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Letter: VIM working hard

The Herald-Times Feb 27, 2016

VIM working hard

To the editor:

I was pleased to see the recent USA Today article in The Herald-Times reporting on the federally funded project to study the health benefits of social services. Indeed, public health experts have known for decades that factors such as inadequate housing, poor nutrition, lack of transportation and health illiteracy have a bigger impact on health than medical interventions. With the advent of health care reform, increasing numbers of people are now insured. However, insured people living in poverty are still living in poverty. For the many people ineligible for insurance, Volunteers in Medicine, a United Way partner agency, continues to provide free medical care, dental, mental health, specialists and medications. At the same time, the VIM clinic is working hard to keep insured people living in poverty healthy by coordinating social service referrals, providing health education, lifestyle coaching, care management and medication consultation. VIM is a small-scale example of a program that has already demonstrated the health benefits of addressing social issues.

Nancy E. Richman,

executive director of VIM

Bloomington

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