

THE FRIENDSHIP CLINIC

YOUR BRIDGE TO HEALTH

September 2010

Spotlight on Two Volunteers



Betsy Bowen, RN

Betsy graduated in 2000 from BSU and had worked in medical surgery until late 2006. She then returned to mental health where she had been a tech/unit clerk for nine years. Betsy has been employed at Saint Alphonsus for 23 years. Working in mental health has highlighted the need for free clinics. Betsy has been volunteering at the clinic on a monthly basis since our opening in 2003. We feel very fortunate to have her on board at the clinic; she is such an asset to our volunteer

staff. Thank you for your endless devotion!

Marthe Jaworski

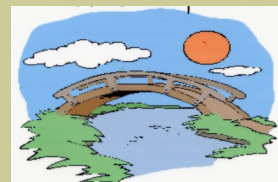
Marthe received an AS in nursing in 1998 and a BSN in 2005. She worked in the ICU of Saint Alphonsus from 1998-2007 and is now in the Infection Prevention Department. Marthe was on the planning committee of *The Friendship Clinic* and has been volunteering ever since! Marthe, you are a jewel and we appreciate all your efforts at the clinic.

"Small things, done in great love, bring joy and peace."

Mother Theresa

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Mission Statement:

to provide free basic health care service to low income individuals and families who have no or inadequate insurance coverage with emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Susan Chew

Betty Croghan

The Rev. Hugh Duncan

Dave and Nancy Grabarczyk

Idaho State University, *Department of Physician
Assistant Studies, Class of 2011*

Julius C. Jeker Foundation, iNC

Robert Hibbs

Marilyn Malmstrom

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Saint Michael's Episcopal Cathedral

Jo Svenson

United Way

Special Thank You's...

...to the following people who made a donation to The Friendship Clinic in honor of Ingrid Brudenell's birthday: **Sharon Bixby, Bart and Linda Kline.**

...to our intake clerks: **LiLi D., Megan D., Jamie H., Lindsey H., Linda S., Heather T., Jennifer B., Ron M., David G., Renee S.**

...to our volunteer phlebotomists: **Irene A., Katie B., Vickie K., Marc W., Jacqueline T.**

...to our volunteer nurses: **Ruth A., Carol A., Karin A., Mikal B., Marie B., Betsy B., Wendi B., Kesh B., Pam C., Katie D., Syndi E., Brandy F., Ruth F., Sheliee F., Martha J., Sarah J., Margaret L., Carrie M., Kellie M., Betty M., Caroline R., Heather R., Teresa R., Pat T., Katy W., Kimberly W., Trina W., and Alisha Z.**

We appreciate all that you do for the Clinic and your community!

From www.nursetogether.com

First, to answer the question: **"Why do nurses volunteer?"** According to Wikipedia, "a volunteer is someone who works for a community or for the benefit of the environment, primarily because they choose to do so." You likely see that this definition closely matches why you chose nursing in the first place!

What are some reasons to volunteer?

Using your skills to help others. Nurses often have specialized skills and knowledge that can benefit a wide array of people.

To keep the resume going. If you lose your job or are just starting out as a nurse, what better way to improve your resume than serving others? If you are a new nurse, a volunteer opportunity offers the "experience" that hiring personnel are looking for.

A sense of self. I can think of no better feeling of satisfaction than helping others each day.

To make a positive impact on the community as a whole. To demonstrate to your children the importance of giving to others.

The Friendship Clinic is very grateful to all our devoted nurses!

Thanks to **Lindsey**, one of our wonderful intake clerks, The Friendship Clinic now has a Facebook account. The page looks wonderful and we so appreciate all of Lindsey's continued support.



Clinics for uninsured seek to increase their offerings

Marie Blanchard, founder of the free Friendship Clinic in Boise, is looking for more volunteer health care providers so she can expand clinic hours.



While national and state policymakers wrestle with the details of health reform, providers in Idaho are stepping up their efforts to deliver health care to people who have no insurance at all.

One new tool is the Idaho Legend Drug Donation Act, which allows unneeded drugs to be donated and re-

used.

The legend drug law was approved by the Idaho Legislature earlier this year. It allows hospitals, nursing homes, drug manufacturers, and wholesale distributors to donate some medications to certain charitable clinics and centers. A legend drug is a drug that requires a prescription.

Before the law was passed, the administrators of Idaho's free clinics often turned away offers of free medications, said Steven Reames, the executive director of Genesis World Mission, which runs the Garden City Community Clinic. Reames worked with Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Mark Johnston to come up with the new law.

"Before, we would have a nursing home come to us and say, 'We have Lipitor that's no longer being used, can you take it?' We found out that no, in fact we couldn't," Reames said. The clinic's pharmacist is now working on protocols that will guide the free medication program.

The number of free clinics for the uninsured is also rising, and those clinics are accepting more patients - or they're soliciting help from local doctors and other health providers so that they can.

In the last 12 months, two new free clinics have opened in Idaho, said Laura Rowen, who administers the free medical clinic program for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. There are now 13 such clinics around the state offering clinical care, and sometimes mental health and dental services, to people who don't have private insurance and don't qualify for the federal Medicaid or Medicare programs.

