

News about caring from Community Volunteers In Medicine...

# HANDS, HEARTS and HEALTH

Community Volunteers In Medicine • 300 B Lawrence Drive • West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

## Support Hope Campaign

### Touching Lives Of Those In Need

The holiday season is a time when we give thanks for our blessings, a time when we reach out to others and a time when the spirit of giving pervades every part of our lives. At CVIM, that holiday spirit of giving - of touching the lives of others and helping to make them better - lives year round.

CVIM is a labor of love. The patient stories in this newsletter are just a few examples of the challenges and children who count on individuals find hope and heal-who give generously to sup-and because of the many vol-time to provide care for others reflection of the spirit of enduring kindness people.



faced by the many men, women CVIM for healthcare. These ing because of caring people port the provision of services, unteers who give of their in need. CVIM is a beautiful volunteerism and of the and generosity of

The Support **SUPPORT HOPE** Hope Campaign, initiated in May is an example of that spirit of giving. The Campaign aspires to raise \$4,500,000 for services over the next three years and \$5,000,000 for endowment. Two of the organization's founders and largest contributors, Vincent G. Bell, Jr. and Gordon B. Hattersley, Jr. are serving as Honorary Chairs of the Campaign. Together with a group of dedicated volunteers, they have been carrying our story to the community to secure funds for programs and services. Their efforts are met with interest and enthusiasm, and we are pleased to announce that the campaign has recently passed the \$1,000,000 mark! We are grateful to those who are raising funds on behalf of our patients, and to our donors who have given generously to make our services possible.

The Support Hope Campaign is about friends and neighbors who have hit hard times and who struggle to care for themselves and for their families. It is about caring and compassionate members of our community who feel a sense of responsibility for others, and who share what they have to help those in need. It is about people coming together to address a community problem and in doing so, the quality of life for all of us is enhanced.

The Support Hope Campaign invites the community to live out our mission. "to see those who are rendered invisible and excluded...to touch their lives with love, and in the process, heal ourselves." ♥



*Software donation will enable computerization of CVIM drug dispensary.*

### Generous Donations Move CVIM Forward

CVIM gratefully acknowledges the donation of Austin Dental Equipment Corporation of Newburg, Oregon for the new dental chair and accessories plus two beautiful dental cabinet dividers for our dental suite. We now have four fully equipped state-of-the-art dental operatories to serve our clients. Volunteer dentists are our greatest need.

Health Business Systems of Warminster has donated software that will enable us to computerize our drug dispensary and maintain drug profiles on our patients so the practitioners will be able to have timely information about drug interactions and drugs that are pulled off the market. Two Pharm D students come to CVIM for five week rotations from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. They are precepted by Susan Shughrue, RPh during their clinical rotation. This teaching support has enabled our patients to have more knowledge about the medications that they are taking. The students work closely with the medical practitioners to enhance quality of care. ♥

### *Chester County Art Association Partners With CVIM*

*We are pleased to have the Chester County Art Association on site each Thursday morning to work with our children that come for dental work each week from southern Chester County. The artistic volunteers scheduled by Darcy Goldberg have been providing an expressive and educational environment while the children are taking turns having necessary dental work completed. The classes range from six to ten children each week. ♥*



## CVIM Receives Grants For Special Projects

CVIM is pleased to be the recipient of a \$4,000 grant from the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania Foundation, Inc. The grant will be used to offset the cost of PAP smears for women seen monthly for gynecologic services. Prevention of cancer and early detection can keep women at work and enable them to provide for their children.

CVIM also received a \$3,000 grant from the Douty Foundation. This financial support will help to defray the cost of surgical intervention for young children that have massive decay that requires hospitalization. ♥

### *A Special Thanks...*

## Corporate Sponsors – The Heart Of CVIM

Our gratitude is expressed to the following corporations that generously contributed to our Olympiad Annual Fundraising Event this past October. While we were unable to hold the event this year due to the terrorism events in our nation, the proceeds are dedicated to primary care for the working poor. Thank you!

