

Caring Neighbors

Volunteers in Medicine Winter News 2017-18

15% of Atlantic County and 12% of Cape May County residents lack health insurance. Health insurance is a primary factor in whether and when people get necessary medical care and, ultimately, how healthy they are.

People without health insurance report to work sick, which is not good for the overall health of the community. They skip medicine or do without, due to cost. They miss work and its associated pay, due to ill health.

While the nation struggles to find a solution to our broken health care system, there is a small group of people making a difference every

day. Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) operates two free clinics in South Jersey to serve the needs of the uninsured and underserved.

VIM, with the support of the medical community and the community at large, assists those who are making a sincere effort to help themselves and their families realize optimum health. VIM's Cape May County clinic has been in continuous operation for almost 16 years. The Atlantic County clinic opened in March of 2017.

VIM patients tend to have chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, etc. The types of conditions, one would

expect to see in middle-aged people, who have worked in service and manual labor, lived with very low income, and rarely "doctored."

The VIM clinics average an annual cost per visit of \$118. This all inclusive number ensures FREE, quality health care (primary and specialist) and prescription medicine assistance.

Please consider a donation today to help your neighbors in need. Your tax deductible donation will provide the gift of health care, remain in your home county and directly effect the good health of our community.

"The foundation of success in life is good health; it is also the basis of happiness.

A person cannot accumulate a fortune very well when he is sick."

- - P. T. Barnum



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Dear Caring Neighbor,

As we close out 2017 and look forward to 2018, it seems the headlines the world over, are all too often filled with destruction and devastation. Yet, in the midst of all this, we see people springing into action. Whether it's a case of water, a ticket to a fundraiser or a few dollars in a donation jar, we all become neighborly when we read these stories. Here at home, the headlines are less acute but equally concerning.

Health care has been a major headline this year. The US health care delivery model seems in a constant state of flux. The focus seems to be on health *insurance* and not health *care*. The number of un-insured and under-insured continues to rise; for the working poor all too often the high cost premiums, copays, and deductibles, put care out of reach. Fortunately, Atlantic and Cape May Counties are blessed to have a group of caring, volunteer professionals providing free care for their less fortunate neighbors. But we need your help!

VIM operates two free clinics to meet the needs of the uninsured and underserved living in Atlantic and Cape May County. VIM receives no Federal or State funds and relies on a generous community for support. Every bit helps, your assistance can take many forms:

- Volunteer to work at one of the clinics or thrift store.
- Make a tax deductible contribution.
- Organize a fund-raiser or collection for VIM.
- Tell your children or colleagues that you would prefer a donation to VIM instead of a gift.
- Support our thrift shop located at 20 S. Main St, Cape May Court House with donations and purchases.
- Direct your United Way contributions to VIM.



United Way
of Greater Philadelphia
and Southern New Jersey

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Tae Elizabeth Crowley, MD, Medical Director

Jackie Jacqueline Meiluta, Executive Director

VIM Cape May County
423 North Route 9
Cape May CH, NJ 08210
609-463-2846
Open Monday - Friday
9:30AM - 4:00PM

VIM Atlantic County
3073 English Creek Ave.
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
609-867-6384
Open Monday - Thursday
10:00AM - 1:00PM

Dr. Melind Pandya

Regional Nephrology Assoc.

2017 Physician of the Year



Pictured left is Board Chair Mary Tighe, RN, Dr. Pandya, Medical Director Dr. Crowley and Clinic Director Barbara Harvey, RN. Dr. Pandya was honored at VIM's Annual Gala on September 8th. The following is an excerpt from his acceptance speech,

VIM represents all that is good about America. VIM is a grass roots organization of neighbors caring for neighbors. I look forward to coming to VIM and volunteering. Why? Because you get to just be a doctor, a healthcare provider.

There's no minutia that takes away from the healthcare experience. It's just you and the patient. There's no

worry about time limits on visits. There's no worry about unnecessary oversight and prior authorizations and getting this and that covered. Virtually everything gets done and usually at zero to very little cost to the patient. It's high quality care and the staff is there to make sure things get done. It's truly a team. VIM is part of the village looking after our own.

That's why I got into medicine in the first place. It grounds you and it humbles you. This is why you do what you do. And the patients really appreciate it too because you are there to take care of them and they understand that also. It's truly a joy.

-- Melind Pandya, DO

Calling all Volunteers!

"Day after day, ordinary people become heroes through extraordinary and selfless actions to help their neighbors."

-- Sylvia Matthews Burnwell

Opening the new clinic in Atlantic County gave us the opportunity to work more closely with students from ACC and Stockton. What a joy to work with these bright young people. In the beginning, they painted rooms, unpacked, and set-up. Today they help with scribing, rooming patients, and whatever else needs doing (especially things involving computers).

VIM relies on more than 100 active volunteers: students and seniors, retired and still working. All committed to helping our neighbors in need. But we always need more talented and energetic volunteers. If you would like to know more about volunteering, please visit our website or email our Volunteer Coordinators.

Atlantic County
volunteerac@vimsj.org

Cape May County
volunteercmc@vimsj.org



VIM was honored with a very generous grant in 2017 from the OceanFirst Foundation.

Pictured above: Executive Director of Ocean First Foundation Kathy Durante, Ocean First Vice-President / Business Development Officer Cheryl Pivola, Ocean First Sr. Vice President of Commercial Lending and VIM Trustee Craig DeGenova, VIM Board Chair Mary Tighe; VIM Medical Director Elizabeth Crowley, MD, VIM Clinic Director Barbara Harvey, RN, and VIM Vice Chair Doug Burke



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SAVE THE DATE
VIM 5K & OD Run Club
Ocean Drive Marathon
April 22, 2018

NEIGHBORS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS



For almost 30 years, America has relied on Sesame Street to teach the alphabet, numbers, etc. Also, key concepts like “being a good neighbor.” The adult cast, which is a rainbow of diversity, demonstrates kindness, respect and tolerance. Viewers learn the importance of being a good neighbor: to be kind to those in need, to respect people’s differences and not to judge others because of how or where they live.

In Atlantic and Cape May County too many of our neighbors are uninsured and lack affordable access to health care.

At VIM, our motto is *Neighbors Caring for Neighbors*. Our volunteers are neighbors who have time and talent to offer their neighbors in need. Our patients are neighbors who lack affordable access to health care. When these groups of neighbors come together, magic happens.

VIM volunteers report a high level of satisfaction, joy and personal blessing from their time at VIM. VIM patients receive the care they desperately need but could not afford elsewhere.

If you are a neighbor in need or a neighbor wishing to give back, please visit our website or stop by one of our clinics.

Thank you!

www.vimsj.org