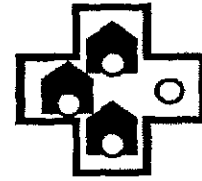


GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

NEWS



Volume 9 Issue 4 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 December, 1996

Volunteer Benefits

CME Credits for Volunteer MDs

Physicians are required to earn continuing medical education credits for board certification, hospital privileges, and to maintain competency within their disciplines. To attend courses, physicians must take time off of work, travel to the course and pay registration fees.

Now through an innovative program through GFC and **Indiana University School of Medicine Medical Education and Resource Program (MERP)**, volunteer physicians can earn CME credits for their time serving the poor. **Drs. Steven Jay and Beverly Hill** feel that the unique learning that takes place in serving the poor should be recognized as an educational experience. The patient encounters, unique patient needs, the frustrations of inadequate resources, and the inventiveness needed to serve the poor is different from most of physicians day-to-day routine.

The program to offer CME credits will begin in January 1997. It will offer 1 CME credit for each volunteer hour served. To receive CME credit, the physician will need to fill out a 1 page form and recount an anecdote about the the volunteer experience. This could be a paragraph about a client's special needs and how they relate to their illness or a recounting of how a patient (continued page 3)

Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

Annual Appeal

Each year at this time, GFC sends an appeal letter to friends and volunteers. This year an extensive mailing was put out by Mary Jo Battreal, Jewel and Duane Ettiene. Their hard work will get the word out to many about the work we do.

As volunteers we often concentrate on our session and can forget that there are another 40 medical and 12 dental sessions each month. Now with mostly purchased generic medications and supplies, our overhead is higher. Also, there are now 2 full time and 3 part-time GFC employees providing computerized medical records, womens' case management, and administrative assistance to volunteers and clients.

We are very much dependent on year-end contributions to get us through the year. Please consider GFC and our clients when you make your charitable decisions.

Medical Clinics News

Mentor Program for GFC Clinics Set to Start

A new program to assist GFC clinic volunteers with orientation and to aid on site problems will begin shortly. Each of our seven GFC clinic sites will have an experienced GFC volunteer who has been especially involved and familiar with that site. This mentor's responsibility will be to assist new volunteers with orientation on-site, field any site specific complaints, interface with shelter personnel, maintain clinic environment, assure medical supply availability, and contact volunteers regularly for feed-back. It is hoped that by having these persons committed to seeing that each clinic site operates appropriately, that GFC volunteers will have a direct link to addressing problems. Hopes are that GFC volunteers will also sense that their work is needed and appreciated by this more personal contact by their Shelter Mentor.

The following persons have agreed to serve as mentors:

Care Center - Tuesday: Jean Campfield and Becky Lane

Salvation Army Adult Rehab: Linda Bee and Julie Benson

Dayspring: Paige Brinegar and Mardi Mazzuca

Lighthouse - Monday: Lisa Borenstein and Becky McCanna

(Continued page 3)

◆ News

Here's What's New

Testing for diabetes will be easier with a program set up by **Boehringer Mannheim**. They will providing **Accucheck Advantage Meters**, strips, and disposable lancets for 6 GFC offices. Some GFC nurses have been trained in the use of these instruments. For further details, call the GFC office.

The GFC asthma clinic continues to offer specialized care for adults through the work of **Colleen Ciampa, RN**. Now a pediatric asthma clinic has begun through the organization and implementation of **Martha Nickel, RN**. GFC clients are seen on Friday at Dayspring Center. This is such a needed service because of the high incidence of asthma among inner-city youths. If you wish to refer clients for complete testing, education, treatment and follow-up, call the GFC office for more details.

Save Wednesday, February 12 at 6 PM on your calendar for the GFC Annual Meeting. This year will be a special treat for GFC members. Preliminary plans for a VIP speaker have been made. You won't want to miss this event!

The Health Care for the Homeless and Poor featured speakers **Patricia Letke, PA** and **Art Jones, MD**. Both had inspiring talks that were both educational and thought provoking. Pat Letke talked about her clients with one story after another about the homeless of Washington, D.C. Art Jones gave a provoking message about the issues of health care for the poor. If you missed these talks

because you could not make the conference, you can order a video tape of the presentation. This is not a fund raiser (infact, GFC loses quite a bit offering this service), but we provide these videotapes at much less than the cost to produce and duplicate. These speakers are highly recommended and the tapes are of broadcast quality for your viewing. Call the GFC office to reserve a tape.

