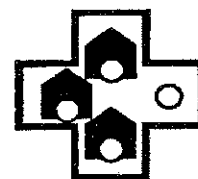


◆ GENNESARET FREE CLINIC ◆

NEWS



Volume 7 Issue 5 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 August 1994

◆ GFC Administration

New Staff sought for GFC

The GFC Board of Directors has embarked on a new course for our administrative support. At present, we have a temporary secretary, **Alana Frye**. Alana is an elementary teacher who is with us for summer vacation. She has been doing a wonderful job preparing schedules, calling volunteers, and taking care of day to day matters. She has been trying to get our GFC lists back in order and asks that anyone whose preferences have not been followed or who has not been scheduled for an unusually long time call the office. We wish Alana well as she finishes up for the summer and pray that she has a class of her own this fall.

We intend to begin our new administration with a M.S.W. to function as a case worker for our clients as well as to supervise our office.

Also we will shortly hire a secretary (full or part-time) for office duties and a medical records specialist to begin computerizing our GFC records.

Coordinating our grant applications for these major changes and expenses, volunteer **Janice Childers** has been invaluable.

Should you know of anyone interested in hearing more of these opportunities, please call GFC office or send a resume.



Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

GFC Picnic August 14

How about a fun day with friends from GFC? That is what is in store for **Sunday August 14** and the Annual GFC picnic. This will be the 6th year running for our little picnic.

The picnic continues to be a small friendly affair with pleasant conversation around the pool (getting splashed by the kids), good food, and some prizes.

The event will be held at **Nancy and Bob Gregori's** home. Please come with your family. To R.S.V.P., call the GFC office at 262-5645 and get directions. Thanks to **Diane Richards**, GFC Board member for all her work in getting ready.



◆ GFC Clinics

Staffing at Medical Clinics

Summer has always been a slow time for Gennesaret Medical Clinics. Numbers of clients are fewer than the winter cold season, fewer persons are in the shelters, and there are so many reasons to stay home and enjoy the summer. However, there are seasonal disorders that are prominent with our clients during the summer. There is a definite increase in trauma, both occupational and violent, during the summer months. Dermatologic disorders are frequent complaints. Athlete's feet (tinea pedis), insect bites, clothing trauma, and insect bites are some of the many presentations. Of course, the homeless also suffer from seasonal allergies (like everyone in Indiana). Because many spend more time outdoors, this may be exacerbated.

All these problems require treatment and that is why the good people of GFC continue to serve the needy of Indianapolis. **Please make every effort to attend the session for which you are scheduled.** And call the other members of the team you are scheduled with. This is particularly important on the mobile unit, because one absence prevents the entire team from going out. If you cannot make your session, please try to find a replacement. Please call the GFC about your change. Thanks for your cooperation!



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

◆ GFC Volunteers

New projects and volunteers

Hispanic Health Fair included Spanish speaking GFC volunteer **Dr. Kathy Cohenour** and the mobile unit. The fair was a good introduction of GFC to the Hispanic community as well as increasing community ties. **Dr. Armando Avila**, a Castleton dentist, may also begin using GFC dental facilities for indigent Hispanic clients as a result of our participation in Hispanic Health Fair.

New volunteers **Dr. George and George Hicks, Jr.** plan on being a family team at GFC sessions at Dayspring Center. Many GFC families find their volunteering together to be a valuable activity. See the other new GFC volunteers in the new column of this newsletter.

Immunity Bill (U. S. Senate Bill #1775) is being considered for inclusion in the new health care legislation. This legislation would nationalize the State of Virginia legislation that **exempts volunteer health professionals from malpractice liability**. This legislation would provide an additional layer of protection to care givers with existing malpractice coverage. More importantly, it would allow retired physicians and those without applicable malpractice insurance to render care as volunteers within the scope of their license. **Please contact your Senators immediately concerning this if you favor these changes.**

Another political issue is voter registration of the homeless. "You don't need to have a home to vote!" is the slogan behind the supporters of

H.R. bill 1457 giving homeless persons the right to vote. In Indianapolis, voter registration training is Aug. 13. ; if you are interested the meeting is at 902 N. Capitol Ave, the ICHHI office. Please R.S.V.P. to Mark St. John at 636-8819.

