



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE JOINS UNITED WAY OF MONROE COUNTY NETWORK

United Way of Monroe County proudly announces that Volunteers in Medicine has been approved to join the United Way network as a member agency. The United Way Board of Directors voted unanimously to certify VIM based on a thorough review of the agency. In addition, nine existing member agencies were re-certified. Each of these agencies passed a rigorous set of standards in the areas of governance and oversight, effectiveness, finances, and fundraising practices.

Volunteers in Medicine provides important services without cost to the medically underserved in Monroe and Owen Counties including easily accessible, quality primary and preventive healthcare; treatment for both acute and chronic conditions; and health education that empowers individuals to take responsibility for their own well being. The clinic, like its predecessor Community Health Access Program (CHAP), is located at 333 E. Miller Drive in Bloomington. Operated by volunteers and with the support of the medical community, the Volunteers in Medicine clinic serves individuals who reside in Monroe or Owen Counties, earn income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and do not have health insurance. More information is available at the VIM web site: www.vimmonroecounty.org.

Elizabeth Sturgeon, VIM Executive Director, commented, "Thank you very much to United Way and its Board for the decision on behalf of Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County to accept us as a member. We are pleased to be a part of such a respectable organization and are grateful to United Way for recognizing the VIM cause and its service to the community. We are looking forward to working with United Way and others to continue to provide services for the uninsured in Monroe and Owen County."

"The Volunteer in Medicine organization is pleased by the recognition and trust of United Way of Monroe County," said Dr. Rajih Haddawi, the VIM Board Chair. "We look forward to being an asset

and giving our community pride in its accomplishment. Our United Way membership will help the many thousands of citizens who are in need of health care and can't afford it."

Executive Director of United Way, Barry Lessow commended the decision, "One of United Way's goals for our community is ensuring that everyone has access to basic medical care. We were proud of our long relationship with CHAP, and our community is already benefiting from the increased health opportunities and financial stability that VIM is bringing to local residents who cannot afford health insurance. United Way has been working with VIM to ensure there are strong partnerships with our existing 25 member agencies and to assist in VIM's outreach to those who most need its services."

Each year one-third of the current member agencies and any applying agencies are reviewed by a United Way committee, including board members, agency representatives, and community volunteers. Under this certification process, agencies retain their status for up to three years. The agencies recertified in 2007 are:

- Abilities Unlimited
- Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana
- Catholic Charities Bloomington
- Girls Inc. of Monroe County
- Options
- Salvation Army
- Shalom Community Center
- Stone Belt Arc

United Way of Monroe County is a nonprofit organization that improves people's lives by addressing critical needs today and working to reduce those needs tomorrow. Through its Community Care Fund, it allocates resources to 26 member agencies that address the most pressing human service needs in Monroe County. You can find more information at www.monroeunitedway.org.

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