

# VIM & Vigor

Fall 2023

**A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE CLINIC**

## Welcome

**Patient Story.....2**

**Cleveland Clinic  
Martin Health.....3**

**Paying it Forward..... 4-5**

**The Oak Society .....5**

## VIM Gala 2023

**Dancing Around the World..... 6-7**

## VIM Gala 2024

**Gala Chairs and Sponsorship  
Opportunities.....8-9**

## Golf for Life

**Robert F. Novins Memorial  
Golf Tournament..... 10-11**

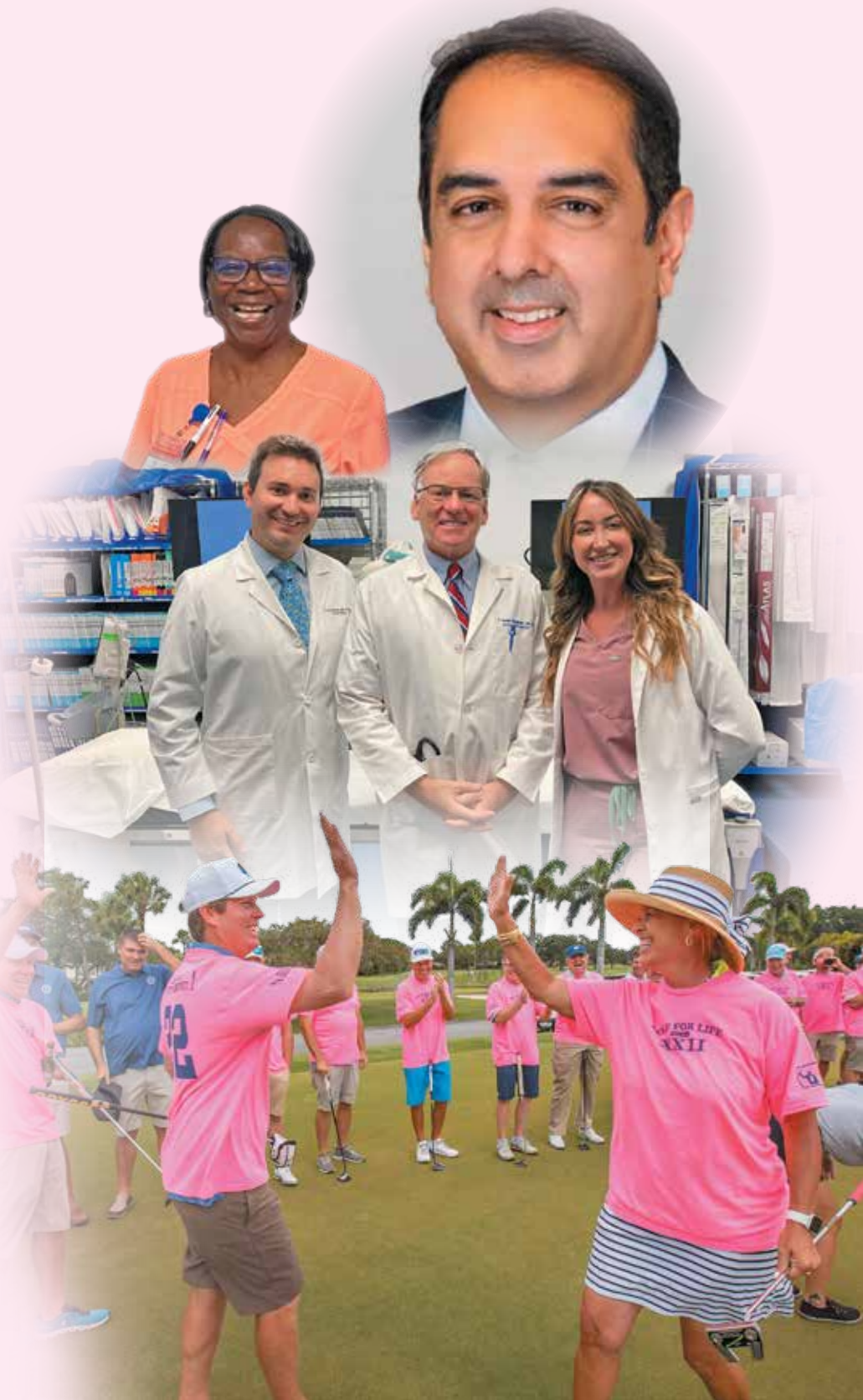
**Introducing  
New Volunteers .....12**

