

## **VIM Volunteers in Medicine Chattanooga, Inc.**

Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc. (VIM) is progressing toward its goal of opening a free primary care medical clinic, designed to serve the working uninsured of our area.

The search for a medical director included reviewing 15 candidates. The committee is close to a final decision. The search for a clinic director and a director of volunteers will begin shortly.

VIM is in the last stages of negotiating for space in an out parcel building at Eastgate, anticipating the first year's rent to be donated. Minimum renovations will be required and expected occupancy is early 2005.

VIM Chattanooga, Inc. is recognized as a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are fully tax-deductible.

To date, \$50,000 has been donated, primarily from churches and individuals. In-kind donations of \$17,000 include printing, office equipment, exam tables

and lab equipment. Three grants have been submitted for a total of \$135,000 and the grant-writing committee continues to work hard.

For start-up and first year operations, \$463,000 is needed. While closer to this goal, much more is needed in a short period of time.

Individual champions for this cause are needed within our churches and the community at large.

VIM, Chattanooga is looking for large and small donations from individuals and organizations. Donations can be mailed to Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc., PO Box 81057, Chattanooga, TN 37414.

Medical and non-medical volunteers will be joining in organizational meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm, at Christ United Methodist Church in East Brainerd. Progress updates will be followed by breakout sessions.

The medical breakout will include topics of

discussion and resolution as: scope of services, further equipment needs, facility layout, standard operating procedures, scheduling, CME, and accreditation.

The non-medical breakout will include topics of discussion and resolution such as: fund raising, clinic procedures, reading room, renovations, social services, volunteer coordination, volunteer training and accreditation.

Join us for a culture of caring!