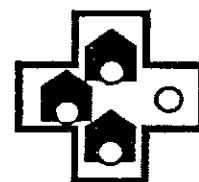


◆ GENNESARET FREE CLINIC ◆

NEWS



Volume 7 Issue 6

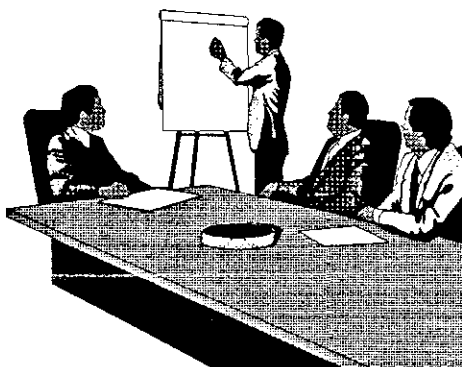
"And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58

Month 1994

◆ Homeless Services

Summit talks on full care

The Homeless Network of Indianapolis and the Voices of the Homeless Congress met on Saturday September 10th for the Continuum of Care Summit. During the meeting, plans were made to conform to new federal mandates for a "continuum of care" to be provided for homelessness. This is to encompass prevention measures, emergency services, interim services such as shelter, medical needs,



counseling, and substance abuse rehab. Transitional housing, permanent housing, job training and long term services to prevent relapse complete the services to be developed. This circle of care will be available to all and is to be a condition of funding.

The meeting was important because it gave the "consumers" a voice in the services planned and their implementation. The homeless persons

Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

Call GFC office for referrals and clinic needs

Word often reaches the GFC office by indirect means that there is a problem. A scrap of paper left by volunteers that a medication ran out, a call from a shelter employee that a chest x-ray is needed, or a call from a homeless person that a referral should be made.

It is so hard with a "spread-out" system like ours to pass along information. Our volunteers are working nights and weekends and our secretary is present weekdays only.

That is why our GFC answering machine is always on. Just call during your session and leave a brief message and action is sure to follow.

Services that can be provided include restocking medications that are not available, referrals for labs, x-rays, and specialists. The message gets much faster and more reliable actions through the answering machine than leaving a scap of paper with your wishes.

The GFC mobile unit has a mobile phone for this service. All GFC offices have telephones (except Lighthouse Mission) in the clinic areas with instructions and the GFC phone number. Remember: CALL GFC while the idea is fresh; the secretaries will take it from there!

◆ GFC Staff

Case Manager & Secretary

The GFC Administrative office continues to change. Over the summer our temporary secretary, Alana Frye did a great job in getting our office in shape with several schedules made out and correspondence upto date. Many remarked that they noted an improvement in efficiency in handling their needs.

Alana could only stay for the summer, but she was good enough to pass along her knowledge and routines to our new temporary secretaries, Jewel Ettiene and Mary Jo Batreai. These two fine women have significant experience in many different capacities. They will job share this position with Jewel on Monday Tuesday and Mary Jo on Thursday and Friday, Wednesday will be alternated.

Their position is temporary in that we are aiming to hire a medical social worker to serve as GFC office supervisor and as a case manager in the shelters. This position is now open for interviews and we are accepting applications. We aim to be a just employer with appropriate salary and benefits fitting this important position. If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact the GFC office or Dr. Jim Trippi.



◆ Fund Raising

GFC Carpenter Golf Classic I and II

Thanks go out to Carpenter Better Home and Garden Realty for their wonderfully successful fund raising efforts. Two golf tournaments one from **Dave Caveness** at Saddlebrook Golf Course on August 16 and one from **John West** at the Ironwood Course on September 24th. These events were done in a first class manner and attracted many good golfers who were very generous to GFC. The cities realty and financial communities were out in force to support GFC; they believe in what we are doing and wanted to show that in a tangible way. Many corporate sponsors made the event possible. The Indianapolis corporate leaders and the citizens themselves believe in what we are about and the mission we have directed ourselves to. It is gratifying to know that there are so many who wish to help us to get the job of indigent health care done.