**Market on Main .....13**

## Thank You

**Supporters .....14-15**

**Volunteers & Partners .....16-17**





The Friends of VIM Clinic  
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Mia Cruz

We Support VIM Clinic



I'm honored to continue serving as President of The Friends of VIM Clinic Board of Directors. We're incredibly grateful to VIM Clinic for their hard work and dedication over the past 27 years. Our community is the heart of our livelihood, and the well-being of our neighbors is crucial to our future. **"Compassion is the language that speaks to the heart, bridging the gaps between us and reminding us of our shared humanity."**

Their commitment to **Giving the Gift of Health** inspires us all. VIM Clinic's mission is to bring comprehensive and compassionate medical care to uninsured, low-income adults between the ages of 18 and 64 in Martin County. Since 1995, the remarkable VIM team, including healthcare providers, volunteers, lay leaders, donors, and partner organizations, has come together to serve our community. Their efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of those in need, ensuring access to essential healthcare services and I share this message with everyone in the community. Thank you to the Bob and Ralf Massey Foundation, for offering our "Gift Matching Challenge" for a second time. Your support and generosity for fostering the spirit of giving are truly inspiring.

If you believe in our mission and want to make a difference, you can support VIM Clinic by **volunteering, giving in-kind items or services** and help spread the word among your friends and neighbors. By sharing our mission, you can help us reach more people in our community who may be in need of our services.

Your generous financial support is crucial to our mission's success. You can make a charitable contribution using the enclosed envelope or call our Community and Donor Relations Manager, Mia Cruz, at 772-463-4128 x211. Thank you for being a strong supporter of wellness and for giving the gift of health. Your contribution makes a significant difference in our efforts to provide **compassionate care** to those in need.

With thanks and appreciation,



Frank M. Byers Jr.

Providing Quality Healthcare  
to our Neighbors

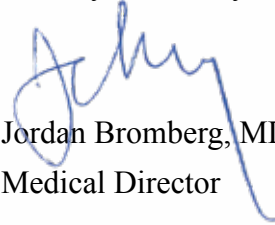
Winston Churchill said, "Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have." Not everybody in our country has access to quality healthcare. At Volunteers in Medicine Clinic we provide free care to low income, uninsured adult residents of Martin County. Having practiced internal medicine on the Treasure Coast for over 35 years, I can unequivocally say that the care we give our patients is second to none.

Try and imagine the consequences of undiagnosed or untreated hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, thyroid disease, or cancer. The list can go on and on. We diagnose and treat all of these conditions in our clinic and through the generosity of Cleveland Clinic Martin Health and our volunteer providers have access to the best specialists in the area. Healthcare, however, doesn't stop with diagnosis and treatment of disease. At VIM Clinic we emphasize disease prevention and prefer to see our patients when they are healthy so we can keep them that way.

Just as we appreciate those who have taught us, we feel it is our obligation to mentor the next generation of providers. At VIM Clinic we teach medical students from Florida State University College of Medicine and nurse practitioner students predominantly from Florida Atlantic University School of Nursing. By teaching we also learn.

It is truly an honor for me to be a part of VIM Clinic. Everybody in our clinic is so dedicated to our mission. I have also been fortunate to meet many of our donors. We could not do the things we do without your support.

Thank you for all you do.



Jordan Bromberg, MD, FACP  
Medical Director



**"Wherever the art of Medicine is loved,  
there is also a love of Humanity."**  
– Hippocrates

LOCAL IMPACT  
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic 2022

Patient Base: 783
Patient Visits: 9,735
Patient Specialist Referrals: 637
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$651,772
Medications Disbursed: \$2,937,087
Cleveland Clinic Martin Health Absorbed Patient Costs: \$5,446,256
Value of Medical Care Provided because of the Community and our Partners: \$9.8M



# A Heartfelt Journey of Compassionate Care

Meet Sean and Sara, a wonderful couple whose story highlights the power of compassion and support in healthcare. While residing at Dunklin Memorial Church, a Christian based, long-term, recovery program, Sean and Sara sought regular medical care. Especially Sara had health concerns, being a lifelong asthmatic. Both became patients at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic in early 2022. Little did they know, a serious medical situation was about to unfold.

