



A Solution

A Solution ... Volunteers in Medicine

The Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) approach is one common-sense, effective solution to the nation's #1 health problem.

The VIM free clinic model succeeds by persuading retired medical professionals -- doctors, nurses, and specialists who share a passion for the practice of medicine -- to volunteer their time, talent and experience to care for their uninsured neighbors.

Founded by Dr. Jack McConnell, a nationally known scientist who served as Vice President of New Product Development at Johnson & Johnson, the VIM model has spread across the country. There are now over 60 clinics nationwide, all bringing free, quality health care to the working uninsured in their communities, thanks to assistance provided by Volunteers in Medicine.

But the number of Americans without health insurance keeps growing, and so do the demands to provide health care to them. To meet this need, the VIM national office is currently working with over 30 additional communities in 24 states to help establish their own VIM clinics.

The process is not easy. It takes from one to two years to build and staff a VIM clinic. During the development process, VIM staff works closely with a local planning committee to ensure the fledgling clinic meets both the VIM criteria and the special needs of their community.

Once open, VIM clinics deliver more than just health care to hard-working Americans. Their welcoming environment, emphasis on treating every person with dignity and respect, and ability to devote as much time as necessary with each patient, enables these clinics to provide healing for mind and spirit as well.

And there are even more benefits.

The retired medical professionals who volunteer experience a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment in their retirement years.

Local hospitals save money because fewer non-paying patients rely on their emergency rooms.

Local companies are more productive because their employees are healthier and miss fewer work days.

And, of course, neighbors helping neighbors build stronger communities.

Is VIM the ultimate solution to the problem of the uninsured? Probably not. But it is the answer in community after community when there is no national response from Washington. Until then, the need for VIM clinics is undisputable.

To learn more about the Volunteers in Medicine, please visit www.volunteersinmedicine.org or call (802) 651-0112.