Volunteers In Medicine Clinic

Celebrating 20 Years

2001 - 2021

To understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the medically underserved who live and work in Lane County.

Sr. Monica Heeran, Founder

DeLeesa Meashintubby, Executive Director
In the first seven months of service, the Clinic had 2,661 patient visits and dispensed 2,110 prescriptions. Patients were able to get needed blood tests and diagnostic services, and more than 100 referrals to partnering specialists were made.
A little over 20 years ago, Volunteers In Medicine of Lane County stepped up and stepped out to begin a new approach to community healthcare, focusing on a segment of our community that up until then had been over-looked by the healthcare community—working adults who could not afford health insurance. VIM’s focus was to provide primary and behavioral healthcare to our community’s underserved, relying on community volunteers to provide many of those services. VIM bypassed the business of healthcare to provide the essence of healthcare — providing needed healthcare by relying on the expertise and generosity of local providers, professionals and individuals. Community helping community was the cornerstone of our operations.

Since we opened, VIM has served over 18,793 individual patients and maintained a corps of up to 350 volunteers. Along the way, we adapted to our patients’ needs and to changes in local healthcare delivery systems. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2021, VIM was able to implement a safe way of taking care of our staff and patients by keeping our Charitable Pharmacy open and implementing telehealth visits for both primary and behavioral healthcare. After the COVID-19 vaccine became available, we provided the option of telehealth or face-to-face appointments, providing the patient was vaccinated. VIM also became a site where our patients and their families could get the COVID-19 vaccine.

VIM is special because our staff, volunteers, medical partnerships, patients and supporters—that means YOU!—share a common belief that all people deserve access to healthcare, regardless of their economic status. Without you our clinic could not provide the quality, compassionate care that we give our patients. We thank you so much for all that you do for our clinic and especially for our community.

Dwayne “Sparky” Rice, MD - Board Secretary
“There’s a huge need for people who have medical problems and who aren’t getting care. These are our neighbors. They are working, but they don’t have health insurance. There’s a huge gap in economic equity we need to close, and this is one way of doing it.”

Marian Blankenship - Board Member
“I continue to support VIM because it reinforces my belief that humans are kind, creative and lean toward service. VIM’s entire model is one of collective action to fill a need in our community. I love that.”
Physicians with 15 or more years of Volunteer Service to Volunteers In Medicine.

Steven Marks - 20
Victor Richenstein - 19
Steven Lambros - 19
Steven Koester - 18
Hugh Johnston - 16
Gail Hacker - 16
Robert Carolan - 15

Steven Marks, MD (2000-2020)
“I went to talk by Jack McConnell in 1999 about VIM Clinic. I got inspired. I liked what I heard from the very beginning, the whole philosophy: taking care of people who otherwise aren’t seen or noticed or identified as being needy and weren't getting medical care they needed.”

“Working at VIM fulfills a purpose in my life, which is to help care for others. VIM was perfect. There were people not being served that needed to be served, and it was part of my calling to help those folks.”

Hugh Johnston, MD (2005-2020)
“Working at VIM reminded me of why I went into medicine to begin with: to help people out.”

“At VIM I learned how to get along with different types of people, and people from different cultures. The clientele were sometimes difficult. They were used to mass medical care. Here we’re sitting down and talking with them – they weren’t used to that.

Robert Carolan, MD (2006-2021)
“I like doing medicine and I’ve enjoyed working at the clinic. As long as I can do it, I’ll do it.”

“I would say that about 70% of patients I see are Spanish-speaking. I have two sons who are fluent in Spanish, but I am a basket case. I love our interpreters. I totally rely on them. I would be adrift without them.”
Donna Holleran, RN (2001-2021)
“For me, the clinic has become almost a second family, some of my colleagues have become my closest friends. For our patients, to borrow a phrase from Hemingway, it is “a clean, well-lighted place” where they receive excellent care in a safe and welcoming environment. And for us, the volunteers, it’s the satisfaction of being able to offer the best of medical care without having to worry about the bottom line.”

Lori Lewis, RN (2007-2021)
“At VIM there are a few paid positions and lots of volunteers who come together to share their time and hearts. Many of those have been at VIM since the inception 20 years ago. That is a testament to how committed people together can do great things. I love volunteering at VIM and it feels great to be part of it!”

