



# The Heart of the Matter

Centre Volunteers in Medicine • 2520 Green Tech Dr., Suite D, State College, PA 16803 • 814-231-4043 • www.cvim.net • Winter 2011

## Health Care in America

Recently, Dr. Oz, a famed celebrity doctor, published an article on Time.com that circulated on the internet regarding a clinic organized by CareNow, a group that conducts large, one day free clinics in major cities. Hundreds of health care professionals are utilized to provide care to a 1000 plus patients. The article went on to speak of several cases offered as examples of the types of conditions being treated during the event: Yvonne, who lost her job two years prior, had a growing lump in her breast she'd detected earlier but did not go to a doctor for fear of the financial costs. David, who arrived with an elevated blood sugar level, failing eyesight and infected gums. Both of these cases, Yvonne with late stage cancer and David with undiagnosed diabetes, are compelling and heartbreaking. But surely these severe cases are seen only in large cities where unemployment is high and the cost of living is rising.

One might mistakenly think that because CVIM in State College is located in picturesque Centre County, the patients we see each day are more routine cases. After all, we are Penn State. We're not a major city with inner city slums and soaring unemployment. Many patients come to CVIM for treatment for illnesses, infections, and valuable preventative care. Do not undervalue preventative care. Without preventative care, many of our patient's illnesses would potentially lead to emergency room visits or possibly death. Conditions such as high blood pressure, anxiety and dental decay, left unmanaged, may result in life-threatening heart problems, internal infections, and other serious conditions. Diabetes in advanced stages causes blindness, the possibility of amputated limbs and heart disease.

Still, heartbreaking cases like Yvonne and David do walk through the doors of CVIM. Bob is one such patient who delayed care until coming to CVIM and was diagnosed with metastatic thyroid cancer; Stan, who is unable to work due to severe colitis, and Becky, who has been diagnosed with stage four melanoma; Most recently, Troy arrived at CVIM in a psychotic state and hearing voices. After evaluation and testing, it was determined his blood sugar was at an extremely high level. Now on proper medication for diabetes, Troy is functioning normally and is employed. These are the patients that remain in the thoughts and hearts of CVIM volunteers long after their visits.

One additional consistency seen throughout all free clinics is this: Approximately 80% of the patients receiving care are employed and working one or more jobs to make ends meet. That is in stark contrast to the common public perception of an individual visiting a free clinic. It is a sad and growing reality that a choice must be made between affording life's basic necessities and the cost of health care. Even if offered through an employer, many can not afford the cost of health care coverage when it means sacrificing transportation, utilities, rent or food. *Continued on page 2*

## From the Director's Desk



Dear Friends,

The holidays are a season of giving and a time for finding great satisfaction in the ability to care for those we love. At Centre Volunteers in Medicine, we are thankful for our donors who support us in our mission to care for the health needs of the uninsured and underinsured in Centre County. CVIM could not open its doors each day without donors like you, and it is only because of you that we are able to care for our patients. I am always gratified by the willingness of those who give so that all residents of Centre County may have access to healthcare. For the seventh year in a row, Lance and Ellen Shaner have agreed to match dollar for dollar the first \$50,000 in donations we receive during this season. They are a stellar example of neighbors taking care of neighbors in Centre County.

Our donors are much like the elves in Santa's workshop, working diligently to produce presents for Santa to deliver, but rarely getting to see the joy on the children's faces when they open their packages. At our clinic, it is our staff and volunteers who come face to face with our patients, getting to see the look of gratitude on their faces and hear their words of thanks. We would be remiss if we did not share those heartfelt thanks with you. So on behalf of the board of directors, staff, volunteers and those we care for ~ Thank You!

Happy holidays,

Cheryl White  
Executive Director

## About Us

### Mission Statement

CVIM will serve and advocate for the medically underserved residents of Centre County.

### Vision Statement

All Centre County residents have access to health care.

### Contact Information

2520 Green Tech Dr.  
State College, PA 16803  
814-231-4043  
info@cvim.net  
www.cvim.net

### Board of Directors 2011-2012

Kay Salvino (Chair)  
Grace Gorenflo (Vice-Chair)  
Nicole L. John (Treasurer)  
Ted McDowell (Secretary)  
Tom Cali  
Jim Connelly  
John Domico  
Joseph Faulkner  
(Emeritus Director)  
Janine Gismondi  
Susan Hartman  
William James, Jr.  
Bill Joseph  
Lauren Lubus  
Louise Sandmeyer  
Richard Wisniewski  
Cheryl White  
(*Ex-officio*, Executive Director)  
Susan Youtz

### Wish List

Catering trays with lids - large & small  
Copy paper  
Garbage bags  
Gift cards - Lowes or Home Depot  
Gift cards - Staples  
Highlighters  
Manilla folders - 3 tab  
Markers - black Sharpie  
Paper towels  
Paper clips - small & large  
Pens and pencils  
Post-it notes (without logos)  
Stamps - first class postage

## Cover Story

*Continued from page 1*

How a nation as great as the US will determine to care for its own will continue to be an ongoing discussion. It was expressed best by Dr. Oz in the above referenced article: "The law is challenged in many states and ultimately will be decided by the Supreme Court within the next year. I don't underestimate the complexities of implementing a health care reform law that we can all live with. As with most entitlement programs since the Great Depression, we will have to perfect health care reform over time, just as Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and others were. But we're not perfecting the law; we're fighting over it. Politicians dither and people die. Lawyers argue the merits of this or that technical point, and more blameless Americans grow sick and slip away. This isn't just a failure of politics and policy; it's a failure of basic morality."

Thank you to all who support CVIM by volunteering time and services, by making monetary contributions, and by helping inform others who may be able to provide services or may be in need of services.

