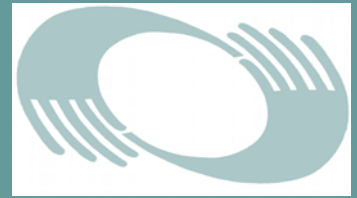
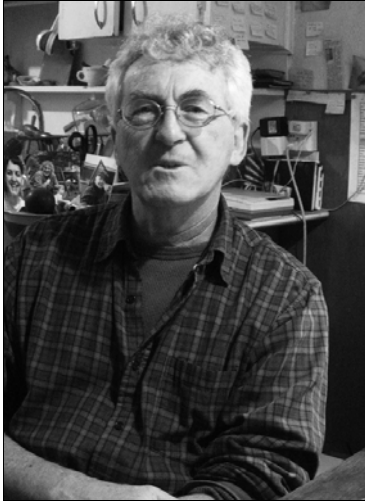


VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE CLINIC



The Plight of the Uninsured

Without health insurance, working around his illness seemed the only option — until this carpenter found VIM



VIM patient Bob Walter

Three years ago, no one was making the connection between Bob Walter's lagging health and thyroid-removal surgery a few years before. Walter was on hormone replacement medication, and had had no ill effect after the surgery. He traveled to California only one week after for his granddaughter's birth. Everything seemed fine.

When Walter's health went into decline, he had already

been through a rough year. One of his daughters had died of ovarian cancer, and the physiological manifestations of his thyroid imbalance was imitating other illnesses, as the hormones affect almost every cell of the body. Plus, the imbalance mimics depression: He had great swings in energy level (and later, a sense of defeat).

A carpenter for more than 20 years and at the time a recent graduate of the School of Journalism and Communication at the University of Oregon, Walter kept working despite feeling sometimes "like a bag of sand sliced with a razor. I was getting terribly weak." His energy would suddenly unplug, and there were floods of weakness. The illness started to dominate daily life.

"My insides were a mess, swollen and bloated, my hair was falling out," Walter says, and it was effecting his ability to work. "I wasn't operating at any level,

(Continued on page 5)

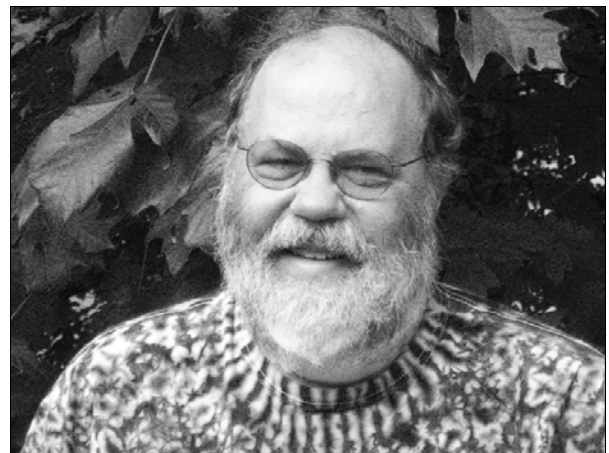
Former Flight Nurse "Gets as Much as I Give" as Dispensary Volunteer

It's both easy and hard to imagine David Green, with his calm, kind demeanor, jumping from helicopters, picking up patients and providing critical nursing care after an evacuation mission. And yet, it's exactly that comforting, clear-headed nature that fits well in the chaotic environment he worked in as a flight nurse for 15 years at the University of Utah hospital.

Although there weren't flight nurses when Green first started studying, one flight out as a student, and he was hooked.

"Once I started flying, that was my passion," Green says. On those aeromedical evacuation missions, Green was appreciated by the medical and support personnel for his ability to direct activities in an unflustered way.

Almost immediately after Green moved to Eugene with his wife, Jill Hoggard Green, the chief operating



officer for PeaceHealth Oregon Region, he ran right into Sister Monica Heeran, a founder of Volunteers In Medicine, at a physician's party. That was only months after VIM opened its doors in Eugene. In that moment, Green developed another passion – volunteering for VIM.

