

# GENNESARET FREE CLINIC

## NEWS



Volume 10 Issue 1 "And all those who touched Him were healed." Mark 6:58

April, 1997

### New Program Possible

## GFC Investigates New Health Recovery Program

**I**f you have been in the hospital lately as a patient, you know that the intensive therapy and medical-surgical care is only the first step in getting better. Most people after a case of pneumonia, an appendectomy, or injury spend weeks at home with the help of family members to fully recover. **But what do you do if you are homeless?**

The shelter directors and others involved with care of the homeless have long **recognized the need for a program to facilitate post-hospitalization recovery.** Gennesaret Free Clinic is now investigating the possibility of providing such a service. This **"health recovery program"** has the potential to improve the health of many homeless clients who presently have no place and nobody to help in their recuperation. We are excited in the possibilities that such a program could make for our patients. We are also aware of the awesome responsibility and demands that such a program would entail.

A task force of six GFC members and multiple consultants have been meeting over the past several months on this project. We are just in the planning stages and are **seeking input from interested persons.** Please send comments and ideas to GFC. And please pray for this program.

### Volunteer Health Care for the Poor and Homeless

## GFC Needs Dentists

Our GFC physicians and nurses know the urgent state of our patients dental needs. Often patients come to the GFC medical clinics in search of medications to relieve pain from advanced dental disease. The state of dental disease interferes with good self-esteem, good nutrition, and is often a source of chronic pain and infection. **GFC patients need dental care!** GFC has provided dental care at 3 sites (Dayspring, Care Center, and Holy Family Shelter) for several years. With meager equipment, our GFC dentists have provided great service to hundreds of clients. **But now many of our dental volunteers have left.** In hopes of encouraging them back and drawing new ones, we have updated our equipment and provided state of the art facilities. **Now we need volunteer dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants!** If you know a dentist or assistant who can give two hours once a month or every other month to help the homeless, GFC patients desperately need their talents and services. Please consider asking them and we will contact them to arrange times and locations to suit them. Thanks!

## GFC Gets SOS Glasses Grant

**T**he Indianapolis Star-News Season of Sharing has announced GFC has been awarded \$5,000 for a grant to provide eye glasses to the homeless. GFC screens for vision deficits at our annual Shelter Health Fair. But many are unaware that GFC refers patients throughout the rest of the year for vision testing and corrective lenses. This very needed service allows many poor and homeless the gift of sight. The glasses allow many homeless to seek employment and even to see the job application. In many cases of nearsightedness when glasses are lost or broken, a new pair is essential just to function.

Through the gift from the Season of Sharing, GFC will be able to refer upto 100 persons to Indianapolis EyeCare and private ophthalmologists for examination and glasses.

GFC physicians and nurses should be alert for patients needing corrective lenses. As with all referrals, **fill out the referral form in the clinics and leave it with the patients chart** for Cheryl our medical records specialist to retrieve it and begin the process. Another alternative is to leave a **message on the GFC answering machine.** Just call from your clinic site and leave the details on your referral. The instructions are located by the phones.

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 New at GFC

**M**ary Jo Battreall has assumed full-time administrative assistant duties for GFC. Mary Jo has been sharing this position with Jewell Etienne for the past 2 1/2 years.

Recently, Jewel resigned her position to be able to spend more time with her art work and to travel. We appreciate all of Jewel's work these past years and wish her well. Thanks to Jewel for her years of service and to Mary Jo who now steps into this full-time responsibility.

**D**r. Mark and Sharon Darst will be providing a new service to the Quest for Excellence programs **Ada's Place and Wings**. These programs provide shelter and assistance to women and victims of abuse. GFC will have clinics twice a month out of the GFC mobile unit and the Ginny O'Brien medical room. This added service to these women will be a valuable aid in their recovery.

**A**nnouncing the arrival of Olivia Caroline Malone! GFC Board of Director **Paul and wife Jennifer** received their new 4 lbs. 7oz. daughter a month early. Congratulations!

**T**he new formulary is being planned for the GFC mobile unit. Since this facility dispenses so many prescription medications and supplies, physicians please return your recommendations for changes to the proposed formulary.

**D**ates to keep in mind for upcoming GFC events: June 13, 1997 - Carpenter Better Home

and Garden Realty - GFC Golf Tournament, July 13-20 - Black EXPO, September 13, 1997 - Health Care for the Homeless and Poor Conference, November 17, 1997 - Annual Shelter Health Fair

**S**hortly, GFC will be in the process of putting a professional video together to introduce the public and new members to our services in volunteer health care. **Anthem Health of Indiana** has generously underwritten this production. You may be interviewed or filmed during your session in the next few months. Please help with this effort to show the community what good work you are doing. The video will be done in two formats: one of 5 minutes in length for meetings and interested persons, including new volunteers, and one of 30 or 60 seconds to be used as a public service announcement on television and cable stations offering that service. Thanks to Anthem and the GFC "volunteer stars" for making this possible!

