



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

**423/855-8220**

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**www.VIM-CHATT.org**

**Sherry Jennings, Contributing Writer**

### **FROM THE CLINIC DIRECTOR**

VIM, Chattanooga has now been open to see patients for six months. You volunteers and contributors have stepped forward and made a big difference in the lives of our uninsured friends and neighbors! It has been such a pleasure for me to get to know and work with each of you. Scripture tells us that different people have different talents, and thankfully for the clinic, you VIM volunteers have shared your skills and abilities to make this clinic a place of healing and hope.

As Clinic Director I have seen great changes in Suite 1400 from the first time I came into the building. The equipment, computers, furnishings, and books and mural in the Children's Room have transformed the space. Volunteers and staff come each day with smiles, compassion, and caring attitudes. For me personally, it has been one of the hardest and yet most rewarding years of my life. During my job interview, the Board asked me to help get this VIM clinic "up and running" so the uninsured persons of our community could have access to health care. I believe that, with the help of many other people, I have accomplished that task. I have asked the Board to search for a new Clinic Director so I can go back to retirement in January, 2006. I intend to become a VIM volunteer and help the clinic continue to serve the uninsured of Hamilton County.

I want to thank the Board and Leadership Committee for giving me the opportunity to help start this new venture in Chattanooga. Dr. Bowers, Amber, Sonia, Marilyn, and Camille are wonderful colleagues! My deepest appreciation goes to each of them. May God continue to bless all of you and Volunteers in Medicine.

Barbara

**FUNDRAISING For 2006** is in full swing. As of the end of October we are at 73.4% of our 2006 goal of \$424,111, but we still need \$112,730. Everyone's help is needed. If you would like to help with fundraising call Nancy Franks, 238-9520. Remember, donations

are considered charitable contributions by the IRS. You can use the enclosed donation form to gift friends and family during the holidays. Send your donations to VIM-Chattanooga, Inc., PO Box 81057, Chattanooga, TN 37414, or use PayPal under "How to donate" tab on our website. Each donation is greatly appreciated.

**Clinical Services Report**, exerts for the six months, May through October 2005:

**Screenings** – 671

**Patient Visits** – 1,171

**Estimated value of rendered services** - \$210,426

**Medical Provider Sessions** – 160 (each session is 4 hours and the clinic is open on three days per week).

**Dispensed medications** – \$79,966 (retail value per Walgreens.com)

**Laboratory services** provided by Memorial Hospital Lab – \$19,972

**Referrals:** Project Access - 101

Memorial Breast Center - 43

### **FROM THE VOLUNTEER DIRECTORS:**

#### **Volunteer Appreciation Celebration**

We want to thank all of you who joined us on October 13 for this special celebration of you, our volunteers. It was so nice to see you in a relaxed setting and to see the nurses in "real" clothes.

The power point pictures of volunteers in action at the clinic, the Grand Opening and at the Open House truly reflect the compassion and joy you bring not only to our patients, but also to us as staff. Thank you for sharing more of yourselves with VIM!

Those unable to attend missed a delightful evening of fellowship, delicious desserts and an entertaining, inspiring speaker – Eloise Litz. We were inspired to soar like eagles as we give enthusiastically of ourselves and encourage others in ministering to our friends and neighbors.

We want to say a big thank you to Ridgedale Baptist Church for hosting this celebration and the many others who contributed to making this a special evening.

### **Medical Open House**

On Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> we held a special Medical Open House. Special invitations were sent to the medical community, and we had the clinic “in shape”.

We were pleased to have about thirty interested people from our medical community tour and visit with us. Some were given volunteer packets because of their interest in helping at the clinic. One attendee has already started volunteering with us. We feel that there will be more volunteers from this informative occasion.

### **Chamber of Commerce Open House**

We were pleased to have our clinic open on September 21<sup>st</sup> for this Open House. It was nice to have some of the staff from the Chamber here with us. We also had a number of members that came through and were able to ask questions and learn more about our clinic.

Thanks again to those faithful volunteers who made sandwiches and cookies to help make these events special!!

### **Interested in Volunteering?**

If it has been a while since you have come in and volunteered, please give us a call to see what openings we have on the schedule. We have continuing needs for physicians and trained volunteers to work on computers with the pharmacy assistance programs, the dispensary, the exam rooms and in the laboratory.

For those of you who do not fall into one of the above categories and have not been through general orientation, please read our next newsletter regarding future orientations after the first of the New Year.

### **DATES CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Our clinic will be closed during the holidays on the following days: November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> also December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2.

**DR. BOWERS HONORED** Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Silver Ballroom of the Read House and received the Humanitarian Award from Memorial Hospital. Congratulations, Dr. Bowers!

### **THE JACK B. McCONNELL, MD, AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERISM**

In recognition of his work with Volunteers in Medicine and the working uninsured across the country, the American Medical Association Foundation announces the creation of the Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism. This award will honor a senior physician who provides health care services to US patients who lack access. In association with Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative, this award will be

presented at the AMA Foundation Excellence Awards banquet on March 12, 2006 in Washington, DC. Applications for the award are due by December 1, 2005. For information on the criteria or to download an application, visit <http://www.amaassn.org/go/excellence>. The Volunteers in Medicine Institute strongly encourages all VIM Alliance members (of which we are one) to nominate a deserving senior physician for this award!

### **SPOTLIGHT ON FIRST TENNESSEE**

First Tennessee is a big supporter of Chattanooga and has expanded that support by giving so generously to VIM. Mr. Steve Taylor, VP of Commercial Banking Division, was pleased to share with us how they became involved with our great clinic.

Jay Crow, a customer of Steve's, called and asked that First Tennessee donate to VIM in the form of financial services such as checking, savings or credit card accounts. Steve contacted Nancy Franks to talk about what we needed. Nancy stressed that in addition to services, we needed monetary support.

Steve invited Nancy and Dr. Doyce Payne to talk with the President of First Tennessee, Frank Schriener, and Marketing Rep. Linda Todd. Nancy and Dr. Payne convinced Mr. Schriener to donate \$30,000 from First Tennessee's national foundation First Horizon Foundation. Steve gave VIM kudos for receiving the \$30,000, which is one of the larger amounts the Foundation has given. The Foundation is held by First Tennessee's parent company, First Horizon, and gives money to organizations nationwide.

Thank you, First Tennessee, for your valued support. During our interview, Mr. Taylor expressed his pride with being a member of such a caring and well-run corporation as First Tennessee. Their donation to VIM is one example that clearly shows that is true.

*We trust that each of you will enjoy the special blessings that our Heavenly Father has in store for you during this holiday season.*