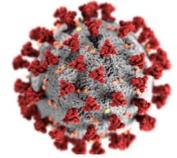


Caring Neighbors

Volunteers in Medicine

Spring News 2020

A Volunteer Powered Solution to the Health Care Crisis



The Covid-19 crisis has certainly upended life as we know it. Almost overnight we have had to adjust to a new normal: home-schooling, remote working, social distancing and quarantining. It has been hard for all of us to adapt.

The VIM clinics also have had to adapt. Our clinics rely on volunteer medical practitioners to provide free primary and preventive medical care to low-income, working residents of South Jersey who do not have health insurance or the means to pay for care.

The vast majority of our volunteers are seniors at high risk for the virus



and its complications. Social distancing has forced us to quickly pivot to a telehealth model. We are continuing to assist our patients consistent with our mission and values, just in a different way.

Our volunteer nurses are calling all our patients to check in on them, review their health, safety concerns with Covid-19 and advise on when to call VIM and when to go to the ER. Our nurses are conferring with our doctors about prescription refills and any immediate health concerns.

Our patient population is particularly vulnerable. Most are middle-aged with multiple chronic conditions such as Heart Disease, Diabetes, and Pulmonary conditions such as Asthma and COPD. Many are still working or have a family member working an essential job with minimal COVID protections. They are frightened about exposure, lost income, and illness.

The working poor live paycheck to paycheck. They struggle with balancing essential bills like rent and utilities; too often they do not prioritize health as “essential.” Prescription medicines and healthy eating are the first to go when money runs short. Unfortunately domestic abuse, increased reliance on alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances also increase under these stresses.

VIM fills a vital need in our community. We keep our more than 600 patients healthy. We manage chronic conditions and assist with prescriptions. We provide much needed connections to area resources.

Support is needed, now more than ever, to sustain operations. Please join our Circle of Caring with a tax deductible donation today!

Make a Difference in the Lives of Many With a Vehicle Donation.

Donate your car, truck, or boat to Volunteers in Medicine. The pick-up is free and your gift is tax-deductible.

[Donate Your Vehicle](#)

For more information, call or visit us online: 609-463-2846 | www.vimsj.org

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Donate at:
www.paypal.me/VIMSJ

Dear Friend,

We live in a time of chaos and crisis. The Coronavirus has traumatized our families, our businesses, our state, country, and the entire world; it is hard not to feel somewhat hopeless.

In South Jersey we have a way to offer hope and help to our neighbors, who, through no fault of their own, have no health insurance, and in this time of high unemployment, no savings or source of income. It is difficult to imagine how devastating it is to be medically unstable and unable to afford care. Your support of Volunteers in Medicine makes possible free access to quality primary care to our neighbors in need.

VIM relies on proceeds from our two thrift stores to contribute more than \$100,000 to clinic operations. We receive no Federal or State funds, but survive entirely on the good graces of a very generous community to provide much needed financial support. The thrift stores have been closed since late March. What was a reliable source of income is now a drain on our reserves. We are hopeful they may be able to re-open by June, but will take a big hit from months of no sales. Our hopes for a PPP loan were dashed when that program ran out of money.

Support is needed now more than ever, to sustain operations. As we look to an end to this pandemic, we are anticipating particularly high demand at both of our clinics due to so many people being out of work and uninsured. Please join our Circle of Caring with a tax deductible donation. VIM's continued presence and care for our neighbors in need is a tribute to your generosity.

In closing, we would like to extend our thanks to our fabulous team led by Executive Director, Jackie Meiluta; Medical Director, Dr. Lynn Helmer; and Clinic Director, Barbara Harvey, RN, and to our scores of wonderful volunteers. Their leadership and dedication is boundless.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

VIM Board of Trustees



**Cost to sponsor
one patient for a
full year -**

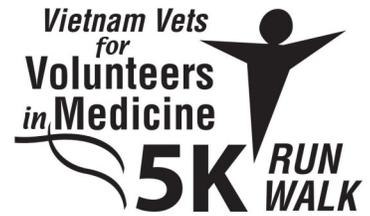
\$1,000

**Average cost per
medical visit -**

\$100

**Home Blood
Sugar Meter,
Test Strips and
Supplies -**

**\$10/month
for each
Diabetic Patient**



Volunteer of the Year: Rick Kraus Community Partner of the Year: Vietnam Veterans Chapter 602

For whatever reason, the majority of our volunteers are women. Our nursing team has just one male – Chuck Allison, LPN. Intake, reception and scheduling have none. A few years ago, **Rick Kraus** began to volunteer.