## New GFC Volunteers

GFC is proud to welcome the following new volunteer health professionals. The health of our community will be better for their efforts. We hope that your experience will be inspiring and challenging to you for years to come.

Michael J. Bode, MD  
Robert D. Deitch, MD  
Jane Bonwell, RN  
Erik Grothouse, DDS  
Betty Stockton, Med Asst.  
J. Daniel Stanley, MD  
Judy Jones, RN  
Barbara Thomas, Clerk  
Lynn Little, RN  
Mark Darst, MD  
Sharon Darst, RN  
Eunice Lee, RN  
Isabel Vahedi, DDS  
Stephan Zentner, MD

Welcome one and all!

## New GFC Donors

Since our last news letter, GFC has received donations from the following generous contributors. Thanks so much for providing health care to the poor and homeless.

**Diamond Sponsors**  
Dr Kathleen McMurray  
Dr & Mrs Richard Hahn  
Cummins Employees Comb. Charities  
**Gold Sponsors**  
A. B. & Nini Webb  
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Dr William Loveall, Dr James Haines  
Dr Karl Baird, Dr Alan Adler  
Dr Linda Landin, Dr George Klutinoty  
Dr William Pohnert, Richard Eggleston  
St Vincent Occupational Health  
Mark Eric Young, Dr Donna Meade  
Dr Donald Baird  
Dr Craig Cieciora, Dr Tom Krizmanich

## Dr Chris Bailey Addresses GFC Annual Meeting

This years Annual Meeting was held at the Garfield Park Conservatory thanks to several GFC volunteers and clients from Lighthouse Mission. They paid for the event through "sweat equity" work on the grounds last summer. Garfield manager Parks Pifer opened the facility 1 month before the official re-opening so that we could have our meeting.

Former Indiana State Health Commissioner, Dr. John "Chris" Bailey addressed those attending the Annual GFC meeting. About GFC, Bailey recalled the words of Disraeli: "The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and powers as a state depend." Words were no more pertinent in his day than they are today, when more and more working people are losing health care benefits, and the homeless and the destitute, that constituency served so generously and graciously by you who volunteer as Gennesaret servants, continued to be ignored. And your mission is, indeed, a holy one."

Dr. Bailey closed with the words from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, "Remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless, or forgotten of their fellow-men. Bless the congregation of thy poor."

## Memorials

Since the last newsletter, the following memorials have been made to GFC. With gratitude and sympathy:

### In memory of Adam Miller:

Medical Malpractice Group of Lock, Reynolds, Boyd, & Weisel; David Allen & John Crank, Mr & Mrs David Cook, Thomas C Doehrman, D Bruce Kehoe & William Winningham, Attorneys; Mr & Mrs Kirk Kavanaugh, Mr & Mrs George Updike, Mary Arlien Findling, Mr & Mrs David Sutton, The Gerald W Mayer Family, Mr & Mrs John J Sullivan, Mr & Mrs Joe N Hobbs, Steven & Nancy Wooden, Dr & Mrs Steven Jay

### In memory of Rev. Edgar Schmidt:

Donna and Chuck O'Donnell

## Reflections

Rose Popovich opened the GFC Annual Meeting with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father,  
Today we gather to celebrate the gifts  
of time, compassion, and knowledge that have allowed us to  
provide service to the those in need.  
We are thankful for the opportunities for each volunteer  
to witness to your love  
and for the openness to receive that witness in our lives.  
In providing a healing touch,  
we have been touched by the lives of our clients.  
In giving our time,  
we have been given the time  
to appreciate the blessings we have received.  
In listening, we have heard your voice  
calling forth our generosity and compassion.  
May each of our volunteers be blessed  
with the peace, strength, and joy  
to continue in service to the poor.  
And may they know the gratitude of the community  
for their generous sacrifice.  
In your Name we pray. Amen

Mark Varnau closed the GFC Annual Meeting with the following prayer:

Abba, Father, Lord God, Mother, Rabbi, Allah, Cosmic Being--  
by whatever Name each of us call you.  
We ask your blessing on:  
The volunteers, staff, and donors of Gennesaret Free Clinic  
especially those honored tonight.  
We ask guidance on the mission of Gennesaret Free Clinic.  
We ask mercy for the downtrodden and sick.  
We plead for an end to the madness of violence in our community  
and especially for those who feel the answer  
to any situation is violence.  
We ask for patience, understanding, and compassion  
in ministering to our clients.  
Please give wisdom to civic community and religious leaders  
that they might keep paramount in their priorities the less fortunate.  
And finally, we beg you  
to hold us in the palm of your hand. Amen.