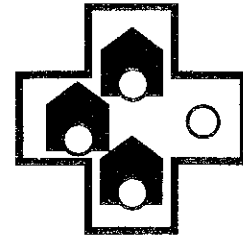


GENNESARET FREE CLINIC NEWS



Volunteer Health Care for the Homeless and Poor

Clinics at Dayspring Center, Care Center, Lighthouse Mission, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation, Holy Family Shelter, Mt. Olive Crisis Center, Allison Christian Community Center, and Mobile Unit. Office at Indianapolis Medical Society, 631 East New York Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317) 262-5645

February, 1994

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

Vol.7 No. 1

GFC Receives New Mobile Unit

Christmas of 1993 was a time of generous giving to the poor and homeless. Many volunteers and supporters gave to GFC this holiday season (see Donors section). However, no donation was more unexpected and yet needed than the recreation vehicle provided by an anonymous donor.

Our present **mobile unit** has been used well and has been a source of aid to many on the streets and downtown neighborhoods for almost four years. **An average 40 persons are treated each weekend through the facility that is staffed by a physician, nurse, and driver/clerk.** The mobile unit goes to **Veterans Park** each Saturday morning and **Cathedral Kitchen** each Sunday noon as well as the **Food Pantry** of Holy Cross Church each Tuesday afternoon. **The medical teams provide history taking, physical examination, minor testing, diagnosis, and treatment.** The vehicle carries medications (over-the-counter and prescriptions), dressings, and emergency equipment. Phone service through a cellular phone is available too.

A favorite service offered through the mobile unit are the **hygiene items** (deodorants, tooth brushes, soap, shampoos, lotions, and toiletries). Many more persons come for these items than are seen by the medical teams. These items are in constant short supply.

Our mobile unit has been showing signs of wear and mechanical troubles, so the Board of Directors was beginning to make plans to replace it. Then as if a gift from heaven, a modest and very generous friend of GFC came offering their luxury recreation vehicle. It is a **1988 33 ft. Xplorer** with every amenity including leveling jacks, television for backing up, and a built-in vacuum cleaner. There is ample closet space for

storage, a nice "living room" to warm patients up from the cold and obtain a history, and the bedroom can be used as a private exam room.

In preparation for its use, **new shelving has been put in, plastic covering has been added to seats and floors, and a tune-up was performed.** We hope to have drivers "in-serviced" soon, stock the vehicle with medications, and have it running by early February. As noted in newspaper articles in the Star and Criterion, we are deeply grateful for this donation and all others this holiday season.

Annual Meeting on Feb. 9

Can you believe we are about to begin our seventh year? We will celebrate another year of service to the poor and homeless at our Annual Meeting to be held on **Wednesday Evening 6-8 PM. The meeting will be at the Propyleaum** in keeping with having our meeting at places of interest in Indianapolis. The location on 1410 Delaware Avenue will be convenient to commuters.

Our speaker will be the popular family practitioner and former Governor of Indiana, the Honorable **Otis Bowen, M.D.** He will share a few words with us and is so personable that every hand will probably be shaken. Gov. Bowen has been a fore-runner in health reform; his Indiana program of malpractice reform is a model for the entire country.

The **new GFC Mobile Unit** will be on hand. This is sure to be a hit. Come and see our latest new facility.

The Propyleaum is noted for its china, crystal, old-world ambiance, and memorabilia. There will be **new GFC lapel pins** for all and a **portable sound system as a door prize.**

Come for the snacks, meet old friends, and join the fun of our kick-off for the new GFC year!

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

■ The cold weather of January took its toll on our old GFC mobile unit. Two new batteries and a radiator were needed in one week. This is even with the vehicle being stored in the heated garage at Methodist Hospital. It is so important that **drivers turn off all electricity and the phone before closing up.**

■ **Mt. Olive Baptist Crisis Center** has opened with a different administrator, stricter rules and enforcement, and a different clinic area as well as many refurbishings. GFC health professionals will be present each Tuesday evening to provide health services.

