It is not often that CVIM gets to say thank you in a spectacular way to the volunteers and community partners who make our dream a reality. On Tuesday, September 24, 2013, under a clear Fall sky, on the beautiful Brushwood Stable property of Mrs. Betty Moran, CVIM was able to do just that during a special Celebration of Volunteers.

Through a community partnership award from Teva Pharmaceuticals and the Philadelphia Eagles and the generosity of Mrs. Moran, over 320 people gathered to honor and celebrate 15 years of volunteer accomplishments.

Honored attendees entered on a red carpet and enjoyed an evening filled with special guests and live entertainment donated by the Malarkey Brothers. Guests were able to mingle and have pictures taken with Eagles Cheerleaders and Swoop. Over 20 volunteers won raffle prizes donated by CVIM Board members and the Eagles.

CVIM President and CEO, Maureen Tomoschuk warmly welcomed special guests Donna Faix, Corporate & Social Responsibility Program Manager at Teva Pharmaceuticals, and the evening’s emcees Merrill Reese, the Voice of the Eagles, and Joe Dorenbos, Eagles long snapper who co-presented the CVIM Volunteer Awards for 5, 10 and 15 years of consecutive service. Reese finished by saying that he felt Dick Vermeil’s quote “character people win” described CVIM. With CVIM volunteers donating 45,000 hours of time and talent, helping to provide more than 28,000 patient visits last year - we agree whole heartedly!

The evening also included the presentation of an official Extension of Remarks by Congressman Jim Gerlach and special Citations presented during the program portion of the evening by Senator Andy Dinniman and County Commissioners Ryan Costello and Kathi Cozzone.

Maureen shared, “CVIM volunteers are our most precious resource that donate time, talent and treasure every day. If not for you and our community partners CVIM would not be able to serve so many in need in Chester County.”

“You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.”

-Walt Disney
A smile can make the world go round. Unfortunately for Roger, his world stopped 11 years ago when a major car accident destroyed his smile, self-image, and minimized his employment opportunities. Although he was able to receive treatment that restored the functionality of his mouth, his broken smile remained a barrier to a full life and was a constant reminder of the unfortunate incident that changed the course of his future.

By July 2012 at the age of 29, he had all but given up on his dream of becoming a leader in the Salvation Army. Then he found CVIM. As the first beneficiary of the Smiles for Jackie fund, established in memory of Jackie Mecke, Roger received a full upper and a partial lower denture. He could not be more grateful for the second chance he has received with his new smile. “For the first time in years, Roger can express himself through his grin,” says Alberta Landis, CVIM Vice President of Dental Services. “His smile expresses more happiness than words ever could.”

Gifts to the Smiles for Jackie fund help CVIM to cover the costs of dental services and supplies not available to patients in the clinic. We are so happy to honor Jackie’s memory through this special fund.
CVIM and the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act is a milestone on the journey of healthcare reform. With no Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania it is estimated that a half a million individuals will remain uninsured and need access to a quality-focused medical home. CVIM remains committed to being the Safety Net provider of medical and dental care to the most vulnerable in Chester County.

- Even with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the problem of the uninsured is not solved and is not going to go away. CVIM has long been an advocate for our patients ‘graduating’ from using our clinic to being able to afford their own healthcare insurance. It is our hope that some will be able to take advantage of the plans offered by the ACA.

- While our federal and state legislators are working on expansion of health insurance coverage, what we hear from our patients is worry that “affordable” may not be realistic to them while they struggle to put a roof over their head, food on the table, and gas in the car in order to keep their job.

- The Affordable Care Act does not address the health crisis caused by the lack of coverage and access to dental care. Poor oral health is linked to several chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease and stroke, yet it remains one of the most preventable forms of disease. CVIM handles daily dental emergencies helping to keep people out of emergency rooms, which is their only option for a dental crisis.

- One of the greatest challenges to CVIM is that our donors and community partners understand we do not anticipate a reduction in the record number of patients we serve or the services we provide. All generous support on the behalf of CVIM patients continues to be desperately needed.

- CVIM is committed to evolving as the needs of our patients change and our community responds to the changing healthcare environment.

A Sweet Thank You

Jyoti recently found herself in immediate need of medical attention when a long-neglected, life-threatening condition made it impossible for her to function. Without insurance, Jyoti felt lost and hopeless – until CVIM stepped in. Dr. Mary Wirshup, Vice President of Medical Affairs worked closely with Paoli Hospital to coordinate emergency surgery, which resulted in Jyoti’s full recovery. In October, she and her husband, Dipakkumar visited CVIM to deliver a special thank you gift, which was enjoyed by all!
Patient Runs to Benefit CVIM

CVIM is honored to once again be the co-beneficiary of Liberty Property Trust’s 23rd Annual Great Valley Corporate Center “Run for your Life” race which since 1999 has raised close to $90,000 for CVIM patients. We are especially proud of our patient Jennifer who ran the event. Jennifer, who has been a CVIM patient for six years, was thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to the organization that has given her so much. She shares, “CVIM has given me the best medical treatment I’ve had in my life, and the volunteers and staff always treat me with dignity. I had undiagnosed health issues that lead to me losing my home, my family, and my job.” Jennifer credits CVIM for helping her regain stability in her life by eating right, exercising, and meditating. “I started running to establish control in my life, and now it has become a part of who I am. CVIM is an extraordinary place.”

Annual Cocktail Benefit Breaks Record

The ninth annual Hershey’s Mill Cocktail Benefit took place on October 6th. The event, organized by CVIM volunteers, raised a record-breaking $10,000 for Judy’s Cookie Jar. Organized soon after CVIM’s inception 15 years ago, the Cookie Jar provides emergency funds to patients with no other financial ability to pay for necessary tests such as x-rays, diagnostic scans, biopsies and other services not available in the clinic.

Citadel + CVIM

Mike Schnably, Senior Vice President at Citadel and a member of CVIM’s Board of Directors continued Citadel’s long standing tradition of support to CVIM with the presentation of a generous $10,000 donation. CVIM is so grateful to everyone at Citadel for your twelve years of dedicated partnership. Your commitment to being a good citizen in the communities you serve is evident through all you do. Thank you!

The clinic shines thanks to a Day of Caring from our friends at Siemens Healthcare. CVIM is so grateful for your continued partnership!

Thanks to support from the Breast Cancer Survivors Foundation, the Fox Chase Cancer Center Mammogram Van was onsite at CVIM on September 17th providing free mammograms to 24 women. This was the fourth of five scheduled visits from the Mammogram Van in 2013.