

The primary mission of Volunteers in Medicine is to understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the medically uninsured population living and working in Cape May County.

By the numbers:

96,568 Cape May County Residents*

8.9 % or 8,594* have no health insurance

17,000 VIM patient visits since we opened on March 12, 2002

3667 patients visits in FY2010

3500 patients visits since we opened in 2002.

457 current active patients

\$90,000 annual cost of prescription medicine

\$30,000 annual cost of insurance (to include medical malpractice for VIM doc's)

\$788 average cost per patient

85% of VIM operating expenses are directly attributable to patient care.

125 active volunteers

25,000 typical # of volunteer hours per year at VIM

*US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE OF CAPE MAY COUNTY
423 NORTH RT 9
CMCH, NJ 08210
T: 609-463-2846
F: 609-463-2830
E: INFO@VIMCMC.ORG
WWW.VIMCMC.ORG

Caring Neighbors

VOLUME 7

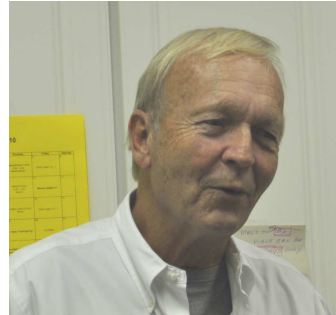
2010 / 2011

Local Doc with a big Heart



Mention the name Bob Salasin in Cape May County and you will most likely get a reaction. Many people feel strongly about this man who says what he thinks, doesn't hold back and can be a bit of a cowboy. Say his name at VIM and you'll only hear cheers. Patients and volunteers alike say "he's the best" "thank you Dr. Salasin" "he saved my life" and sometimes "ah well... that's just Bob."

Dr. Salasin came to VIM last year to volunteer on the occasional Tuesday afternoon after he was finished at his clinic. He quickly became a Tuesday afternoon fixture.



Dr. Robert Salasin

In addition to offering our patients quality family care, he also performs colonoscopies and biopsies at no charge to VIM patients at his office.

He works closely with our nurses and interpreter, Anita, to ensure the patients get the treatment they require.

He is frank with the patients; not always politically correct

but always with their best interest at heart. His easy but firm manner seems to get through. Many of VIM's patients struggle with multiple chronic conditions. Diet and lifestyle are critical. Bob does not sugar-coat the truth; he tells it like it is. Often tinged with humor, the message is still heard loud and clear.

Bob summed up his VIM experience this way: "This is doctoring the way it is supposed to be. I get to know each patient, understand their stories, spend as much time as needed and have fun – this is the type of experience I envisioned when I went to med school".

Dr. Salasin stepped up to keep
Continued pg 4



Dr. Dierkes was honored at the 4th Annual Thanksgathering. Tom Dierkes, a pediatrician with Rainbow Pediatrics, got a flyer in the mail years ago asking doc-

Dr. Dierkes honored as 2010 Volunteer Physician

tors to donate time to Volunteers in Medicine, his wife Lisa knew immediately that her husband would volunteer. "He started with once a month, then it was once a week," she said. "He saw the need and soon it became twice a week. Tom is a very giving person," she added.

A board certified pediatrician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pedi-

atric, Dr. Dierkes has volunteered with VIM since the clinic opened in 2002. He sees children in his own office where all his patients are treated, providing an extra measure of dignity to children and their families.

Tom Dierkes is pictured receiving his award from Marilyn Golden.

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"Caring Neighbors" is a publication of Volunteers in Medicine of Cape May County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit

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Dear Friends,

As the incoming Chairman of the VIM Board of Trustees, it is clear that our Board has a challenging but rewarding time ahead of us.

VIM has been serving the population of Cape May County for over 8 years and is known in the community for providing services to those most in need. We strive to give those who are most vulnerable the best care available.

Patients who visit VIM clinics often have multiple health problems exacerbated not just by a longtime lack of medical care, but also by poor diet, stress and the other rigors of poverty. The challenge of treating such difficult cases has compelled the volunteers to adopt a more holistic approach to care than is usually seen in for-profit, insurance-subsidized medicine. VIM emphasizes preventive cost-effective medicine.

The services of volunteer doctors are in greater demand than ever - if you are a primary care or specialist and would be able to see a few patients each month, please contact our Executive Director, Jackie Meiluta at 463-2846.

VIM is based on a model of volunteerism which is why we like to say we are "neighbors caring for neighbors." We hope you will support our efforts in caring for your Cape May County neighbors. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all our "neighbors caring for neighbors."

Sincerely,

Richard Papperman
Board Chair



Executive Director Jackie Meiluta and Medical Director Elizabeth Crowley

Elizabeth Crowley, MD (aka Dr. Boots) had this to say about her recent appointment as VIM Medical Director, "I am proud to be working with the wonderful people at VIM. Because of VIM I know that there is hope for real change in healthcare in our country. At our VIM clinic we aren't waiting for the system to change, we are doing what needs to be done. I believe that everyone deserves medical care - at VIM we are making a difference."

Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



Med Services Director, Marie Macatee (R) is pictured with Jeanine Kocknar.

'Tis the 'Sea'son of Giving

In the spirit of the holiday season, we again ask for your help for our neighbors in need.

- Instead of shopping for office gifts, consider making an office wide donation to VIM's 'Sea'son of Giving program.
- See if your employer offers matching funds for donations and double the power of your contribution!
- Vim is a proud partner of United Way
- Your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Please consider your neighbors in need this holiday season. Thank you.

