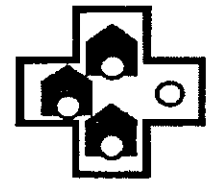


GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

NEWS



Volume 8 Issue 6

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

October, 1995

◆ Community Award

GFC Receives Blue Horizon Award in Health

At a gala for the Hudson Institute sponsored by the accounting firm Blue & Company, Gennesaret Free Clinic received recognition as an innovator in health care. Judged by a prestigious panel from the Hudson Institute and health care leaders, the Blue Horizon Award is presented in three categories. GFC was awarded the "medical effectiveness knowledge" award for "efforts to develop, use, or communicate information about effective medical technology, processes or practices." Other winners were Indiana Organ Procurement Organization for coordination of transplant services and Greenup Haus of Cincinnati for innovative solutions for housing for the mentally ill.

The award was an original art sculpture in blue glass that is on display in the GFC Administrative Offices.

The award presentation was an opportunity to promote the work of GFC to community leaders in accounting, law, health administration, and community planning.

GFC members should be proud of how their work is considered a model for solving health problems for the indigent. **Congratulations to GFC volunteers and supporters for recognition well deserved.**

Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

Christmas Giving to GFC

This time of year with cold and snow causes many to consider the harsh lives of the homeless. And in the Spirit of the holidays, many generously remember the poor through a year end gift to GFC. In many ways, **GFC depends on the donations at this time of year.** With so many new programs (womens health case-manager, administration personnel, computerized medical records, and inventory controlled medications) underway or about to start, we need your help now more than ever. Our **individual donations fundraising goal to meet these obligations for year 1995-96 is \$70,000.** Please help meet this goal through your donation. With everyones help, we can! **Thanks for your support.**

◆ GFC Future

Long Range Planning

Let's dream for GFC's future. Who knows what the future will bring? The future is never more uncertain than for the homeless we treat. But the **volunteers and Board of GFC are about to try to make some broad plans for our clinic's next 3 years.**

Approximately, 5 years ago GFC engaged a not-for-profit consultant to analyze our organization. At that time, recommendations to improve fundraising so that more consistent administration and oversight of programs could be achieved were made. These were lofty goals then, but have become reality now.

But thinking ahead, we must **assess our strengths and weakness in order to prepare ourselves for the opportunities and challenges to come.** It is time to reaffirm, re-think, and adjust our objectives.

Volunteers and interested persons are requested to attend a long range planning retreat on **Saturday January 20, 1996** to contribute ideas and shape the direction for GFC. The event will take place from 8:30 AM until about 3:00 PM at a location yet to be announced. Please call the GFC office at 262-5645 to obtain details and to receive preparatory materials.

If you cannot attend but have ideas, call them in as well. And please remember this process in your prayers.

◆ News

Pharmacists help GFC

Each of seven GFC mini-pharmacies now has a GFC pharmacist. After preparation and inservicing, 13 pharmacists will be contributing their skills at GFC sites. There are significant plans to thoroughly organize the GFC supplies with a formulary and computer inventory underway with the help of these volunteer pharmacists.

The following pharmacists will staff these sites:

Salvation Army Adult Rehab-Cynthia Green, Angela Gruden

Care Center-Donna Wall, Joleen Blacksten

Dayspring Center- Laura Need, Gretchen Schassberger, Margaret Stratford

Holy Family Shelter- Larry & Alice States

Allison Community Center- Denise Ayre

Lighthouse Mission- Julie Quinn, Jenny Jackson

GFC Mobile Unit- Lois Pinckley

GFC Annual Meeting

Get out your calendar and mark this date. Wednesday February 7, 1996 will celebrate the 8th Anniversary of GFC and will be our Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Eli Lilly Corporate Offices in Indianapolis from 6 - 8 PM. Please save the evening on your schedule.

Wish List

Could you help us obtain these needed items?

Inhalers, crutches, 35mm projector & screen, toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc).

Welcome to new GFC Volunteers

Since our last newsletter, we wish to welcome the following new health professionals.

Sheila Fish RN, Jane Boreschenstein DDS, Peggy Walsh RN, Priscella McGraw RN, Ned Horback MD, Jean Hornback RN, and the pharmacists listed to the left.

New GFC Donors

Since our last newsletter, many thanks to our generous donors:

Pamela Budny, Inland Container, Wayne Jones, Dr & Mrs David Latz, Dr James and Linda Trippi, Dr & Mrs Richard Schnute, Mr & Mrs Julius Culpepper, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Indiana University Medical Student Council Charity Foundation, Church of St Pius, Mr & Mrs Jack Lockhart in memory of Anne Battreall

We are so grateful to the following donors for their in-kind donations:

Tish Brafford - toothbrushes
Bethel Lutheran Womens Quilting-hygiene products and socks
Tom Brown - name tags
David Need MD - soap samples
Gerald Walthall MD, Indy Otolaryngology - exam table
Ron Battreall - transportation of supplies
Marilyn Burris - ventilation masks for each clinic and van
Lois & Paul Pinckley - lights for mobile unit, printing needs

Director's Column

by Rebecca Seifert

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. . . "

This quote reminds me that the only thing that is certain in life is change. Change can be something we look forward to or something that has life altering consequences. Change can bring about a number of reactions in each of us. Some of these reactions propel us to great heights. Others to great depths. Change can bring us closer to God and in some cases can cause us to turn our backs on God.

