

Tzedakah Initiative benefits local agency with 'bundled' gift | Neighbors

Submitted to the H-T

Members of the Tzedakah Initiative, a group of congregants from Bloomington's Congregation Beth Shalom, recently donated \$5,500 to the Bloomington nonprofit organization Volunteers in Medicine.

The Hebrew word Tzedakah literally means "justice." It connotes giving and the actions that we take to help the needy in the name of justice, righteousness and fairness.

The group's mission is to "bundle" donations from individual members to make an annual award to a local nonprofit organization that has had a positive and supportive influence on people in need in the Bloomington community.

The 2017 award of \$5,500 was made to Volunteers in Medicine on Jan. 4.

Representing the Tzedakah Initiative were Rabbi Brian Besser, Julie Bloom and Roberta Sherman. Representing Volunteers in Medicine were Nancy Richman and Shelley Sallee.

Volunteers in Medicine, a community-owned, community-operated, and community-financed health care clinic provides its services without cost to the medically underserved in Monroe and Owen counties. Doctors, dentists and nurses strive to close the gap between human need and human resources with compassion and dignity to promote healing, enhance health and create hope.

Since its inception, 15,000 individuals have received medical and dental primary and preventive care from more than 300 lay and medical volunteers. Chronic and acute illnesses are its focus. Services also include acupuncture, cardiology, care management, counseling, dental care, dentures, health education, lab work, medication, neurology, orthopedics, physical therapy, podiatry, radiology and x-rays, social work, a walk-in clinic and women's health. Of the donations VIM receives, 92 percent is allocated directly to services.

For more information about donating to VIM, please call Nancy Richman, 812-333-4032. For more about the Tzedakah Initiative, see <http://bit.ly/2CZdZOO> (case sensitive).