



Caring Neighbors

Winter News 2023-24

Reflections from Volunteer Gastroenterologist, Divo Messori, MD

Fifteen years ago, I met a lovely lady, Marilyn Golden. We chatted for a while to pass the time until she learned I was a gastroenterologist who was slowing down his practice. She became animated and said **"Do I have an opportunity for you!"**

When I first began to volunteer at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) I wondered "What am I doing here?" It did not take many visits to realize what a wonderful decision I had made. **VIM has given me so much more than I have given.**

I am thankful for the gratitude and joy expressed by all the patients whose Hepatitis C virus was cleared. I am thankful to the drug companies who supported our efforts.

I am thankful for all the patients whose inflammatory bowel disease I was able to aid, and I'm thankful for the support of the local medical pharmacy gastroenterology endoscopy community in the care of our patients.

I am thankful for being able to comfort and pray with and for patients when I had to advise them that the findings were ominous. The gratitude expressed by those

patients even with language barriers knowing that my hope and prayers were with them was such a reward for me.

I am thankful for all VIM has taught me. **I learned that good medicine doesn't have to be costly and that language barriers are not a deterrent to good patient care.**

I learned that the care patients receive at VIM is not only in most cases more compassionate, but also superior to private fee for service.

I am thankful for the many coworkers whose help, company, and friendship I've enjoyed over the years. The list includes three

medical directors, three head nurses, many co-physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, interpreters, support staff, etc. Their help, advice, support, and friendship were a valuable asset to my volunteer experience.

I am thankful for the administration's support I've received over the years especially from Jackie, making me ever so proud to be acknowledged by the AMA as Volunteer Physician of the Year nationwide on her recommendations.

I am thankful for the knowledge and insight acquired during my years at VIM. It made me a better doctor.

Retiring from VIM was a difficult but right decision. As I approach the age of 90, I realize my skills are not always as sharp as I would like them to be, but my gratitude to VIM and my colleagues will always be to the utmost degree, so thank you VIM.

I encourage everyone, particularly physicians, to consider volunteering. It is so rewarding and truly makes a difference for the deserving, needy, and uninsured.



VIM ensures free care for our neighbors in need. Together we heal!

2023 Annual Celebration



Dave Roeltgen, MD
Physician of the Year



Chris Burns, RN
Volunteer of the Year

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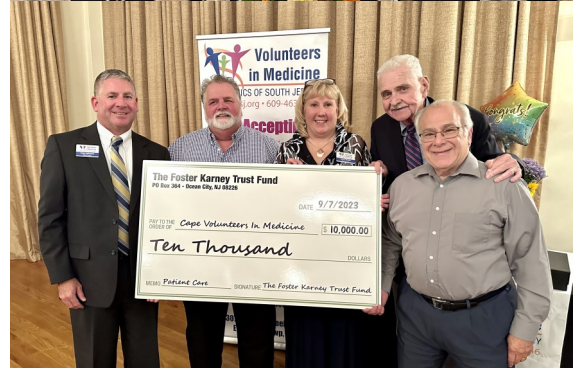
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“The Teva grant has provided me with the necessary support to offer ongoing mental health services to a population that has been largely underserved and discriminated against”.

Greg Speed, Volunteer Clinical Social Worker



One third of adults in the U.S. struggle with mental health issues and that number is on the rise. In a country where nearly one-tenth of the population do not have health insurance, a Teva collaboration is going beyond medicines to support patients.

Teva’s “Community Routes: Access to Mental Health Care” is a partnership with the National Association

of Free and Charitable Clinics and Direct Relief to advance mental health equity and care for underserved populations in the US.

In NJ, three Volunteers in Medicine clinics (Bergen, Monmouth and Cape May) were selected two years in a row to receive funding.

“In the end,” says Carol Richardson Senior Director, ESG Lead, North America. “it’s the

people who make up these communities who benefit. It’s heartening to hear the difference these clinics can make on the lives of people in need.”

For more information, visit tevapharm.com or www.directrelief.org

Read the full article at: www.tevapharm.com/news-and-media/features-stories/menatl-health-access-program-us/

WHAT OUR PATIENTS ARE SAYING

“I want all to know how much VIM has done for both me and my daughter. They have always been there for us.”

“So thankful for all the hard work you do and patience to not give up on people. I feel very lucky to have VIM on my side.”

“I am very lucky to find the doctors and nurses at Volunteers in Medicine. Their professionalism in what they do is unmatched and their very caring attitude is above and beyond. Thank you to all involved with this great organization.”

Your gift to VIM sends a powerful message of care and support to VIM volunteers and patients. Your donation is the gift of health.

Please donate today by scanning the QR code or use the enclosed envelope to mail a check. Thank you !



If your end of year plans include a new car, please consider a Subaru from our friends at Burke and Share the Love® with VIM!

