

Letter: Thanks for supporting VIM

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Thanks for support

To the editor:

As we begin a new year, I am grateful for the many individuals who support the mission of the Volunteers in Medicine free clinic through financial contributions and/or service. Indeed, VIM would not exist today without tremendous support from IU Health Bloomington Hospital, Cook Group Inc., Premier Healthcare, Smithville Telephone, Shredding & Storage Unlimited, ProBleu, Sarkes Tarzian, the Monroe County Council and Commissioners, the city of Bloomington and so many others. In April, VIM celebrates 10 years of serving the medically underserved.

Even with health care reform, hundreds of people in the Bloomington community are still marginalized, disenfranchised and lack access to medical care. In 2016, VIM served over 1,100 individuals — 70 percent of whom are U.S. citizens, eligible for insurance. And, yet through the vagaries of Healthy IN Plan 2.0 and the federal Marketplace, there is still a huge need for a safety-net health clinic. Now we wait to see what the future holds for the Affordable Care Act. Whatever the outcome, VIM stands in the gap for whoever might be next to fall through the cracks. Thank you for your support!

Nancy E. Richman, executive director

Bloomington