Several GFC volunteers have remarked that the new system of providing **generic prescription medications** through computerized inventory control is working well. This provides a consistent and dependable formulary. Thanks so much to the medical services committee of GFC with **Lois Pinkley, Cheryl Hernandez, all the GFC pharmacists, and Rebecca Seifert** for all the work and logistics in setting this up.

The computerized medical records system through Wishard Hospital Information System continues to take shape. Shortly, medications will be listed on the print out and we will be able to track clients from one GFC site to another.

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in late August, a young man and woman came to the GFC mobile unit to get vitamins and seek minor medical aide. The two had been trying to make the best of things after their families would not support them. They were so committed to each other and had high hopes for the future. They had tried to get housing assistance and were far down on the list, all the shelters were full and they could not get in. They had to sleep on the streets together for protection and warmth but they thought that they could make it off the streets tomorrow because he planned on the day job he would work to provide enough money to get a cheap hotel room for the night. All this stress and difficulty for a young man and his woman friend who was 5 months pregnant! The GFC team tried to call and arrange shelter placement without success. Does the story sound familiar? Two thousand years later, some children still come into the world to parents who can find no one to take them in. It wasn't romantic centuries ago to be born in a stable; it is outrageous that a man and pregnant woman must sleep out in the rain in this wealthy country today.

Director's Column

With the coming of autumn, I am reminded of that the Holidays are just around the corner. It is during these times, that people often make an extra effort that wouldn't ordinarily be made the rest of the year. While I am pleased people make the effort, I am proud to say I head up an organization of individuals who give unselfishly of their time throughout the year. Gennesaret Free Clinic provides a major portion of the health care to homeless and poor persons in our city. We are open twelve months a year, in the evenings and on weekends. It is

through the dedication and hard work of our volunteers that we have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of the people we touch.

In other words, through your caring and compassion you bring hope and healing to a group of people who are often neglected. Thank you for sharing yourself and your gifts with your brothers and sisters. You are truly appreciated for everything you do. Thank you for making our clinic work.

Happy Holidays!
Rebecca Seifert

Respiratory and Flu Season Strains Homeless

This is the time of year when colds, bronchitis, influenza, and sinusitis are rampant among our GFC clients. Each year we see many more adults and children at this time of year, prescribe more antibiotics, inhalers, and decongestants than at any other time of year. The general public certainly is more susceptible; our poor and homeless clients are even more at risk. Due to exposure to cold and close quarters in shelters with others with illness, the homeless are particularly vulnerable to respiratory disease.

In many cases, GFC volunteers are the only access to medical care that our clients have. **It is vital that in these next few months that every GFC session be covered.** If you are unable to make your assigned session, please make arrangements for coverage. It is important to notify the GFC office about any schedule change as well.

Please attend all assigned GFC sessions, instruct clients to wash hands, cover their mouths when coughing, take their medications as prescribed, and report any protracted illness at future sessions. Anyone not receiving flu shots at the Shelter Health Fair can receive them from the Marion County Health Department.

CME Credits (cont.)

views illness in respect to other more pressing problems. These stories of volunteer experiences will serve as a mental debriefing and the extra reflection will also serve as an educational experience. The form should only take 15 minutes to complete.

The forms for this program will be distributed to physicians with instructions on where to send them once completed. This unique volunteer benefit will be a way for many GFC volunteers to get between 10 and 20 CME credit hours per year.

Womens' Case Management

How do you get to a medical appointment when you are living in a homeless shelter and have 3 kids to care for?

How do you get a mammogram when you feel a mass even when you don't have the money? How can adequate nutrition be assured for an elderly woman in a downtown hotel? These are problems that come up for our GFC woman's case manager, Sharon Swem when assisting in providing health education, preventative health screening, and connecting clients to services to which they are entitled. This program was funded through a one year grant by the Fannie Mae Foundation of Washington, D. C. The GFC program was chosen as one of ten programs for funding in 1994. Recently, the results of this program were presented at a national meeting for foundations and grantees. Our case manager has seen 430 clients with 130 interventions this year. A case load of 23 clients is carried by our part-time case manager. Because of its innovative concept and good results, the program was considered a success by the Fannie Mae Foundation. It is our contention that many female clients enter the health system through our GFC case manager's efforts. GFC has committed to continue this program through private donations and a partial grant by St. Vincent Hospital.

