

Uninsured assured by services from CVIM

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In the state of Pennsylvania, nearly 10% of the adult population is without health insurance. The figures are about half of that percentage for children. Even if employed, fewer companies are offering the benefit of paid coverage for their staff. Now try to imagine what it would be like to have none and be without the means to pay for a doctor, dentist or emergency room visit.

In the latter half of the 1990's, Paoli Hospital's Foundation and Women's Auxiliary decided to join forces to address rectifying that situation by establishing a clinic setting for those that were uninsured. Their answer has turned into an organization called CVIM.

Community Volunteers in Medicine opened its first facility in Frazer in 1998. Since then the operation has grown exponentially, now having a permanent home at a former warehouse in West Chester. Last year 28,000 visits were made to the site for medical and dental appointments.

The secret to success has come not only from the center's volunteer medical staff but those using their skills as interrupters. The working poor are often from other countries so language barriers do exist. With the exception of the medical director, Dr. Mary Wirshup, CEO Maureen Tomoschuk and a small support staff, the other doctors, nurses, dentists and hygienists hold unpaid (except in gratitude) positions. These are the healers, doing so to "give back."

A 15th anniversary party to honor the initiative was recently held at Brushwood Stables in Malvern. Hosted by one of the first ladies of philanthropy, Betty Moran, the evening was a rousing success. Guests got to view the idyllic setting (horses grazed in the pasture amid a fall harvest) while being entertained by two gals from the Eagles cheerleading squad. Not to be outdone by their aerobic expressionism, team mascot, "Swoop," cozied up with wide-eyed attendees for memory-making photos.

Mel Reese came to emcee the event, during which those with five, ten or fifteen years of continual service to CVIM were recognized.

Have some time and expertise in the healing arts? To learn how to lend a hand visit Community Volunteers In Medicine at www.cvim.org.



Spanish interpreter for CVIM, Bruce Gilbert of Wayne, and wife Sandra check in at the party.



15 year medical volunteer Kathleen Aceto of Malvern and spouse Chris and CVIM's president and CEO, Maureen Tomoschuk (right) thank Betty Moran for hosting the organization's gala.



United States Congressman Jim Gerlach, of the 6th district of Pennsylvania, stops by to chat with Trish Cottone of Malvern and spouse Robert, a CVIM board member, Janna Sherrill of Downingtown and husband Alan, also a board member and the Mahoneys of Malvern, Pam and Kevin.



Patrick and Anne Ward of Malvern head to their seats.



Board member Stacy Sempier of Paoli visits with fellow board member Mike Schnably of Honeybrook and his wife, Lorie.



Fred Witzeling of Berwyn and CVIM volunteer Cathy Ronck of Radnor get a bird's eye view of the Eagles mascot, Swoop.



Dr. Dhanush Mekala of West Chester heads to the buffet dinner with Elaine DeSimone of Media, CVIM's medical director Dr. Mary Wirshup of Glenmoore and Bob Pascal of Media.



CVIM board member Michael Buongiorno of Newtown Square and Joan Harrison of Villanova enjoy the company of Paoli Hospital president Jim Paradis of King of Prussia, Sue Cheung of Malvern, Mike Boken of Rosemont and wife Patricia, a physician with the organization.



CVIM supporters, Larry Genuardi and his family's Genuardi Foundation executive director Meredith Huffman spend time with Bill Tomoschuk of Glen Mills.



Barbara Harkness of West Chester, CVIM social services coordinator Miriam Pinto and volunteer Mary Ellen Shane of Berwyn admire the table decorations.



Eagles cheerleaders Teresa and Jackie add pep to those rallying 'round the unique organization such as Betty Colletta of Downingtown and CVIM doc, who's all about heart, Frank Harrison of Villanova.



CVIM volunteer Reggie Witzeling of Berwyn meets up with Joanne and Ray Welsh of Haverford and Denise Mahal, also of Berwyn.