In 2008 - the latest year for which figures are available - about 18.5 percent of adults in Idaho had no health care coverage, Rowen said. Idaho also has several clinics, such as several in the Treasure Valley run by Terry Reilly Health Services, that offer care to low-income residents based on ability to pay. Those clinics accept Medicare and Medicaid.

Friendship Clinic in Boise is only open one night a week, but is trying to recruit physicians and other providers to stay open one more, said Marie Blanchard, a nurse who founded the clinic in 2002. The clinic now has seven physicians, four nurse practitioners, and 10 to 12 nurses volunteering, and next month will change its scheduling from walk-in to appointment-only to reduce waiting times in the clinic. The clinic turns people away because it doesn't have enough providers to see everyone, she said. Blanchard has advertised in Episcopal Church publications and asked everyone she knows to help her find more volunteer providers.

"That's a real concern because these people don't have many places they can go at all," she said.

Friendship, like other free clinics, is supported by a blend of grants, gifts, and in-kind donations from corporations, foundations, churches, and individuals. Its providers refer patients to a network of specialists - organized by Genesis - who volunteer a certain amount of time each week or month to see qualifying patients for free.

"I can't tell you how many peoples' lives we've saved by getting them to the right place," Blanchard said. Demand for services at Garden City Community Clinic grew suddenly around the autumn of 2008, Reames said.

"What we started seeing more of was people who drive a nice car, they have a house payment, they dress pretty well, and they're out of work," he said. "We'll always see people in lower economic echelons who are there because they don't have the education to work a job that will provide them health insurance, but what we've seen increase is the average middle-class person who suddenly finds themselves on the desperate end of life."

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Volunteer Corner

The Friendship Clinic would like to welcome New Providers:

Dr. Warren Gude

Dr. Caroline DeFrang

Dr. Mary Dittrich

Dr. Dennis Weiler

Dr. Grayson Blöm, D.C.

Dr. Saccomando

Mary Stackle, N.P.

A BIG thank you to all our long time providers as well. We appreciate all your hard work at the clinic.

Dr. Rob Davis

Heidi Peters, NP

Kae Leinberger, NP

Mike Loegering, NP

Dr. Robert McKie

Sally Suters, NP

Dr. Leslie Stubbs

Dawn Weiler, ANP

Board of Directors

* Dawn Weiler, Medical Director

* Margaret Leahy, Credentialing Coordinator

Nancy Jo Garrett, Legal Consultant

Sue Chew, State Representative District 17

Elliot Werk, State Senator, District 17

Marie Blanchard, Executive Director

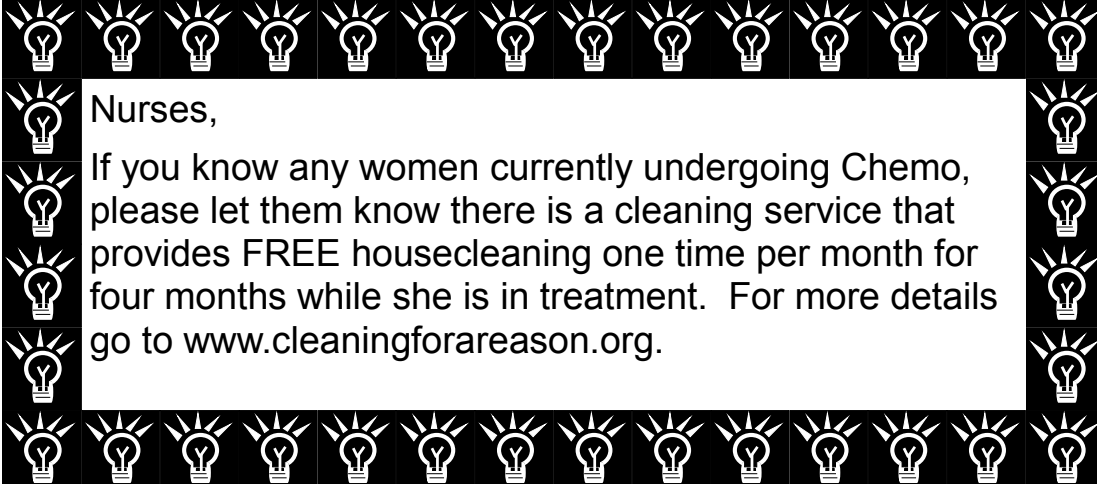
Yvonna Rowett, Volunteer Coordinator

Judy Lonsdale, Secretary

Sue Soper, Treasurer

Katie Davis, Community Representative

* Board Co-chairwoman



Nurses,
If you know any women currently undergoing Chemo, please let them know there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning one time per month for four months while she is in treatment. For more details go to www.cleaningforareason.org.

The Friendship Clinic
704 South Latah
Boise, ID 83705

Non-profit Organization
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Permit #32
Boise, Idaho

Yes! I want to help...

Name _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to The Friendship Clinic

My gift is ____ a MEMORIAL or ____ IN HONOR OF _____
name

Send acknowledgement to: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

The Friendship Clinic is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.