■ The **medical warehouse is running low** on medications secondary to the pharmaceutical companies not supplying physicians with as many samples and many more patients needing assistance in their physicians offices. We hope to see to a continuing supply of medications and also improve record keeping and inventory through new arrangements. More details are forthcoming.

■ M.S.W. students **M. J. Springer and Stephanie Lovell** will be seeing GFC patients on-site with information and assistance in obtaining services, housing, legal assistance, and case-management. If difficult situations are encountered by your patients, please call the GFC office for a social work consult.

■ The **Saturday GFC session** at Care Center will now alternate every other week at the Good News Mission. Watch your schedules for these changes. This is not that big a change since these homeless institutions are next door to each other.

■ New GFC Board of Directors nominees are **Julie Benson, Lois Pinckley, Diane Richards, and Mark Varnau.** Please come to meet them at the Annual Meeting.

■ Recent articles about GFC have occurred in the Indianapolis Star, Criterion, Indianapolis Business Journal, and the Free Clinic Foundation Newsletter. Your work is now being recognized on a local and national level.

■ **GFC mourns the passing** of the following homeless persons: Larry Drake 10/28/89, Vincent Biancalana 9/91, Otto Gary Becker 8/91, Harold Brown 9/91, Ed Jones 9/91, Howard Lawson 11/91, Dennis Pruett, Norman Overway 6/13/92, Damon Morgan 6/13/92, Bill Creason 6/19/92, Herbert Buchanan 6/21/92, Denise Covington 12/21/92, Saul Lewis 12/27/92, Ronald Schultz 9/28/93, Bill Crumpton 8/3/93 and all those that may not have been noticed.

■ During a recent GFC session for adults it was noted that most of the problems were of an obstetrical nature. The problem of high infant mortality in Indianapolis is still with us with persons in such high risk categories.