*Meet Sean and Sara, a wonderful couple whose story highlights the power of compassion and support in healthcare.*

During a routine visit with his primary care provider, Alan Eddison, DNP, APRN, Sean's bloodwork revealed a dangerously low platelet count. As the situation persisted, and a visit to the emergency department was necessary, Dr. Eddison referred Sean to Hematology Oncology Associates of the Treasure Coast. There he saw Dr. Swanson and was diagnosed with idiopathic thrombocytopenia, posing a risk of bleeding out. Dr. Swanson prescribed a steroid treatment, and Sean went back for multiple follow-up appointments. This treatment ultimately resulted in his complete recovery! And the compassionate care didn't stop there - VIM Clinic continues to provide regular care to

both, and helps Sara obtain her asthma medications for free from pharmaceutical companies.

Over the years, VIM Clinic has treated and helped many residents of Dunklin Memorial Church and as a thank you from one nonprofit organization who helps people in need in the community to another, they sent a generous donation to VIM Clinic. Included was a note from Nick Reynolds, the Executive Director, and a letter from Sean and Sara stating, "You have supported us and taken an active role in both of our medical needs. We greatly appreciate the way you all go above and beyond for our family. You have blessed us immensely and have not only provided excellent care, but also a deep sense of peace in our lives. Thank you for all that you do."

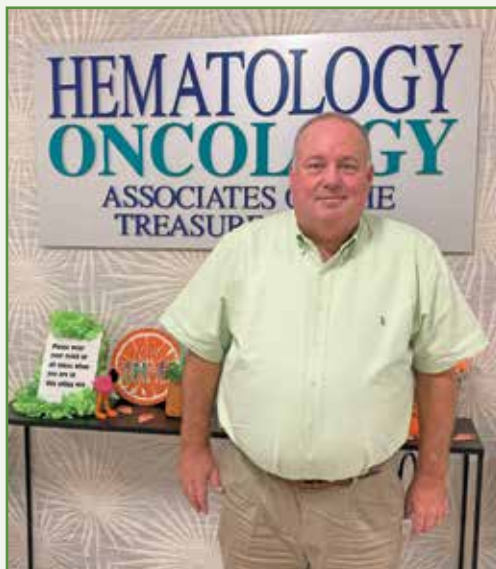
Let's take a moment to appreciate the incredible work of Dunklin Memorial Church and VIM Clinic with all their volunteers who make such a difference in people's lives!



Sara and Victoria Dodds, DNP, APRN



Jessica Johnson and Sean



Paul Swanson, MD

# Partners for Life!



Cleveland Clinic - Martin North Hospital

Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic has been serving Martin County since 1995. This would not have been possible without the support of our local hospital. For the past 27 years, the hospital has absorbed millions of dollars every year for labs, diagnostics, and ancillary services. With the transition to Cleveland Clinic Martin Health (CCMH), the number of providers has increased, and this has only enhanced the care that our patients receive.

A few of the extraordinary things that you may not know that we have been able to provide to our patients this past year include joint replacements, a craniotomy, aortic valve replacements, a spinal operation, surgical drainage for large subdural hematoma, hernia repairs, urological surgeries, breast cancer surgeries, opportunities to participate in clinical trials if appropriate, oncology and radiation therapy.

VIM Clinic is extremely appreciative of this partnership in being able to provide total comprehensive medical care to our patient population. Rishi Singh, MD, FASRS, Vice President/Chief Medical Officer, Martin North and South Hospitals joined our Board of Directors and is instrumental in the expansion of services being brought to the community.



Rishi Singh, MD, FASRS



# Patient care, community support and paying it forward for VIM Clinic

**S. Scott Tapper, MD**, of Symmetry Vascular Center, a valued partner since VIM Clinic's inception has touched many lives through his dedicated service as a thoracic surgeon to his present role in vascular surgery and to his hobby of golf.

A longstanding supporter and participant in the annual Robert F. Novins Memorial Golf Tournament, Dr. Tapper's journey with VIM found new momentum when the Clinic became the tournament's beneficiary. During the 2013 tournament, Dr. Tapper would meet his future wife, Liz Griffin, and they would marry five years later on the anniversary of the golf tournament. In lieu of traditional gifts, guests were encouraged to donate to VIM Clinic. They continue to sponsor and support the tournament!



