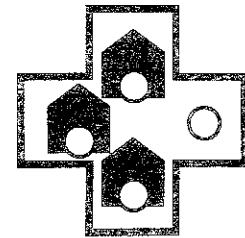


GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



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 Indianapolis Medical Society, 631 E. New York Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317) 262-5645

December, 1993

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

Vol. 6 No. 8

Shelter Health Fair to be Dec. 6

The last call for volunteers to help the homeless is going out! Once again, on a cold December night GFC volunteers will be in all the Indianapolis shelters to provide preventative health screening and information to the homeless.

As in the past five years, we will check for tuberculosis, hypertension, visual deficits, dental disease, foot disorders, and skin cancer. After the screening, those with evidence of disease will be handled in the following manner:

1. newly positive PPD (tuberculosis skin test)- transportation to Wishard Hospital outpatient internal medicine department for chest x-rays. Active cases will be checked for sputum positivity. If positive, then hospitalization, if clear then treatment by Marion County Health Department with appropriate medicine as an outpatient.

2. hypertension, skin cancer - referral to GFC or People Homeless Initiative Program (HIP).

3. dental disease - referral to GFC or HIP dental clinic for care.

4. foot problems - referral to GFC podiatry clinic.

5. visual deficits - referral to eye program on December 11 or January 16 for further testing by optometrist and free eye glasses if necessary.

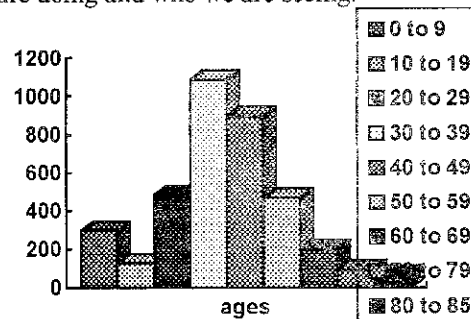
For participation in the screening, clients will receive a free hat, scarf, and gloves.

In the past, GFC has always provided the volunteers to make this program work. Sometimes there were even more volunteers than needed. However, this year not enough volunteers have called in. We need 110 persons to help out and only 18 have signed up. Won't you consider helping out.

Volunteers for the Shelter Health Fair should call GFC office right away at 262-5645. Please call for an assignment and instructions for this years Shelter Health Fair

Log Sheet Statistics show GFC patient mix and treatments

Every time you fill out the GFC log sheet after seeing a client, you are providing valuable information and feedback on our work. These sheets record each GFC patient visit, the age, disease, and treatment provided from each GFC medical session. Linda Schnellinger then enters the information into a computer data base. Once a year we analyze the results to see how we are doing and who we are seeing.



Above is the recorded data on GFC patients for 1992 against age. Notice that this does not include dentist or specialist visits. Also, the many sessions that were not recorded on log sheets are not included here.

It is very apparent that GFC treats a young population. Compared to most health care providers, we do not see older clients.

We recorded 1195 females and 2917 male visits. Even so it is estimated we see many more patients whose visits are never recorded.

The most frequent diagnoses in declining order are respiratory and ear, nose, and throat; hypertension, orthopedic - rheumatologic, dermatologic; other diagnoses: physical exam; ob-gyn-urologic; dental; neurologic; trauma; cardiac; psychologic; substance abuse; and endocrine.

The most frequently dispensed medications are antiinflammatories, antibiotics, respiratory meds, skin meds, and anti-hypertensives.

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

+ GFC will have **Stephanie Lovell**, a master of social work student for her clinical project. She will be under the supervision of volunteer **Rose Popovich, M.S.W.** of Community Hospital. We look forward to the added service that this project will bring to GFC patients.

+ News paper articles prior to Thanksgiving focused on **Anti-homeless rights**. Many are now tiring of the poor in their midst who annoy, beg, cause trouble, and detract from the aesthetics of public spaces.

