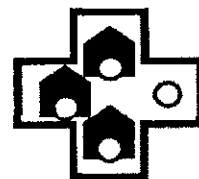


◆ GENNESARET FREE CLINIC ◆

NEWS



Volume 7 Issue 4 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 June/July 1994

◆ Summer Fun

Annual GFC Picnic set

This summer's annual GFC "get together" will continue the tradition of good fun. Nancy and Bob Gregori, long time GFC volunteers and leaders, will host the event slated for **Sunday, August 14th** at their lovely Northwest side home. As before the event is intended to bring together GFC volunteers and their families for fun, fellowship, good food, prizes, and renewal of purpose. We have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate that our clinic continues to be a source of hope for the poor and homeless. Pausing for an afternoon and recalling our common task in a light setting is a great way to prepare for the next year.

This year's picnic will include pool fun, prizes including a boom box stereo, children's toys and favors, and weekend get aways at luxury hotels, great picnic food, and a chance to meet other GFC volunteers.

Please call 262-5645 to register and get directions. We will gather at 1:00pm and have an early supper at 3:45pm. This year we will try to show photos of GFC days gone by so bring any GFC "snap-shots" or articles you might have saved to share. Pack up the kids - of all ages - and come for a good



Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

BHG Golf to Benefit GFC

Here is something different. Carpenters' Better Home and Garden Realty will be supporting GFC with a golf tournament. Along with Norwest Mortgage and Title Company, Carpenters' Better Homes and Gardens Realty will sponsor a golfing fund-raiser to be held on Friday



August 26th at the new Saddlebrook Golf Club on 156th Street. Tee off is scheduled for 12:00 noon with lunch, a round of golf, cart, refreshments, dinner, a golf shirt, towel, and a bag tag included in the \$75 fee. This will be a great way for pros and duffers alike to help out GFC. Also if you are aware of possible corporate sponsors let us know. Please tell your golfing buddies about this opportunity and call David Caveness of BHG Realty at 844-4400 to register. Thanks BHG!

◆ GFC Response

Health Care Reform

The following statement reflects the GFC Board of Directors opinions on health care reform. Your comments on this controversial topic are invited.



Health care reform attracts the national focus now. In Indianapolis, the more than 400 physicians, nurses, dentist, and concerned members of Gennesaret Free Clinic have made health care reform our personal concern. We are private volunteer health care providers who care about those who have been forgotten in today's health care provisions. We want the poor and homeless whom we serve to be included in the health care programs of the future.

For the last seven years, we the health care providers of GFC have put into action our concern for the homeless and poor. Many in our community go without the basic necessities. We can attest that many go without adequate health care in Indianapolis. Our volunteers see first hand those who are left out of today's health care system. They include the young man who works at a fast food restaurant for minimum wage and cannot afford health care insurance, the young mother who struggle to (continue p. 3)

◆ GFC Events

Black Expo & Hispanic Fair

Summer time is a great time for celebrations. GFC will be part of two of Indy's best parties. From June 30th to July 3 the GFC mobile unit will be in the dome. More than 100,000 will see the GFC unit while at the **Black Expo**, one of our truly national events. Information and souvenirs will be available at the GFC display. We hope to recruit new volunteers for our work as well. We still need friendly and interested persons to staff the GFC display for not more than a 4 hour stretch. Your volunteering will gain you **free admission** to America's largest ethnic health fair. We need you to help put on a good GFC appearance.

On Saturday June 25th GFC will make its first appearance at the **Hispanic Fair** on North Street. Our GFC mobile unit will be available for inspection and information and BP checks will be available from 11:00 am to 2:00pm. This is a smaller event and should have a quaint ethnic feel. We need **Spanish speaking volunteers** to staff the display. If you can help, please call 262-5645 right away.

These are good ways for GFC to gain favorable community exposure and to recruit volunteers as well. Thanks for your help!

Announcements

■ **Mt. Olive Baptist Crisis Center** volunteers please call the GFC office late Tuesday before your session to make sure that there are patients waiting to be seen. As the numbers build up at Mt. Olive there will be sufficient need to justify a GFC team

■ Toiletries are needed on the GFC mobile unit. On Saturday and Sunday upwards of 150 persons will come hoping for soap, shampoo, deodorants, toothbrushes, skin lotions, shaving equipment, and other personal necessities. You can imagine how quickly these supplies are depleted. There just couldn't be too much of these items! Please call 262-5645 to donate; also try to interest a club, church, or organization that you are involved with to collect these items.

■ Local media has carried numerous articles on homeless persons and issues lately. An interesting article on **Carlos Iglesias**, a client at **Good News Mission** told of the trials and misfortune of this Spanish-only speaking man with schizophrenia that GFC volunteers have frequently treated.

Numerous *Star* articles have discussed the issues related to the **transitional housing units** proposed at Fort Benjamin Harrison and the hostile responses of area residents. Dialogue has not been charitable on either side of the issue, but a recent article about **Clare Skeehan** a former homeless woman originally from Lawrence put things into perspective. She said, "I think it's important that not everyone (who is homeless) is a derelict, alcoholic, panhandling-at-the-bus-station kind of person. It can happen to anyone."