Liz and Scott Tapper, MD



Mary R. and Jordan Bromberg, MD

**Kyle Diamond, MD**, joined Symmetry Vascular Center about 2 years ago, but his connection with Dr. Tapper goes back to when he was in pre-K and school with Dr. Tapper's son. A "take your child to school" day at the doctor's office impressed Dr. Diamond immensely and he followed through on his dream of becoming a vascular surgeon, just like his friend's dad. Dr. Tapper was surprised to see the name of his son's school friend on the attendee list of a Florida Vascular Society annual meeting. They reconnected and Dr. Tapper told Dr. Diamond to let him know if he was ever interested in coming back to Stuart from Boston.

Dr. Diamond joined Dr. Tapper at Symmetry Vascular Center and recently committed to seeing VIM Clinic patients too. Mary R., VIM patient, presented to VIM Clinic after a hospitalization for multiple serious issues. One of these included an area of lack of blood flow to her finger and Jordan Bromberg, MD, her primary

care provider at VIM Clinic, reached out to Dr. Diamond. He agreed to see Mary, did a full diagnostic work-up and expertly evaluated her. With close follow-ups by VIM Clinic staff and volunteer providers, Mary is doing much better and hopefully will continue her road to recovery.

**Sara Smith, BSN, RN** came to Symmetry Vascular Center as a charge nurse about 5 years ago. When she needed volunteer hours for her community health class at Indian River State College while getting her BSN degree, she contacted VIM Clinic, who was happy to have her join the volunteer team. Sara is now pursuing her MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner degree from Chamberlain University, and came back to VIM Clinic to get her mandatory clinical hours with both Clinical Directors, Victoria Dodds, DNP, APRN and Alan Eddison, DNP, APRN as her preceptors.



Alan Eddison, DNP, APRN and Sara Smith, RN

**Dr. Tapper, Dr. Diamond, and Sara Smith, RN**, stand as living testimonies to the power of community, compassion, and care. Through shared experiences, they have created a bond that strengthens VIM Clinic's mission, touching lives along the way.



Kyle Diamond, MD, Scott Tapper, MD and Sara Smith, RN

## The Oak Society 2023

Since its founding in 1995, VIM Clinic has provided exceptional medical care and compassionate treatment to uninsured, low-income adults in Martin County. The Oak Society offers you the opportunity to join others who have committed to making a charitable contribution to The Friends of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic through a bequest or estate plan. Remembering VIM Clinic through a planned gift ensures that our programs and services will remain viable for years to come while advancing your own financial plan. Our work, and the lives we touch, will be your legacy.

The Oak Society is a group of philanthropists who commit to remembering VIM Clinic in their will or other planned gift. This very special donation ensures your passion for helping others, lives on for many years.

We want to be able to celebrate you – so once we receive notification of your planned gift, you become a member of The Oak Society. In addition to our gratitude, your thoughtfulness is recognized with an oak leaf symbol next to your name in any listings with donor names including the VIM & Vigor newsletter. You will also be presented with a beautiful oak leaf lapel pin and invitations to private events with other Oak Society members.

Including The Friends of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic as a recipient of a percentage or specific dollar amount is easy to do. Each individual situation is unique, and, therefore, these examples include only some of the possible gift opportunities. Your attorney can review all your options.

Learn more on our website at [VIMClinic.net/TheOakSociety](http://VIMClinic.net/TheOakSociety). Feel free to call our Community and Donor Relations Manager, Mia Cruz, at 772-463-4128 extension 211 to discuss your personal goals. We invite you to join us in growing the future of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic.

## Society Members

Dr. Jordan & Mary Bromberg  
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\*Legacy members