"Anyone who knows Sister Monica," Green says, "knows how persuasive she can be." At the party, "the

(Continued on page 7)

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first six months of this year were monumental for Volunteers In Medicine. The Board of Directors embarked upon a capital campaign to raise \$250,000 to start renovations on a new clinic location in Springfield. By April, the lease was signed, and an architect and a contractor hired. By the end of July, the construction project was completed, and staff and volunteers bid farewell to the clinic's first home on West 11th Avenue in Eugene.

This move is great news for Volunteers In Medicine — and not a minute too soon. In September, the U.S. Census Bureau published “Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2009” — 88 pages of findings, charts and graphs that is as convincing as it is long in highlighting the need for VIM to continue its mission to address the substantial problem of the medically uninsured.

Perhaps you don't need to wade through the thick and detailed report to have gotten a sense from the current economic climate that poverty surged to 14.3 percent last year, and that for the first time since 1987, the number of people with health insurance decreased. Although the health care overhaul is now law, Americans will be expected to obtain coverage or pay a penalty — unless the mounting legal challenges to the insurance mandate prevail, and then it could be years more.

In the meantime, as the report indicates, the predicament of the uninsured is only getting worse and will continue to do so. The uninsured, for one, tend to do without doctor visits when they become ill because of cost. And many of them work but make just too much to qualify for Oregon Health Plan coverage. As well, sufferers of chronic disease are unable to afford medication.

Now that we are in our new facility, outreach to reduce barriers to those medically uninsured, low-income people is more important than ever. Now is the time to double our fundraising efforts. Our volunteers greet the uninsured daily at the clinic and screen up to 250 Lane County residents every month. VIM then provides eligible patients with the high-quality health care and the medications they need — all free. The demand for our services will continue to increase. One in 7 Americans is now living in poverty, and the working-age poor is at the highest level since the 1960s. We count on you and all our supporters to give so others can live well and be healthy.



Jackie Mikalonis
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Mikalonis".

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 under-served and other household members who live and work in the greater Lane County area.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN — THE GIFT OF HEALTH

From Our Annual Campaign Co-Chairs

My wife, Anne Marie, and I are happy to support this tremendous organization. As parents and business people, we recognize that the vitality of our community depends on keeping families healthy. Many people think that individuals without health coverage don't work. The fact is many of the uninsured work in low-wage jobs without benefits, or are employed by small businesses that cannot afford to provide coverage. When you support the clinic, you are helping to make Lane County a stronger community. Thank you in advance for considering VIM in your giving plans for 2011.

Dana Siebert, Chambers Communications

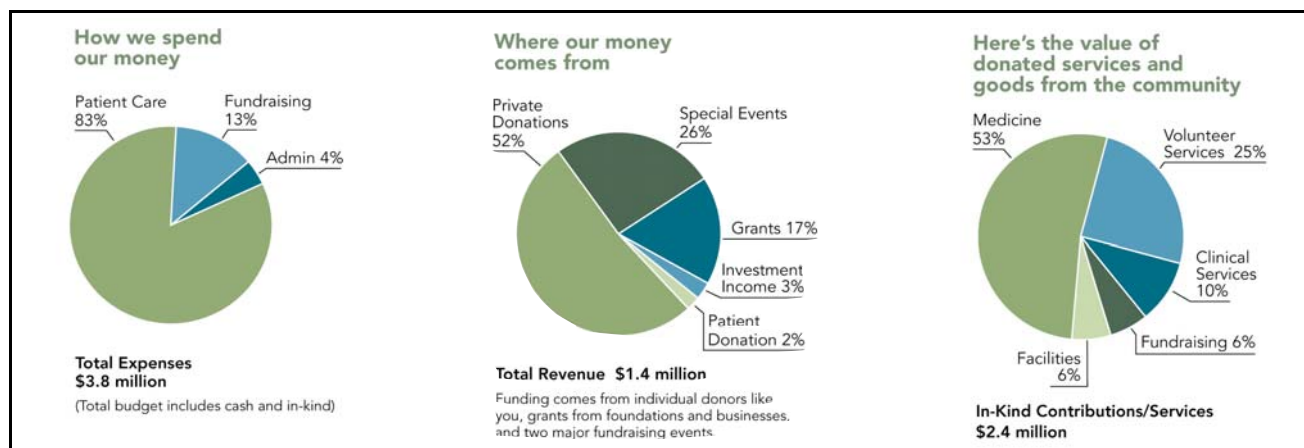
As a mother and a grandmother, I can only imagine the devastating lifelong effect not having insurance has on a family. I feel very fortunate that I've never faced this situation. During my professional years as a medical social worker, I talked with many patients who had no money to pay for their hospital expenses. They also couldn't pay for any follow up appointments or medications, yet they were too proud to ask for help. When VIM opened, I was able to make appropriate referrals that allowed patients to maintain their dignity while getting the follow up care they needed. Because of this, I am proud to serve on the Volunteers in Medicine's board and ask for your help in funding the clinic.

