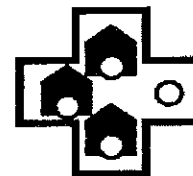


◆ GENNESARET FREE CLINIC ◆

NEWS



Volume 9 Issue 5 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58 Jan-Feb., 1997

9th Year Celebration

GFC Annual Meeting at Garfield Conserv.

To conclude our 9th year and look ahead to what we can do together in this next, GFC will hold its Annual Meeting. This year's event will be on Wednesday, February 5th from 6 to 8 PM at the Garfield Conservatory at 2140 Shelby Street.

We will survey where we have been and where we are going. This year we will announce a very important direction that GFC will take; an announcement that will be important to all GFC volunteers but especially to the homeless clients that we serve.

This will be a time to celebrate, enjoy light refreshments, meet other GFC volunteers, meet new GFC Board Director, Kimberly Parker, and to see the freshly renovated Garfield Conservatory. This large indoor green house and tropical plant display will be a welcome respite from this winter's frigid temperatures.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. John Chris Bailey, who has served the State of Indiana as Commissioner of Health for the last eight years. As a long time GFC friend and concerned citizen for health care for the poor, he will reflect on the qualities needed in today's health care providers.

Please R.S.V.P. to the GFC office as soon as possible. Hope to see you all there!

Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

GFC Mission Statement

We are health care professionals and other concerned individuals who have heard a calling to offer our talents, time, and training to the homeless and indigent. Through our volunteer efforts, we endeavor to provide competent, accessible, and compassionate health care to the needy of Indianapolis, Indiana. Our faith moves us to show special respect and dignity to those who have been neglected; for we realize it is in such a healing encounter, that we are all made more whole by God.

◆ New GFC Process

Medical Records Forms

We have all seen the new medical record forms now being used in our clinics. Here are a few pointers on them and the reasons for the changes.

1. A new history and physical form must be filled out for every patient, new or established at least once. This will allow GFC to enter that patient into the Wishard Neighborhood Computer Network so we can obtain labs, xray results and information on other clinic visits around the city.
 2. A new release form must be signed by each patient/guardian once - to enable GFC to access the computer network on that patient.
 3. Please do not refile charts into the file boxes; leave them in the folder marked "Charts to be processed." These charts are then picked up by Cheryl, our GFC medical records professional, who will process the information so that a record of tests results, medications, and appointments will be generated for the next visit.
 4. Referral forms are available; Put the white and yellow copies in the patients chart - this will serve as an order. The GFC office will make the appropriate arrangements and the results will appear the referral section of each patients chart.
 5. Please record volunteer names on the log sheet and fill out forms completely.
- Thanks to all for your work in making our records more complete.

Clinics at Dayspring Center, Lighthouse Mission, Salvation Army Adult Rehab, Holy Family Shelter, Ada's Place and Mobile Unit. Office at Indianapolis Medical Society, 631 E. New York Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202 Phone (317) 262-5645. Rebecca Seifert- Executive Director

◆ News

**What's News
around GFC**

In this winter's icy blast, **hypothermia** is a serious health concern for GFC clients. Because risk factors for hypothermia include mental illness, alcohol abuse, and prolonged exposure to the elements, GFC clients should be counseled in preventative measures. Adequate protection is available in all shelters during the cold months. For someone obviously not able to protect themselves in the cold, a **call to the police** will get them transportation to a shelter.

Dental needs are great for GFC clients because circumstances do not often allow for daily brushing, good nutrition, restorative care or regular dental check ups. **Sharon Swem, MSW, CCSW** our GFC case manager has been working on getting dentures for 2 women through **Donated Dental Services, IU School of Dentistry**. The waiting list is long and restricted. One woman who is clinically depressed told Sharon, "I can't even smile because I have no teeth." Another woman, a victim of domestic abuse, feels very self conscious and this has made her hesitant to look for work (even though she has marketable skills). The full cost of dentures is about \$400.

GFC dental clinics are always full. If you are aware of potential GFC volunteer dentists, please let us know.

Many thanks our dentists who volunteer their time at GFC clinics.

Our deepest sympathy to GFC volunteer **Patty Miller** and family on the tragic death of their son **Adam**. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Dr. **Mat Vega** will be leaving Indianapolis in February. He has served the poor and homeless through People's Homeless Initiative Program for the past 9 years. His work as physician and advocate for the homeless has brought about many improvements. All GFC doctors have heard about Dr. Vega from their homeless clients who attest to his good care. GFC wishes Mat the best in his future endeavors.

This year's **Shelter Health Fair** was a record breaker! Our annual event to provide preventative health care was held earlier this year in order to coincide with the VA's Thanksgiving event for the homeless. Held in late November instead of December, it was earlier in the flu season as well. Ordinarily the shelter health fair has provided services to around 500 to 550 clients. **This year more than 700 clients were seen.** They received screening for tuberculosis, HIV infection and immunizations and flu/pneumonia vaccines. Dental work was arranged for at the "**Dental Blitz**" for those

needing restorations or extractions after the shelter health fair screening. GFC volunteer dentist, **Bill Tellman, DDS** notes that many received needed dental attention at this event. Likewise more than 150 persons failed screening and were set up for prescription lenses. In the past only about 50 persons needed glasses at the shelter health fair. GFC provides all the funds for this service.

For this coming year we will strive to provide even more preventative care and consider screening for prostate cancer, women's health needs, skin cancer, foot needs, and housing requirements.

If you know of potential sponsors for this event, please let us know. We hope that through better preventive health that the burden of poor health for the homeless can be eased.

**New GFC
Volunteers**

GFC would like to welcome the newest volunteers: **Peony Yee, DDS** and **Kelly Hodges, clerk/driver**. Welcome!

Director's Column

It is time to open the door on a new year. The possibilities awaiting us out on the horizon, in part, will be left up for us to create... to make happen. I find this challenge to be re-invigorating and uplifting. The act of creating, of making things happen requires decisions and some decisions will be hard to make. Decisions require seeking out the truth, gathering all the facts and from there formulating a plan. Certain decisions will be easy to settle for, because they will seem so right. Someone said if is right, it is easy. Don't believe it. Discerning the truth is often a difficult task. Sometimes in the face of truth we

want to waiver and opt for complacency. I would like to challenge each of you in this new year, to be one of the those individuals who does not squint against the challenge of truth. There is a truth to every facet of life. Find out what it is and fight to gain it in the new year.

by Rebecca Seifert

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The GFC Annual Appeal has produced a wonderful response that will enable us to continue on into 1997. Thanks to all (listed below) who have contributed to GFC since the last newsletter.

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 Betty Stockton - Southwood Assembly of God Church: care packages with socks, gloves, hats, gloves, long underwear and sweatshirts
 Marketing Dept Community East: first aid kits, tee shirts and pens
 Rev. Scott Smith: hygiene items
 Louise Teter, Becky Keller, Kylie Colquitt: Prep of gift bags
 Medical Society Alliance: gift bags.