To read the Dr. Oz article in its entirety, go to [www.cvim.net](http://www.cvim.net) and click on Dr. Oz.

---

## CVIM Welcomes New Providers

**Dr. John Damcott** is a retired dentist having spent 45 years in private practice in Erie, PA. Dr. Damcott joins CVIM as a dental volunteer and will share his clinical knowledge, assist with developing policies and programs to improve care in our dental clinic and also be valuable in conducting new patient exams and emergency evaluations.

**Dr. William Ayoub** is a rheumatologist with Geisinger Medical Group / Geisinger Health Systems. He graduated from Temple University and has been a physician with Geisinger since 1983.

**Dr. Ayesha Pervez** is a hospitalist with Geisinger Medical Group / Geisinger Health Systems. Dr. Pervez completed her residency at Mercy Catholic Medical Center and has been with Geisinger since 2009.

**Geri Budd**, CRNP is a nurse practitioner with Dr. Mooney in State College. Geri graduated from Duquesne University with her Ph.D. in Nursing and was with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia prior to her move to State College, in 2008.

Please join CVIM in welcoming Dr. Damcott, Dr. Ayoub, Dr. Pervez, and Geri to our clinic! Thank you all for your valuable contribution of your talents.

---

## Thank You to Our Donors

In years past, CVIM has shown appreciation for our donors by publishing a donor list in the holiday newsletter. This year, in order to protect the privacy of our donors and to help trim the operating budget, CVIM has elected not to print a listing of our annual donors. By not including this list, CVIM will save money on postage, printing and paper.

Please know that your gifts are greatly appreciated and valued. During this season of thanks and reflection, all at CVIM realize how fortunate we are to live in a community that values the importance of taking care of our friends and neighbors. Thank you for giving the gift of health this holiday season!

For additional information or questions, please contact Cathy Brown, Director of Development at 814-231-4043 or [cbrown@cvim.net](mailto:cbrown@cvim.net).



**4th Annual Battle of the Minds Winners...Fuzzy Logic!**

CVIM proudly awarded first place honors to Fuzzy Logic, a table full of very smart people whose thinking was anything but Fuzzy at the Battle of the Minds event held at the Penn Stater on October 27th. Close to \$100,000 was raised to support CVIM services. Thank you to Fuzzy Logic, 2nd place finalist Brownian Motion and Team X placing 3rd. Special thanks to our sponsors and all who attended making the event a tremendous success.



**Cyclists Depart at the Bike for Life Event**

On October 22, The Bestwick Foundation, created by local resident Jamie Bestwick, a seven time BMX Vertical Champ and X-games star, held the first Bike for Life event at Tussey Mountain. The Bestwick Foundation raises funds to benefit local residents dealing with cancer and cancer related illnesses. CVIM will receive 25% of the events proceeds to benefit CVIM patients diagnosed with cancer.



**Not so Trivial Auction Items!**

CVIM Board member Bill James and his wife Sally review the live auction descriptions at the Battle of the Minds. Attendees had a wide array of silent and live items to bid on thanks to the many area businesses and supporters who generously donated the items.



**It Takes a Village**

Marianne Hogg from The Village at Penn State presents Cheryl White, Executive Director of CVIM with a check for funds raised by their Facebook "like" campaign. \$1.00 was donated to CVIM for every person who visit their site and clicked "like". Thanks to the Village and all who supported their CVIM fundraiser!

**Support the Shaner Holiday Challenge--Donations are Doubled During December** cut here

*Please support CVIM and give the gift of health. Use this form to participate in the holiday challenge and make your donation today. All donations received by 12/31/11 will be matched dollar for dollar by Lance and Ellen Shaner's matching grant (up to the first \$50,000)! Your donation will go to support medical and dental care for the uninsured and underinsured in Centre County. Without your support of CVIM, many individuals would go without much needed care. Thank you for making a difference this holiday season in the lives of those in need!*

Enclosed is my gift of  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Note, you may also donate on-line at [www.cvim.net](http://www.cvim.net).)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please complete information as you wish to be recognized.)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  VISA  MASTERCARD or  Check enclosed (payable to CVIM)  
 Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

I do not need a thank-you letter from CVIM.  Please contact me about making a planned gift or bequest to CVIM  
 I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

**Thank you for your support of Centre Volunteers in Medicine!**

Donations can be made on-line or mailed to: CVIM, 2520 Green Tech Drive, Suite D, State College, PA 16803

Centre Volunteers in Medicine is a 501(c) (3) organization and its tax identification number is 25-1897969. The official registration and financial information of Centre Volunteers in Medicine may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Q411



Centre Volunteers in Medicine  
2520 Green Tech Drive, Suite D  
State College, PA 16803

***Return Service Requested***

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

PAID

State College, PA  
Permit No. 210

---

## The Faulkner Society



On September 22, Dr. Joseph Faulkner was honored for his immeasurable contributions as one of the founders of CVIM.

It was a wonderful evening bringing many from CVIM's past and present together to remember the groundswell of support lead by Joe for the formation of CVIM.

Cheryl White presented Joe with a plaque and made the announcement of the creation of the Faulkner Society in honor of Joe.

*(Pictured at left: Joe Faulkner, CVIM Board Member and Cheryl White, Executive Director of CVIM)*

## NVRC Half Marathon for Health

On December 4th, the Nittany Valley Running Club will host the 28th Annual Nittany Valley Half Marathon to benefit CVIM.

For more information and to get involve, please go to [www.nvrn.com](http://www.nvrn.com) or visit the CVIM website at [www.cvim.net](http://www.cvim.net) and click on the Nittany Valley Running Club link.

Thanks so much to all of the sponsors and organizers of the event. To date, more than \$17,000 has been donated to CVIM from race proceeds.