Fun-Time Campers sells GFC van

When we received our new GFC mobile unit this past Christmas, the question of what to do with the old van was brought up. It was decided to sell the used vehicle and apply those funds entrusted to us for the operation of the new recreation vehicle. Thanks to **Braun's Fun Time Campers on Pendleton Pike - Oaklandon** for selling the vehicle and their special allowance to GFC. Braun's Fun Time Campers is one more partner with GFC in providing for indigent and homeless health care

Health Care for Indigent in the News

In *San Francisco Medicine* Trisha and Richard Gibbs, MDs article The San Francisco Free Clinic: Our goal is simply to practice medicine discusses their recent attempts at providing for the many Bay area homeless and indigent. They took a formal approach and started a licensed medical clinic from scratch. Because of California regulations and federal CLIA and OSHA regulations being so stringent, there were months of preparations before they opened their doors.

In the *New England Journal of Medicine* a recent article noted that **mortality in the homeless of Philadelphia was 4 times higher** than in non-homeless cohorts. This is due to all medical problems being more severe and treated less than in non-homeless persons.

This information is expected from GFC records that show so few of our patients are over the age of 60 years. Also so many of patients appear years older than their stated age probably due to the extra stress and environmental exposure of homelessness.

Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the HCHP Conference a success for 1994. **Pamela DeBourbon** of the ISBH so to every detail and arrangement as our conference administrator. Thanks to **Monette Draper** for arranging for the Borders Book sale of pertinent titles.

◆ Preventive Medicine

Shelter Health Fair Needs YOU!

Have you been thinking that your Christmas season could use a giving activity? Maybe it would be fun to engage a young person in a one time charitable activity. If this is something that interests you, the Shelter Health Fair is for you. Every year in early December, GFC sponsors this preventative health program in all the Indianapolis shelters to test for tuberculosis and provide immunizations and screen for diabetes, hypertension, visual deficits, and dental disease. Because we go to all the shelters the same evening, it takes about 100 volunteers to make this work. There is cooperation from the homeless men, women, and children we see; all are encouraged to participate through incentives in the form of gloves, hats, and scarves.

If you can work as a nurse, physician, clerk, or assistant - whether you are a student, health professional, or concerned individual, we need your help. Please call the GFC office to enlist! Call 24 hrs at 262-5645 and leave your name, number, and intention to be there for the annual Shelter Health Fair.

New Members

We all welcome our newest GFC volunteers!

Dr. Brian Hamm, Podiatrist
Dr. Meg Maxwell, Family Practice
Dr. John Schutzman, Cardiology
Dr. Gary Thompson, Family Practice
Robert Romano, Pharmacist

Donors

Many thanks to those who remember GFC with their gifts: McNamara Florist, Dr & Mrs Richard Harn, Susan Schneider, JL and Susan Horvath, Wayne and Ann Oteham, Clo and Yolanda Gregori, Rebecca and David Hostetter, Essential Edible, and Mark Varnau.

Summit Continued p. 1

in attendance were definite in what they felt was needed. They spoke eloquently in need of services provided by competent professionals who are compassionate, understanding, and accepting of their plight. They wished to be treated with dignity and given the options for their choosing when decisions need to be made. They want safe housing and a chance to get a job with a future. They need transportation to their jobs, services, and shopping.

Perhaps, the reason that Gennesaret Free Clinic has been so well received by the homeless is because we have strived to offer our care as we would ourselves like to receive it. Yet the clients offer GFC challenges as well.

Over and over, homeless clients asked for coordination of services so that they would not have to perform numerous intake/assessment forms that vary from place to place or face different eligibility and performance rules.

The revelations of how hard it is to turn things around for the homeless person were striking.

■ Those seeking shelter must have identification (drivers license, birth certificate, etc.) to stay for more than just a day or two.

■ For those not able to get into a shelter, there is no soup kitchen or facility serving breakfast.

■ Those with children and substance abuse problems must choose between their children and obtaining detox or rehab because no local facilities can accommodate children.

■ There is a long wait for substance abuse programs so once a person sobers-up in the jail or limited charitable facilities, they must go back to the environment that fosters substance abuse for weeks before they can be taken for rehab.

■ There are limited places for personal hygiene (brushing teeth, showers, and washing clothes) during the day. The Horizon Center can not accommodate those needing this service any longer.

■ There is no place to put into storage ones belongs if evicted.

Reflexions

... a little girl named Liza was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, : " Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liza."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in a bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give her *all* his blood.

-from *Chicken Soup for the Soul* by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen

