

VIM clinic brings hope to those it serves

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Passing the test

To the editor:

I am grateful that I live in a community with services to help the most vulnerable among us, including Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County (VIM). Established in April 2007, VIM is a community-owned, operated, and financed free medical clinic for people living in Monroe and Owen counties.

Even with the advent of the Affordable Care Act, there are still those among us who are either ineligible for insurance or who find themselves without coverage and who are living in poverty. These neighbors can find quality healthcare services at VIM. I volunteer at VIM as a receptionist/appointment scheduler. The atmosphere there is one of enthusiastic compassion for patients.

It is not unusual for me to witness the change that comes when someone telephones, asking whether they can be seen, comes to the clinic for an eligibility interview, is seen by a health care provider that day, and walks out with an attitude of hope.

Recently I received an email to volunteers from a VIM administrator that included a quote from the author Pearl Buck: "The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its vulnerable members." VIM passes this test with flying colors!

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