



## VIM helps family breadwinner to pain-free life

Pain has never been an excuse for Tami Parrish to opt out of daily life. Diagnosed with a herniated disk when she was 15, but without the funds to treat the problem, Tami lived instead for 35 years with chronic pain. Until earlier this year.

Tami, 50, has worked her whole life. She came to VIM briefly as a patient in 2003 before receiving health insurance through a job as a caregiver. She currently lives in Oakridge and works full time as a cook and supervisor at Dairy Queen, where she receives no health benefit.

“If I got sick, I went to urgent care or the emergency room at the hospital, which is expensive,” Tami says.

But emergency room visits were no place to treat the chronic pain in her back and feet that has only worsened as she got older.

“I didn’t let it slow me down, but I couldn’t deal with the pain no more,” Tami says. “I knew I needed to get something done with it. And with working every day and trying to take care of the husband and my grandchild, it

was just getting to be a little too much.”

Through the partnerships VIM has with specialists in the community who participate in our Referral Program, Tami received necessary back surgery — and is now pain free.



**VIM patient Tami Parrish**

In this case, it took the generous contribution of time, materials and talent to get Tami the L5-S1 laminectomy surgery she needed to treat a compressed nerve with spinal fusion and stabilization using a cage and screws. After only four days in the hospital, and two weeks convalescence, Tami was back to work in a month.

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## From volunteer to professional — via VIM



**Physician assistant intern, and former teen volunteer, Marie Meyers**

The name tag clipped to her shirt says, “PA-S,” short for “physician assistant-student.” Only eight months, and several more rotations in other health care settings, and then Marie Meyers finishes her graduate program and joins a practice in her new field.

For those at VIM who know her, Marie has made a well-earned leap from her previous role, when the name tag said only “volunteer.” That’s the one Marie first pinned to her shirt almost eight years ago, as a high school student. Marie

was 16 when she started volunteering at VIM.

For many teenagers like Marie, the organized, specific positions VIM provides volunteers, and the clearly defined supervisory roles of both staff and volunteering medical professionals, has earned VIM formal agreements with many schools. At the clinic, high school and college students acquaint themselves with the professions of the health care industry, often earning credit, and are mentored by licensed professionals in graduate level internships for physician assistants, behavioral health counselors and social workers.

VIM executive director DeLeesa Meashintubby remembers when Marie first arrived at VIM. She was a home-schooled high school student from Harrisburg.

“Marie was professional, quiet, and had a welcoming disposition,” DeLeesa says. “She was very good with the patients, and was able to anticipate the

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# Talking with DeLeesa

This newsletter marks both the end of our last fiscal year and the beginning of our new one. When I look back on this last year, and I see all those who have supported VIM, I realize the simple truth: It takes a solid community effort for us to take care of each other; to become united in a goal to help each other out.

One part of our village, for sure, is our in-kind donors, who receive special recognition on our Donor Wall at the clinic. VIM's cash budget this year will near \$1.4 million. Yet, in-kind donations will be approximately double that. Those in-kind donations are everything to us — literally.

They are all the donations of handbags, accessories, artwork and package deals for our premier fundraising events, One Fine Day and Swingin' Summer Night. And of course those in-kind donations are all the laboratory services, specialty physician visits, X-ray and imaging services, and other medical needs of our patients that are met, for free, by people and businesses who donate their time and materials.

But in a down economy, we have to give special thanks to all those people who found a way to give to VIM a cash donation. Modest donations have made a huge difference in our fundraising goals. In our fiscal year ending September 30, nearly 800 of the individual donations we received were \$100 or below. Nearly 1,000 of our individual donations were made at \$200 or below.

For people to still give at these levels, even as we have all been affected one way or another by the flagging economy, shows the character and the heart of our community.

I speak for our patients, our staff and our board when I say a sincere thanks to each and every donor who gave a cash contribution or their time to VIM. We never forget that we could not do any of this without any of you. ❖



**VIM Executive Director  
DeLeesa Meashintubby**



Thank you  
for making our  
newsletter so colorful!

Thank you to  
**The Register-Guard**  
for its ongoing support  
of our advertising needs!

## Meet the 2013 Annual Campaign Co-Chairs!



**Dottie Chase, Joe Hawes**

Two of our Development Committee members, Dottie Chase, a well-known local artist and community volunteer, and Joe Hawes of Hawes Financial Group have been named our 2013 Annual Campaign chairs! Dottie, who also sits on the boards of Emerald Arts Center and The Jacobs Gallery, was on the leadership team of Lane Community College's fundraising campaign for the Health and Wellness Center. Joe was honored by United Way Lane County this year for his company's financial and volunteer support of VIM. They will oversee our goal to raise nearly \$630,000!

## Our Vision

May we have eyes to see those rendered invisible and excluded, open arms and hearts to reach out and include them, healing hands to touch their lives with love and, in the process, heal ourselves.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the medically underserved and other household members who live and work in the greater Lane County area.

# VIM by the Numbers

Fiscal Year 2012

October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

Total Patient Visits

9,805

Behavioral Health Visits

1,587

Primary Care Visits

5,207

Referral Services

2,506

Laboratory Services

2,539

## Patient Assistance Program

(Applications submitted to pharmaceutical company donation programs)

2,532

## Free prescriptions

(Patient Assistance Program)

\$1.32 million

## Volunteers per month (average)

470

Total volunteer hours

26,095

Value of volunteer hours

\$661,468

# SUCCESS!

Thanks to the sponsors, donors, many volunteers, and the more than 700 guests who helped to make our fundraising events major successes.



