

# VIM - CHATT

**Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc.**  
**Therese Nobles, Editor**

**Newsletter, February 2005**  
**Sherry Jennings, Contributing Writer**

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**Fund Raising Updates:** In case you weren't able to attend the volunteer meeting last month, we have received notification from the Osborne Foundation that they are granting us our request for the \$75,000 for start up funds!!!! They will give us half of the money in June 2005 and the other half in Sept. of 2005! This makes us about \$37,600 away from the goal of \$432,600 to run us to April 2006.

We still have to keep fundraising and working on the following year of April 2006 to April 2007. Medical supplies and office supplies that have been donated have been delivered to the clinic.

**Facilities:** The facilities committee is arranging for children's bookracks to be installed in the Reading Room by Read Aloud Chattanooga at no cost to the clinic. The racks are unique in that they are made from plastic rain guttering that will permit the front cover of the books to be displayed and attract the children. Art decor is being selected for the walls. The lead shielding for the x-ray room had been installed. Several volunteers have been busy cleaning furniture and donated supplies. The equipment and furniture were moved in early January, and polishing is underway.

**A walk through will be available on Tuesday March 1 from 2-4 PM.** It is very exciting to see the clinic actually looks like a clinic!

**Clinic Needs:** easel, file cabinets. Cleaning of shelving and cabinets. Cleaning of the upholstery on waiting room chairs. The clinic is still in need of several small office desks and file cabinets. Vertical, lockable files are also needed.

**Reading Room:** Linda McReynolds has community contacts and access to programs to help organize the Children's Reading Room. She would like 3-5 people to help her with this. If you like children and like to read, put those two gifts together and help Linda with this so very important project. Call the clinic 855-8220 and let Barbara know of your interest.

**Medical Operations Committee:** Several new physicians have expressed interest in participating as medical volunteers at VIM. They include primary care providers and hospitalists. Holly Gadd from Southern is leading the efforts along with two graduate nursing students to review and collate published treatment algorithms for common disorders that we will likely encounter. The EMR selected for the clinic is Amazing Charts. Check out their web site for more information. Dr. Troy White is working with area eye experts to assemble the eye treatment room and plans. The x-ray facility is well under way, thanks to the heroic efforts of Colin Kelley and the generosity of the benefactor who has renovated the clinic.

**Laboratory, Pharmacy and X-ray Update:** Dr. Philip Polluck of the Memorial Hospital Laboratory has agreed to help us set up our lab, apply for our CLIA waiver, and perform the tests needed for our patients.

Volunteer pharmacists, Leah McDonough and Riley Dickerson, have been in contact with the State Pharmacy Board representatives to determine the state regulations regarding our dispensary. Leah is visiting a free clinic in Nashville to see how they dispense, monitor, and label medications. Project Access has shared information with us about the various drug company plans that offer patient assistance for medication.

Memorial Hospital Radiology has offered to help recruit and schedule licensed X-ray technologists during clinic hours.

**Non-Medical Volunteers Update:** Volunteers continue to be added to our database. Each month the enthusiasm mounts as the non-medical volunteers meet and discuss the avenues of service that will be available at the clinic. Hopefully by the March meeting the Director of Volunteers will actually be able to start the training. If you have others in your church or neighborhoods that are interested in volunteering have them contact us or bring them to the February meeting.

## **Spotlight on Christ United Methodist Church**

We give thanks for Dr. Robert Myers' introducing VIM Chattanooga to Christ United Methodist Church. As quickly as the desire for this clinic swept through the members of Ridgedale Baptist Church, the strong will to serve our community touched Christ Church.

As an area physician, Dr. Myers received an invitation to hear Dr. Jack McConnell speak at Ridgedale Baptist Church in the summer of 2003. After hearing the compelling story about VIM, he asked Dr. Dennis Newman, Senior Minister, and Becky Hall, Director of Ministries at Christ Church, to attend a presentation given by Nancy and Richard Franks about Ridgedale's plans for the local clinic.

Becky and Dennis agreed that Christ Church should join the initiative. It just took one phone call from Becky to convince Dr. McConnell to speak at Christ Church. After hearing Dr. McConnell's story, over 100 volunteers committed themselves to VIM's mission.

Many of those volunteers have taken leadership positions with VIM Chattanooga. Notable contributions came from Dr. Myers in his recruiting efforts, including helping choose Barbara Weinhold as Clinic Director; Mark Draper's clinic design work; Kathy Case, who has been instrumental in our successful grant writing initiatives; Jeff Olingy's lead with the business plan, and Leasa McKay, Todd Byrum, Garry Mac and Anne Ledbetter who have given many hours and fervent effort to the clinic.

VIM Chattanooga is in the heart of Christ Church. The church will continue to offer monetary and volunteer support through sermons, the newsletter and groups like the preschoolers and United Methodist Women who have collected or have plans to collect books for the reading room. Becky Hall also broadened the effort by announcing the clinic at the Methodist Church District Conference followed by a letter to the district churches asking for their support.

We believe Becky speaks for us all when she says, "this is a wonderful avenue for people to become more aware of who lives in their neighborhood. This is a vital mission without having to leave town."

## **Volunteer Spotlight on Ted Bryant**

Ted Bryant offers a can-do attitude to Volunteers in Medicine. Ted has led the procurement efforts for telephones and computer equipment and software for the Chattanooga clinic. Ted retired last year from TVA as a Network Analyst where he acted as Project Manager for the purchase and installation of computer networks and telephone systems.

Ted sought both new and used equipment for our clinic. The computer equipment will be used in the front offices and individual examining rooms. He also was instrumental in procuring the software package for our electronic record keeping system and the telephone system that is now in place.

Ted first became involved with VIM by copying the VCR tapes highlighting the Hilton Head clinic. These tapes are powerful promotional pieces used in presentations to area organizations. He also ran the sound system for early VIM meetings and his involvement kept growing. After several meetings, he knew VIM would need someone to find computer and telephone equipment, so he offered those services, as well.

Ted and his wife, Cheryl, are proud parents of Diane and Jason. Ted and his wife, Cheryl, are proud parents of Diane and Jason. They have a four-year-old granddaughter, Savanna and new-born granddaughter Laura Marie. Diane, her husband, Steve Neil, Savanna and Laura attend Ridgedale Baptist Church with Ted and his wife. Jason is a recent graduate of UT Knoxville.

Ted can't seem to get away from electronics. He has been an avid ham radio operator since high school – talking to people all over the world.

We're blessed to have his skills and valuable time!

**Next volunteer meeting is Thursday,  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
at Christ UMC.**

**Come join our "Culture of Caring."**