# Dancing Around the World

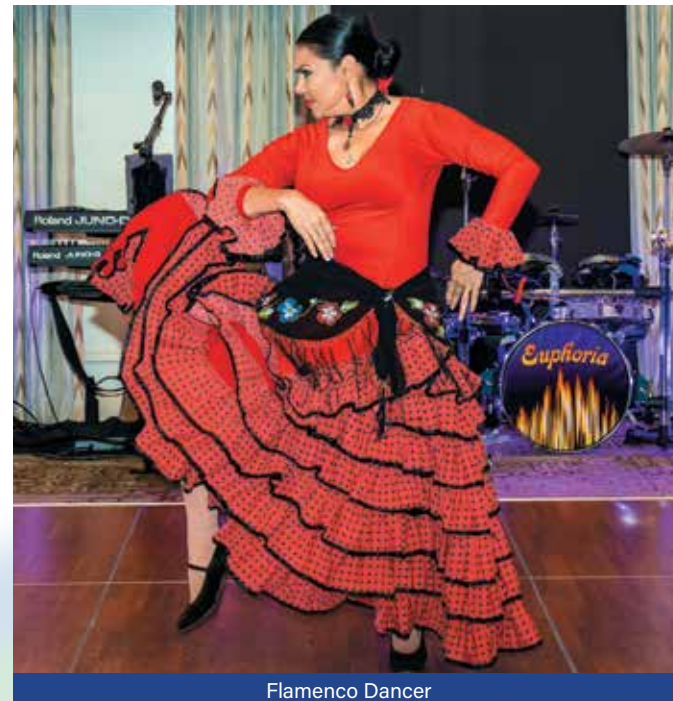
## VIM Gala 2023

The 2023 VIM Clinic Gala, "Dancing Around the World," was filled with great excitement. Attendees joined in for the ride, donning their favorite elegant attire, with black-tie optional, or in themed outfits reflecting beloved places on earth. The event showcased culinary highlights from around the globe, and guests relished dances representing diverse cultures and styles. The Euphoria Band played captivating rhythms, inviting everyone to dance at Willoughby Golf Club.

This remarkable gala raised about a third of VIM Clinic's annual budget, and the Gala Chairs, Bob Massey and Annie MacMillan, were elated to continue their support and extended the same invitation to others. Heartwarming patient stories left a lasting impact, inspiring attendees to contribute to the ongoing journey of caring for friends in need in Martin County.

***Gracias! Merci! Danke! Arigato!***

Photos by Liz McKinley and Mauri Mozeleski



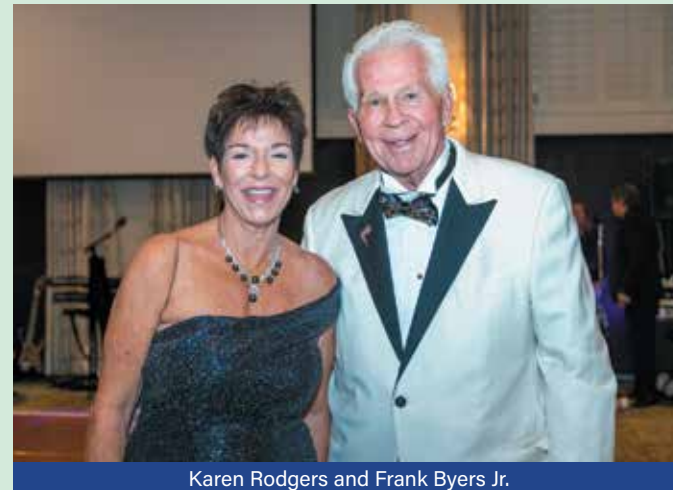
Flamenco Dancer



Kathy DeMont with Bob Massey and Annie MacMillan



Dr. John and Catherine Fasano



Karen Rodgers and Frank Byers Jr.



Gerry and Charles Ruibal



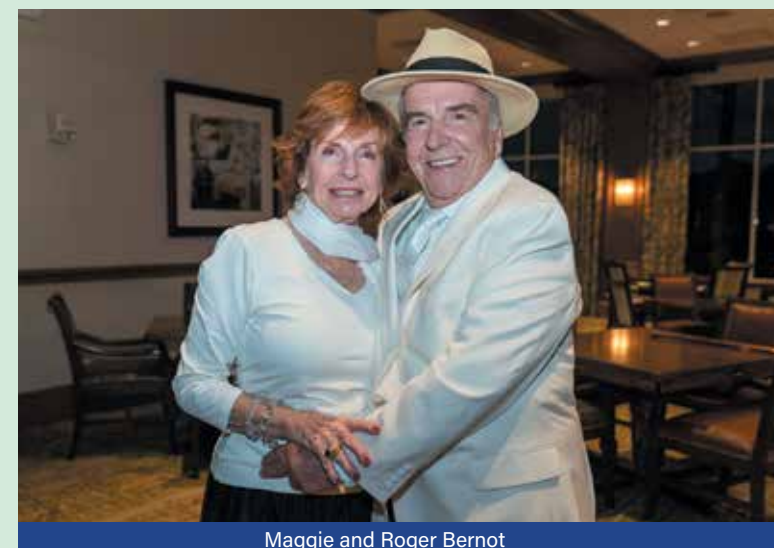
Tom and Jan Bevan



Anne Graziano with Ned and Miki Jannotta



Drs. Steve and Victoria Dodds



Maggie and Roger Bernot



Laila Gosine and Walter McManus



# VIM Gala 2024

For 22 years you have shown us the love by supporting our annual gala fundraiser. In 2024 we will hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> VIM gala and are inviting all of you to join us for an evening of catching up with existing friends, making new ones and in the process help VIM Clinic to stay strong and continue our mission of treating those in the community who need it the most.

