Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) operates much like a regular doctors office: patients are registered, appointments are scheduled, follow-up happens, but there is one major difference. There are no charges, no billing, no insurance paperwork!

VIM’s focus is comprehensive primary care, but we are blessed with very many specialists as well. The VIM model assumes retired professionals but many of our volunteers are still in active practice.

One doctor, Dr. Messori, commutes from his home 80 miles away in Philadelphia to see patients every Thursday. Earlier this month, he was awarded the Jack B. McConnell Award for Excellence in Volunteerism by the American Medical Association. (Dr. McConnell founded the very first VIM in 1994.)

The doctors like being at the clinic. They frequently say things like “I get to practice medicine the way I want to”, “I can spend as much time with a patient as I want” and “I don’t need to worry about insurance paperwork”! They also report high job satisfaction in giving back. These caring providers embody the mission of VIM: **neighbors caring for neighbors**.

Patients often need numerous visits as we stabilize conditions that have long gone untreated. Supporting our fabulous doctors is a group of devoted nursing and support staff volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been with VIM for years.

Suzi Gallagher, our 2018 Volunteer of the Year, has been with the CMC clinic since before the doors opened in 2001.

Suzi works in our Intake Department. She is a front-line volunteer who meets with prospective patients. She reviews their tax returns and pay stubs to confirm they meet eligibility guidelines.

These initial interviews can be very personal. Not everyone qualifies for VIM. We do not duplicate services so if someone is eligible for Medicaid or Medicare, Intake will assist them in that regard.

Some of our Intake volunteers are social workers, which is helpful but not a requirement. Many like Suzi, are simply caring neighbors looking to give back; to make a difference.

All too often Intake encounters a patient who has not been to a doctor in years or has had a recent hospitalization or ER scare. The welcoming volunteers in Intake are often the first friendly face a new patient sees.

We recently welcomed a new patient, “Bob” who was scared because he was becoming more and more breathless at work. He was fatigued and weak after simple tasks. He was not so much worried about his health as what would happen if he lost his job or could not work. How would he pay rent and support his family?

Now that he is established at VIM, we are working to get his blood pressure under control and have supplied him with inhalers to help his breathing. He now has a PCP, a cardiologist and a caring team of advocates. He is feeling better about his future.

**Interested in knowing more? Visit us on the web at www.vimsj.org or contact Jackie Meiluta at 609-463-2846.**

**The Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism recognizes the work of senior physicians who provide treatment to U.S. patients who lack access to health care. Dr. Messori has been volunteering at the Cape Volunteers in Medicine clinic since 2010, where he focuses on gastro issues and the care of Hepatitis C in the community. He goes to great lengths to provide medications at no cost to his patients as well as training all nurses and primary care teams at the clinic in treatment protocols and ongoing monitoring for those patients.**

**Shown left: Barbara Harvey, RN VIM Clinic Director and Divo Messori, MD, VIM Volunteer Gastroenterologist holding his much deserved award from the AMA.**
THANKSGATHERING RECEPTION ON AUGUST 16 WILL CELEBRATE VIM'S “CULTURE OF CARING” AND HONOR THE LEGACY OF FRANK AND EILEEN NUGENT

Atlantic County: Frank and Eileen Nugent believed very much in giving back and sharing their blessings. They were committed to supporting their community and doing the right thing. Family and community were everything to them. In various and special, and often anonymous, ways they touched many friends, neighbors, and colleagues during their quiet and humble lives.

The Frank and Eileen Charitable Foundation have generously made an on-going commitment to the Volunteers in Medicine Atlantic County Clinic; Frank and Eileen’s legacy and culture of caring lives on in VIM.

The Reception will begin at 6:00PM at the Linwood Country Club. The evening will begin with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, followed by dinner and the program. Tickets for the Reception are $75 per person; sponsorships are available. Proceeds from the event will provide free health care at the VIM Atlantic County Clinic. Visit our website for more information.

Did you know?

- One ER visit for an uninsured individual costs on average $1,500. Yet, comprehensive primary care and medication assistance for one VIM patient for a full year only costs $1,000 and prevents unnecessary use of the ER.

- 1 in 3 Americans have high blood pressure. High blood pressure increases your risk for dangerous health conditions including heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney disease. It is controlled with medication.

- About 1 in every 6 adult Americans has high cholesterol. High cholesterol can lead to heart disease and stroke—leading causes of death in the United States. High cholesterol is managed with medication.