Sandra Mattson, Community Volunteer and VIM Board Member



Photo: Steve Smith Imagine Photographics

The Power of Community to Make People's Lives Better



At Volunteers In Medicine Clinic, we rely on two resources: donated time from health care professionals and financial support from community members and foundations. We need both to serve our patients. This year the goal is to raise \$1.6 million. You have the power to make someone's life better by providing access to free medical care for those who need it and are unable to afford it.

You can donate online at www.vim-clinic.org, or mail your donation to Volunteers In Medicine Clinic,

2260 Marcola Road Springfield, OR 97477. If you prefer, contact directly Glenda Gordon, Development Director, at 541-686-6361, or ggordon@vim-clinic.org.

VIM applauds!

Liz Cawood and Steve Korth for being last year's Annual Campaign Co-Chairs. You raised awareness in our community, volunteered, contributed and helped VIM raise significant funds so we could meet our campaign goals. In return, many low-income, uninsured families are leading healthier lives! We are grateful and thank you!

One Fine Day

Co-Chairs

Kathy Aliotti
Jo-Mae Gonyea
Carol Hammons
Kathy Re
Kim Ward
Sarah Zachem
Marie Jones, Emeritus

VIM Special Events Coordinator
Nicole Gauron

Swingin' Summer Night

Committee

Julie Christensen
Glenda Gordon
Susie Kriz
Stephanie Pearl Kimmel
Shirley Randolph
Beth Sheehan
Michelle Wasner

VIM Development Associate
Jennifer Larson

Stars twinkled, guests danced!



Photo: Luke Mazziotti

The sun shone and the stars twinkled in time to the sounds of the big band music and the dazzle of the world-class views enjoyed by more than 200 guests of one of Lane County's newest premier fundraisers, the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic's Swingin' Summer Night Gala!

The guests who arrived at Sweet Cheeks Winery for the July 15th event were enticed to dance the night away to the sounds of the Blue Skies Big Band and the Jewel Tones, and were indulged by the delicious dinner from Marché Catering. And before the sun set, Dr. Victor Richenstein, one of VIM's volunteer psychiatrists, shared his experiences and passion for the clinic.

The event, in its second year, raised more than \$50,000 for the clinic, topping last year's revenues by \$11,000. A special thank-you to Doncha' Remember Florals and Parties To Go for the beautiful floral centerpieces and décor. We are also grateful to Sid Vorhees, our master of ceremonies, and his crew for all of their help. And of course, the committee of the Swingin' Summer Night Gala made this event beautiful and enjoyable for all, while keeping in mind the purpose of the event, to raise funds for the clinic.

Work is already under way for next year's Gala! For sponsors of the gala, you not only can join us at the event on July 21, 2011, but you also enjoy a great marketing opportunity for your company. To inquire about sponsorships, tickets and tables, see the information box below!



Photo: Luke Mazziotti

SAVE THE DATES!

One Fine Day, April 13, 2011

You can support this event! For sponsorship, tickets or donation information, contact Nicole Gauron, (541) 335-2827 or ngauron@vim-clinic.org.

Swingin' Summer Night, July 21, 2011

To inquire about sponsorship or to reserve your table, contact Jennifer Larson, (541) 868-3578 or jelarson@vim-clinic.org.