Rick recently retired from the hospital after a successful career in purchasing. He is a Vietnam Vet, husband, father, and grandfather. He is an all-around good guy who is a delight to have at the clinic. The fact that he is a man, made him unique at VIM; the reality that he is such a good person makes him Volunteer of the Year.

Most volunteers do one thing and do it well. For example a nurse or scheduler may commit to one 4-hour shift per week to provide clinical nursing or patient scheduling. Not Rick, he is a jack of all trades. His primary responsibility is to volunteer in our Medication Services department. He assists with Pharmacy Assistance Program applications and manages inventory control of our donated medications and supplies. But he does so much more.

Before his shoulder surgery, he regularly mowed our grass and maintained the property. He can be counted on for the occasional dump run. We regularly ask him to hang pictures.

When he heard CRMC was renovating their pharmacy, he arranged the donation of their old lockable medication storage cabinets to VIM. Then he arranged for their pick-up and delivery.

Rick is also an advocate for VIM with the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 602**. Back in 2012, VIM decided to do a fundraiser 5K Run. With Rick's intercession, Chapter 602 not only sponsored the event, but supplied and distributed the awards and provided much needed manpower for the event.

Members of Chapter 602 assisted with set-up and take down, with registrations and T-shirt distribution. They hauled supplies to and from the Clinic and the race. This became an annual commitment until we discontinued our run in 2019.

Not to be deterred, Chapter 602



moved their support to our Annual Celebration. They not only sponsor this event, but typically fill one to three tables as well. They are a fabulous Community Partner to VIM.

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Albert Nahas, a Vietnam veteran famously said "We had no expectations but to serve where duty called us. We asked for no reward except a nation's thanks." Rick and his fellow Vietnam Veterans of Chapter 602 continue to serve. They are shining examples of VIM's motto: neighbors caring for neighbors.

It is our honor to celebrate Rick Kraus and the Vietnam Veterans of Chapter 602; to show a small token of our deep appreciation; to give thanks for all they do for our community.



It Takes a Village

In times like these, we are reminded of the power of our model based on volunteerism. With almost 100 active volunteers we have a variety of backgrounds and specialties. Most do not come from a primary care background, but together their talents combine to be a powerful force for our patients.

We are blessed to have **Dr. John Middleton**, an esteemed Infectious Disease Specialist who has served on several crisis response teams in his day. Who knew when he began volunteering we would need access to his brilliant mind for advice and guidance through a global pandemic?

A few years back, as breakthrough drugs were becoming available for the treatment of Hepatitis C, volunteer Gastroenterologist **Divo Messori, MD** worked with the drug companies and VIM nurses to ensure VIM patients had access to these new, life altering drugs. Thanks to Dr. Divo, we continue to successfully screen and treat patients for Hep C.



But it's not just the doctors. When a patient is newly diagnosed with cancer, we engage **Sue Antczak, RN** who spent many years in Oncology. We had a recent diagnosis of ALS and needed to enroll our patient into a program at Temple, no worries, **Sue Heun, RN** worked with many on that team while at Hahnemann. Her connections paved the way. Need help with managing multiple medications or researching a new treatment? Involve volunteer pharmacist **Kelly Lawn, PharmD**.

What to do with a retired data analyst, with no medical office background? Have her begin analyzing and cleaning up our data. **Pat Menear's** ability to run exception reports and drill down into the data helped tremendously when we migrated to a new Electronic Health Record system this past fall.

VIM, with the support of the medical community and community at large is able to address the health and well-being of patients, stabilize chronic conditions, help contain infectious disease, and reduce public healthcare costs by reducing reliance on emergency rooms in local hospitals.

Our village relies on volunteers from all walks of life. Give us a call to see how VIM could benefit from your experience and skills.

Together we heal!

VIM Thrift can't wait to see you again!



We have completely reset each store with summer merchandise so please come back to donate and shop as soon as it is safe to do so.

Proceeds from our thrift stores supply almost one-third of all operating costs at the Clinics. The success of our stores ensures clinical care to our neighbors in need.

Donate! Shop! Volunteer!