We will celebrate your generosity with an evening of fun, including great cocktails, delicious food, a photo-booth to capture precious memories, and live music by Eurphoria Band. As always, we will share patient success stories prior to the Call to Heart.

Save the date of February 10, 2024, and add the event at Willoughby Golf Club to your calendars today!



**Chairs**  
**Bob Truckenmiller & Judi Powell**

Judi Powell moved to Stuart, Florida from Michigan in 1993 and was introduced to VIM Clinic through her job at Wallace Automotive in 2008. At the time, she was in charge for all charitable giving of the company and she is admitting today, “Volunteers in Medicine quickly became my favorite charity.” Together with her husband she attended the gala every year, joined the gala committee and after her husband Jerry’s passing in 2015, became a member of The FVIM Board of Directors.

Bob Truckenmiller, a Purple Heart recipient and 100% disabled Vietnam veteran got his college, masters and CPA degree after coming back injured. He worked as CFO in various states and hospitals, Jupiter Medical Center being one of them before he retired almost 15 years ago. During his career, he encountered similar free and charitable clinics and after meeting Judi, was immediately onboard with VIM Clinic’s mission.

The saying “Learn from your past, plan for the future, and the present is a gift” reminds them both of how precious life and our health are. That’s why they keep Caring from their Hearts by supporting VIM Clinic and ask you all to do the same, by joining them at the VIM Gala 2024!

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

<b>Happiness</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
10 Gala Tickets, 8 VIP Party Tickets, prominent 2-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Delight</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
10 Gala Tickets, 6 VIP Party Tickets, prominent 1-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Bliss</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
8 Gala Tickets, 6 VIP Party Tickets, 1-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Elation</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
8 Gala Tickets, 4 VIP Party Tickets, 1/2-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Joy</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
6 Gala Tickets, 4 VIP Party Tickets, 1/2-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Cheerfulness</b>	<b>\$3,200</b>
4 Gala Tickets, 4 VIP Party Tickets, 1/4-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Exhilaration</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
3 Gala Tickets, 3 VIP Party Tickets, 1/4-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Gratitude</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
2 Gala Tickets, 2 VIP Party Tickets, 1/4-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Pleasure</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
2 Gala Tickets, 1/8-page Gala Program Ad	
<b>Ticket</b>	<b>\$400</b>
1 Gala Ticket	

Camera Ready art to be included in gala program must be received by 12/20/2023.

For more information visit [www.vimclinic.net/gala](http://www.vimclinic.net/gala)



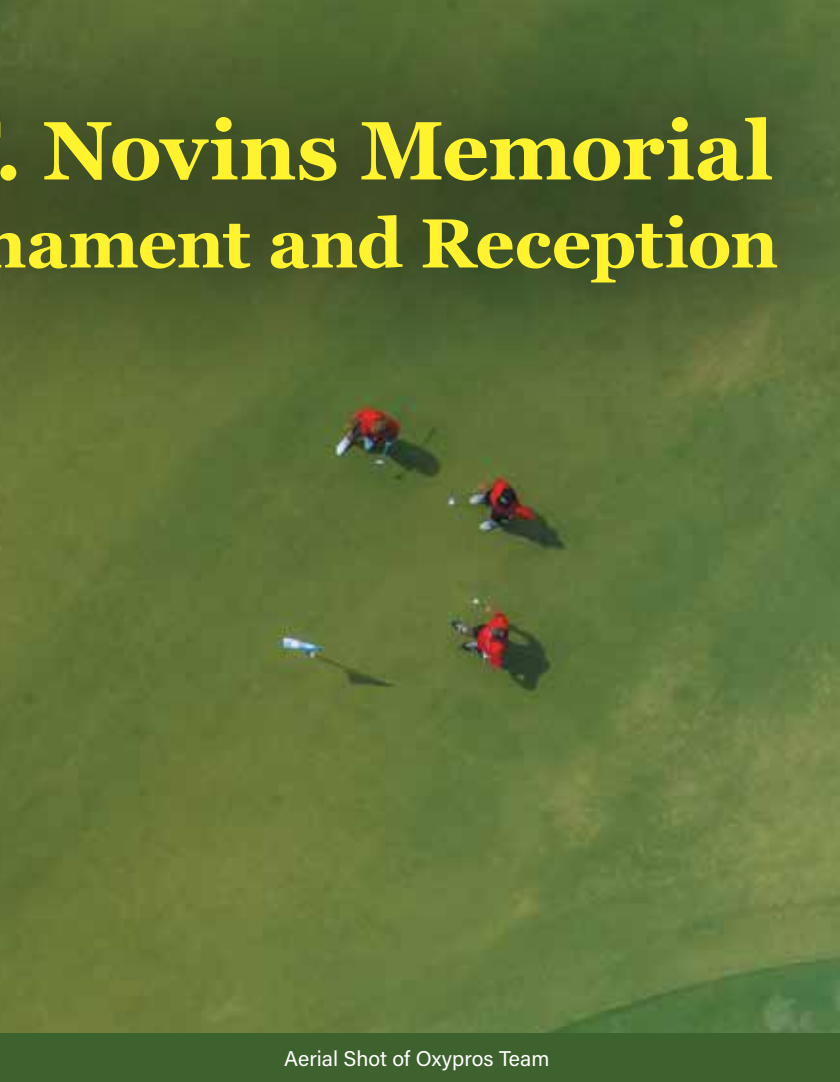
# 2023 Robert F. Novins Memorial Golf Tournament and Reception



