

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## After 16 Years with VIM, Kristi Jacobs is Retiring

While working as the Human Resource Director at the High Desert Museum, I received a call from Christine Winters, who was working with a prestigious medical team to establish a Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Bend. Christine had heard about my years working with volunteers and we arranged a time to meet. I found the idea of VIM captivating and a necessary asset in our community. I was drawn to the mission and goals of growing VIM team.

I was enthusiastic about the prospect of building our VIM volunteer program from the ground up. I felt confident about working with volunteers, but I had never been involved in a medical setting. It was exciting and a bit scary!

In November, 2003, when the clinic was about to open, I applied for the Volunteer Coordinator Position and was hired. I've been with VIM since the beginning and I've seen it grow from a small local clinic to a well-respected member of the national VIM network. We have approximately 200 active volunteers, a handful of whom were here with me from the very start. Our patient population has grown to reflect the diverse population of Central Oregon, and VIM has followed suit to become a leader in equity and inclusion. We are one of nearly 100 clinics across the country who compassionately care for the low-income uninsured in our communities.

During my 16-year tenure at VIM, I've experienced many ups and downs, including some devastating losses in my family. If it hadn't been for the volunteers and staff at VIM who surrounded me with love and compassion, I don't know how I would have survived. Coming to work here is like experiencing daily therapy for my soul. Every day is a new adventure and a fresh start. That is certainly why it's hard to say goodbye. These are the best people I've ever known. I have made many lifelong friends and I know we will stay in touch.

-Kristi Jacobs

### About Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades (VIM) is a nonprofit clinic in Bend that provides free medical care to low-income, uninsured adults from working families in Central Oregon. Our mission is "to improve the health and wellness of the medically uninsured or critically underserved through the engagement of professionals, community partners, and dedicated volunteers." VIM is the only clinic in Central Oregon that cares for the uninsured without charge. Patients receive primary and specialty medical care, medications, mental health care, surgery, physical therapy, lab work, medical tests, and education programs. All care is provided through medical and support volunteers. [www.vim-cascades.org](http://www.vim-cascades.org)