

VIM is safety net

To the editor:

I have been a board member of Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) for the past four years. During this time, I've been fortunate to hear incredible stories of the medical care provided to those who need it the most. This ranges from general primary care, to life threatening heart attacks, serious chronic conditions and first time dental care.

Over the past 10 years, VIM has provided free health care to low-income uninsured people, new immigrants and individuals falling through the cracks of our current health care system.

Indeed, VIM is the only safety net clinic serving Monroe and Owens counties. Clearly, the staff and volunteers are the real "Everyday Heroes" that deserve our thanks and recognition. They provide compassionate, respectful, patient-friendly care every day.

Further, I am often reminded at board meetings of how many different organizations and individuals contribute to the clinic with dollars, time, or in-kind gifts. Without this support, VIM wouldn't have survived, indeed thrived, for 10 years. I am proud to be a part of this wonderful health care organization and want to thank our entire community for their steadfast support of this much needed service.

You never know when someone close to you may need this special care.

Victor Malinovsky

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