

VIM CHATT

Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc.

Newsletter, January 2005

Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, has much for which to be grateful! We are within \$100,000 of having enough to get us from start-up through April of 2006, which is our goal for the present. VIM is thankful for every donation, regardless of size, and many of you have helped.

Several grants have been received. Thanks so much, Fund Raising/Grant Writing Committee and numerous others!

Chattanooga Christian Community Foundation - \$10,000

Benwood Foundation - \$35,000

Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga - \$20,000

Blue Cross/Blue Shield - \$116,000

First Tennessee Bank - \$30,000

Future site for VIM: The Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Board of Directors has unanimously approved a 30-year land lease agreement for 4+ acres @ \$1 per year at the Chattanooga campus. The lawyers are finalizing the agreement, which is renewable.

Barbara Weinhold has been hired as the Clinic Director and she began her duties on January 3rd. Please see the article on reverse side.

VIM will begin interviewing for the position of Director of Volunteers very soon. If you are interested in applying, please call Barbara Weinhold at 855-8220 or 635-5110. The fax number is 855-8330.

Thanks to the efforts of Ted Bryant and Alan Smith, **the clinic now has telephones and computers.** TVA Surplus Property has donated 20; yes, 20 computers and they should be networked and running shortly. Amazing Charts software has been installed and is ready for check out. IDG, the company that Alan Smith works for, has given us a phone system that they recently replaced. It includes voice mail, 9 phones, and intercom. It will hold up to 18 phones. Installation was completed at cost due to the donations of Fred Hammond of East Tennessee Communications.

Our clinic renovation contractor has completed his work. We owe a big "Thank you" to Mr. B. H. Yerbey for his generous contribution. All major work is complete and we are moving furnishings and equipment in. Our Internet is active, and in a few weeks our website will be active. Anyone wishing to volunteer to clean furniture should call Barbara Weinhold at 855-8220 or 635-5110 to schedule a work date.

TennCare update: It is anticipated that 13,000 Hamilton County residents will shortly be added to the rolls of the uninsured due to cutbacks in the TennCare program. VIM Chattanooga could not be starting at a more appropriate time to help many of these friends and neighbors.

Introducing VIM, Chattanooga's Clinic Director

Mrs. Barbara Weinhold officially began her position of Clinic Director for VIM Chattanooga on January 3rd. Well before that date, Barbara spent many hours each week meeting with volunteers, committee chairs and members of the health community to prepare for the May opening of the clinic.

Barbara brings a wealth of experience to the clinic. She holds a Masters in Nursing with a community health focus from The University of Tennessee-Memphis and has many hours of additional vocational and community health training. Barbara worked over 15 years with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department and the Hamilton County School System. Some of the positions she held include Public Health Nurse, School Nurse, Health Occupations Teacher for Howard School of Academics and Technology and Director of Health Services for the Hamilton County Board of Education. She retired in early 2004 from Memorial Health Care System as Coordinator of Health Ministries/Parish Nursing.

The Lord paved the path to fulfill this position straight to Barbara's door. Having just retired earlier in 2004, she was not looking for another full time position. Barbara attended early VIM meetings with the intention of volunteering to provide health education for the clinic's clients. However her substantial community health background, heart for the program, and availability made her a natural candidate for Clinic Director. Barbara and her husband, Fred, thought hard about this important decision. Barbara accepted the offer because she knew there was a great community need for this ministry.

Our new Clinic Director started the year by visiting the Directors of the Hilton Head and Macon VIM clinics. She sees the following weeks being busy coordinating the various clinic functions from telephone systems to hiring a Director of Volunteers and working with the Medical Director. Barbara views the clinic as a complete circle of care - not only a place to come for physical health care, but a place where people feel welcome to share and seek comfort for other things going on in their lives.

Barbara teaches an adult Sunday school class at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hixson. She and Fred have a son, Bob, who lives in Atlanta with his wife and daughters, Bailey, 4 and Emmy, 1. Barbara and Fred also have a daughter, Susan, who lives with her husband in northern Virginia.

Welcome to Volunteers in Medicine, Barbara! We look forward to working closely with you in the months and years ahead!

**The next meeting of all VIM volunteers will be held at 7:00 PM
Thursday, January 27th at Christ United Methodist Church.**

Please join us for a *Culture of Caring*