



Volunteers in Medicine

OF MONROE COUNTY

vimmonroecounty.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COOK GROUP PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE CLINIC

Donation of \$600,000 Helps Launch Free Medical Clinic

Bloomington, IN, October 3, 2006—Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County, a newly established non-profit organization dedicated to providing primary and preventive care to the uninsured and economically disadvantaged in Monroe and Owen Counties, is appealing to the community to follow the example set by Cook Group, which has donated \$600,000 to the free medical clinic.

With the help of the Cook gift, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic, due to open in July of 2007 in Bloomington, will be able to operate for a full year. Other funding and gifts-in-kind will help pay the operational expenses for the clinic's first year of service, which are projected at \$9.01 million.

"Cook Group has always supported efforts to improve patient care, whether it's through medical device innovations, encouraging the advancement of medical science and research, or through improved health care delivery to the patient," said Kem Hawkins, president of Cook Group.

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Cook Gives \$600,000 to New Clinic/Add One

"After observing Dr. Haddawi's efforts and vision to bring the Volunteers in Medicine program to Bloomington, and seeing Bloomington Hospital's willingness to expand the long-standing CHAP program, the need to support the costs became evident. As a result, Cook Group has agreed to support the daily operational costs of the Volunteers in Medicine clinic through a \$600,000 gift. And Cook Group encourages other area businesses to likewise support this effort."

Members of the local medical establishment and Bloomington Hospital together with community leaders and not-profit organizations are working to establish the Volunteers in Medicine free medical clinic for the estimated 16,000 individuals residing in Monroe and Owen Counties who are without health insurance and the economic means to pay for health care.

"We are so grateful for the very generous response from Cook Inc.," said Rajih Haddawi, M.D., chairman of the Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County board of directors. "Our goal is to build on this gift by creating an endowment that will help fund the Volunteers in Medicine free medical clinic and sustain the long-term growth for years to come."

The community-operated, community-owned and community financed clinic, will be located at 333 E. Miller Drive in Bloomington.

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

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