

MERCY

Perspectives



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Answering the Call

During the COVID-19 Crisis



During these uncertain, confusing times each of us is experiencing a “new normal.” For some this involves home-schooling, caring solely for an elderly or disabled family member or reaching out in unprecedented ways to support neighbors and those in need. As challenging as things may be sometimes by “answering the call,” you are truly making a difference in the lives of those who you are serving.

Mission of Mercy also continues to “answer the call” by providing free healthcare and medications to our uninsured and underinsured patients. While our church host sites are closed, we have been working from their parking lots utilizing our mobile medical unit to treat patients and dispense medications.

We have also established what Dr. Sullivan, our chief medical director, calls “control central.” This, our new base of operations, is where our patient records and medications are stored. From here our medical personnel, wearing personal protective equipment, answer patient calls, refill medications and refer patients to labs or to hospitals for x-rays.

Through the generosity of churches, civic groups, corporations, foundations and individuals Mission of Mercy has, for 26 years now, provided medical and dental care and prescription medications all at no charge to our patients who suffer from chronic illnesses.

As we slowly resume normal operations, we realize that we will have an abundance of patients to treat including those presently on our rosters and those who are newly unemployed and without health insurance. Now more than ever, your donations are necessary to ensure that we will be able to provide our life-saving services to those who are sick and suffering and who need medical and dental care.

God bless you. We sincerely appreciate you and your support!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda M. Ryan".

Linda M. Ryan, M.S., Executive Director

Our Medical Team

Mission of Mercy is blessed to be able to share the medical talents of 18 dedicated clinicians who offer their time and expertise to care for our patients. Many volunteer their time while working alongside our paid medical staff who provide continuity throughout all our clinic sites. Please take a moment to read more about these special people.



Michael Sullivan, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Michael Sullivan was born in Lincoln, NE. He attended Regis University in Denver,

CO, and received a Naval Scholarship to the University of Nebraska Medical School. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine in New Orleans, LA before serving on active duty for the U.S. Navy in Guam.

After receiving an honorable discharge, he worked for 14 years in private practice at the Geisinger Medical Center in Philipsburg, PA.

In 1993, he joined his wife, Dr. Gianna Sullivan in launching Mission of Mercy. For the last 26 years he has led the MOM medical team in serving more than 45,000 patients in the MD/PA region. Dr. Sullivan is also the Chief Medical Director for the national Mission of Mercy.

He relishes times spent with his two daughters and three grandchildren.



Maureen Liddle, RN
Director of Nursing
MD/PA

From the time she was a little girl growing up in Lincoln, NE, Maureen

knew that she wanted to be a nurse. She even made “pretend” nursing caps out of white construction paper and “nursed” her dolls back to health.

She attended Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and the University of Nebraska. After graduation she worked in a medical/surgical unit and later in the surgical intensive care unit.

In 1984, the family moved to Seattle, WA, where Maureen worked in a pediatric clinic specializing in the field of ADHD.

In 1994, the Liddles were invited to become a part of Mission of Mercy. Maureen’s husband David serves as Mission of Mercy’s chief financial officer and Maureen has served as nursing director since 2008.

Maureen and Dave have two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.



Barb Rebele,
Physician's Assistant

Barb Rebele was born near Pittsburgh, PA and attended Pennsylvania State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology.

After marrying, she moved to Baltimore where she worked as a medical technologist in a hospital chemistry laboratory for 10 years. She completed her physician assistant degree in 1997. Her experience includes working in occupational health at Northwest Hospital and as an employee health coordinator at Bon Secours Hospital.

In 2009, Barb accepted a position with Mission of Mercy as a Physician’s Assistant. She said this is her “dream job.” She loves serving people and God while working with a group of dedicated individuals and considers herself “very blessed.” Barb is married and has two sons.

MEDICAL CLINICIANS

Ohenewaa Ahima
John Alexander
Wayne Allgaier
Tapendu Basu
Everett Bayliss

Rick Davis
Ellen Farrell
Joe Ferguson
Michael Flessner
Robert Hopkins

Melissa LePlatt
Marcia McCarty
Ethelann Murray
Kathleen O’Farrell
Adedoyin Olufuwa

Barbara Rebele
Gary Schwartz
Michael Sullivan

Our Nurses

Mission of Mercy is blessed to have a cadre of nearly 50 nurses who volunteer to share their knowledge and compassion with our patients. We could not exist without them. Please take a few minutes to read some of their thoughts on why they volunteer.



Mary Neglia, RN

"I have been a volunteer with MOM for approximately 26 years. Besides the wonderful network of friends I have encountered, volunteering has given me a sense of accomplishment. By helping the poor, under-insured, or non-insured adults in my community, I am also helping myself personally and spiritually!"



Evelyn Robinson, RN

"A few years ago, I retired from a position as a registered nurse diabetes educator in a large hospital. I knew at the time of retirement that I wanted to volunteer and continue to use my training. Working with people has always been the type of work that brought me the greatest fulfillment. Knowing that I am able to continue to use my skills to help others, at this time when I have been blessed so much during my career, continues to inspire me and give me lots of joy."



