

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 bold, black, uppercase serif font.

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

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

**Grand Opening: April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM with Dr. Jack McConnell as keynote speaker.** This is your official invitation to be part of this historic and long awaited event!

**Directors of Volunteers:** VIM-CHATT welcomes Marilyn Fore (45%) and Sonia Wrate (55%) as they job-share the position of Director of Volunteers. Marilyn and Sonia applied and were accepted as a team, and just like the Church, the whole will be greater than the individual parts, as each of these ladies brings great and diversified talents. Their objective is to assist individuals and/or groups to experience a higher quality of life using a holistic approach and to provide helpful information and positive support during the transitions that are made in an individual's life.

**Sonia Wrate, RN,** received both her Associate of Science (1983) and her Bachelor of Science (1985) nursing degrees from Southern Adventist University. She brings a wide variety of experiences to her new role as Director of Volunteers. Some of these include: medical/surgical nursing; home health nursing; parish nursing; director of Adventures – a children's church club; and a small business owner. Most recently she was the parish nurse at Second Presbyterian Church. In addition she has helped plan and/or spoken at parish nurse training events and workshops. She is also Director of Pathfinders, a youth group at her church. When not working she enjoys camping, hiking, reading, scrap-booking, swimming and geo-caching with her husband, Steve and two daughters, Kristiana and Jennifer.

**Marilyn Fore, RN,** a graduate of the Hinsdale Hospital School of Nursing, Chicago, has served as a Registered Nurse in several capacities of health ministry. For

the past six years she was the Community Care Nurse/Parish Nurse at the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah. For the previous 10 years she focused on Psychiatric Home Health and Community Health nursing. She experiences satisfaction when providing assistance to those in need, whether physical, emotional or spiritual. Marilyn is very excited to be a part of Volunteers In Medicine. She sees her role of enlisting volunteers in service as fulfilling a vital need in our community. She is married to Jerry. They have shared together the joy of pastoral ministry for many years. Their two adult children live in Chattanooga.

**Non-Medical Volunteer Training:** Dates for non-medical volunteer training are Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM and Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the clinic. You may sign up March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Volunteer meeting or by calling the Clinic at 855-8220.

**Fund Raising Updates:** We have received several donations for which we are grateful. We are thankful for each gift regardless of size. We have received notification from AmSouth that we have been granted a \$10,000 donation.

**Web Site:** The website is nearing completion. Volunteers can see it taking shape at [www.vim-chatt.org/volunteers.asp](http://www.vim-chatt.org/volunteers.asp). Volunteers are also encouraged to participate in the forum discussions. Our forum is [www.vim-chatt.org/forum](http://www.vim-chatt.org/forum) and currently has open registration. Just click on Register, complete the form and Submit.

**Facilities:** We have had volunteers working this month hanging writing boards and corkboards and building computer stands. We received some much-appreciated help from other committee members in assembling office furniture.

**Clinic Needs:** We no longer have a need for donated items with the exception of 2-drawer and 5-drawer file cabinets.

**Medical Operations Committee:** Physicians interested in volunteering should call the clinic, 855-8220.

**Next volunteer meeting is  
Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM  
at Christ UMC.**

**Come join our  
“Culture of Caring”**



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Tennessee**

#### **Highlight on Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee**

**VIM-Chattanooga salutes BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBS) - our largest single contributor and supporter.**

Through its corporate giving mission, BCBS has given us \$116,000 as a one-time project donation. In addition to that significant grant, BCBS provides valuable in-kind services. Those services to date include printing our brochures, business cards and Business Plan.

Ms. Beverly Cosley, Manager of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Health Foundation, gave us a little background on the grant we received. She explained that VIM's grant request did not match the scope of Tennessee Health Foundation funding. The Health Foundation concentrates on statewide, researched-based projects. But, BCBS was so convinced of the need and value of our clinic, they met VIM's request through corporate funding sources.

Ms. Cosley expressed her organization's pleasure in partnering with VIM-Chattanooga. They believe we have an important role in the quality of health for Tennesseans. Ms. Cosley stated that, "we can be a model for what can be done when we all come together." She is also impressed with our volunteers and the number of people committed to this project.

BlueCross BlueShield is looking forward to seeing us reach our benchmarks. They believe this is a common problem shared all over the community. Ms. Cosley went on to say "we're adding to 'aha!' defining moments," showing others it can be done. Ms. Cosley hopes the success of our clinic will gain even more attention from area businesses and organizations. That increased attention can, in turn, lead to additional resources from which we can pull. According to Ms. Cosley, BCBS is excited to see us prosper one community at a time. In her words, "Start small, perfect and grow."

VIM thanks BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and all the staff and volunteers responsible for this wonderful support!