SOLD-OUT EVENT AN ELEGANT, FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



One Fine Day once again proved to be the Lane County fundraising luncheon to be at! The One Fine Day co-chairs and their amazing committee have

made the annually sold-out event so highly popular that more than a quarter of a million dollars was raised for the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic.

More than 400 guests gathered in the Club Room at Autzen Stadium to shop for more than 500 auction items at the April 21 event and to enjoy delicious food and wine and great company. The silent auction was complemented by a live auction with and a raffle that included a custom-designed diamond necklace from Beaudet Jewelry, a Louis Vuitton designer handbag and a spa day. Dr. Tom Wuest, the master of ceremonies, entertained with his humor and wit while the famously popular Sid Voorhees presided over the live auction. With their combined talents, the two had the guests laughing and bidding in support of services for the low-income, medically uninsured of Lane County.

Your help is needed to make **One Fine Day 2011** a success! Tables are already being reserved for next



Photos: Peggy Ileen Johnson

year's event to be held on Wednesday, April 13th. And sponsorships and donations of new or gently used handbags, jewelry, scarves, art work and small antiques are needed. To inquire about sponsorships, table purchases, individual tickets or to make a donation, please contact Nicole Gauron, Special Events Coordinator, at 541-335-2827, or at ngauron@vim-clinic.org

(Continued from page 1)

even mentally. I started to blank out, and my personality started to wither.”

Three years before, when Walter had his thyroid removed because of tumors, he was able to make the insurance payments. But then the cost of insurance outran his income, and paying for the follow up on his own became too expensive after about a year. When Walter's health then went into decline, he came to VIM. He met eligibility because of his income, which fell between 85% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

VIM volunteer doctors ordered blood work and CAT scans to rule out cancer, and there was none. Once cancer was ruled out, a review of Walter's entire case history revealed a connection to Walter's thyroid.

Walter's medications were adjusted, and many of the symptoms went away. But the process of finding the right balance of hormone

intake took many more months. Without VIM, Walter would not have been able to get the medical attention he needed to gain back his health.

“I've always been profoundly self-sufficient,” Walter said. He says he has never required social services or received food stamps.

Like many other patients, as his health sunk, Walter continued to work, and he avoided people to try to deal with his health problems himself.

“It changes your whole nature and your relationship to people,” Walter says. “I began to not make phone calls to people. I didn't want to worry them.”

Even as Walter continues to work, and the carpentry jobs have rolled in this summer, he doesn't earn enough to afford the approximately \$500 per month insurance fees. But his thyroid levels need monitoring, as with many

chronic conditions such as diabetes, that are influenced by the variables of life. His medications need adjusting on a continual basis for him to remain working. Walter returns to the clinic at least monthly to get his levels checked.

Walter is thankful that VIM was there to sort out his health problems, and even offer the short-term counseling he needed to get back on track, at a time when he felt vulnerable. Patients of chronic illness often feel they have to convince people they are ill, which adds to their stress.

“The clinic staff have treated me very respectfully and conscientiously,” Walter says, “and I'm glad they are there. In the waiting room, I've seen the population being served. And to think of those people not being served is incredible. To have an organization like VIM — that is the way it should be. There should always be a resource like that.”

Staff Spotlight

Martha Griffith, Physician Assistant

The noticeable difference Martha Griffith, physician assistant, found working at Volunteers In Medicine Clinic compared with her previous work in a private practice was the medical complexity of patient medical problems that result from the many years without basic care.

"I thought because it was adult primary care medicine that I would more or less see a cross section, like in the insured world," Griffith says of her arrival at VIM in July 2003. "But that isn't true. It's different. People without insurance don't seek care for the small stuff, and by the time they do seek care, there is a lot of backtracking in terms of determining their health problems."

Griffith practiced in a private primary care setting for two years after her graduation from Pacific University (Forest Grove) before coming to VIM. Here, Griffith says, she approaches patient care from a more global view because of the lack of preventive care.

"I have a choice: I can stay focused on one [ailment,] and then miss 90 percent of patient health problems, or I



can look at their health globally every time they visit," she says. "That's challenging, because, done correctly, it makes the visits more in-depth."