American Mushroom Institute  
Barnard Orchards  
Blairs Automotive, Inc.  
Bonalyn Mosteller & Associates, Inc.  
Brainstorm Productions  
Brian Hoskins Ford  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
CEC Associates, Inc.  
Commerce Bank  
Creative Financial Group, Ltd.  
The Desmond  
Devault Foods  
Downtown National Bank  
ECS, Inc.  
Electro Systems Company  
First National Bank of Chester County  
Ford Motor Company  
Great Valley Career Connections, Inc.  
Herr Foods, Inc.  
If It's Water, Inc.  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows:  
Paoli Lodge #290  
Jim Beyea  
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.  
Mars Electronics International  
O'Rourke & Sons, Inc.  
Penn Business Credit  
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Rothwell Document Solutions  
Ruggiero Orthopaedic Associates  
Sanofi-Synthelabo Research  
Siemens, Inc.  
Surgical Specialists of the Main Line  
Transition Strategies, Inc.  
Waterloo Garden  
West Chester G.I. Associates, PC

# 'Old Fashion Care' Makes Difference To Patient Who Lost Job, Insurance

by Rachel Mennies

When I was first introduced to Alison, I remember being surprised at how happy she was at being inside of a doctor's office. I've always looked at visiting the doctor as a chore, something that I had to do but didn't enjoy.

For Alison, however, finding CVIM was a fresh start after a long and trying time in her life. She had lost her job, and with it her health insurance just months before. Alison has bipolar disorder and had required intensive support at the time. Without a job or health insurance, she couldn't get the counseling and medications she desperately needed for recovery. CVIM is the only safety net for Chester County residents like Alison. There is no other resource available.

Alison answered all of my questions, but none more exuberantly than when I asked her if CVIM had made a difference in her life. "Yes!" she immediately responded, flashing a smile that I saw several times during the course of the interview.

Initially, Alison came to CVIM frequently to adjust her medications; she knew someone was always there for her.

"The staff helps me understand my health concerns, and gives me

their time and their interest. I look forward to coming to CVIM." This upbeat answer turned out to be a recurring theme; she told me many times how caring and compassionate the staff at Community Volunteers in Medicine was, and how respectful they were to their patients. Volunteers at CVIM often acknowledge that they enjoy giving care the "old-fashioned way," making time for teaching



Alison

and listening, rather than in short and hurried time slots. "I was hesitant about coming for the first time," she admitted. "I thought that waiting to get an appointment would be difficult. I also wasn't sure if the staff would be friendly, and if they would give me the time I needed to ask questions and understand my health problems." Studies have shown that patient education improves outcomes for patients; this takes more time than most practitioners have in their private practices.

"They care very much about every one of us, and are always willing to help us and answer all of our questions." The volunteers are wonderfully kind, selfless people with a supreme dedication to helping their patients. I now know why Alison, and so many other CVIM patients, look forward to their doctor's appointments in a way I previously never thought possible. ♥

## CVIM Patient Profiles

**Charles** is a 47 year old high school graduate who has two boys ages 13 and 15. They are honor students in school. Two years ago Charles had to place his wife who is disabled in a nursing home because he could no longer care for her at home. Being a primary caretaker for his sons, he changed his work from full time to part time so he could be with the boys and properly care for them. With this change in job status, he lost his health insurance. He has high blood pressure, suffers from arthritis, and has heart disease. CVIM manages his primary care by providing health education and six medications so he is able to provide for his family. ♥

**Linda** comes to CVIM with a blood sugar of 800+. She ran out of her insulin over a week before her first visit. She was sent to the hospital in order to stabilize her diabetes. Half of her foot has already been amputated and she is on disability earning approximately \$1,000 per month. Because she receives too much money on disability, she needs to wait two years before she can get Medicare to cover her health needs. Linda comes with a smile regularly for follow-up medical and dental appointments. All of her teeth need to be extracted and CVIM is now trying to facilitate access to an oral surgeon. The next step is to fit her for dentures so that her self-esteem can be restored. ♥