

The logo for VIM-CHATT features the word "VIM" in a stylized, blue, lowercase font with a dot above the 'i'. To its right is a hyphen, followed by the word "CHATT" in a large, bold, black, uppercase serif font.

Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc.
P.O. Box 81057, Chattanooga, TN 37414
Therese Nobles, Editor

Newsletter, August 2005
www.VIM-CHATT.org
Sherry Jennings, Contributing Writer

You are invited to a Volunteer Celebration
When: Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 7 PM
Where: Ridgedale Baptist Church, Christian Life Center
What: Dessert Party
Eloise Litz will be our motivational speaker.
We need YOU there to make the celebration of ALL VIM volunteers complete!

Volunteer Quote. The June 2005 issue of VIM-CHATT, invited all volunteers to share what it has meant to them to serve in the Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga experience. We wish to thank Polly Henry, BS, RN, for allowing us to share her comments.

"I was reading my newsletter (great job!) and decided to respond with a comment about my volunteer experience. Jack was correct about the feeling you get when you volunteer. I love walking through the clinic door to work. I love every minute of being there. It energizes me. I wish I could be there every day! It has been a blessing to help our friends and neighbors. It has been a privilege to get to know the other volunteer nurses and the doctors. We've had some really sharp, committed, caring docs work the clinic; I learn something new from them everyday. And it has been a real treat to hear the meditations and prayers offered by the various pastors who come to start our clinic sessions with prayer. There have been several times I have wished I could "sit at their feet" and hear more. But one thing I hadn't expected was how volunteering at the clinic has refreshed me in my "real job" at the hospital. I haven't quite figured out why that is. It's true that working at the clinic allows me to practice nursing without all the hassles of the hospital so maybe volunteering at the clinic just reinforces why I went into nursing to begin with. Giving direct patient care is where I am best as a nurse. It is how I best express my faith and how I humbly try to be the serving hands of my Savior. I thank God for providing this place where both those who help and those who are in need find hope and healing."

Clinical Services Report, exerts for the three months, May through July 2005:

Screenings – 676

Patient Visits – 489

Estimated value of rendered services - \$70,232. (It is estimated that Emergency Room charges would have been \$140,464 for the same care.)

Medical Provider Sessions – 56 (each session is 4 hours and the clinic is open on three days per week).

Dispensed medications – 553 at an estimated value of \$13,825.

Laboratory services provided by Memorial Hospital Lab – \$9253.

Volunteer Hours - 1,932

Referrals: Project Access - 36
Memorial Breast Center - 21

Additional start-ups:

We continue working on the opening of the dental and eye rooms.

Fund Raising for 2006 is in full swing. We again are going to all our constituencies. Last year the break down by donor type was:

Churches	14%
Individuals	25%
Foundations	29%
Businesses	32%

Foundation leaders and businesses have been visiting the clinic. Most are impressed with the quality of the facilities and the breadth of service that the clinic offers. The enthusiasm of volunteers and professionalism of the staff have also been noted as a hallmark of this clinic.

We believe that churches will become a more important source of funds as we lose start up funding from foundations. If you would like to help us approach your church, or a church with which you have connections, to be included in its church budget, call Nancy (238-9520) or the clinic and leave a message. We already have contacts at these churches:
Baptist: Apison, Bayside, Brainerd, Brainerd Hills, Concord, Fairview, Meadowview, Morris Hill,

See you on October 13th for the Volunteer Celebration!

Oakwood, Olivet, Ridgedale, Silverdale, White Oak, Woodland Park, First, Golden Gateway.

Catholic: OLPH. **Christian:** Hickory Valley.

Episcopal: St. Albans. **Lutheran:** Trinity.

Methodist: Brainerd, Christ, First Centenary, Hixson, Signal Crest, St. Johns, Stanley, Wesley..

Presbyterian: Brainerd, Covenant, Signal Mountain.

Seventh Day Adventist Churches are also covered.

We could use help in approaching small businesses

about donations since their employees are prime beneficiaries of clinic services. If you would like to help, we have the collateral material ready. Call Nancy at 238-9520 and we'll get you started.

As you can see, individual donations are a large part of our funding. Thank you for your continued support.

Volunteer Needs Volunteers are the lifeblood of the clinic. We appreciate every hour and every smile of every volunteer given at the clinic. Thank you so much for your continued dedication to helping your friends and neighbors.

We continue to need additional volunteers in the following areas:

Nurses

X-ray technicians

Physicians

Computer skills

Dentists

If you know individuals that fit the above tell them the VIM story. There's plenty of opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Spiritual Emphasis - Thanks too, to all the pastors who support the clinic by providing a spiritual focus before each clinic session. Your presence, support and comments help us remember that we are here to serve and it gives our patients an insight into the spirit behind the clinic. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Gulf Coast/Katrina Devastation: As we go to press, all of us are dismayed by scenes of the devastation in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast areas. Some of us have family and friends not heard from in days. Our hearts and our deepest felt prayers go out to the victims, the survivors and the rescue workers.

From The Volunteer Directors:

On clinic days we have enjoyed assisting when needed and observing you, our volunteers, in action. We have witnessed: Happy cheerful greetings to the patients; caring hugs and pats on the shoulder when a patient was hurting or concerned; screening volunteers standing in a circle with patients, who had just been screened, holding their hands and praying for them. Other times we have observed volunteers seated on the floor in the children's room reading with a child. Both were so engrossed in the story they did not realize the joy they brought to us as we watched the faces of the children light up during funny or silly parts of the story. We have seen some of you stay long after the clinic was closed to help finish the paper work so a patient would be able to get medications free of charge from a pharmaceutical company. The nurses frequently lighten each other's load by helping out where needed, without waiting for the customary first cry for help. For instance, at times you have held tubes for the nurse doing the blood draw, or prepared a patient for the doctor or added the computer information as needed. We have seen not only nurses and physicians, but also general volunteers demonstrate flexibility as you work with different volunteers or have been pulled to a different task when needed. Some of you have shared great ideas for improvement and have helped us to implement them. Many of you have worked into your very busy schedule a time for VIM. It is GREAT TO WORK WITH YOU!!! One physician stated that we have great volunteers because they are here for the RIGHT reason. We certainly agree and again say THANK YOU.

Although many of you have full schedules, we would like to invite you to come join us as we celebrate and recognize what you, our volunteers, do to help at VIM. This special celebration will take place on Thursday, October 13, at 7:00 pm at Ridgedale Baptist Church in the CLC area. Come join us and meet more of our fantastic VIM volunteers!

See you on October 13th for the Volunteer Celebration!