Did you know, you can donate your car to VIM and give the gift of health? Call 855-500-RIDE or vimsj.careasy.org



New Trustee Loretta Finnegan, MD was welcomed to the VIM Board on 11/8/23. Shown here from left: Jay Blumberg, Craig DeGenova, Loretta Finnegan, Kathy Custer, Micki Goldberg, Dan Nugent and Trina McSorley.

Board of Trustees

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This holiday season and always, we are grateful for our Partners in Caring

Bethel Commandment Church

Cape May Lutheran Church

Cape May Presbyterian Church

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church

Dennisville United Methodist

Episcopal Church of the Advent

Green Creek Bethel United Methodist

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox

The Margate Community Church

North Wildwood United Methodist

Saint Peter's By The Sea

St. Brendan The Navigator Parish

St. Joseph's Parish, SIC

Tuckahoe United Methodist

Wells Memorial Presbyterian Church

If your church would like to join our Partner's Program, please call Jackie at 609-778-2710.

Did you know?

VIM maintains a supply pantry of non-perishable goodies for patients.

FREE toilet paper and cleaning supplies helps stretch a slim budget and allows more money for food.

Times are tough, every bit helps.

If your group would like to organize a collection, call Anne Marie at 609-778-2707.





VIM THRIFT STORES

Your purchases & *gently-used* donations at VIM Thrift provide the gift of health! In fact, thrift proceeds ensures 35% of all clinic needs. Shop! Donate! Volunteer!

6825 Tilton Rd , EHT 609-277-7075
7 N. Wildwood Blvd, CMCH 609-465-3680
Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM-6PM, Sun 11AM-4PM



Primary Care

Harry Chaikin, MD
M. J. Jiminez Cerna, MD
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Mary Ann Haflin, MD
D. Lynn Helmer, MD
William Hooper, MD
Gina Kremer, APN
Andrew Sitkoff, DO
Angelo Sparagno, MD
Nancy Sudol, APN
Demetra Zalman, APN

Specialty Care

Martin Carey, DPM (Podiatry)
Jong Choi, MD (Acupuncture)
Sallustio Del Re, MD (Pulmonology)
Gary Feinberg, MD (General Surgery)
Eliot Kaplan, MD (Psychiatry)
John Middleton, MD (Infectious Disease)
Lawrence J. Naame, MD (Orthopedics)
Melind Pandya, DO (Nephrology)
David Roeltgen, MD (Neurology)
Greg Speed, LCSW (Counseling)
Birendra Tandan, MD (Urology)
Bennett Werner, MD (Cardiology)

Help Us Provide Care



All donors are recognized on the VIM website and at VIM events.

- Primary Care Patron \$5000** covers complete patient care for 5 patients for 1 year
- Treatment Trailblazer \$3000** provides diabetes and/or hypertension screenings and home care devices such as BP cuffs, glucometers for 30 patients
- Lifesaving Legend \$1500** ensures annual colorectal cancer screening (FIT) for 60 patients
- Wellness Warrior \$1000** supports our Healthy Living Program which includes monthly group sessions featuring tips and support for living with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity.
- Healing Hero \$500** provides prescription medicine assistance to 20 patients
- Caring Neighbor \$100** covers the cost of one patient visit at the clinic
- Friendly Meal Partner \$25** buys a boxed lunch at our Free Day of Care or a produce voucher for our summer garden fresh program

Donate safely on line or use the enclosed envelope to mail your check payable to:
Volunteers in Medicine, 423 N Route 9, CMCH, NJ 08210.



Volunteers in Medicine
423 N Route 9
CMCH, NJ 08210

FREE Day of Care
Friday, February 9, 2024
Noon-6PM
Wildwoods Convention Center
All are welcome!



Dear Neighbor,

With your support, Volunteers in Medicine provides life saving care and treatment to approximately 400 neighbors in need. Our patients work the types of jobs that do not offer year round employment or health insurance. They say “I don’t know what I would do, without VIM.”

Last year we hosted a FREE DAY OF CARE at the Wildwoods Convention Center to reach even more of the people who need us. VIM volunteers provided free medical exams and care to 198 individuals; we offered Diabetes , Blood Pressure and Cholesterol screening. The CMC Department of Heath and Complete Care offered vaccines. The NJ Commission for the Blind provided eye screenings. Representatives from area social service agencies, such as the Community Food Bank and Fare Free, were on hand to facilitate registrations and promotion of their programs.

The event was so successful, we are doing it again—only even better!

We need your help. Help us spread the word. Follow, like and share our social media posts. Last year we provided 250 free lunches, this year our goal is 500. Buy a lunch or make a donation to ensure the gift of healthcare.

Want to know more? Contact me at 609-778-2710 or jmeiluta@vimsj.org. Thank you and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Jackie Meiluta
Executive Director



Neighbors Caring for Neighbors!