Donors

The generosity of so many during the holiday season is greatly appreciated. Your support will continue to allow existing and planned services to the indigent. **Thanks again.** Inland Container Corporation Foundation, Eli Lilly & Co. Foundation, Indiana Heart Physicians, Yolanda Gregori, Dr Richard Hahn, Charles Test, Melvin Simon & Assoc, Second Presbyterian Church, Colonel & Mrs. Julius Culpepper, Patricia Fralich, Bruce and Emily Hancock, Central Stainless, Shaw-Burkhardt-Brenner Foundation, Kathryn Genski, John & Stacy Mathew, Raydon, & Valerie Dillion, Barbara Alles, Bonnie Fuller, Allan & Suelien Leighton, Dr. Thomas Alley, Randy & Cindy Emerson, Dr. A.C. Johnson, George & Harriett Roberts, Phillip Price, Drs David Rairdon and Karen Malakian, Dr Sharon Guilliand, NDB Indiana, Donald Girod, Lawrence & Joan Vanore, Elinor Mahaffey Jr, Christine & Thomas Pinkerton, Arthur & Daisy Borel, Walter & Jean Tinsley, Mark & Ann Varnau, Sharon & Jerry Bohannon, Michael Tower, Dr Elisabeth Kline, Dr & Mrs Donald Trainor, Dr Frank Countryman, Jane Perry, George & Corneilia Odom, Dr Thomas & Monette Draper, Kenton Longenecker & Shelly Mann, Don & Regina Lowe, Katherine Ase, Harry Soedhalja, Indiana University, Joyce Dunkin, Clyde & Mary Kernek, Dr Harry Siderys, Morris & Glorine Wyman, Dr Francis Price, Dr Carl Holl, Dr Gary Wright, Dr Jeffery Jones & Elaine Kovalcik, Shirley Delan, Richard & Kanda Rink, Dr Mathew Mick, Dr John & Teresa Schutzmann, Dr Paul & Martha Schmidt, Dr Russell & Christine Valentine, Dr James & Linda Trippi, Drs Kirk & Sharon Parr, Dr Barry & Mary Crevey, Drs Donna and Clarence Amayun, Dr William and Janet Storer, Catholic Center Forum, Drs Lashment, Spitzberg, Denny, & Abrams, Toussaint & Co., Scott & Janet Toussaint, Dr & Mrs Marvin Melton, John & Jacqueline Kalsbeck, Mary Roberts, William Byron Jr & Diane Byron, Dr Norman & Adrienne Fogle, Dr & Mrs Richard Schulte, Joseph & Sharel Zelenka, William & Gladys Pfeifer, Dr Patrick & Sharon Logan, Henry & Evelyn Wellman, R & Sharon Gilmore, Dr & Mrs James Malone, David & Margaret Trexler, Dr John & Carol Lawlis, Madge Romberger, Stafford & Clara Pile, Mary Frank, Dr. Hudner Hobbs, Susan Schneider, Janice Baerle, Priddy Anesthesia Services, Dr Susan Montgomery, Dr Thomas & Karen Ferrara, Dr David & Barbara Latz, Dr John & Tracie Scott, L Smith & M. Smith, Dr Robert & Mary Vore, Joseph & Alana Randolph, K & Carol Shelbourne, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Michelle Morgan, Dr Kathleen Cohenour, Dr R & Terri Price, Ruth Sedam, Contributors to United Way of Central Indiana, Dr Marc Frost, Dr Robert Cleary, Dr A Lankin, Mrs Nicholas Hatfield, Dr G Pratt, Donald & Christine Kreipke, Dr Samuel Hazlett, Thomas & Maryellen Brown, Manuel & Sara Debono, Alan & Leanne Gillespie, Dr & Mrs Donald Stogsdill, Dr John & Karen McGoff, Dr & Mrs Don Ziperman, Dr & Mrs James Scheidler, Anna Miller, Cummins Employees Combined Charities Fund, Dr Michael & Donna Venturini.

NOT-FOR-PROFITS OF NOTE

Gennesaret Free Clinic eases the burdens of homeless

BY ELLEN PERRONE
IBJ REPORTER

Two of the most hotly debated issues in America today are health care and homelessness. One local not-for-profit has found an effective approach to dealing with both issues.

The Gennesaret Free Clinic provides basic medical services free for the home-



Dr. James Trippi, president

less and indigent. All services are provided by more than 400 volunteer medical professionals.

About 100 local physicians donate their services to Gennesaret. Each volunteer doctor is required to work at least once every six to eight weeks. The doctors assist people with minor medical problems such as colds, bronchitis and earaches, as well as dental and podiatry problems.

The clinics were started to help ease the health burdens of those who are homeless or indigent, according to Gennesaret's founder and president, Dr. James Trippi.

"We don't propose to cure homelessness or to make all of the problems of the homeless go away," he said. "We just try to help with one particular contributing problem."

Gennesaret was founded in February 1988 at a time when there were few medical services available to the indigent besides emergency rooms and medical clinics with long waiting lists for appointments, said Trippi.

The name of the organization was chosen from a Bible passage describing a fertile plain called Gennesaret along a lake of the same name, often referred to as the Sea of Galilee, where people came to

be healed. Gennesaret, at 631 E. New York St., is not affiliated with any religious denomination.

Gennesaret initially offered services through a weekly medical clinic at the All Saints Shelter for the Homeless. In the six years since its inception, services have been expanded to include 17 weekly medical sessions at six shelters throughout the city as well as through a mobile clinic housed in a 27-foot recreational vehicle.

The mobile clinic provides services to people at soup kitchens and in neighborhoods that do not have homeless shelters or clinics.

Each clinic provides patients with the necessary medications and medical equipment to remedy their illnesses. Follow-up care is provided on site or at other community medical facilities.

