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### Gala funds free medical clinic

**Volunteers in Medicine clinic set to open in July**

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by Dann Denny  
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Hoosier Times

Interested in having a fun evening and helping raise funds for a free health-care clinic serving low-income residents?

If your answer is yes, then the "Lights, Camera, Action Holiday Gala" is the event for you.

The gala, hosted by the Bloomington Hospital Foundation, will take place Dec. 1 at the Bloomington Convention Center.

The foundation hopes to raise \$80,000 at the event, with all proceeds going to the Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County clinic, scheduled to open this July.

"The response from our corporate partners and others has been very good so far," said Chris Molloy, the foundation's vice president of fund development and executive director. "We're very optimistic that we will reach our fundraising goal."

Molloy said the foundation is partnering with Volunteers in Medicine with its fundraising efforts, and plans to soon hire a fundraising professional to spearhead those efforts.

#### **About the new clinic**

The new clinic will be a community-owned, community-operated and community-financed facility that will provide free medical care to residents of Monroe and Owen counties who do not have health insurance and are unable to pay for health care.

The clinic will offer primary and preventive health-care services for both acute and chronic illnesses and will sell prescription medications for \$3 per medication.

Bloomington Hospital will donate its Community Health Access Program facility to the new clinic as well as some of its staff, various diagnostic services and free hospitalization if necessary.

The goal is to accommodate 14,000 patient visits the first year, and 21,000 patient visits in the clinic's third year of operation.

The clinic will be manned by a volunteer staff of both medical professionals and community

members, plus a small paid staff.

Children of adults who qualify for care with Volunteers in Medicine will be referred to Southern Indiana Pediatrics for free care.

The clinic will receive financial support from the community, including a pledged gift of \$600,000 from Cook Group Inc.

"We wanted to help Volunteers in Medicine get off to a good start as they prepare to open in 2007," Molloy said. "The new clinic's mission of providing quality health care to those who can't afford it is compatible with the hospital's mission."

### **The gala**

The event (black tie optional) will begin with a reception and silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. and dancing to the band ETC from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Silent auction items will include furs, a wine refrigerator filled with private-collection wines and a one-week stay at Chateau Orleans in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Tickets - \$250 per couple, \$125 per individual - are available at the foundation office at 405 N. Rogers St. or by calling the foundation at 812-353-9528. Attendees must buy tickets no later than Thursday.

"The gala will have a Hollywood theme," Molloy said. "There will be a marquee in front of the convention center and several people dressed up like everyone's favorite Hollywood legends."

Volunteers in Medicine board president Dr. Rajih Haddawi and his wife, Darlene, will serve as honorary chairpersons for the event.

### **Help still needed**

Community volunteers and community financial support are needed for the clinic.

Individuals interested in volunteer opportunities through Volunteers in Medicine can e-mail [info@VIMMonroeCounty.org](mailto:info@VIMMonroeCounty.org).

### **If you go**

**WHAT:** Lights, Camera, Action Holiday Gala.

**WHERE:** Bloomington Convention Center.

**WHEN:** Dec. 1. There will be a reception and silent auction at 6 p.m., a dinner at 7:30 p.m. and dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight.

**HOST:** Bloomington Hospital Foundation.

**TICKETS:** \$250 per couple; \$125 per individual. Get tickets at the foundation office at 405 N. Rogers St. or by calling the foundation at 812-353-9528. Attendees must buy tickets no later than Thursday.

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