- VIM patients receive assistance with their expensive medications. This year, VIM will spend more than $40,000 on prescription medications for our patients.

- 29.1 million people in the US have diabetes—one out of 11 people. The US economy absorbs about $245 billion in medical costs, lost work, and wages due to the complications of diabetes. VIM has a comprehensive Diabetes Management Program that includes free home testing supplies and quarterly A1C’s.

Keep our community healthy, invest in VIM.
**Physician of the Year**

**John R. Middleton**  
*M.D., MACP, FIDSA*

Dr. Middleton offers a monthly Infectious Disease Clinic. The patients and staff of VIM are blessed to have access to such an incredibly smart and caring physician. He is a fabulous neighbor who provides exemplary care to our neighbors.

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**Volunteer of the Year**

**Suzi Gallagher**

Suzi has been a VIM volunteer since before the clinic even opened. For 17 years, Suzi has volunteered every Thursday in the Intake Department. She is the epitome of a loyal and dependable volunteer.

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**Check-up from our Medical Director**

I just spoke with patient “S”. She wanted to thank us for our hard work, she said that everyone she spoke to yesterday (at Atlanticare and Cooper) told her she is lucky to have the advocates she has fighting for her at VIM, that clearly we are good at what we do. And she is so grateful.

Well done team! You’ve sent the message to the patient that she is valued and we have her back, which is so powerful when a patient is sick and has minimal supports. And you sent the message to the healthcare community that we are here to work for our patients well being, and we’re going to make sure they get the care they need.

Kudos to all involved.

*Elizabeth Crowley, MD, Medical Director*

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**12TH ANNUAL CMC GALA ON 9/13 WILL HONOR AND CELEBRATE THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO HELP MAKE THE 16-YEAR OLD CLINIC A REALITY**

**Cape May County:** This year’s Gala will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Flanders, in Ocean City. The evening will begin with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres and feature three tasting tables: Ludlams Brewery, Tito’s Vodka and Wine TBD. An elegant three course dinner and program will follow. Tickets for the Gala are $100 per person; tables of 10 can be purchased for $950. Visit our website for more information.

Proceeds from the event will provide free health care at the VIM Cape May County Clinic. This years’ celebration of our “Culture of Caring” will honor three very special friends of VIM: Dr. John Middleton, Suzi Gallagher, (both featured left) and Cape Urgent Care.

VIM’s 2018 Community Partner is Cape Urgent Care and Dr. William Weisberg. Since opening day, Dr. Weisberg’s Cape Urgent Care has generously provided financial support to clinic operations, provided free after hours care to VIM patients and arranged their schedule so several of their practitioners can volunteer at VIM. Cape Urgent Care and Dr. Bill Weisberg are shining examples of Neighbors Caring for Neighbors.

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**VIM Cape May County**  
423 North Route 9  
Cape May Court House  
609-463-2846

**VIM of Atlantic County**  
3073 English Creek Ave.  
Egg Harbor Twp  
609-867-6384

[www.vimsj.org](http://www.vimsj.org)
Dear Friend,

I am thankful each and every day for my good fortune to work with the volunteers and staff at Volunteers in Medicine. In a world that often seems to be spinning out of control, Volunteers In Medicine is a haven of physical and emotional comfort, where people care for—and about—each other. There is a joy that comes from giving back; a satisfaction in making a difference.

In the next few weeks each of our two clinics will be hosting a reception. These are our only fund-raisers for the year. All monies raised goes direct to patient care. We are honoring some very wonderful people:

- **Frank and Eileen Nugent**—whose generosity and legacy of caring lives on in our Atlantic County Clinic
- **Dr. John Middleton**—who offers a monthly Infectious Disease Clinic in Cape May County
- **Suzi Gallagher**—a long serving, warm and caring Volunteer
- **Dr. Bill Weisberg and Cape Urgent Care**—who have provided financial support and after hours care to the Cape May County clinic since opening day

Our patients tell us “I don’t know what I would do without VIM” and for many, there is no other option. The VIM clinics are the only free clinics in South Jersey. Our patients work long hours for very little pay. They struggle to cover the rent and stretch dollars to put food on the table. Self-care is at the bottom of a long list of priorities.

Please consider a donation to VIM. Your gift will remain local in your home community and ensure our patients receive the care they need in a safe, warm and nurturing environment where they can focus on just being healthy. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Meiluta, Executive Director
jmeiluta@vimsj.org