

Caring Neighbors

VIM ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2016/17

VIM—BEST CARE ANYWHERE



As a kid, I always loved M.A.S.H. – the TV show where a medical team fights near-impossible odds at an Army surgical camp during

the Korean War. Each episode, amid falling bombs, scarce supplies and rapid-fire banter, they took seriously ill and injured patients, and saved lives...all under a weathered sign that proudly read “MASH 4077, Best Care Anywhere.”

Sure, it was TV. But there’s a lesson to be learned there. Medicine today faces similar near-impossible challenges – in the form of dwindling time, funding, crushing administrative constraints and insurance complications.

In the face of all this, settling for

“acceptable care” may seem like the only way for some providers to survive.

But at VIM, we consider it our job to clear the path so that our providers can do theirs: provide the best care possible, period. As Dr. Lynn Helmer, a volunteer physician, attests, “The VIM team resolves barriers to care, such as medication and transportation costs, with a determination and tenacity that is not often seen in other practices.”

We do this work because we understand the long-term benefits – both to the patient and to the system. Some of our patients have not had access to care for years and are now suffering from complications due to their untreated diseases. According to Nancy Sudol, a volunteer APN, “Our population has little or no experience with the health care system. They don't know how to be a patient. VIM gives that patient a chance at Primary/ Preventive care so they can learn how to comply with a healthcare regime.”

When I walk through the door of VIM, I envision in my mind that weathered sign proclaiming “**Best Care Anywhere.**” We may not work in a literal warzone, but we work in a system where the odds are stacked against us. So we band together. We care. We practice medicine, not mediocrity. And we do it proudly, hearing regularly from patients that our care is the best they have ever received.

Why do we do this? Dr. Helmer sums it up nicely: “We are all connected by a cause and a belief that no one should have to do without basic healthcare, and that a little effort by each of us can make the world a better place for so many.”

If you would like to join our team, please contact me at 609-463-2846 or via email at info@vimsj.org.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth “Tac” Crowley, MD



Steve Kornberg, MD Physician of the Year

Dr. Kornberg contacted VIM several years ago to donate a piece of medical

equipment. While speaking with Barbara Harvey, VIM’s Director of Nursing, he realized VIM needed him perhaps even more than the equipment. Since that day, he has graciously provided a Cardiology clinic once a month for VIM patients.

Dr. Kornberg is Service Chief of Cardiology at Shore Medical Center in Somers Point, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. He received his medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Clinic Director Barbara Harvey says “Dr. Kornberg is so special to VIM! We look forward to his monthly clinic but even when he is not here, he gladly takes our questions. His counsel is always available to us.” We have many patients who have cardiac issues that have long gone untreated. Steve is always there to guide us in the right direction. He is a warm giving presence in our practice. No question is too small—for us or our patients. We are very blessed to have access to this wonderful cardiologist.

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Dear Caring Neighbor,

VIM represents all that is good about America. We are a grass roots organization of neighbors caring for neighbors; a volunteer powered solution to the health care crisis. Our patients earn too much for Medicaid but not nearly enough to afford premiums, co-pays and deductibles. Volunteer, Dr. Lynn Helmer says "The patients are so grateful for our time and caring, and many of them are so much better because of what we can do. Our team members are just the best people in the world. Working with the other volunteers is an extraordinary privilege and joy."

Soon, we will open a new VIM clinic to serve the needs of Atlantic County. The new clinic will be an expansion of VIM of Cape May County, a 15 year old clinic with a proven track record of providing care to the uninsured and underserved. A private family foundation has committed \$100,000 per year for an Atlantic County Safety Net Clinic. This is a fabulous and generous start, however, the success of the clinic will not be possible without the additional support of corporations and individuals who live in the community.

VIM relies on this annual appeal to generate much needed funds for the coming year. As you consider your holiday and year end charitable giving, please consider VIM. Your generosity ensures quality health care, assistance and resources to those in need in our community.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, Medical Director Elizabeth Crowley and our grateful patients, best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thank you!



Sincerely,

Jackie

Jacqueline Meiluta
Executive Director

Other ways you can help:

- Organize a fund-raiser or collection with your group for VIM
- Put a stack of VIM brochures or a VIM coin box at your business*
- Help spread the word: hang a VIM flyer in your office or employee break room*
- Tell your children or colleagues that you would prefer a donation to VIM instead of a gift
- Don't forget about Matching Funds—double the power of your donation
- Donate your services (snow plow, painting, gardening, etc.)
- Remember VIM with a bequest
- Support our thrift shop with your donations and purchases
- Direct your United Way contributions to VIM

* Call 609-463-2846 or email info@vimcmc.org for supplies.