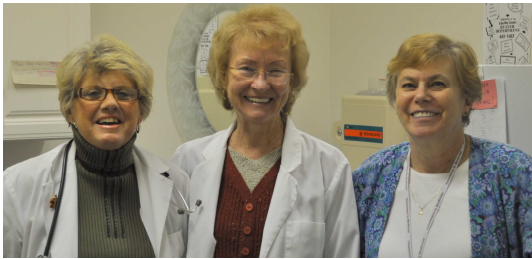
Did you know it costs \$55/month to supply diabetic test strips for one patient?

THE CHALLENGE: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

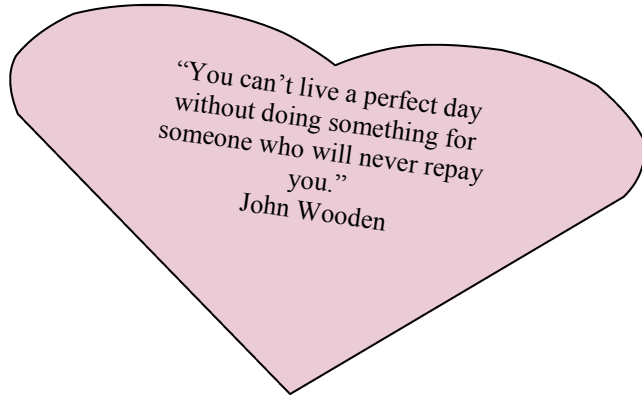
Over 50 million people in the U.S. lack health coverage. The vast majority are adults (19-64 years of age) and more than three quarters are from working families earning low to moderate incomes.

Health insurance is a primary factor in whether and when people get necessary medical care and, ultimately, how healthy they are. Those without health insurance are far more likely to postpone or forgo health care.

The medically underserved are not difficult to find in Cape May County. They are our fishermen, our construction workers, and our bartenders. They are our waiters and waitresses. They are our neighbors and friends. Their lack of health care is not just a problem for them, but for all of us. No community can be truly healthy if a significant portion of the population is excluded from basic health care services.



Volunteer nurses Carol, Helen and Pat staff Tuesday's Clinic.



NEIGHBORS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

To anyone that has insurance and has been faced with a major medical issue, navigating the system is no easy task. Imagine being confronted with these challenges when you have no insurance, little understanding of the medical system, limited means and in some cases, difficulties reading or speaking English. It is a daunting task.

The Volunteers at VIM go above and beyond for our patients - whether it is our Intake Volunteers, Scheduling Desk Volunteers, Pharmacy Assistance Volunteers, Doctors, etc. We make phone calls, we explain, we take the time to ensure the patient is OK, understands what happens next, where to go for the next step in their treatment. Some things are as simple as the Reception Volunteers welcoming a patient, sharing a smile or kind word. Other things are more complex – advocating with a pharmaceutical company for a patient who misses their cut-off for assistance by \$8 or finding a specialist for the next stage of treatment. It is truly amazing to see the heartfelt passion of these neighbors caring for neighbors.



Barbara and Peggy's smiling faces greet patients.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? CALL 463-2846

WILL & JANICE MOREY AND THE ASSOCIATES OF MOREY'S PIERS HONORED AS 2010 CARING NEIGHBOR AT THANKSGATHERING

Will and Janice Morey are active community leaders and wonderful examples of “neighbors caring for neighbors.” When they saw the need for medical services for county residents who had no insurance, they responded by helping to establish VIM. Will was one of the founding members on VIM’s Board of Trustees and served as treasurer during those early years. The Morey’s funded the renovation of a room at the clinic and continue to generously support the Clinic’s needs.

The Associates of Morey’s Piers full-time, year-round employees, also contribute to the on-going needs of VIM. Each year the proceeds of a raffle at their holiday dinner are donated to the clinic. Over the past several years, the Associates have given thousands of dollars to help VIM continue to help those who need medical services.

Thanksgiving, held every Fall, helps fund critical clinic operations. This years event raised more than \$30,000.



Volunteers In Medicine

O F C A P E M A Y C O U N T Y

Neighbors caring for neighbors

423 Route 9 North
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210



PATIENT COMMENTS

Bob Salasin... *continued from page 1*

to keep the clinic open this past year. Our Medical Director had moved on to a new position and we had not yet found her replacement. Without a Medical Director (and a valid license) we could not remain open. We asked Bob if he would serve as Interim Director and he replied as always "whatever you need me to do."

The VIM volunteers look forward to Dr. Salasin's arrival every Tuesday afternoon. We know that our patients are well looked after by Dr. Salasin and if they need anything, he will find a way to ensure they receive the care they need and deserve from this local doctor with a big heart!

"I can't begin to thank you enough"

"We may have less but you have never made us feel "less than"..."

"I was sad when I qualified for Medicaid because I knew it meant I would have to leave VIM"

"Thanks for being there"

"Cape May County is truly blessed to have the VIM clinic"

"What would we do without you?"



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, March 11, 2011 VIM DAY Breakfast.
Join VIM in a county-wide celebration honoring VIM's eight years of caring for the uninsured of Cape May County.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 Wildwood Women's Golf Association's "Spring for VIM" -5th Annual Premier Women's Golf Tournament

Late September - VIM's 5th Annual ThanksGathering
Join us as we thank and honor those who exemplify VIM's spirit of "neighbors caring for neighbors."



VIM Holiday Wish List:

A Paved Parking Lot

**Snacks/Beverages for our
Volunteers**

A Digital Camera

A Shed or a Storage Unit

Ergonomic Desk Chairs/Office Furniture