

On June 6th, our esteemed social worker and beloved friend, Jim Lovell, announced his last night at Downtown. Quite shocked upon hearing the news, I could not find the right words to share with him and our team, so this is my belated attempt.

I met Jim at my very first Free Clinic experience last year—kind of fitting that I got to bid him adieu on his last day. Walking through the busy halls and echo-filled stairwell of the strangely nostalgic First Lutheran Church, and gazing over the balcony at our patients and fellow caregivers seated outside during sunset, somehow felt... right?

Jim was largely responsible for making it feel so right. He set a high standard for considering our patients and their well-being, the communities they belong to, and social determinants of health that impact their access to care. Jim's ability to stay present and establish a peaceful yet efficient cadence each night has left a long-lasting impression on me. He fostered a culture of checking in on one another, which ultimately played a role in my decision to become a General Manager at Downtown.

We love you, Jim, and you are a symbol of hope for us during these tumultuous times. I hope you know how much you inspire us to be better advocates and confidantes for our patients. Our Free Clinic family wishes you the best of luck in all your endeavors and dreams, and we hope to reunite again soon. Thank you.

Sid Machiraju