Kim McMath, Jeffrey Hartt, Beth Novins

The community of Stuart gathered to commemorate 22 years of the The Robert F. Novins Memorial Golf Tournament and Reception hosted by Carson Novins, owner of Carsons Tavern, along with his sisters Beth Novins and Jeffrey Hartt. This heartfelt event continued to honor the memory of their late father while supporting Volunteers in Medicine Clinic (VIM) as the chosen beneficiary since 2013.

The giving spirit of the community remained strong, with hundreds of local businesses and individuals joining in with generous contributions and sponsorships. The tournament's festivities began with a lively reception held at Carsons Tavern on Friday night, and The Yacht and Country Club once again served as the perfect venue for the tournament, with the beautiful weather setting the stage for a spirited day of golf, and camaraderie among the participants. The tireless efforts of the incredible committee, sponsors, and dedicated golfers resulted in a record-breaking year of over \$180,000 raised for VIM Clinic. The event's success truly reflected the community's compassion and generosity in making a difference in the lives of those in need.



Aerial Shot of Oxypros Team



Putting Contest



Marlene Filer, Bob and Nadine Genesius, Ralf Davino



Kevin Ach, Carolyn and Ryan Strom, Will Crook



Carson Novins, Kelly Hilton-Green, Will Crook



Daryl Fathauer, John Wolfner, John Powers, Matt Glass



Modified Helicopter Ball Drop



Morris Crady, Tom Lucido, Tom Dawson, Troy Daer



Anthony & Karen Carpentier



Al Slater, Jim Sopko, Carson Novins, Barry Allison, Bob Kramer



# Meet some of our new volunteers

*It was our pleasure to welcome close to 20 new volunteers since publishing last year's newsletter and we wanted to share some of the stories on how they became volunteers at VIM Clinic.*



**Raquel Merlino**

Raquel and her husband moved back to Florida in 2021, after having lived in the New Jersey, New York area for the last 20 plus years. Raquel is very familiar with the nonprofit world, as she held positions as finance director at charities up north. Now that she's retired, she was looking for a volunteer position and found information on Volunteers in Medicine Clinic online. One visit to the Clinic was enough for her to realize that she would love to help our cause. Since July of this year, she has taken on a greeter position and is a wonderful addition to our team! It is especially helpful that she is also fluent in Spanish.

but once he realized that VIM Clinic is near downtown Stuart and much closer to his home in South Stuart, he made the switch to eliminate the long drive. We were very happy to welcome Dr. Nehra as part of the team, especially as we can use some help for women's health appointments. He usually volunteers twice a month and even offered to come in extra for more urgent matters. He's a big help, bringing many years of experience to the team and his calm personality puts the patients immediately at ease!

