



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Center offers helping hand to sick poor

by Robert Lothian

Health Help director Mary Lou Miller says there is no problem for people without money when they come to the little clinic in the little house at 4842 N.E. 8th.

"We tell them someday when you're rich and famous send us a dollar or two," she said.

The clinic asks a \$2 donation for blood pressure checks, insulin pre-draws, pregnancy tests, physicals and treatment of scrapes and sore throats offered by volunteer doctors, nurses and lab technicians. Volunteer pharmacists offer prescriptions, mainly antibiotics, and counseling is available at the Family Services Unit in the little house next door.

Clinic hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 7-10 p.m. with specialty clinics Thursdays 7-10 p.m. and blood pressure clinic Thursday afternoons, 1:30-3:30.

The only qualification for patients is that they must be without insurance and unable to afford health care services at a regular clinic or hospital. Patients can trade services, like mowing the lawn or fixing the gutters, for clinic care, but no one is turned away for lack of a donation. "That's why we're here; for those who don't have any resources," she said.

She displayed a note sent from an appreciative patient. "I'm sorry I can't give more at this time, but I hope to be able to help out later," it said. A note by a staff person, to the side: "They gave all they had -26¢".

Complicated problems are referred to hospitals that don't turn

people away for lack of money, or to specialists who donate services. "We're not set up to see acutely ill people," she said. "We're set up for two or three visits and referral elsewhere."

Miller said Health Help is seeing 12,000 patients a year in the medical clinic and about 400 a year in counseling. About 50% of the patients come from North and Northeast Portland, and the rest from throughout the metro area.

A whopping \$250,000 in donated professional health care services, along with donated supplies and equipment, supplements \$100,000 in annual funds from corporate, church and individual donations. The clinic has a staff of six and 300 volunteer health professionals donate an average of five hours a month. "The volunteers make Health Help what it is," said Miller.

The clinic operates under the umbrella of nearby St. Andrew Catholic Church. St. Andrew parishioners started the clinic in 1973 and the Catholic Archdiocese donated the two houses.

Miller said economic hard times of the last four years has placed increased demands on the little clinic. Records show a 400% increase in patients between 1979 and 1983. Although Health Help is providing a service to more and more indigent people, "I think there are some people out there that fall between the cracks," said Miller. The demand has meant an increase in staff and volunteer time, and more volunteers are always welcome, she said.

Social to benefit parish work

The public is invited to an "Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social" scheduled for Sunday, July 29, 4-6 p.m., at Patton Central United Methodist Church on the corner of North Michigan and Alberta.

Featuring home-made ice cream, toppings, beverages, and entertainment, the event will benefit the work of the Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland and its project, "People Are Beautiful."

The Ecumenical Parish is a cooperative effort of Disciples of Christ, Presbyterians, and United Methodists in ministry in North and Northeast Portland.

"People Are Beautiful" is a program which hires local youth and older interns to provide self-development and recreation for sixty neighborhood children. For more information, call Rev. Luther Sturtevant, 288-5173.

Gospel festival to feature Ronnie Wright

The Ronnie Wright Community Singers will be hosting their fourth Annual Gospel Festival in Peninsula Park on Saturday, August 4, 1984, from noon to dusk. Assisting will be Joe Bean Keller. This will be a day in which we would like to get families together to join us in songs of praise and a community picnic. The day will consist of a variety of choirs, Gospel groups and soloist.

This year, we will be having a children's hour, for 12 and under, to display their singing, speaking or

acting ability.

Any youth, adult or inspirational choirs, groups or soloist you have that might be interested in participating, please contact one of the following people, no later than July 15, 1984: Ronnie Wright, 286-0560, after 5:00 p.m.; Mildred Johnson, 287-9790, after 6:00 p.m.; Joe Bean Keller, 232-9871 or 283-2486; and, Beverley McSwain, 249-8081, after 5:00 p.m.

We are expecting a great crowd and a glorious time in the Lord.

Vacation Bible school slated

Berean Baptist Church will conduct a Vacation Bible School, beginning with a "Wonderfair" at 6:00 p.m., Sunday evening, July 29th, and continuing daily from July 30th through August 3rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The program, under the direction of Mrs. Betty Gilliam, will include

singing, Bible lessons, missionary stories and crafts. Children from ages 3 through jr. high are invited to come share in the fun and learning.

The church is located at 4822 N. Vancouver Ave. For more information, call 284-2334.

Ecumenical voter drive plan

Presidential contenders and local office hopefuls are competing avidly for a share of the available votes, yet not everyone will be able to register their choice.

Only 75% of adult Oregonians are eligible to exercise their right at the polls. Approximately one in four potential voters have not complied with Oregon's very simple requirements for registering to vote.

These non-voters are predominately low-income and working people, minorities and women. Because they don't vote, their interests are frequently overlooked or discounted by public

officials and policy makers.

To reach and to involve these disenfranchised people, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has implemented the Northwest Oregon

Voter Registration Project. This project is made possible through a \$20,900 grant from the National SANE Education Fund. The Project will coordinate non-partisan voter education and voter registration activities within eight Northwest Oregon counties: Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.

French choirs visit Portland

The Sainte Chapelle and Chartres Cathedral Men and Boys' Choirs will present a concert featuring music from the Renaissance to Modern periods under the direction of Mr. Francis Bardot.

Since its founding nearly fifteen years ago, the Sainte Chapelle Choir of Paris has earned an international reputation as a first rate boys' choir. Their ambitious repertoire includes such masterpieces as Bach's Magnificat, the Requiems of Durefle, Faure and Mozart, and choral music from countless operas. The Sainte Chapelle Choir has sung with the Orchestre de Paris and the Orchestre Pro Arte de Paris and has been directed by such prestigious conductors as Rostropovitch and Osawa. The choir has also recorded for RCA and Solstice.

Not content with the founding of one boys' choir, Francis Bardot created the Chartres Cathedral Boys Choir in 1980. Mr. Bardot is not only a teacher and choral director, but he also pursues his own career as a tenor. He has performed throughout Europe, the United States and Canada.

Combining forces, the Sainte Chapelle and Chartres Cathedral Choirs will perform in Portland as part of their 1984 West Coast tour. The performance will take place on Saturday, August 8th, 8:00 P.M. at Holy Rosary Church, 375 N.E. Clackamas (near Lloyd Center and the Coliseum). General admission is \$5.00. Tickets are available at Bass ticket centers, and may be charged by calling 226-1605. Tickets may also be purchased in advance from Holy Rosary Church at 235-3163.

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