## Our Sponsors

Paula Babb  
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## Swingin' Summer Night!

### Our Sponsors

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# Volunteer with VIM!



We have opportunities for both medically trained and nonmedical volunteers, including

Behavioral Health Counselor	Pharmacy Technician
Dispensary Lead	Phlebotomist
Eligibility Screener	Physicians, Nurse Practitioner,
Fundraising and Special Events	Physician Assistant
Greeter	Receptionist
Medical Records	Scheduler
Pharmacist	Spanish Interpreter

For an online application: [www.vim-clinic.org/volunteer-application](http://www.vim-clinic.org/volunteer-application)

To learn more about these opportunities: DeLeesa Meashintubby, 541-686-3797, [dmeashintubby@vim-clinic.org](mailto:dmeashintubby@vim-clinic.org)

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**Y-Z** Herb & Donna Yamanaka • Jayman Yi • Juan Young Trust • Nancy Young • William & Diana Young • Sarah Zachem

# In Memory Of

We appreciate those in our community who gave a memorial gift in fiscal year ending September 30 to Volunteers In Medicine in the name of cherished or respected individuals in their lives

## Persons memorialized appear in boldface

**Donna Albert**

William & Debra Cox

**Clifton & Carroll Baker**

Susan Bocci

**Martha Thorsland Baker**

Herb Baker

**Stanley Baldwin, MD**

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**Patrick Williams**

Dan & Maureen Williams



## Sister Monica Heeran Society

The Volunteers In Medicine board created the Sister Monica Heeran Society in 2010 to honor those who have named VIM in their estate plans. These gifts sustain our mission of serving the health and wellness needs of the medically uninsured. If you have crafted a bequest or other planned gift to VIM and would like to be added to the Heeran Society, please write or call David Meredith, development director, 458-205-6361, [dmeredith@vim-clinic.org](mailto:dmeredith@vim-clinic.org).

# In Honor Of

We appreciate those in our community who in our fiscal year ending September 30 honored a respected or cherished individual in their lives with a gift to Volunteers In Medicine

## Persons honored appear in boldface

**Kevin Barrett & Erica Forman**  
Ned Forman

**Jim & Judie Borg**  
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**Mimi Carothers**  
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Duncan & Jane McDonald  
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Dieter & Constance Morich  
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Joyce Pytkowicz  
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Carolyn Miller

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Care Team**  
Steven Myers

**Wally & Lynne Knecht**  
Wally & Mimi Carothers

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Robert Litin

**Joy McGloin**  
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**Jeffery Salerno, MD**  
James & Paula Salerno

**Brad Stephens, MD, &  
Anne Stephens**  
Jim Lakehomer & Jean Duffett

**Sr. Aileen Trainor, CSJP**  
H. Douglas & Jean Walker

**H. Douglas Walker, MD**  
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Richard & Sheila Stokes  
Joan Taylor  
Alan Yordy & Joan Kropf

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"It's amazing. I didn't realize how much pain I had until it was gone because I had lived with it for so long," Tami says. "I just got to where I ignored it most of the time."

From laboratory tests to physical therapy the team that helped Tami back to good health included Oregon Imaging Center; Dr. Michael Balm of Oregon Neurology; Dr. Scott Kitchel from NeuroSpine Institute; Northwest Anesthesia; SHMC Bridge Assistance; and the NeuroSpine Institute Physical Therapy program.

"The people here are at VIM are amazing," Tami says. "If you can't pay to come, they don't treat you like someone is, I guess, using them. They don't make you feel bad because you can't pay. They treat you just like they would if you could pay a million dollars here. That's important for me, because without them, I wouldn't be where I am right now." ❖

To hear more of Tami's story, view a video at [www.vim-clinic.org/VIM-Patient-Tami](http://www.vim-clinic.org/VIM-Patient-Tami)

## VIM's Newest Board Members



VIM welcomes two new board members! Liz Chambers, owner and general manager of Silvan Ridge Winery, has more than 10 years of nonprofit board experience, including the Relief Nursery.

John Mlynczyk is a certified public accountant and a tax manager at Kernutt Stokes, focusing on clients in health care-related fields. Mlynczyk was a member of VIM's Finance Committee prior to his appointment to the VIM board. Thank you for joining us!

## Volunteers In Medicine

2260 Marcola Road  
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### Sister Monica Heeran

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### Tracy Ilene Miller

Communications &  
Grants Director  
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tmiller@vim-clinic.org

## Save the date!



**Wednesday  
April 17, 2013**

Tickets available now!

For more information,  
contact Nicole Gauron,  
458-205-6366,  
ngauron@vim-clinic.org  
www.vim-clinic.org/one-fine-day

### *Continued from p. 1*

next move. I think Marie will be a good addition to any organization that is lucky enough to hire her.”

A local practice will have that opportunity after Marie completes her clinical rotations (including one more seven-week stint at VIM in behavioral health) and final tests and receives her degree in August.

Marie says, as a teenager, she picked her profession because of VIM.

“I don’t know without VIM if I would have gone into health care, but I knew pretty early on after I started volunteering here,” Marie says. “VIM has given me every opportunity, every step of the way to experience health care, all the different roles and different interactions between people in the office. I got to see the difference that health care providers are able

to make in the life of a patient.”

But this time around, Marie says her return to VIM feels brand-new.

“I feel like I’m a completely different person. When I walked in the VIM doors when I volunteered at 16, I was a greeter,” she says. “And now to walk in as a PA and say, ‘Hi, I’m Marie, and what can I help you with today?’ It’s just incredible.” ❖

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go to [www.vim-clinic.org](http://www.vim-clinic.org)