United Way
of Greater Philadelphia
and Southern New Jersey

Pat Lang, RN Volunteer of the Year



The cost of prescription medications can be out of reach for people without insurance. At VIM we work hard to ensure our patients get the meds they need at a price they can afford. VIM volunteer providers do their best to write for generics available on the \$4 lists at Wal-Mart and Shop-Rite. But often, our patients require more than what is available there.

VIM has a team of nurses who work closely with our patients and providers to find the most cost-effective solution. We advocate with Pharmacy Assistant Programs, we make phone calls; we seek out coupons and deals. VIM is budgeted to spend \$50,000 on prescription medications next year. We will secure another \$400,000 in FREE meds for our patients thanks to our fabulous Medication Services Team.

One member of this team, Pat Lang, RN was declared Volunteer of the Year for 2016. Pat has been the face of the "Med Room" since 2008. Clinic staff rely on her for advice and training. She is a fierce advocate and tireless worker for our patients.

Pat retired from Cooper Hospital and has been an active volunteer ever since. In addition to her work at VIM, she is also an active member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and a certified Senior Health Insurance Program Counselor (SHIP).

Pat is one of those people, with a big heart and an easy smile. Once you meet her, you feel like you have been friends for ever. She is also one of those people, who if you need something done, is always there; always willing to help. VIM relies on Pat's extensive knowledge and caring nature. Our patients and providers rely on Pat to ensure they get the medicines they need at a price VIM and the patient can afford.



Jonathon Philips built a community garden for VIM for his Eagle Scout project this summer. Our patients enjoy the fresh produce! The garden will fill many healthy prescriptions for fresh veggies for years to come.



Gala 2016 celebrated VIM's Culture of Caring and honored Pat Lang, Dr. Kornberg and the Ocean Drive Run Club for their fantastic support of VIM.

Pictured here are Dr. Crowley, Linda Hodson, Barbara Harvey, Pat Lang, Ed DePalma, Dr. Kornberg, Mayor Mike Clark, Mary Tighe, Jackie Meiluta, and Katherine Custer at VIM's Annual Gala.

Thrift Store Manager, Patty Marts and Assistant Manager, Kayla Klott modelled beautiful outfits from the thrift store while selling 50/50's at the Annual Gala.



VIM Thrift Store

20 S. Main St, Cape May Court House

The store is open from 10AM - 6PM Monday through Saturday and 11AM - 4PM on Sunday. Donations are gratefully accepted during store hours. Merchandise changes daily so stop in often. We are always in need of donations and volunteers. Shop! Donate! Volunteer! **Thank you for your support!**

SAVE THE DATE March 12, 2017 VIM DAY

Join us for a brunch at Avalon Links to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Cape May County Clinic. Tickets will be on sale soon.



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423 North Route 9
Cape May CH, NJ 08210
www.vimcmc.org

**Mark your calendars for the
Ocean Drive Marathon and VIM 5K
on 3/27/17**

New Logo, New Clinic, New Name, SAME GREAT CARE!

Volunteers in Medicine of Cape May County is now Volunteers in Medicine of South Jersey. We are still VIM. We are still providing great care to the uninsured. We are still a vital safety net for the underserved. But we are expanding! Thanks to a generous annual commitment from a private family foundation, there will soon be a VIM clinic in Atlantic County.

This satellite has caused us to reconsider our name and our logo. It has not caused us to reconsider our commitment to the health care needs of the uninsured in Cape May County. It does mean, the good people of Atlantic County will now have access to the same great care.

We are thrilled to announce we will be seeing

patients in the Family Service Association of South Jersey (FSA) building in Egg Harbor Township. FSA is a multi-service, United Way, agency that serves over 8,500 children, adolescents and adults annually. Their service area includes behavioral health, anti-poverty, child welfare and strengthening families and communities.

Cindy Herdman Ivins, President/CEO of Family Service Association, said "We at FSA are excited to be hosting VIM. VIM is a respected partner agency that fills a much needed gap in care for many in our community. Many of FSA's individuals and families who currently struggle with affording medical care will benefit from the high quality care they will receive from

VIM. We look forward to working together to further one another's mission."

The new clinic has already had fabulous support from the community. The Atlantic County Department of Health has been very helpful. SOSH Architects designed the new clinic. Pending final township approval, Massett Building Company will do the build-out with some help from the Local unions.

Executive Director, Jackie Meiluta "Everyone in Atlantic County has been so gracious. They recognize that VIM will fill a void in the healthcare landscape for the uninsured in Atlantic County. We can hardly wait to get started" We plan to be open by February 2017.

Volunteers in Medicine
423 No. Route 9
Cape May Ct Hs, NJ 08210

Volunteers in Medicine *Opening
early 2017*
3073 English Creek Avenue
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

For more information: 609-463-2846 | Info@vimsj.org | www.vimsj.org