**Anthony Nehra, MD**



**Julie Konopka, RN**

Having volunteered already in 2008 for a couple of years, we were happy to welcome Julie, a volunteer nurse, back in early 2023. She has stepped away from volunteering for a while, bringing up her kids and having a very busy life. But now, that her children are grown up, she was ready to give back to the community again and reached out to VIM Clinic about returning. Things have changed quite a bit, as we have been on an electronic medical system since 2014, but it took Julie no time to get used to the new routine of helping patients and we enjoy having her back.

As Professor (tenured), DNP Program Director at Florida Atlantic University Dr. Hain is already juggling a lot of balls, but we were very excited when she agreed to put her psych nurse practitioner degree to use and help VIM Clinic patients in the mental health sector. The need for counseling and medication management is only getting bigger and we're very happy Dr. Hain chose VIM Clinic to help out those in need by volunteering her time almost weekly. We're even looking into virtual follow-up meetings for some of the patients. Thank you, Dr. Hain for your support!

**Debra Hain, PhD, APRN**



**Mabel Smith-Duffus, RN**

Mabel is a registered nurse, with a strong background in education, infection control, risk management and nursing assessment. She worked for Martin Health System back when the hospital opened Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in 1995 and remembers the Clinic from back then. She recently retired, but likes to stay busy, and contacted VIM Clinic to join as a volunteer. Long-term volunteer nurse, Cheryl Brown, trained Mabel and provided her with all the tools and information she needed to help with the day-to-day tasks in patient care. Mabel adapted quickly and is now a valued member of the team.



**Miranda Melians**



A couple months ago, Miranda met Anne Cooling, a former volunteer nurse, gala committee member and avid supporter of VIM Clinic at St. Mary's food kitchen. They started talking and when Miranda told Anne that she's a pre-med student, who already took her MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), she suggested to call VIM Clinic and inquire about joining the team. While the application process for medical schools is very involved, Miranda has still time to volunteer as a patient care technician at the Clinic and get some valuable, hands-on experience in a medical setting. We're happy to have her and she loves being able to volunteer and shadow providers whenever possible. Her goal is to become an OB/GYN.

## Market on Main



Mia Cruz at Market on Main booth

Since August 2022, Volunteers in Medicine Clinic takes center stage almost every month as the featured non-profit booth at the vibrant Market on Main, operated by Stuart Main Street, in downtown Stuart. We are excited to share our mission, connect with the community, and bring awareness about the important work we do. From these events, we've gotten new patients, reconnected with former volunteers, and found new ones, or simply informed interested visitors about the need of our clinic in the community. We are grateful to Market on Main for hosting us!

Market on Main is held every Sunday, year-round from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Flagler Park (201 SW Flagler Ave in Stuart).

**Join us every second Sunday at Market on Main.**





# Thank You to our Supporters

***Volunteers in Medicine Clinic gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of our donors. Please accept our warmest thanks. Your support makes a big difference in our community.***

Donations received between August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023

## Founders

**\$75,000 +**

Martin County Board of County Commissioners  
FL Association of Free & Charitable Clinics  
Robert F. Novins Memorial Golf Tournament  
Dr. Howard Voss, Daren & Jane Voss

## Grand Benefactors

**\$50,000 - \$74,999**

Allegany Franciscan Ministries  
Hobe Sound Community Chest  
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Marlene Filer  
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**The Oak Society Members**

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## VIM Clinic Services

VIM Clinic provides comprehensive and compassionate medical care at no charge to the patient. We offer access to a variety of medical specialties as well as minor surgical procedures, eye exams and psychotherapy.

## Mission Statement

To understand and serve the health and wellness needs of the medically under-served population living in Martin County.  
This mission will be accomplished primarily by volunteers, retired medical professionals and other residents in the area, working in concert with current medical resources of Martin County.

## Vision Statement

May we have eyes to see those who are rendered invisible and excluded; open arms and hearts to reach out and include them; healing hands to touch their lives with love; and in the process, heal ourselves.

[www.vimclinic.net](http://www.vimclinic.net)





## **Save the Date for Great VIM Clinic Events!**

### **Every 2nd Sunday of the month**

VIM Clinic at Market on Main, operated by Stuart Main Street – Flagler Park  
We provide information for patients, donors and volunteers. Please stop by and say hello!

### **February 10, 2024**

VIM Gala 2024, Care from the Heart – Willoughby Golf Club

### **Spring 2024**

3rd Annual Party for The Oak Society – date and venue TBD

### **May 3 & 4, 2024**

23rd Annual Robert F. Novins Memorial Golf Tournament & Reception  
at Carsons Tavern and Stuart Yacht & Country Club