



## **Transcript**

**Station: WABC-TV**

**Eyewitness News**

**Channel: 7**

**Air Time: 5:24 pm**

**Date 6/27/01**

**ROZ ABRAMS:** New York City's homeless with nowhere to go and no health insurance often don't even try to get the medical care they need. But one organization is driven to making sure that the health of the homeless is not ignored. Lauren Glassburg explains.

**LAUREN GLASSBURG:** In the midst of all the City's congestion, one vehicle signifies compassion. The MedVan is a mobile medical outreach clinic run by Project Renewal, each day delivers health care to the City's homeless.

**DR. BRENDA MERRITT:** The challenge as a doctor is being nonjudgmental and interviewing in a way that people can trust you and open up to you so you can see what they need. And the other challenge I think is to make treatment plans that make sense to people who live on the street.

**GLASSBURG:** When Dr. Brenda Merritt started treating the homeless 17 years ago, she did so on foot. Now she does it in this \$200,000 mobile home. It's equipped with two exam rooms, a small staff, even a mini pharmacy – convenience that fifty-year old William Jackson appreciates.

**WILLIAM JACKSON:** A lot of people in the street don't really go to the hospital and some one has to look after them, so the Van does.

**GLASSBURG:** And just this month the federal government awarded Project Renewal with a grant for nearly half a million dollars. Much of that money will go to the MedVan.

Between house calls to shelters and soup kitchens, the MedVan staff treats more than 4,000 patients a year. But those numbers should go up when an additional nurse practitioner, social worker, and psychiatrist come on board.

**MERRITT:** Sometimes small successes are what you hang your hat on, and you hope for you know, sometimes it's two steps forward and one step back. But as long as you're making progress, it's very satisfying.

**GLASSBURG:** Lauren Glassburg, ABC 7 Eyewitness News.