Barbara Dinsmore, RN (2008-2021)
“Working at VIM makes me feel part of the community. Since we aren’t native Oregonians, I feel that I am helping the community, helping people who need help with their health. Even though I’m just in medical records, I know I am helping to provide medical help.”

Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners with 8 or more years of Volunteer Service to Volunteers In Medicine.

Donna Holleran - 15
Lori Lewis- 14
Barbara Dinsmore - 13
Mary Derlacki - 9
Because of VIM’s Open Doors …

Elizabeth Crownover is resilient, an overcomer, and a heartfelt supporter of VIM. Here’s why.

In 2007, Elizabeth was walking several miles a day and began to experience a severe burning sensation in her leg. Out of work, due to the timber industry challenges and unable to afford healthcare, VIM’s doors were opened to her and eligibility was approved.

“I was met with such kindness and respect,” says Elizabeth. VIM absorbed the cost of an MRI. A rare and aggressive form of cancer was found, followed by surgery and radiation treatment. Had her cancer metastasized, her only option would have been amputation.

Since then, Elizabeth has come full circle. The Holiday Farm fire imposed a relocation to Eugene where she became a participant in the Easterseals program. As fate would have it, she was placed at VIM.

“I am a walking victory,” Elizabeth says. “VIM basically gave me my life, and my leg.”
Support and community partnerships
A special **Thank You** to our donors and supporters who have been with us since the beginning...Your support and friendship is valued beyond measure.

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Frank Elsener (1999-2021)
“Volunteering with VIM reinforced things I kind of knew. Most people really want to help other people who need help.”
“We reached an area of community that wasn’t being served. We weren’t duplicating another nonprofit; we served clients who needed help, and identified a way to help them.”

Jo-Mae Gonyea (1999-2021)
“I was on the founding board for VIM. We met once a week for a year and a half, with Sr. Monica. It was something I believed in. It’s like one of my babies.”

Ellie Maliner (1999-2021)
“It is always heart-warming when patients thank us, the clinic, for being there, for taking care of them.”

Doug White (2004-2020)
“The stories that patients share with us I will remember for a long, long time. Many of them have shown great resilience – they are trying to balance home, family, job, food, transportation. This is a tightrope they are trying to walk. I saw that tightrope many, many times.”

Without our Volunteers we would not be able to provide this life-changing care to the underserved of Lane County.

Volunteers with 8 or more years of Volunteer Service to Volunteers In Medicine.

Frank Elsener - 21
Jo-Mae Gonyea - 21
Elaine Rees - 20
Ellie Maliner - 20
Donna Holleran - 19
Sandra Mattson - 16
Cheryl Fernandez - 16
Doug White - 16
Karol Buchanan - 16
Michelle Colbath - 13
Nancy Thomas - 14
Marie Jones - 15
Rick Roseta - 16
Eva Smekens - 9
Judy Baldwin - 9
Ramon Galvan - 9
Kathy Re - 9
Linda Kirk - 9
Pam Clifton - 9
Rev. Greg Flint - 8
We Thank You for your support!

Here’s to 20 more... We couldn’t do it without you.

20 years of In-Kind Business support:

Volunteers In Medicine Staff - years of service

Elise Kimmons - 16.5
DeLeesa Meashintubby - 15.5
Vicki Stave - 14.5
Karrie Mae Yougmayer - 13
Catherine Coffman - 12
Barbara Foster - 10
Alice Tallmadge - 8.5
Susie Bates - 7.5

Diane LeClere - 7.5
Elena “Nena” Herrera - 4
Marisol Maxwell - 3.5
Julie Arendt - 1.5
Kurt Brewster, MD - 1
Marion Diermayer, MD - 1
Michael Vu - 6 months
VIM by the Numbers

20 Years of Caring
February 2001 thru September 2021

Total Number of Patients
18,793

Total Patient Visits
174,586
(Includes Primary Care and Behavioral Health)

Laboratory Services
39,055

Medical Referral Services
29,851

Patient Assistance Program Prescriptions
(Pharmaceutical company donation programs)
236,382

Value of Free Prescriptions
(Patient Assistance Program)
$19,358,590

All Prescriptions (PAP and paid by VIM)
$20,078,414

Total Volunteer Hours
510,744
“Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa