Volunteers In Medicine Clinic



Without VIM, Guy Carpenter "wouldn't be here"

Because of VIM, Guy Carpenter lived to see his 65th birthday. "The real truth is I probably wouldn't be sitting here talking to you otherwise," he says. "But VIM has been able to keep me well."

In 2004, he had a five-vessel heart bypass. "It turned out well, but I was never the same," he says. At 60, what little work he was able to obtain after recovering from surgery offered no insurance benefits. The BRIDGE program at Sacred Heart Medical Center helped him with his surgery bills.

A laborer with four grown children, Carpenter was, he says, "kind of floating along."

And then he found VIM. "I think I probably heard about it from someone who had been here before," he savs.

That the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic can take care of so many people is "phenomenal," in Carpenter's opinion. VIM helped him with Medicare and medications through its prescription drug program. Doctors

diagnosed his Type II Diabetes, emphysea, asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, and acid reflux disease. He was sent to the sleep disorders clinic and other specialty clinics at PeaceHealth Riverbend.



Former VIM patient Guy Carpenter

"They took care of everything-what they didn't have in this building they had connections somewhere. They even took care of my eye exams.

"The bottom line is this: It cost nothing. I was given an envelope and asked to contribute what I could. The people behind VIM—the people who donate and give

Continued on p. 7

Volunteering puts Ryan Lee on track for med school



Rvan Lee

at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, says he wanted a unique experience in the healthcare field. With a double major in **Biology and Leadership** Studies, Lee, 21, discovered VIM while searching for nonprofit organizations in the healthcare field. At VIM. he was tasked with

Rvan Lee, a senior

various duties, including patient eligibility screenings, appointment scheduling, answering the phone, and general office duties.

"My 'typical' day was centered around helping the office be as efficient as possible, whether that meant working closely with patients or other volunteers," he says. "I learned a lot about the patient population and some of the struggles they endure, the non-profit sector, and the healthcare industry as a whole.

When not at the clinic, Lee divided his time between studying for the MCAT and going on runs and hikes in Oregon's national parks-Deschutes National Forest was a favorite, as was the McKenzie River Trail and the Bryce Creek Trail. "Anything with a waterfall was worth traveling to and hanging out for the day," Lee says.

He is no stranger to running in Oregon-considered one of the best high school track athletes in Delaware history, Lee, now a member of the Richmond Spiders track club, has an impressive list of accomplishments on the track, including at Hayward Field.

Continued on p. 7

Years of Service Celebrating 12

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www.vim-clinic.org

Talking with DeLeesa

This has been a challenging yet rewarding year for all of us at Volunteers In Medicine.

We have been challenged by the prospect of change that is compounded by uncertainly, as we consider the question, "Will Volunteers in Medicine change once the Affordable Care Act is implemented?"

Frankly, it is too early to fashion a thorough answer, as the ACA is itself evolving. And so are we—indeed Volunteers In Medicine must always be responsive to change, and even be an agent for that change. However, we do know that we will continue to serve the underserved and disenfranchised in Lane County.



VIM Executive Director DeLeesa Meashintubby

Even as we test our nimbleness as we face change, we are rewarded by this compelling truth: that VIM is a welcoming sanctuary to our patients who are so grateful to the body of volunteers—more than 500 strong—who make our clinic such a compassionate resource.

The community also faces many challenges that we see daily: a shortage of health care providers, increasing workload demands on providers, and a growing need to help patients navigate a rapidly changing healthcare environment. We see it at our clinic, as the number of patients seeking eligibility for VIM care is increasing.

We will, of course, continue to keep our fingers on the pulse of healthcare reform, and we promise to be both nimble and caring as we adapt to any needed changes. But as always, you will find us on Marcola Road in Springfield, focusing on our mission: compassionate care for the underserved.

Many thanks to you for the tremendous financial support, countless volunteer hours, and positive encouragement you continue to give to Volunteers In Medicine.

Incoming Board Chair: Dr. Steven Marks



Dr. Steven Marks is a family physician who has volunteered at VIM Clinic since its inception. Currently retired, he has served in a number of positions in his career in private practice, hospital and health plan administration, emergency services, and international health care. Volunteerism has been part of his professional life, and he also heads a medical team to Africa each year. He has served on the Medical Advisory Board at VIM, and for a number of months this year as Interim Medical Director. A corporate board member since 2007, he was elected chair of the board at the annual meeting in October 2013.

Reflecting on VIM's role, Dr. Marks says, "I've had a passion for VIM ever since I heard Dr. Jack McConnell speak in 2009 of his founding a similar clinic on the east coast. Our VIM clinic serves a vital need for those who are underserved, uninsured, and

disenfranchised. That need is not going away anytime soon. Our mission is just as relevant now and for the foreseeable future as it ever was. We are the 'safety net' for our patients. We make a difference for them."

Dr. Marks states that his goals for the board in the coming year include (1) revisioning of strategic directions for VIM, (2) helping ensure future financial sustainability, (3) increasing diversity of the VIM board, and (4) preparing for the "new world" of health reform.

"I look forward to working with our board, VIM staff, and the community that supports us to make VIM ever more relevant to the needs of our friends and neighbors who so desperately need our services and our caring."

THANKS!

Volunteers in Medicine and the Committee of the 2013 Swingin' Summer Night Dinner and Auction are grateful to our generous sponsors listed below as well as the donors, many volunteers and nearly 300 attendees who helped make this year's event a success. Because of your generosity, we raised more than \$110,000 toward providing free medical services to uninsured, low-income residents of Lane County.

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Song of the Departing Chair

The theme of "change" is prominent in this, the Fall newsletter of Volunteers in Medicine. DeLeesa Meashintubby cites the challenges and opportunities of change in her column, and the news note on Dr. Steven Marks cites an important transition.

Which brings me to me.

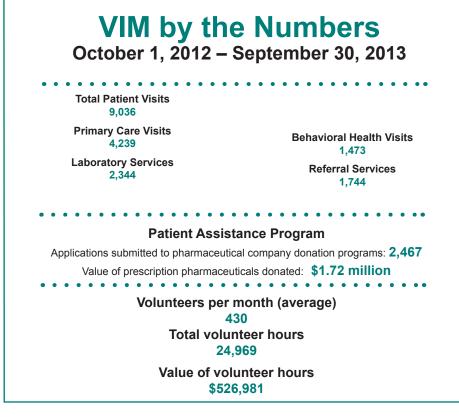
On September 30, I stepped down as chair of our board of directors – a change that, for me, symbolizes the kind of nimbleness that DeLeesa mentions in her column. VIM is blessed with a board that is dedicated, is energetic and that is committed to strategic transitions in leadership. So now, in the



fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, we have Dr. Marks assuming the chair, and our former treasurer, Steve Ritchie serving as vice chair. They join the team of John Mlynczyk as treasurer and our marathon man of service, Doug White, as secretary.

It was an honor to succeed Sister Monica Heeran as chair, and while these last several years have not been without their challenges, I am ever so confident that the mission of Volunteers in Medicine is stronger than ever. We have an incredible cadre of dedicated volunteers – almost 500 of them. We have a mighty (as in mighty small) staff who are incredibly responsive. And, we continue to marvel at the level of community and foundation support we receive. All of this inspires and fortifies our board, which is committed to navigate through any change we encounter and to strengthen our mission even more.

You'll note I used "we." Though I move aside in this leadership role, I am honored to continue my service on this extraordinary board. I am so thankful to be part of a community that stands to serve and support. —Duncan McDonald



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Persons memorialized appear in boldface

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Sister Monica Heeran Society

The Heeran Society honors those who name 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 wish to be a Heeran Society member, contact development director David Meredith at (541) 686-6361 or 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

Scott & Joan Benge W. Rex & Shirley Stevens

Nancy Billington Zachary Erdmann & Lyndsey Billington

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Lee, continued from p. 1

Carpenter, continued from p. 1

of their time and money—they need to know that their actions and their activities are not in vain. If you don't have your health, you don't have anything.

"All the people right here who volunteer their time, every day—the doctors, the diabetic educators, the office staff...they give a lot. There are just a lot of wonderful people here."

Originally from southern Illinois, Carpenter moved to Oregon in 1966. "It was a good move," he says.

Carpenter turned 65 in April and became eligible for Medicare, which made him ineligible to use VIM's services. "I like to come back and visit." His partner of seventeen years, Cindy Johnston, has also benefited from VIM after a minor stroke.

Carpenter is looking for a way to give back. "I've thought about this a lot. The best way for me to give something in return is to get my health back and volunteer myself. It's a part of why we're here... to love one another, to help others." "After running at Hayward in the USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships three years ago, the whole "Track Town USA" experience was really great," he says. "I never knew if I would have the opportunity to go back, so living only a half mile from Hayward Field and being able to run Pre's trail everyday was a really neat experience."

Lee, who is completing his undergraduate degree and preparing to apply to medical schools, hopes to return to volunteering for VIM someday. "The people who work and volunteer at VIM are what make it a great organization. Everyone is there for one reason, to help patients who are in need, and that really is something special."

"Ryan put his heart and soul into VIM this past summer," Executive Director Deleesa Measintubby said. "His compassion for the patient showed, as well as his willingness to do whatever he needed to do to get the patients taken care of."

Volunteers In Medicine

2260 Marcola Road Springfield, OR 97477



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.

Volunteer with VIM!



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

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

For an online application: www.vim-clinic.org/volunteer-application

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

Sister Monica Heeran Founder 458-205-6362 mheeran@vim-clinic.org

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