Mentors (cont)

Lighthouse - Thursday: Betsy and Jim Bache

Holy Family: Micci Richardson, Christine Pierle and Cindy Munerol

Sunday Van: Marge Bertrand

Please note that we still need experienced volunteers to help as mentors. One is needed for the Sunday van and two for the Saturday van.

GFC Donors

Your continued support allows GFC to purchase generic medications, hire case managers and administrative staff, and provide needed medical supplies to the poor and homeless. GFC has been blessed by the following donors since the last newsletter:

Diamond Sponsors

Carpenter Better Homes and Gardens Realty
St. Vincent Hospital Advocacy for the Poor
Hackl Charitable Trust
Dr & Mrs James Trippi

Silver Sponsors

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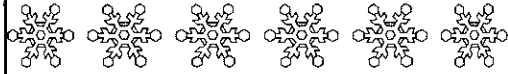
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Alma Mocas
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Dr Paul Skierczynski
Duane & Jewell Etienne (In Memory of Raymond Seifert)
Caroline N. Gross
Mary Jane Caito & Mary Ann Tobin (In Memory of Raymond Seifert)
Donna & Chuck O'Donnell (In Memory of Raymond Seifert)

In kind donations:

Electrocardiograph by Dr A. Alan Fischer
Free lab services by Diagnostic Cytology Laboratories, Carol C. Eisenhut, MD

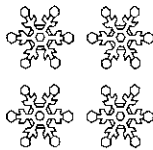
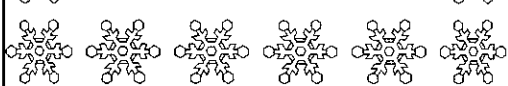
Welcome to New GFC Volunteers!



The "old guard" wishes to welcome our new GFC volunteers as they begin their service to the poor. New GFC volunteers since the last newsletter are listed below:

Chad Stoller, driver
 Patricia Chiamas, MD
 Deborah Brese, clerk
 Mary Ann Buckley, RN
 Jenny Fernsler, RN
 Judy Wegener, RN
 Michelle Durkin, clerk/driver
 Amy Carter, MD
 Teresa Parli, MD
 Loreta Sales, RN
 James Bolton, MD
 William Black, MD
 Steven Vorhies, MD
 Eunice Lee, RN
 Alan Cicora, MD
 Erik Grothouse, DDS
 Isabel Vahedi, DDS

Welcome one and all!



Reflections

It's Not Over

It is not over this birthing,
 there are always newer skies
 into which God can throw stars.
 When we begin to think that
 we can predict the Advent of God,
 that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem
 that's just the time that God will be born
 in a place we can't imagine
 and won't believe.
 Those who wait for God
 watch with their heart
 and not their eyes
 listening, always listening
 for Angel words.

Ann Weems
 from the book

Kneeling in Bethlehem, Westminster Press 1980

Dear Volunteer :

This year Gennesaret Free Clinic was honored to have Pat Letke, PA of the Year 1995 and Dr. Art Jones, Founder of Lawndale Christian Center of Chicago, IL as the keynote speakers at our 6th annual Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference held on September 28th.

At this time, we would like to give you an opportunity to purchase a one and half hour video of their talks for only \$ 7.50, the cost of shipping and handling. The speakers have approved this videotape for general distribution as an educational service only.

Pat Letke, PA is a member of Washington D.C.'s Health Care for the Homeless Program. In Washington, D.C. the homeless population is estimated to be between 14,000 - 17,000. Pat's talk mixes facts, compassion and humor to portray life on the streets in our nation's capitol.

Dr. Art Jones is the Founder of Lawndale Christian Health Center of Chicago, IL. He is a spokesperson in the area of health care for the poor. Dr. Jones speaks earnestly for the needs of the poor, the impact of welfare reform and of the responsibility of health care professionals to them.

We believe that you will want to have a copy of this inspiring and thought provoking video for your video library. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Sincerely,

James A. Trippi, M.D.
Gennesaret Free Clinic
Founder & President

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Shipping and Handling
\$ 7.50

Check or money order only to GFC - Videotape

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