At VIM, Griffith has been able to practice that brand of in-depth primary care. "What a gratifying field of medicine," she says.

Embracing that mission, helping people who wouldn't otherwise have access to health care, is the reason Griffith says she came to VIM.

Two areas that Griffith has focused on as a physician assistant is Spanish-

speaking patients, because of her fluency, and diabetic care.

Diabetes is the top diagnosis at VIM and the fastest growing disease in the United States. With the support of a grant from the American Medical Association Foundation, Griffith has been reviewing the charting of patients, which resulted in better tracking of patient stability for those already diagnosed with diabetes and increased identification of patients with diabetes.

"I'm proud we got a grant, and I feel like we are tracking patients' stability and their disease better," Griffith says. In the process, she says she is more aware of the difficulty patients have in managing this chronic disease.

"It never stops. They have to be constantly vigilant," she says.

That awareness, combined with an understanding of the financial constraints of low-income patients, has prompted her to become more creative over the years in helping patients find ways to keep them healthy and to provide the personalized, compassionate care they deserve.

5 Things You Should Know About VIM's Move!

1. Our new address!

2260 Marcola Road
Springfield, OR 97477

Administrative offices are still in downtown Eugene at 750 E. 11th Avenue, but all of VIM mail is sent to the Clinic's address listed above.

2. Clinic's hours of operation:

Monday: 9:00 a.m. –noon; 1:30–5:00 p.m.;
5:30–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 1:30–5:00 p.m.; 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–noon

Thursday: 9:00 a.m.–noon; 1:30–5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

3. The number of exam rooms: 13

(up by 6 from the old clinic!)

4. The cost of the project: \$250,000

5. Of the many people and organizations who supported us during this capital campaign, those whom we owe a specific debt of gratitude:

- The Paula Babb Family
- Loren Berry of Berry Architects, PC
- The Buell Family
- City of Springfield
- Ellen Cougill
- Dorman Construction, Bob Buss
- The Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation
- Sister Monica Heeran, in memory of her brother, Michael Ward
- Aaron & Marie Jones, in honor of One Fine Day
- Doug McKay
- PeaceHealth
- Hugh Prichard
- Jody Rolnick
- B. Lynne Schwartz
- United Way of Lane County
- Doug & Kathy White

A Story of Inspiration, Where You Play a Part

Duncan McDonald, Board Chair

Inspirational.

This uplifting adjective describes the powerful pulse that runs through our Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, as our volunteers, staff and supporters respond to an ever-pressing need for health care for the uninsured.

As VIM approaches its tenth year of service, it is amazing and humbling that a vision offered by Sister Monica Heeran and propelled into daily practice by our founding board of directors has become a staple of service in a community whose needs, frankly, can seem never-ending.

And this is what is so inspirational — that caring people will respond to such needs and offer their service and support. We understood that 12,000 patient visits in one year expanding to 15,000 in the next meant we must move to a larger facility, secure more volunteer providers and increase the financial support to make this outreach succeed. And so we have.

Our 7,000-square-foot clinic at Marcola Road and Mohawk Boulevard doubles our number of exam rooms and provides separate space for mental health counseling. We have larger space for our dispensary and laboratory areas, which also offers great privacy for our patients. These and many other improvements allow us to utilize more health care providers and to see more patients without expanding our hours or staff. It's a wonderful story.

However, this is a story that must be “rewritten” every year, as our \$ 1.6-million annual budget is never a “given.” We depend on an additional \$2.7 million in

donated services and supplies annually, and it is gratifying that so many people and organizations step up to repeat their in-kind contributions. In

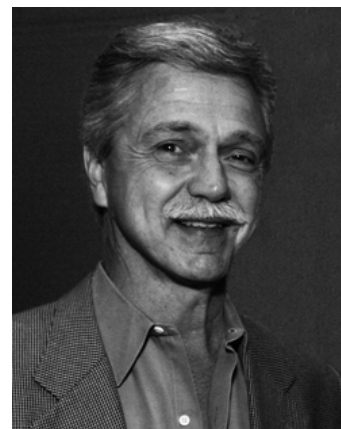
addition to this support, we take a deep breath every year and hope that we can raise at least \$1.6 million in cash support — from individual donors, foundation grants and the income from two annual events: our legendary One Fine Day in April and our newer Swingin' Summer Night in July.

