



## Volunteers in Medicine and Churches

Taking the Lead to Deliver Health Care  
to America's Uninsured

Presenter: Amy R. Hamlin, Executive Director

## National Crisis: Present and Future

- 47 to 89.6 million uninsured in this country
- Escalating health insurance costs
- Physician shortage: demand will exceed supply by 2020
  - Growing US population
  - Aging physician workforce
- Demise of primary care
  - Low reimbursement rates for primary care services
  - Stressful work life of primary care physicians
  - Dwindling number of US medical graduates choosing careers in family medicine

## VIM History

- ‘And what did you do for someone today?’
- Dr. Jack McConnell opened the first clinic on Hilton Head Island in 1994
- Founded the national VIM office
- “In every community, a culture of caring with health care for all.”



## VIM Model

- Free clinics for the uninsured
- Staffed primarily by retired medical volunteers
- Independent 501(c)(3) organizations
- Delivering quality primary care
- Emphasize the “Culture of Caring”
- Community integrated, owned and supported
- Almost every community has the ability to bring resources together to care for the uninsured

## Volunteers in Medicine

- Only national non-profit devoted to assisting local communities in opening free clinics
- Network of over 65 clinics
- Delivering over \$50 million of quality health care annually
- Serving hundreds of thousands of uninsured people

## Impact of VIM Clinics

- Provide a medical home
- Save lives
- Keep families intact
- Dramatically reduce overload in ERs and unnecessary hospital admissions
- Ease primary care physician shortage by mobilizing retired physicians
- Allow physicians to practice “pure medicine”

## Elements Needed for Success

- “Local Champion” with passion & determination
- Pool of medical and community volunteers
- Community resources to start and sustain clinic
- Willingness to follow VIM planning process

## The Role of Churches

- Generate interest and commitment to deliver health care to the uninsured
- Identify ‘local champions’
- Serve as ‘entry point’ into the broad community
- Provide volunteers and other resources to help open and sustain the VIM clinic
- Endorse inclusive, interfaith model

## For more about Volunteers in Medicine

- Sign-up for the VIM e-newsletter
- Request a copy of the *Circle of Caring*
- Visit [www.volunteersinmedicine.org](http://www.volunteersinmedicine.org)
- To explore developing a VIM clinic, contact us at (802) 651-0112 or [info@vimi.org](mailto:info@vimi.org)



**Amy R. Hamlin**  
**Executive Director**

(802) 651-0112  
[info@vimi.org](mailto:info@vimi.org)  
[www.volunteersinmedicine.org](http://www.volunteersinmedicine.org)