Gabriella Brantmier, RN

"I started volunteering for Mission of Mercy more than three years ago as a Spanish interpreter. After some time with the organization, I fell in love with the mission and felt it was my calling to serve in a medical capacity. In order to best serve our clients and mission, I enrolled in nursing school. Now, more than a year after graduation, I am happy to volunteer as a nurse for Mission of Mercy. The best part of volunteering is knowing that we are united in order to better the lives of the clients we serve. I have met amazing doctors, dentists, physical therapists, nurses, interpreters and staff. These volunteers sacrifice their time, work hard every day and do their part to fulfill the mission, which is 'to heal through love.'"



NURSES

Ann Amrhein
Dean Baldwin
Priscilla Bernola
Laurie Boyer
Gabriela Brantmier
Rebecca Buffington
Beth Callahan
Kathleen Carlin
Marianne Caruso
Joan Condon
Jan Ferguson
Sally Fisher
Reneé Flaherty
Rose Marie France
Marti Garner
Ellen Hampton
Peggy Heffner
Mary Heibel
Eileen Hickey
Joyce Iglehart
Bonnie Isenberger
Eleanore Jack
Barbara Jensen
Barb Kell
Maya Kellum
Mollie Kilbourne
Linda Kuhn
Maureen Liddle
Karen Major
Kathleen Maletestinic
Anna Maslowicz
Jan McQuaid
Kathryn Moore
Mary Neglia
Frances Nocera
Sharon O'Connor
Cynde Overholtzer
Lorna Owens
Mary Perrelli
Kate Plaut
Evelyn Robinson
Christina Rosenfeld
Katie Scofield
Jane Slacter
Marian Sutton
Carol Thomas
Dianna Tootill

Our Dental Team

Mission of Mercy's dental team provides critical oral health care for those in our community who do not have dental insurance but whose lives are severely impacted by dental issues. They help our patients get relief from their pain so they can work and care for their families.



Dr. Roslyn Robinson Kellum, RN, DDS

Dr. Roslyn Robinson Kellum is Mission of Mercy's dental director.

She has been a general dentist for more than 25 years with a focus on pediatric, geriatric, removable prosthodontics and oral surgery. She earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, DC, where she also completed her bachelor's degree in nursing. Dr. Kellum is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

She invites her patients to call her Dr. Roz and has a special interest in community dentistry that addresses public health dental needs. She has extensive knowledge of best practices for providing mobile dental services, having provided on-site dental services to geriatric patients in a variety of settings for more than 10 years.



Dr. Robert Vandre

Dr. Robert Vandre, known as "Dr. Bob," graduated from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 1977. He served for 33 years in the Army Dental Corps as a research dentist and was on the team that developed the first hand-held, battery-powered dental x-ray machine. He was also on the team that developed the Dexis Digital Dental X-Ray System.

Dr. Bob volunteers with Mission of Mercy three days a week and with the University

of Maryland Dental School's satellite clinic with Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Bob and his wife have seven children and 29 grandchildren.



Dr. Philip Offer

I have been with MOM for at least 13 years now. I volunteer because:

- It is nice to help people overseas, but we have people in our own backyard who need our help.
- I volunteer to honor those of my family who have passed on and to get in good with the "Man Upstairs"—that and it keeps me off the streets and out of trouble.
- The patients' gratitude at our ability to relieve their pain and suffering is very rewarding. I feel it also makes me a better dentist in my private practice because of the complexity of some of the extractions and fillings.



Dr. Thomas Llewellyn

Dr. Thomas Llewellyn was raised in Allentown, PA and graduated with honors with his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh. He then obtained his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry in Richmond, VA.

He was commissioned as a dental officer in the United States Navy, serving a majority of his time with the Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged, he went into private practice in 1992 in Baltimore.

Dr. Llewellyn and his wife, Megan, live in Cockeysville with their four sons.



Douglas K. Tavenner, Jr.

Dr. Douglas K. Tavenner, Jr., is a native of Washington, D.C., and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia). He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and is an expert in temporomandibular joint (TMJ) diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Tavenner's desire to volunteer for Mission of Mercy is based on experiences from his own childhood. "I grew up in a family with very little resources. When major health issues arose, we were able to go to the community health clinics that were available at that time," he recalls.

In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. Tavenner holds an Air Transport Pilot certificate and is a certified ground and flight instructor for airplane, instrument and helicopter ratings. He is also a water safety instructor.

DENTISTS

Thomas Llewellyn
Walter Maust

Roslyn Kellum
Douglas Tavenner
Philip Offer

Robert Vandre
William Wearing

Our Assistants

Our dental team includes assistants, registrars and technicians who help us serve patients in our new dedicated dental van. Learn more about them and why they choose to volunteer with Mission of Mercy.



