



Volunteers in Medicine

OF MONROE COUNTY

vimmonroecounty.org

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GROUP WORKING TO ESTABLISH

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

New Clinic Set to Open in July 2007

Bloomington, Indiana, October 3, 2006—Members of the local medical establishment and Bloomington Hospital together with community leaders and not-profit organizations are working to establish a Volunteers in Medicine free medical clinic to serve Monroe and Owen counties.

The clinic, which is modeled after a national program with a history of success in other communities around the country, is scheduled to open in the summer of 2007 at 333 E. Miller Drive in the space that currently houses Bloomington Hospital's Community Health Access Program (CHAP) and other community health services.

The community-operated, community-owned and community-financed Volunteers in Medicine clinic will build on the foundation established by CHAP by expanding services to more of the 16,000 individuals who lack insurance and the ability to pay for healthcare services in Monroe and Owen Counties.

“Bloomington Hospital has a long and outstanding history of providing quality medical services to patients who are unable to pay for them,” explained Rajih Haddawi, M.D., chairman of the Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County board of directors. “But the ability of uninsured individuals to access affordable healthcare has reached a critical level, both nationally and here in Indiana. This is a local problem too large for any one institution to bear on its own.”

By relying on the help of medical and lay volunteers, community support and a partnership with Bloomington Hospital, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic hopes to deliver care through some

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Volunteers in Medicine/Add One

14,000 patient visits in its first year of operation. With the additional resources, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic will have more than four times the capacity of the CHAP clinic.

"With the support of our Board of Directors, Bloomington Hospital is excited to evolve the reach of the current CHAP clinic into a broader model through the Volunteers in Medicine clinic collaboration," states Mark Moore, president and CEO of Bloomington Hospital. "Bloomington Hospital is committed to support to the Volunteers in Medicine clinic by providing financial support and in-kind services, including clinic space, diagnostic services and staff support. We believe Volunteers in Medicine to be an exciting and addition to the healthcare of our community."

At the Volunteers in Medicine clinic, individuals who reside in Monroe or Owen County, earn income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and do not have health insurance (including all current CHAP patients) will be eligible for the following services at no cost:

- Primary and preventive care for both chronic and acute illnesses
- Health education
- Medications for acute and chronic illnesses with only a low-cost handling fee
- Immunizations
- Psychological counseling
- Diagnostic laboratory and radiology testing at Bloomington Hospital
- Dental care (in the offices of participating local dentists)
- Pediatric care (provided at the offices of Southern Indiana Pediatrics).

Nearly 100 medical professionals have already expressed their willingness to volunteer in the clinic, however, additional lay volunteers are needed.

"The exceptional nature of the Volunteers in Medicine model is underscored by its name...services are delivered by volunteer medical and lay staff," said Dr. Haddawi. "We are fortunate to live in a vibrant and generous community that includes a wealth of active and retired medical personnel, students, and other individuals who are willing to donate their time and resources."

The first Volunteers in Medicine clinic, established in 1993 in Hilton Head, South Carolina, provides care for more than 20,000 patients a year. With the common mission of providing "a solution to America's uninsured, one community at a time," approximately 50 additional Volunteers in Medicine clinics have opened throughout the country, including clinics in Columbus and Indianapolis.

For more information on or to volunteer for the Volunteers in Medicine clinic, send an email to info@VIMMonroeCounty.org. To make a donation to the clinic, please contact the Bloomington Hospital Foundation at 353.9528.

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