Expired medications cannot be dispensed to GFC clients. Even though the expired medications are generally not toxic, their potency is often diminished. Furthermore, use of these medication may increase malpractice exposure for our GFC volunteers.

Physicians wishing to donate medications are asked to check to make sure that all medications are current dated.

Medications that out-date while in GFC facilities are taken and repackaged for transportation to the medical missions in Guatemala.

Please have GFC volunteers pick-up only medications that are current dated.

Golf enthusiasts! Your time is here to help GFC and enjoy your game. Dave Caveness of Carpenter Better Homes and Gardens Realty has organized the **GFC-Carpenter Golf Classic**. This sporting event will be held at the Saddlebrook Golf Club on August 26. Co-sponsors include **Norwest Mortgage Company and First Title Company of Indiana**. Registration and Lunch start at 11:00 am. Please plan to enjoy the afternoon to the benefit of GFC. **Please call Dave Caveness at 844-4400** for details and registration. Included in the registration fee are lunch, driving range, green fees, cart, golf balls, towel, shirt with GFC-Carpenter Classic logo, dinner, and prizes. It should be fun, but watch out for errant drives from doctors who spend time in homeless shelters rather than on the fairway.

Need for reform**GFC patients Not Covered**

Medical teams see patients that often have no other practical source of care. Expense often drives patients away from the services that are necessary to stay healthy and in their living situation. Other times, receiving health care in the usual means causes a family to become homeless.

Recently two children were seen in one of the GFC family shelter clinics. The two year old was below growth standards, probably because of chronic asthma/bronchitis, and yet seemed to be making due. The 9 month old had a cold. There were two older children of this middle aged couple who were healthy.

It turns out that both parents were employed until recently. The father lost his job for unknown reasons just as the mother became ill during her pregnancy (with the now 9 month old). The advise to the mother was to stay in bed for several months before delivery. She obeyed her instructions which caused her to miss so much work, she was laid off (from an Indianapolis health facility!). There went the family health insurance.

The time off work and health bills took all the family savings and more. The whole bunch of middle class folks landed in a homeless shelter!

This seemed to be one of the most poignant examples of the need for health care reform in recent memory. Even though the family is back to work and out of the shelter, it is a shame that they had to land in one to begin with. But isn't that the case with the other 2000 homeless persons in Indianapolis too.

GFC Welcomes New Volunteers

After 7 years of existence, GFC still attracts many new volunteers each year. Each newsletter will now note our new volunteers. Welcome aboard!

George Hicks, M.D.
George Hicks, Jr.
Shivaji Gunale, M.D.
Sue Alexander, R.N.
Jean Arney, R.N.
Armando Avila, D. D. S
Jennifer James, R.N.
Kristina Lackey, Driver-Clerk

These new members will continue to bring new life to our service to the poor.

If you know of potential volunteers please contact our GFC office so that we may recruit them.

At this time we are in especial need of persons who could drive our mobile unit during our day shift. If there were enough volunteers, a second session to Holy Cross Food Pantry could be added to our service.



Reflections

Consensus is a group decision (which some members may not feel is the best decision, but which they can all live with, support, and commit themselves not to undermine), arrived at without voting, through a process whereby the issues are fully aired, all members feel they have been adequately heard, in which everyone has equal power and responsibility, and different degrees of influence by virtue of individual stubbornness or charisma are avoided so that all are satisfied with the process. The process requires the members to be emotionally present and engaged, frank in a loving, mutually respectful manner, sensitive to each other; to be selfless, dispassionate, and capable of emptying themselves, and possessing a paradoxical awareness of the preciousness of both people and time (including knowing when the solution is satisfactory, and that it is time to stop and not reopen the discussion until such time as the group determines a need for revision).

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 M. Scott Peck, M.D.

Donors to GFC

Recent donors to GFC include the following:

Zeta Iota Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa
Michael and Catherine Cosia
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
The Ober Foundation
James and Luella Brunnemer
Sue and Dr. John Schneider

With new staff members on the way to assist GFC volunteers, every donation is especially welcomed. Thanks!