Atlantic County Thrift Store

6825 Tilton Rd
(near Produce Junction)
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
609-277-7075

Cape May County Thrift Store

20 S Main St
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
609-465-3680

We are thankful our village includes...

Primary Care

- Harry Chaikin, MD
- Octavio De Los Reyes, DO
- Mary Ann Haflin, MD
- D. Lynn Helmer, MD
- William Hooper, MD
- Gina Kremer, APN
- Eugene Siegel, DO
- Nancy Sudol, APN
- Demetra Zalman, APN

Specialty Care

- Martin Carey, DPM (Podiatry)
- Wilfredo Carreno, MD (Cardiology)
- Eugene Carroccia, MD (Plastic Surgery)
- Jong Choi, MD (Acupuncture)
- Bhargavi Degapudi, MD (Nephrology)
- Sallustio Del Re, MD (Pulmonology)
- Joanne Drane, PhD (Counseling)
- Gary Feinberg, MD (General Surgery)
- John Gottlieb, MD (Orthopedics)

- Julia Hankerson, LCSW
- Steven Kornberg, MD (Cardiology)
- Anthony Lombardo, PhD (Psychology)
- Divo Messori, MD (Gastroenterology)
- John Middleton, MD (Infectious Disease)
- Lawrence J. Naame, MD (Orthopedics)
- Melind Pandya, DO (Nephrology)
- Joseph Salvatore, MD (Orthopedics)
- David Roeltgen, MD (Neurology)
- Birenda Tandan, MD (Urology)

Community Partners

- Cape Regional Medical Center
- CMC Department of Health
- NJ Commission for the Blind
- Rainbow Pediatrics
- Reef Family Pharmacy



Reserve Your Sponsorship Today!

VIM of Atlantic and Cape May Counties provides care for those who do not have access to affordable health insurance.

Support is desperately needed now to maintain clinic operations for our neigh-



Circle of Caring

14th Annual Celebration!

HONORING

Community Partner of the Year

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 602

Volunteer of the Year

Although we hope to gather together on 9/17/20 at the Flanders in Ocean City, due to the global pandemic, our celebration may very well be virtual. Sponsor support is more important now than ever. All sponsors will be honored and recognized to the fullest extent possible.



Yes, I would like to sponsor VIM 2020!



Circle of Caring

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$5000

Provides complete care for 6 patients for one year. Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor in all press releases, invitations, program, VIM website, and signage at event. Includes 10 guest tickets!

DIAMOND SPONSOR - \$3000

Provides complete care for 3 patients for one year. Recognition as a Diamond Sponsor in the program and listed on the VIM website. Includes 8 guest tickets!

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1000

Provides complete care for one patient for one year. Recognition as a Gold Sponsor in the program and listed on VIM website. Includes 4 guest tickets!

SILVER SPONSOR - \$500

Provides 3 patient visits. Recognition as a Silver Sponsor in the program. Includes 2 guest tickets!

FRIEND OF VIM - \$ _____

Atlantic County Cape May County Where Needed

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To safely donate online, visit: www.vimsj.org. Thank you for your support!

VIM is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, IRS Section 170(b)(2)(iii) for both federal and state tax purposes. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

For more information, contact Jackie Meiluta at Volunteers in Medicine · 423 N Route 9, CMCH, NJ 08210 · Ph: 609-778-2710.

If interested in volunteering or know someone who needs care, please contact the clinics directly or visit www.vimsj.org



423 N Route 9
CMCH, NJ 08210

Atlantic County Clinic

Volunteers in Medicine
3073 English Creek Ave
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
609-867-6384

Hours:

Monday 9:00 - 3:00
Tuesday 2:00 - 6:00
Wednesday 9:00 - 3:00
Thursday 10:00 - 1:00

Cape May County Clinic

Volunteers in Medicine
423 North Route 9
CMCH, NJ 08210
609-463-2846

Hours:

Monday 9:00 - 4:00
Tuesday 9:00 - 6:00
Wednesday 9:00 - 4:00
Thursday 9:00 - 6:00
Friday 9:00 - 1:00

Neighbors caring for neighbors!



“There is a spirit at Volunteers in Medicine that I have only felt at other VIM clinics. 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.”

Lynn Helmer, MD
VIM Medical Director



Avalon Lions Club



Together We Heal

Please join our Circle of Caring.