



IHC Newsletter ~ Vol. 2 ~ Issue 4 ~ November 2012

IHC: Access to Care

by Susan Rice

My first two children were born in an excellent hospital with highly qualified doctors and nurses all around. But there was a catch: My husband, Ben, and I had to take a 90-minute flight six weeks before my due date to get to the city where that excellent hospital was located. **Access to quality health care** was a very real issue for us. We lived on a remote island, Borneo, in Indonesia, and although there was a hospital in our town, people only went there when they were desperate; the conditions were horrible. Our **access** issue was distance, but because we had the means, we were able to **overcome the obstacle** and get to the good care we knew was available, albeit on another island.

Today in **our** community, many people face serious obstacles in finding good health care, barriers that can seem insurmountable. Access to places where they can be cared for has been impeded by challenges such as cost, transportation, insurance, job schedules, or childcare issues.

It may surprise you to learn that **more than a quarter** of the population in McLean County is considered poor (below the poverty level) or low income. Thirty-two percent of families led by single mothers are **in poverty** in Bloomington. In McLean County, **10%** of the population under 65 is **completely uninsured**. Another **13.8%** receives **Medicaid**. These populations are concentrated in low income areas, particularly in west Bloomington, where IHC is located, waiting to open. In fact, the federal government has designated one section of downtown and west Bloomington to be "Medically Underserved."

There is **a very clear need** for Immanuel Health Center to provide holistic health care to our fellow citizens, particularly in the present economic climate. Why will we respond? What does the Lord require of us? To do what is just and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

An ISU marketing class did a Needs Analysis survey of 117 homes in the IHC neighborhood and two food banks and found that **76%** of respondents would be **"very likely"** to use the services at the IHC! Why? **Accessibility**. IHC will be close. Rates will be affordable. We, by shining the light of Christ, will be approachable.

By helping IHC to get up and running, **we can quite literally open a door** for those among us who have been avoiding going to the doctor because of obstacles of access. Millions of people around the world today have no medical care options at all. But we can make an enormous difference for the people right here among us. God has placed them in our midst so that we can show how accessible **HE IS** (and we are) to them. We can help our neighbors **overcome the obstacle** that is preventing them from getting the health care they need.

*Please consider partnering with IHC financially as the Lord leads. **Any gifts will be much appreciated**, and commitments for regular (monthly/quarterly) donations would be a great encouragement to IHC. Also remember IHC as you consider year-end giving. May God bless us all as we seek to serve Him.*

...let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

UPDATES

EMR (Electronic Medical Records): We have completed the search for electronic medical records and have signed a contract with AthenaHealth. Of all the systems we reviewed, this was the most user friendly, which will be the easiest for our volunteers to learn. It will also allow us to do billing based on our sliding scale for patients without insurance, provide handouts to patients in Spanish, and run several clinical, financial, and security reports to allow us to do our job well. The Implementation process takes about 11 weeks.

We Care Twin Cities Fundraiser: Runners raised about \$2,800 on behalf of IHC. Thanks to all who participated as a runner, volunteer, or sponsor!

Executive Director: Michael Straza's contract was renewed for another three months.

Clinical Details: We are getting the laboratory and vaccination programs ready for serving patients.

Many Thanks to:

Bloomington-Normal Audiology — for donating an Earscan tympanometer, which will allow us to evaluate hearing and ear problems in our patients.

State Farm (again!) — for donating a spirometer to evaluate for breathing problems in our patients.

Pat and Bill King — for building a bookshelf and providing and organizing books to give to the children who come to IHC for care.

Second Presbyterian Church — for providing us with a beautiful stained glass window for our chapel.

OSF Prenatal Clinic — for providing a microscope for our lab.

And many others who have donated books, medical supplies, office supplies, and precious time to pray and help us prepare to serve our community.



John Kleinsteiber: IHC Intercessor

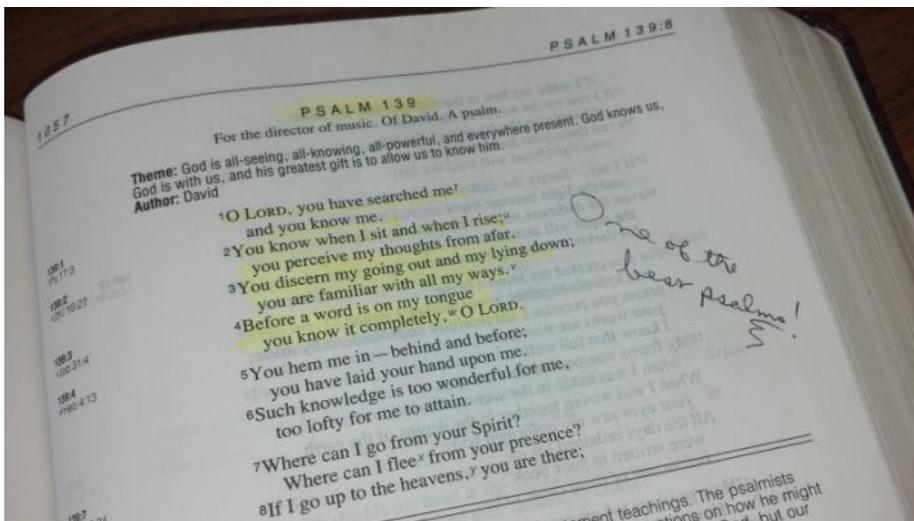
John Kleinsteiber was a humble, godly man of great faith who was the first donor to Immanuel Health Center. At our very first meeting, during which the vision was presented to a small gathering at Grace Church, before we even had a name or a clear plan on how to proceed, John asked if he could give a donation. He believed strongly in the mission and purpose of IHC and was an ardent intercessor on its behalf. Kelly Graeber, our interior designer, shares, “I remember two things vividly: how fervently he prayed for IHC (‘If it would please your will, Father...’) and how he said IHC would be ‘wonderful!’ It was the word he always used about it.”

Dr. Trina Scott adds, “He gave us his Bible for our chapel. It is the one we have on display and use regularly for our weekly prayer time. I loved to hear him pray for IHC...I leaned on his faith.”

Pastor Ed Scarce, IHC Board member, said about John’s response to our request to use his Bible in the chapel, “He [John] was humbled and very pleased. He said it wasn’t much, but he wanted to help out. His most common opening to a prayer was ‘Sovereign Father....’”

John got his promotion to heaven in October. Although he is no longer here, “he is a part of the spiritual heritage of IHC, and we probably owe some of our existence to his strong prayers,” says Dr. Scott.

We miss you, John. Thank you for interceding for us before the throne...



John’s Bible, including his notes in the margin.

Current Equipment Needs

Do you have equipment to donate? We are looking for the following items:

Equipment cart (for EKG machine and spirometer)	Adult and infant scales
Clocks for exam rooms and reception area	Eye charts for exam rooms
MP3 player to play music throughout the center	Pulse Oximeters (pediatric and adult)
Pediatric and Extra large blood pressure cuffs	Paper for copiers and printers

Attention Volunteers!

We will be having a volunteer meeting in December; if you are interested in volunteering, please send us an e-mail (info@immanuelhealth.org) or fill out the form on our website (www.immanuelhealth.org). If you have sent information in the past, please let us know if you are still interested in serving with us.

Attention: Job Seekers

We will be interviewing for the following positions:

Receptionist
Nurse Manager

Information on these positions will be posted on the website soon. Please contact us if you are interested in working at IHC!

IHC'S Board of Directors

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