

## VIM Update October 2004

**GOOD NEWS!!** Implementation of legislation passed by congress in 1996 has been approved. Many have heard of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), but perhaps were not aware of what was contained in Section 194 of that important document. There resided The Free Clinic Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Medical Malpractice Program. This legislation provides medical malpractice protection for volunteer free clinic professionals, through Public Law 104-191, by "deeming" him/her to be a federal employee. Therefore, claims alleging medical malpractice would have to be filed against the United States. This legislation covers anyone licensed or certified to provide health services in accordance with applicable law. Remember, too, this year Tennessee approved a special "volunteer license" for those with retired or inactive licenses.

**VIM HAS A HOME!** The lease agreement for 4620 square feet in the Eastgate area has been signed and the rent is being donated for the first year, beginning 01/01/05. The owner is also letting us use the area prior to that time for storage and renovations. We have a donor who expressed interest in doing the necessary renovations. A local architect is also donating his services. Facilities will be ready to occupy in early 2005 and should be furnished and ready for patients by the 2nd quarter 2005 opening.

**HAMILTON COUNTY FAIR.** VIM manned a volunteer booth at the Hamilton County Fair, September 25 & 26, 2004. The table was immediately to the right of the Pavilion, which gave exposure to VIM and its banners to approximately 40,000 fairgoers over the two-day period. Many people stopped by and were given brochures, pencils, pads, and candy from our table. Fifty-eight people signed up for the door prize and 27 people said yes they would be interested in being on our volunteer list. Zaxby's Restaurant provided the three door prizes, which were dinner for two.

**VOLUNTEERS IN SUB-COMMITTEES.** It looked like over 100 in attendance at the September 23rd VIM meeting. Breakout groups divided into five sub-committees following general updates. Here are some highlights from each sub-committee.

**MEDICAL OPERATIONS:** The scope of VIM services to be offered covers a broad range of primary care as well as some specialty services. Professional volunteers consist of 13 physicians or physician extenders, 7 therapists, pharmaceutical representatives, and 18 nurses and/or medical assistants. Currently we have support staff that have volunteered for all time blocks, so we could offer services during mornings, afternoons and/or evenings, as well as some Saturdays. A list of medical equipment needs has been compiled. We now have enough donated exam tables to equip 6 rooms. We also have two dental chairs and the promise of an X-ray machine.

**FUND-RAISING:** \$464,000 is needed to start up and run the clinic for a year. Donations of about \$94,000 in cash and \$35,000 of in kind services have been received. Several grants have been submitted with several to follow. There is much work to be done. The Fund-Raising Committee has volunteers writing grants, visiting churches, and contacting restaurants to "donate a day at the clinic." We need more fundraisers, especially those who can visit businesses during the day and tell our story.

**VOLUNTEERS/FAITH SERVICES:** Here are some of the areas of service: greeter, medical records, scheduling, orienting, patient registration, screener, procedures, and children's reading room. If you did not make it to the September VIM meeting, but are still interested in volunteering in any of the above areas, please call or e-mail Becky Hall (892-9363, [becky\\_h@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky_h@bellsouth.net)) There is a need for you. Training in all these areas will begin in January 2005. In the meantime, this sub-committee will not meet out of respect for volunteers' time.

**BUSINESS OPERATIONS:** Business sub-committees are at work on a development plan, VIM web site, IT hardware and software plans, insurance needs, policy and procedure reviews, job descriptions and staffing, and a monthly volunteer newsletter.

**FACILITIES:** Please see the notes under "VIM Has a Home" above.

**VIM NEWSLETTER – WHAT'S IN A NAME?** The monthly newsletter needs a name and you are invited to submit suggestions. Who knows, we might even turn this into a contest! Email your suggestions to Therese Nobles, Editor, at [tpnobles@comcast.net](mailto:tpnobles@comcast.net).

**CHURCH DATABASE.** As VIM is a Christian based ministry, we need to keep our churches in the greater Chattanooga area informed. A church database is under construction. If you have access to a denominational list of area churches, please let us know ASAP. Our plan is to send a shortened newsletter to all churches monthly.

### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:**

#### Volunteers in Medicine Spotlight Kathy Case

Kathy began her volunteer service with VIM in the Fall of 2003. Kathy brings to VIM a rich background in volunteer coordination and grant resource establishment. In her first lead role, Kathy continued the development of the volunteer database. The database had 150 names in January 2004 when she took over and grew to 500 by July.

Kathy currently serves on the Grant Writing Committee, along with Marjean Gingrich, Sue Hyatt, Karen Murphy, Dr. Randy Walker, Regina Bacon, Marilyn Keown and Steve McGraw. Kathy started the grant database and helped compile the list of over 80 organizations it now contains. She also leads the grant writing efforts and submits applications to the various foundations and organizations in the database. Kathy explains that the organizations were chosen to be included in the database because VIM's mission matches what the grantors want to support. Kathy also says that in her experience, charitable organizations are more willing to give their resources to groups that have strong business and mission plans in place. She believes this is an advantage for VIM because we have such good things to say and already have strong committees making great strides and solid plans underway. We're also building on a model that has been successful in other areas across the country.

When Kathy's not volunteering with VIM, teaching computer classes for LIFE at Christ United Methodist Church or working with Angel Food Ministries, she shares her time with her family. Kathy's 24 year-old daughter, Kristy, recently graduated from Ohio State University and son, Adam, 22, is attending the University of Cincinnati. Kathy is married to Chris, who is an engineer at Komatsu.

When VIM's center is opened, Kathy looks forward to greeting patients and reading to children.

**Join Us in a Culture of Caring!** Volunteers in Medicine will meet each month on the fourth Thursday at 7 PM at Christ United Methodist Church in East Brainerd. The next such meeting will be October 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone can contribute to this wonderful ministry to provide primary health care services to the working uninsured in our community. Training specifics will begin in January 2005, but in the meantime, there is still much to be accomplished! Please join us for a culture of caring.