

Living Well

VIM Receives Community Service Award

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Chattanooga's Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc. (VIM) was recognized by the Tennessee Medical Association with a community service award on Saturday night. This award is given state wide "For Contributions to the Advancement of Better Health in the Community."

Nominated by the Chattanooga and Hamilton County Medical Society, the local representatives receiving the award included Nancy Franks, president; Dr. Robert Bowers, medical director; Barbara Weinhold, former clinic director; and Richard Franks, board member.

VIM serves the low income, uninsured of Hamilton County through a clinic that opened its doors in May, 2005. Since inception, VIM has delivered over \$5 million of health care at clinic rates or an estimated \$20 million at ER rates and logged over 18,000 patient visits, using mainly volunteer physicians and other medical and non-medical volunteers. "On behalf of VIM Chattanooga, we are honored and humbled to have been chosen for this award," states Mrs. Franks. "As a result of our economic times, our patient population continues to increase. We are seeing 50% more patient visits this year than in the same months last year."

VIM receives no government support and therefore is dependant on contributions to sustain operations. VIM is holding its second fundraising banquet on April 27. For more information on VIM, this award, or the banquet visit the website www.vim-chatt.org



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Nancy Franks receives award.