■ A recent **homeless 60 year old** related his story on the mobile unit one Saturday morning. He said that he has suffered from asthma for years making heavy work impossible. He said he hopes to find a job washing dishes, but has only been offered landscape work. He feels trapped because all the pollen from outside work just makes his asthma worse. All he had for his wheezy, congested lungs was an ancient inhaler that he kept in his sock. He was overjoyed by the medications he received from GFC.

■ Thanks to the **Butler University Pharmacy students of Phi Delta Chi service fraternity** for their contribution to GFC. Members contributed 121 hours this year sorting medications, repackaging medications, and forwarding expired medications. Volunteers **Dawn Jennings and Wendy Pecyna** organized the group and gave numerous Saturday mornings to help the poor and homeless get free medications. Thanks so much!

Now that summer is here, **Donna O'Donnell and her friends** will be working even harder to get the medications from collection bags to your shelters cabinet shelves.

■ With the end of June, **Dr. Mary Beth Schueth** will be ending her 2 year long delivery of health care at Holy Cross food pantry. Every week on Tuesday afternoon, Dr. Schueth and other GFC volunteers have provided health care from the GFC mobile unit. They have built up quite a following and all are appreciative of their service. Our thanks as well to St. Vincent Hospital for support.

■ A **bulletin board** is now on the GFC mobile unit for information concerning services to the homeless; this display is one of the few places for those on the street to get information about health care.

■ Summer is a difficult time to organize volunteers for service. Even so **GFC volunteers have been exceptionally devoted**. We are thankful for each session you participate in. If you are unable to attend, please call the GFC office. It is recommended that all volunteers call the other members of the medical team before coming. It is so disappointing for members to show and have a member missing. Recently all members showed to a GFC session at different times (leaving before the next one arrived); all assumed that the others did not show. Let's have a good summer for GFC and homeless.

Health Reform (cont.)

to regain normalcy after being evicted from their apartment, the mentally ill man who seeks isolation due to his paranoia, or the middle aged worker who cannot afford the medication he knows he must take in order to stay healthy. These and many others we serve are deserving of health care.

As private volunteer health professionals our time, talents, and resources are providing health care when and where it is needed. Yet as volunteers, we cannot fill the tremendous need and we must admit that better facilities and services are needed beyond what we offer.

We call upon our representatives in government and all leaders of the United States to see to the unmet health needs of our citizens. Also in order for health care reform to work, these provisions must also account for the special needs of the poor such as having few health care facilities, providers, or drug stores nearby, having poor transportation, and special cultural and educational needs.

For a healthy America, all Americans must be included in health care reform.



GFC work noted by Allegheny College

The following is an address given to the alumni of Allegheny College, a small liberal arts institution in Pennsylvania, by Dr Jim Trippi.



Ours has been a wonderful experience of providing heartfelt service to the most needy of our community and of opening up new possibilities for our volunteer health professionals.

All this started innocently enough. The roots even go back to community field trips to the Crawford County

Home while at Allegheny College. Years later upon arriving in Indianapolis, a friend talked me into a similar experience helping in a soup kitchen for the homeless. But this time the encounters with the indigent were from a different perspective. I would hand out a doughnut and diagnose hyperthyroidism in the homeless woman, or trench foot in a young man, or untended wounds in a homeless child. Shortly thereafter, we started our first volunteer medical clinic for the homeless. It was in a church where the congregation allowed 80 persons to sleep on the pews each night. That night we saw our first patients, examining them on the floor of the church nursery and providing medications and treatments from the steamer trunk of supplies we brought.

Those we served appreciated the attention and those medical people who volunteered felt a real satisfaction in using their skills in such a giving way. Word spread and Grace followed. Seven years later, more than 100 volunteer physicians deliver 5000 plus visits per year, dentist serve in 3 fully equipped offices in homeless shelters, prescription medications, eyeglasses, preventive and specialty care are provided, and we host a regional conference for health providers to the homeless and poor. All through an entirely volunteer effort.

Why? Because the work is so important and the need is so great.

How? Our volunteers are people who are willing to step out into somewhat unfamiliar surroundings to help a fellow citizen.

Several principles have guided us in our volunteering:

1. Do what you do best.
2. Do only what you can reasonably do. (There will always be more unfinished business).
3. Start small and build on your successes.

We have learned some basic truths about volunteering as well:

1. Volunteering is not just for retired persons; (they shouldn't have all the fun).

2. The satisfaction of doing a good job for someone else without consideration of self gain often surpasses tangible reward.

3. Your talents are needed more than you think.

Now, we all cannot volunteer in medical clinics for the homeless; our talents are not all in that area. But imagine how much better we would all be if more good talkers of the world lifted the spirits of those in nursing homes, or if those natural teachers volunteered in tutoring inner city kids, or if more business persons helped steer a few capable work release juveniles in the right direction. The possibilities are infinite.

Just as my adventure in volunteering traces back to my college days at Allegheny, so too are today's students looking for ways to be introduced into this lifelong avocation. Likewise it is important for today's students to see leaders like you involved in the charitable affairs of the community.

