

[http://www.heralddtimesonline.com/free\\_access/rajih-haddawi-the-man-behind-volunteers-in-medicine/article\\_2607c56e-463c-11e3-8eb6-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.heralddtimesonline.com/free_access/rajih-haddawi-the-man-behind-volunteers-in-medicine/article_2607c56e-463c-11e3-8eb6-0019bb30f31a.html)

## Rajih Haddawi: The man behind Volunteers in Medicine

By Olivia Druckemiller 331-4356 | [Odruckemiller@heraldd.com](mailto:Odruckemiller@heraldd.com) Nov 5, 2013



Jeremy Hogan | Herald-Times

VIM clinic founder Rajih Haddawi

Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County, also known as VIM, was established in 2007. VIM is a volunteer-operated medical clinic for adults without health insurance, or those unable to pay for health care.

Rajih Haddawi is the man behind VIM.

Haddawi was an orthopedic surgeon for 35 years in Bloomington until his retirement. Once retired he wanted to focus on something that had been troubling him: Those who can't receive proper health treatment due to lack of health insurance. Thus the idea of VIM was born and created.

“We would not have VIM if it were not for Dr. Haddawi and his dedication to getting it here in Bloomington,” Judy Walcoff, Haddawi’s neighbor said. “He had an idea and was instrumental in getting it off the ground.”

“I am passionate for people and their needs. Since I am a physician that is what I notice day in and day out,” Haddawi said when asked what motivated him to start something like VIM.

Even though VIM is now well established, Haddawi is still volunteering daily and has no intention of stopping anytime soon. “Needs continue to increase and we found the appreciation of the patients stimulating to continue the service,” he said.

Haddawi rounded up volunteers in every field of medicine to help create a range of services at VIM. “He cares about humanity,” Walcoff said.

Haddawi looked up to his father and believes to be the man he is today thanks to him. “My late father’s principle of sharing and reaching for the needy, guide my adult life and relationships,” Haddawi said.

Haddawi has confidence that he has passed on a legacy of offering help to others down to his children. Haddawi has a son and daughter who are involved in volunteer work as well.

His son helped get VIM started. He volunteers his time three days a week. His daughter, who lives in Boston, is actively “involved in various activities to support charities and non profit organizations,” Haddawi said.

Haddawi likes to take long walks to unwind after his days working with patients. He also has a strong interest in music. In his spare time he is taking piano lessons, which he enjoys.

“Various music events nurture my life,” Haddawi said. He goes to different events in friends’ homes and around town.

People in the community notice his music interest. “Dr. Haddawi is a deep advocate of music,” Walcoff said. “He attends as many performances as he can at the Jacobs School of Music and has been an emeritus board member of the Friends of Music.”

Haddawi is more than just a resident here in Bloomington; he is an everyday hero.

“Smiles to him and his dedication for all he gives back to Bloomington,” Walcoff said.

Sponsored Content on **HTO**

## **This Race Will Keep You on the Edge of Your Seat [Watch]**

**BY CASTROL**

Head-to-head with a world class pro driver, a world class automobile and the best performance oil.

**?** Did You Know?

**Employment:** Retired after 35 years as an orthopedic surgeon

**Family:** Wife of 44 years, and two children.

**Hometown:** Bloomington; born in a small village in Iraq

**Where he volunteers:** Volunteers in Medicine

**Special interests:** Music