+ Many organizations, including the IUPUI School of Nursing, GFC, Indianapolis Medical Alliance, and several homeless shelters are cooperating in producing a **health education program for the homeless**. Elements are already underway at the Salvation Army Family Center and are to begin shortly at Holy Family Shelter.

+ **Dr. David Latz** will be coordinating the dental services at Holy Family Shelter and Dayspring mission. **Dr. John Stone** will be continuing in organizing the dental services at the Care Center. Thanks to Dr. Stone for all your work; we are happy to have Dr. Latz to share the responsibility.

+ On Saturday November 20, GFC mobile driver **John Lee** dispensed 6 full boxes of hygiene items to the crowd at Veterans Park. John also has been one of the most frequent GFC drivers. Thanks for all your work!

+ Several physicians receive special commendations for providing 10 or more 1992 volunteer sessions at GFC. They are **Drs. John Asher, Donald Johnson, Thomas Moran, George Kjutinoty, James Swed, James Trippi, Steve Pfeiffer, and Mary Beth Sueth**. Our more than 90 other physicians receive our heartfelt thanks as well!

+ **Dr. Otis Bowen** will be our keynote speaker for the 6th GFC Annual Meeting at the Propylacum Club on February 9th. Mark your calendars to meet and hear former governor and family doctor Dr. Bowen.

+ **Steve Tabron**, long time resident at Lighthouse mission and now at Salvation Army Harbor Light Mission proudly announced he has a full time job at City Market.

Clinic Site Meetings

All GFC volunteers are urged to meet together to discuss the particular needs, suggestions, and ways to improve service at your location. Please come with suggestions; a GFC board member will be present to answer questions and bring your ideas up in planning meetings.

Care Center : Tuesday January 25, 7:00pm at Care Center with Phil Price and Dr. John Mitchell

Holy Family : Thursday, January 13, 5:30pm at Holy Family with Dr. Don Trainor

Lighthouse Mission : Wednesday, January 12, 7:00pm at the home of Nancy and Dr. Robert Gregori, R.S. V.P., 872-6155 or 262-5645.

Salvation Army Adult Rehab : Wednesday January 12, at 7:00pm at Salvation Army Adult Rehab with Dr Richard Hahn and Julie Benson

Mt. Olive Crisis Center : Wednesday January 19, 7:00pm at Mt. Olive with Beverly Ross and Katie Diefenthaler

Allison Center : Wednesday, January 19, 7:00pm at the Allison Center with Moni Draper

Dayspring Center : Thursday January 13, at 7:00pm at Dayspring with Phil Price and Jeannie Malone

Mobile Unit : Wednesday, January 12, 7:00pm at the home of Linda and Jim Trippi, R.S.V.P. at 842-4863 or 262-5645.

Please try to make these important meetings to build a better clinic and to meet your fellow volunteers.



Donors

On behalf of the poor and homeless we of GFC serve, our special thanks to supporters since the last newsletter.

Yolanda Gregori, Inland Container Corporation Foundation, Eli Lilly & Company Foundation, and Indiana Heart Physicians.

Wish list for GFC

1. cold medications
2. antibiotic samples
3. respiratory inhalers for asthma
4. soaps, shampoos, tooth brushes, deodorants
5. portable childrens toys and books for the health education program / child care program
6. old crutches, canes, and splints
7. sponsors for each of 8 newsletters per year (printing and postage)
8. transportable cellular phone for social worker
9. slide projector with built-in screen
10. for the budget to balance for 1993

Medical Matters

(from the Medical Letter 10/29/93)

Conclusion: All initial isolates of M. tuberculosis should be tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. Because of the rising incidence of drug resistance, initial therapy for most patients should include at least isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol or streptomycin until susceptibility is known. Confirmed multiple-drug-resistant tuberculosis should be treated with at least three drugs to which the organisms are susceptible for at least one to two years after culture conversion.



Reflection

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor.

The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God -- for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone.

That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God.

Oscar Romero, 1978.9

