

## MEDICAL VOLUNTEER WITH A COMMITMENT TO CARING

(NAPSA)—Lazy days that stretch 'til sunset...the chance to bring the golf game in under 100...gourmet dinners overlooking water. These are the kind of things that Dr. Jack McConnell had in mind when he retired to the resort community of Hilton Head Island, S.C.

But this vision of carefree golden years quickly faded when he discovered many of the hard-working residents of the island couldn't afford routine medical care.

A long-time advocate for the medically underserved, Dr. McConnell put his retirement on hold, and in 1994 opened the first Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) clinic to provide free health and wellness care to any patient in need.

Today, hundreds of Hilton Head residents come to the VIM clinic, where they receive medical care at no charge from a volunteer staff of retired doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. The clinic also houses a complete dental facility, and provides mental health, social work and even chiropractic services.

News of the first VIM clinic's success spread, and Dr. McConnell has been inundated with requests to help start VIM clinics in other communities across the country. He responded—there are now 15 additional clinics nationwide—and the requests continued to pour in for assistance.

Now, thanks to a grant from McNeil Consumer Healthcare, the makers of Tylenol® brand products, the VIM model of caring is poised to reach many more people.



**“This man saved my life!” said Charlesetta Rimko, right, of Dr. Jack McConnell. Rimko has been a patient of Dr. McConnell’s since 1994 when the first VIM clinic opened in Hilton Head, SC, and she now helps others by volunteering at the clinic.**

The Tylenol grant is earmarked to help VIM support the establishment of 12-15 free clinics over the next three years.

Ashley McEvoy, Tylenol franchise director, is one of VIM's most passionate supporters. “When we saw VIM's dedication to caring for those in need, we knew we'd found a kindred organization,” she said.

Although Dr. McConnell enjoyed a fulfilling career in medicine, he believes that establishing VIM clinics has been his most rewarding undertaking by far. “Thanks to the grant from McNeil,” said the 76-year-old physician, “we will have the ability to reach thousands more patients who would otherwise go without routine medical care.”

For more information on volunteering or starting a VIM clinic, click on [tylenol.com/VIMI](http://tylenol.com/VIMI) or call toll-free 1-866-TYLENOL.