



Volunteers in Medicine

OF MONROE COUNTY

vimmonroecounty.org

For Immediate Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BLOOMINGTON HOSPITAL'S HOLIDAY GALA TO BENEFIT
VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE**

Bloomington, Ind.—The Bloomington Hospital Foundation, the fundraising arm for Bloomington Hospital, announced today that all proceeds from the upcoming 2006 Holiday Gala will benefit Volunteers in Medicine, a new community health clinic for residents of Monroe and Owen counties. The foundation hopes to raise \$80,000 at the 2006 gala, which is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1 at the Bloomington Convention Center.

Volunteers in Medicine is a community-owned, community-operated, community-financed free clinic for residents who are without health insurance and unable to pay for health care. Due to open in the spring/summer of 2007, the clinic will provide primary and preventative health care services for both acute and chronic illnesses.

Volunteers in Medicine Board President Rajih Haddawi, MD, and wife Darlene will serve as honorary chairs for the 2006 Lights, Camera, Action-themed gala .Attendees will be among the first individual community members to support the new clinic.

For more than 20 years, the Bloomington Hospital Foundation has hosted a Holiday Gala each December, raising vital funds for community health care initiatives through sponsorship and attendance. In years past, proceeds of the event have benefited emergency services and cardiac medicine.

The Holiday Gala introduces Bloomington Hospital Foundation as the exclusive fund raising agent for the Volunteers in Medicine clinic. The clinic will rely on a strong partnership with Bloomington Hospital, a volunteer staff of both medical professionals and community members and financial support from the community.

Bloomington Hospital has long been a provider of health care services to the medically underserved, including its commitment to the Community Health Access Program (CHAP). The Volunteers in Medicine clinic will build upon and expand on Bloomington

Hospital's CHAP Clinic by recruiting medical professional and community volunteers to complement a small paid staff.

Initially, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic will be housed in the space where the CHAP Clinic is currently operated. The goal is to accommodate 14,000 patient visits in the first year and 21,000 patient visits in the clinic's third year of operation.

"I am proud that Bloomington Hospital and the Bloomington Hospital Foundation can help bring this service to our community. There are so many families and children in need and with Volunteers in Medicine, we have the opportunity to provide access to the quality medical care everyone deserves," says Chris Molloy, vice president of fund development and executive director of the Bloomington Hospital Foundation.

Nearly 16,000 people in Monroe and Owen counties lack health insurance and the ability to pay for healthcare services. When the Volunteers in Medicine clinic opens next year, those residents will have a place of their own to turn for health care services.

"I am so pleased to be involved in the development of Volunteers in Medicine. As a physician, I welcome the opportunity to be able to give to those in need of quality medical care," said Rajih Haddawi, MD. "The hospital's Foundation is an essential resource in the development of this new program."

The Volunteers in Medicine clinic is dependent on three bases of support, including the medical community, Bloomington Hospital and the community-at-large. The medical community has shown a record volunteer response already. Bloomington Hospital pledged support for a facility, several full-time staff, free ancillary testing and fundraising support.

Recently, Cook Group of Bloomington pledged a \$600,000 gift to the clinic's operations. Community volunteers and community financial support are still needed for the clinic.

Beginning in spring/summer 2007, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening hours twice a week. Children of adults who qualify for care with Volunteers in Medicine will be referred to Southern Indiana Pediatrics for free care.

For more information or to receive an invitation to the 2006 Lights, Camera, Action Holiday Gala, please call the Bloomington Hospital Foundation at 812.353.9528. Individuals interested in volunteer opportunities through Volunteers in Medicine can send an e-mail to info@VIMMonroeCounty.org.

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