Most of the clinics are also equipped to deal with dental and podiatric treatment. Radiologic studies are offered through Radiologic Specialists Inc. in space donated by Methodist Hospital, and laboratory tests are made available through a collaborative effort with People's Health Homeless Initiative Program.

According to Trippi, it is very unusual that anyone requires care beyond what the clinics can provide.

"We can provide care through specialty referrals and medications, lab work, radiology and virtually all of the aspects of

money. We just don't have that luxury. One third of our supplies are donated by pharmaceutical companies, one third are collected by doctor's offices, and one third are purchased.

"In general, by a rough estimate, we provide \$1.3 million in care if it were to be obtained in the usual manner, on an annual budget of \$40,000," Trippi said.



Nancy Gregori, vice president

Gennesaret has received significant support from the Junior League of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Medical Society and Auxiliary, Bank One, St. Francis Hospital, Methodist Hospital and St. Vincent Hospital.

The organization has only one full-time paid employee, who helps coordinate volunteer and medical services. All medical liability coverage is provided under the shelter's existing insurance and individual physicians' and nurses' policies.

According to Trippi, while Gennesaret may not be able to eliminate the problems of the homeless single-handedly, it can make a difference.

"Perhaps if the health [of homeless people] is improved, they won't have quite such a difficult time of going through the rigors of getting their lives back together or seeking the other types of assistance they need to turn their lives around," he said.

Not-for Profits of Note is a biweekly profile of an Indianapolis-area tax-exempt organization. Participating organizations must be based in or serve the Indianapolis area, must have Internal Revenue Service tax-exempt status, and must provide detailed financial information.

"We don't propose to cure homelessness. We just try to help with one particular contributing problem."

Dr. James Trippi, president

health care, including dentistry," he said.

Trippi said emergency situations are dealt with in the usual manner. The patients are sent to Wishard Hospital or any other place that will handle cases in which the patient cannot pay.

According to Trippi, Gennesaret relies on the generosity of corporations and donors to fund its programs.

"We are all volunteers, all of us," he said. "We don't have the time to raise

Gennesaret Free Clinic
631 E. New York St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 262-5645

Quick Facts

Year founded: 1988
1992 income: \$38,515
1992 expenses: \$38,512
1993 projected income: \$54,871
1993 projected expenses: \$53,141

Mission Statement:

We are health professionals of Indianapolis who have heard a calling to offer our talents and training to the homeless and indigent. Through our volunteer effort, we endeavor to provide competent, accessible and compassionate health care to the needy. Our faith moves us to show special respect and dignity to those who have been neglected; for we realize it is in such a healing encounter, that we are made whole by God.

Management Staff:

Linda Schnellinger, administrative assistant

Board of Directors:

Dr. James Trippi, president; Nancy Gregori, vice president; Wayne Oteham, treasurer; Monette Draper, secretary; Katie Diefenthaler; Richard Hahn; Harold Hefner; Sue Horvath; Z. Mae Jimison; Richard Lundeen; Jeanna Malone; Phillip Price; Beverly Ross; Donald Trainor

Advisory Board Members:

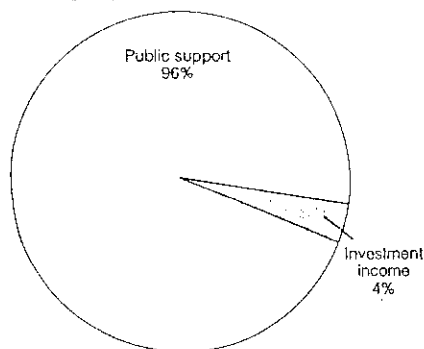
Joy Baumgartner
Linda Schnellinger
John Stone

Outgoing Board Members:

Frank Iacona
Mary Ann Wyand

The following financial information was provided by the Gennesaret Free Clinic.

1993 projected income: \$54,871



1993 projected expenses: \$53,141