What will our story be as we begin our new fiscal year in October?

I'm confident that we will continue to respond to the health needs of our uninsured — with energy, commitment and compassion. Volunteers will continue to arrive at the clinic with one question: “How can we help?” Staff will use optimism, ingenuity and humor to get through every day. And our donors — bless them, all — will be there with their persistent but quiet philanthropy.

Yes, all of you will continue to write our story — because you are the pulse of Volunteers in Medicine.

Inspirational, indeed.



(Continued from page 1)

first thing Sister Monica did was find out that I was an RN,” Green says, “and the second thing she did was advise me to volunteer.”

Green was soon volunteering his time in the Dispensary (where patients pick up their free medications), and he has ever since, at least once a week for more than eight years, in rotation with his work at the University of Oregon Health Services.

In the VIM Dispensary, Green draws upon his expertise in poison control, required as a flight nurse, and his licensure to give patient consultations on their medications.

But the volunteer work also ties into his enjoyment of young people, especially medical students (who gain school credit at VIM) and the sense of satisfaction he gets from the work overall.

“I really enjoy interacting with the young volunteers, the students,” Green says. “I’ve watched a lot of them get accepted to med school and move on. There are new kids every year, and I tell a lot of stories about my past experiences.” Green frequently uses these experiences to teach students how to deal with a situation that comes up at the clinic.

But even as he is giving of his time, “I get more out of volunteering

than they get out of me,” Green says. “That’s the cliché, and it’s a cliché for a reason. I really do get more out of it than they get from me. Volunteering gives me a sense of contributing. It makes me feel useful.”

Whenever it comes out in social situations that Green is a part of VIM, “I always get a positive response from other professionals. And there are a lot of people, at the dry cleaners, or the movers, who when they find out my connection to VIM, they seem appreciative. If it wasn’t themselves, they all have had people who have been helped by Volunteers In Medicine.”

Aaron and Marie Jones A Legacy of Open Arms and Hearts

By Marie Jones

Aaron and I were approached by Sister Monica when she was seeking funding for a community organization called the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic. The issue of how to provide quality health care for low-income, uninsured folks who live or work in the Eugene-Springfield area had always been a community concern, and VIM was a way to address that. Other local leaders and physicians were also contacted to help start this valuable organization.

Aaron and I have been involved in several community projects similar to this and we agreed with Sister Monica that this was a valuable community service that we could support and help grow. As other supporters of VIM can probably agree, it's very hard to say no to Sister Monica.

Local volunteers and supporters help fundraise for VIM through an annual event called One Fine Day, of which I am an emeritus co-chair. Thousands of volunteer hours are donated for this annual fundraiser. One Fine Day has raised more than \$1.3 million since the first fundraising event was held in 2005. Every year, the community support for this fundraiser has increased.

The One Fine Day committee has included 25 to 30 local women who generously donate volunteer hours to help support Volunteers In Medicine. Without this community support, and the health care providers and volunteers, VIM would not be the community success it is.

Aaron and I believe that the VIM Clinic is an important community health care resource. We feel that it is important that we and other community leaders get involved to find solutions to local community issues such as health care for the



Photo: Luke Mazziotti

Aaron Jones, Sister Monica Heeran, Marie Jones.

uninsured. I have been to the clinic and have seen its operations and have been impressed by what it does for members of our community who need their services. For us, it is rewarding to see the clinic in action and also to see the community support for this valued program.

Aaron and I are proud to support such a fine community organization as Volunteers In Medicine, and we will continue to do so. Thanks to Sister Monica for bringing this concept to our area.

Aaron Jones is the owner and founder of Seneca Sawmill Co. in Eugene. Aaron and Marie Jones are owners of a successful thoroughbred racing and breeding business in Kentucky.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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