While some changes in our life we have no control over, we do have control over how we react to change. And

herein lies the challenge of living. I have always been intrigued by people who seemingly beat the odds. I guess that's why I always root for the underdog. For example, AIDS patients who have lived beyond the normal life expectancy and continue to live full lives, or people with other life threatening illnesses, disabilities or formidable circumstances and who continue on --- not having a pity party - but living each day to its fullest. Again to quote another old adage, " is your cup half empty or half full." Truly, our perspective on life governs our reaction to change. May your cup always be half full.

Personnel Profiles

by Mary Ann Wyand

Gennesaret Free Clinic volunteers **Chuck and Donna O'Donnell**, have been with GFC "since the beginning."

A registered nurse, Donna works for the **Storer Schmidt and Associates** cardiology group in Indianapolis. Chuck is a communications professional employed by **American Cablevision**.

"I started working at GFC the first night," Donna said. "I think we started the ministry on Ash Wednesday in 1988. **All Saints Episcopal Church** (on the near-northside) used to let homeless men sleep in their church at night. We took a trunk of medicines there. They had a cot set up in the children's playroom, and we saw whoever came in for medical care. I remember we went to All Saints Church every Wednesday during that Lent."

The health care ministry to the homeless and poor grew quickly, Donna said. "People just volunteered. **Pam Powers**, who was Dr. Trippi's secretary at the time, helped us assemble the medicines and get a trunk. We had a closet at the office for extra medicines. Volunteers would come to the office and pick up the trunk. That's how it all started. Pam did the first scheduling arrangements as the volunteer numbers grew and we added more trunks. Volunteers carried those heavy trunks around in their cars."

As the ministry grew, the need for additional medicines and trunks became apparent so Donna and Pam coordinated the distribution of pharmaceutical supplies. Soon volunteers were picking up supply trunks and **staffing GFC clinics at the All Saints Church (now Dayspring Center), the Good News Mission, the Lighthouse Mission, and the Salvation Army Adult Rehab Center.**

"I was just thrilled to be part of it," added Donna. "It was never a sacrifice. It's just like what everyone says about being involved in Gennesaret. Everything you get back is so much more than you give. **It's not just the poor people, it's also the volunteers who inspire me**, particularly when the doctors or nurses would pray with the people and encourage them."

Since the clinics inception, Donna has continued to provide pharmaceutical support by helping sort and stock medicines and recruit friends as volunteers. From primitive beginnings in a closet at the cardiology offices to damp basement drug storage in a city homeless shelter to GFC's present warehouse provided through the generosity of the AFL-CIO, Donna's organizational skills have made the system run. She has served on the GFC Board of Directors also.

"I was so glad when we finally got the closets and could leave the medicines at the clinic sites," she said. "I can tell story after story about how medicines we needed would arrive miraculously. **We've never wanted anything that God hasn't provided for us,**" noted Donna. She and Chuck

are active members of Christ the King Parrish.

Donna's husband shares her love of GFC's health care ministry for the homeless and poor. Chuck recruits **Dick Ryan and other friends** to help him haul expired medications from the GFC warehouse to **St. Francis Hospital** in Beech Grove, where the Sisters of St. Francis coordinate the delivery of outdated but still usable medicines to the Third World countries for distribution.

"GFC volunteers, primarily some **Butler University pharmacy students**, go through the entire inventory at the warehouse and take out the outdated drugs," Chuck said. "I go over to the pharmacy on a monthly basis and pick up the expired drugs and take them to St. Francis Hospital. The nuns there ship them to a Third World country. All I have to do is call Dick (Ryan) and tell him I need his truck. Dick or one of his sons will drop it off at the warehouse or meet me there and we'll load the truck together. Then I call the **security people at St. Francis** and we meet them at the hospital loading dock to unload the medicine. The security people at St. Francis are so cooperative and nice. **I've also recruited people at American Cablevision to help out.**"

Chuck admits that he "tries to keep a low profile," like most of the GFC volunteers who enjoy helping with the ministry but do not seek recognition for their gifts of time and talent.

"**The volunteers just think it's such a good cause and they do it because they like to help,**" Chuck said. "They don't look for any praise. They just look at it as a job that's needed and as an opportunity to help people."

