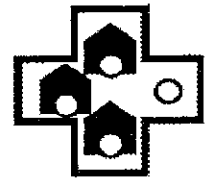


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◆ **GENNESARET FREE CLINIC** ◆  
**NEWS**



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Volume 7 Issue 2 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 March/April 1994

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◆ **Annual Meeting**

## Gov. Bowen lauds GFC

**O**n one of this years coldest evenings, GFC started year number 7. Our annual meeting was a warm gathering of members and supporters, to celebrate our 6th completed year and select new directors to our board to carry us forward. Held at the majestic and grand old Propylaeum on Delaware Street on the near north side, we were all treated to charming turn of the century ambiance and service.

Displays, conversation, catering on fancy china, great food, plenty of conversation with friends, and a door prize of a deluxe "boom-box" (going to Pam Budny, a Lighthouse clerk) helped cheer the evening.

But the evening belonged to family doctor, former Governor of Indiana, and former Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Otis Bowen. His gentle and kind manner toward GFC volunteers and our cause was a fitting salute to GFC workers, one and all. In his address ( insert), he commends all GFC volunteers inspiring us for the work ahead. Dr. Bowen was kind enough to provide us with his hand-written address to circulate in this newsletter.

Also, included in the "Reflections" section is the closing prayer by Dr. Frank Shirley. Frank will be leaving for a new position in St. Louis. God Speed.

*Volunteer Health Care for  
the Homeless and Poor*

## Shelter Health Fair results in

This years Shelter Health results have been tabulated thanks to Martha Bennington, R.N., Marion County Health Department. The results show that tuberculin skin tests continue to reach about 200 persons for each of the last 5 years. The amazing fact is that once again no active and communicable cases of TB were found in the homeless population. In fact, in 5 years only 1 suspected case of active TB has been found in the homeless shelters through the Shelter Health Fair. There are many possible explanations for this strikingly low rate of active TB in the homeless population. Perhaps the Shelter Health Fair is not reaching the homeless population adequately or those with disease are not coming forth. More likely, the good work of GFC and Peoples' Homeless Initiative Program are picking up cases throughout the year and getting them fast treatment. Also, the incidence of AIDS in the Indianapolis homeless and poor population is lower than elsewhere.

A total of 450 persons were seen this year with immunizations, eye glasses, blood pressure screening, and dental examinations being performed. Of the population served, 247 were black, 139 were women or children, and only 39 were over the age of 55. Thanks to all GFC volunteers !

◆ **GFC Mobile Unit**

## Change over complete

**I**n with the new and out with the old. The last month has seen extraordinary efforts by GFC volunteers to ready our new mobile unit and put it on the street. Lois Pinckley and husband Paul put many long hours in "tearing down" the old unit and setting up our new mobile unit supplies. Mark Varnau helped organize training sessions for all the drivers (with the help of Ken Weir, John Lee, and Al Fellini). Our new vehicle takes up extra space with thanks going to Methodist Hospital for their support in providing a heated and secure garage for the vehicle.

You will benefit from the added space if used appropriately. Having the physician using the exam area (otherwise known as the bedroom) makes for much better patient flow. This also allows the living room area to be used by the nurse for vital signs-intake and the social workers to interview patients.

Especially for Saturdays when crowd control can be a problem, hygiene items should be dispensed from the passenger window creating 2 distinct lines; one line for hygiene items and one line for medical care and social work.

Drivers are reminded to drive slowly and to turn off all lights.



## ◆ Health Care for the Poor

## Health Provider News

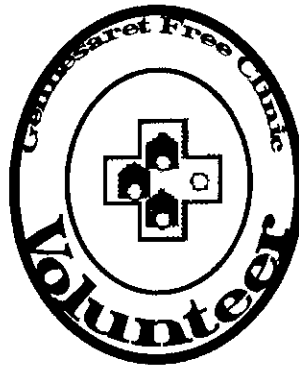
Meetings for Health professionals serving the Poor are coming up.

Locally our **Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference** will be held on Saturday, September 17. This year's speakers will be Dr. Janelle Goetcheus, M. D. and Bernadine Lacy, R. N. E. D. both of Washington, D. C. They will discuss health care reform and today's issues in caring for the poor. Several local speakers should make for a very interesting day. Mark your calendars ahead (if they go that far)!

In Chicago, on Thursday, April 21-Sunday 24, the Christian Community Health Fellowship will meet for "**Sustaining the Dream-Lifestyles of the Those Serving Among the Poor.**" Several Chicago speakers will be present for this conference.

The **National Health Care for the Homeless Conference** will be held in Baltimore Thursday to Sunday, May 12-14. A symposium for health care workers and advocates will be entitled "How will Homeless People Fare? - The Policy and Politics of Health Care Reform.

**F**or scheduling tests (labs or X-ray), to order exams for eye-glasses, dental referrals, specialist referrals, or nearly anything else on your patient, **Call the GFC answering machine at 262-5645** and leave details on your patient. The patient will be contacted, and appointments will be set up. Just leave the details on your patient and requested service and everything will be taken care of.



**A** new GFC lapel pin was given to volunteers at the Annual Meeting. Similar to the design above (enameled in blue and white with gold lettering), the design shows the professionalism and pride of our volunteers. Your pin is at the GFC office and can be had if you just give a call. We hope all will wear it with pride.

The GFC logo is the work of Tal Burdine. It is intended to symbolize the homeless or unsheltered within the medical cross. The logo stands as a sign of help for the unfortunate. The obvious sign of faith is present as well. This work is now trademarked and is displayed on all GFC documents.

**O**ur new GFC Board of Directors was elected at the Annual Meeting. They are elected to a two year term. The 1994 Board is as follows: **Julie Benson, Katie Diefenthaler, Monette Draper, JD, Nancy Gregori, RN, Richard Hahn, MD, Sue Horvath, Z. Mae Jimison, JD, Wayne Oteham, CPA, Lois Pinckley, RPh, Phillip Price, JD, Diane Richards, Beverly Ross, RN, Donald Trainor, MD, James Trippi, MD, and Mark Varnau. Advisory Board members are Joy Baumgartner, David Latz, DDS, Linda Schnellinger, and John Stone, DDS.**



**A** health care forum sponsored by League of Women Voters, GFC and many Indianapolis health organizations will take place at the Children's Museum Tuesday April 5, 7:00 pm. This town meeting will offer information on different options in health care reform and an opportunity to ask questions of members of congress. For more details, Nancy Gregori will represent GFC.

**V**olunteer news: Many new volunteers are welcomed to GFC in 1994 - **Doctors Mike Zeckel, Jack Harris, Jim Kotsanos, Bob Nelson, Jennifer Stotka, John Twenty, Mike Turik, Louise Levine; Nurses Robyn Bullock, Dana Middleton, Clara Warner, John Noll, Terry Cordell, Peggy Wolfe; Clerks Janet Meunier, Tom Walsh, Jenny Wolfe-Binder.** Welcome to all.

## Reflections

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

We bend our knees before You, our Maker and Redeemer, to give You thanks and ascribe to You your Worth-ship.

We confess Your Name which is above every other Name, the Name of Jesus, as our Lord and Savior. Apart from You, we have no power in ourselves to do good, or to heal, or to comfort those who over the years have come through the doors of the free clinics.

As we minister in our own weak way to those who are less fortunate than we, or who are homeless in our city, we are reminded of the prayer of Saint Augustine, who said, "You have made us for Yourself, Lord, we ourselves are homeless, until our hearts find their home in You." We ask that in the coming year, Your Holy Spirit may so inspire us, that Your blessing would be on all that we do, so that Your Name would be magnified and blessed throughout this city in the coming year.

We pray these things in Jesus' Name. Amen

Closing prayer for GFC Annual Meeting 2/9/94  
Dr. Frank Shirley

# Donors

Since our last newsletter our generous donors have continued to remember the homeless and poor through GFC. Thanks to all! Yolanda Gregori, Joan Daly, St. Francis Hospital, Mary Ann Cates, J. W. Asher ,MD; Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Pharmaceuticals, Patricia Hendershot, MD; The Better Homes Foundation and Carpenter Better Homes and Gardens Realty, Mark Varnau, and Dale and Marianne Bernard.

+ In sympathy, to GFC volunteer, Gloria Price, the loss of her son.

## Address to the 1994 Annual Meeting of GFC by Dr. Otis Bowen

Over the years, I've been privileged to participate in many meetings. Some I've thoroughly enjoyed. Some I've just sort of enjoyed. Only a few were difficult to sit through. One I remember in particular. It was on a wintery night; I was tired for a long day and I was to be the final speaker honoring an outstanding citizen who was retiring from his position. It was a dinner meeting. It began at 6:30 pm. The hitch was that I was the 23rd speaker. I got to the podium at 11:30 pm. Needless to say I cut my remarks to about 3 minutes. It was not that the man did not deserve all sorts of accolades. The planners of the meeting just didn't realize that each speaker would get carried away extolling all the goodness of the honoree. It seemed as if each speaker said to himself, "By Golly, I went to all the trouble to prepare my remarks and I'm going to give them - no matter what!

The ones I have enjoyed the most are such as this one in which we pay tribute to the goodness and the generosity and caring attitudes of volunteers who are giving time and effort from their hearts for a most worthwhile cause.

Edwin Markham said, "There is a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

Such is the spirit of Dr. Trippi and all

the other volunteers of the Gennesaret Free Clinic.

Compassion separates us from animals. It makes us stand tall on two feet. It frees our arms. It's so pleasing and gratifying to see those arms reaching out to our fellow beings as if to say, "Let me help You."

Billy Graham said, "God has given us two hands - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing."

So many just talk without putting their words into action. To those on the sidelines, action is a lot more impressive and eloquent than words.

Its like Edgar Guest said in his poem entitled, "Sermon we see."

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one would walk with me than merely tell me the way;

The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing but examples' always clear,  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

... The lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.

For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Some people probably do get more help than they deserve - but that's where satisfaction with one's ownself enters: Loving people more whether or not it is deserved. Such action oftentimes spurs the recipient of the good will to better himself or herself.

Dr. Trippi saw six years ago a pressing need for medical, dental, speciality referrals, and free medicine to the homeless and the poor of Indianapolis. He saw a good cause at the right time. He promoted a united effort and with God's Blessing generated a contagious spirit which all of you caught. Call it your incurable disease. That spirit has brought greater rewards to those who caught it than even the gratefulness of those who were the beneficiaries. You who have volunteered and are donating your time, your energy, and yes even your finances have been moved to help because you have been blessed with a good life. Because of those blessings you have accepted the responsibility to be a blessing to those less fortunate.

Years from now, it will not matter one whit what your bank account was. It will not matter one bit about the luxury of your home. It will not matter at all what kind of car you drove, but this world will be different and better because you cared about the plight of the others and you gave them help.

Goodness has a life of its own. It often sends out ripples that touch people and places unbeknownst to us. Oftentimes we do not realize the full effect that one's goodness has on others - but there's one thing sure - we know the warm feeling it has on us and that is the memory and satisfaction in our heart.

So many say, "I don't have time." Well it so happens that irrespective of who we are, irrespective of what we do, or irrespective of where we go, we all have 24 hours in a day. How we use these hours makes a lot of difference. Should we use them all just for ourselves? Or should we share a little to make the lives of others a bit better?

You as volunteers are not in it for the money. You're not in it for fame, and you're not in it for personal gain. You're in it for the love of your fellow beings. You're in it to gain what your can't buy and that's that good feeling deep inside, that reward down in your heart and the knowledge that you've been a part of something really worthwhile.

I'll close with one of Helen Steiner Rice's poems that seems to fit what each of you are doing.

The more you give  
the more you get.  
The more you laugh  
the less you fret.  
The more you do unselfishly,  
the more you give abundantly,  
the more of everything you share,  
the more you'll always have to spare.  
The more you love,  
the more you find  
that life is good and friends are kind.  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

Thank you.

(c) Otis Bowen 2/9/1994