**Katie Carlin,
Dental Assistant**

"In 1996, while I was working as a registered nurse at Carroll County Hospital, I heard about the Mission of Mercy medical

van and I had a desire to volunteer as a nurse. The van came to Westminster once a week. I began my volunteer time in the medical area, but after about a month, Gianna Sullivan asked for one of the nurses to be a dental assistant. 'How about you, Katie?' she asked as I tried to hide behind my chart. With much patience from the dentists, Dr. Hargadon (who taught me the names of the instruments), Dr. Perrelli, Dr. Sanidad, Dr. Waldron and Dr. Uffer, I learned to assist over the years.

I volunteer because there is such a need for free dental services in Maryland. Dental patients come from many distances to use our services. The new dental van provides us with the ability to see many more patients each day since we now have three dental chairs instead of one and two dentists working together. I feel blessed to be a part of this medical and dental clinic."



**Hailee Hollabaugh,
Dental Assistant**

Hailee has been enthusiastically volunteering at almost all Mission of Mercy dental clinics since

she graduated from Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School in 2019 as a Dental Assistant. "I have learned so much more volunteering at Mission of Mercy," she says. "It makes me feel good to put smiles on people's faces."



**Joanne L. Tavenner,
Dental Assistant**

Joanne L. Tavenner serves a certified dental assistant in the office of her husband, Douglas K. Tavenner, Jr., DDS, FAGD.

She is a native of Allentown, PA and graduated from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD with a degree in elementary education. She later earned a master's degree as a reading specialist from Hood College in Frederick, MD.

While pursuing a career in elementary education in Montgomery and Frederick counties, she also trained to become a certified dental assistant.

She and her husband are the parents of Mark (wife Danae) and Michael (wife Liesel). They have four grandchildren. In addition to volunteering with Mission of Mercy, Joanne also volunteers to teach one day a week at the Frederick SDA Academy.



**Melanie Hoyt,
Dental Assistant**

Melanie Hoyt has been in the dental profession for almost 20 years. She retired as a full-time dental assistant

in 2014 and began volunteering at Mission of Mercy soon after that. She believes that service to others, family, friends or complete strangers is the greatest gift. When she is not busy volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her husband, adult children and 10 grandchildren. She plans on continuing with Mission of Mercy as long as possible.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Kathleen Carlin
Hailee Hollabaugh
Melanie Hoyt
Errol Kellum
Indira Rai
Gianna Sullivan
Divija Takkalapelly
Joanne Tavenner
Kevin Xu

DENTAL REGISTRATION

Mary Frances Balch
Martha DeBarthe
JoAnn Hare
Pat Koziski
Michael Koziski
Robert Rittler
Kathleen Rittler
Rocki Thompson

A Patient Story

through the Words of Her Advocate

During her 30 years on Earth, “Beth” has experienced lots of trauma. She has a birth defect that affects her arm and suffers from terrible oral health issues. These things, and others, have caused her to become a recluse.

But over the past few months, Beth has been coming to Mission of Mercy for extensive dental extractions, accompanied by her loving and caring advocate, Christine. With the support of a network of community services, including Mission of Mercy’s free dental care, Beth is experiencing hope and healing.

“Beth loves coming to Mission of Mercy’s clinic. She interacts with the other dental patients and she empathizes with them as they share their stories with her,” Christine says. “She is realizing that there are others who are also overcoming personal traumas. She loves Dr. Kellum, Mission of Mercy’s dental director, because of the way she treats her.”

Through the support of another organization, Beth received dentures. “When Beth adjusted to her dentures, she began to smile and even took a selfie,” Christine says. “She is now talking about getting her GED and taking some college classes!”

For Christine, it has been extremely rewarding to experience the transformation of an individual’s life and to witness first-hand the power of restoring dignity and healing through love.



Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Goes Virtual!

Choose any time and place between now and June 30 to Walk for Mission of Mercy! Ask your friends, family and neighbors to support your steps through the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Be sure to take photos and share your walk for MOM on our Facebook page, amissionofmercy.org, or send them to us for our eblast highlighting the Walk.

This annual event, which benefits local health and human service agencies, raised \$1.4 million in 2019, with 100 percent of the funds raised going directly back to the participating organizations.

For more details, including online registration information, visit the Events Page on the Mission of Mercy website (www.amissionofmercy.org/events).

So let’s get out there and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine and support Mission of Mercy through the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community—let’s get healthy!

We need your support now more than ever....

Mission of Mercy’s 2019 Highmark Walk Team



A Special Note of Thanks for COVID-19 Funding

There are many people and organizations working in the background to assist non-profits through these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mission of Mercy has been blessed to be the recipient of special emergency funding from the following organizations:

- Delaplaine Foundation: \$20,000 to support our Frederick County clinics
- Highmark Foundation: \$15,000 to support our Harrisburg clinics
- Rotary Club of Carroll Creek: Tents for our parking lot clinics
- The Buddy Project: Computer and monitor
- Bioactive Neutralizer, LLC: Disinfecting services
- William E. Cross Foundation

On behalf of our staff, volunteers and patients, THANK YOU!!

And remember...we will get through this.



Save the Date
CERESVILLE MANSION | OCTOBER 9
MISSION OF MERCY
GALA

Save the Date
20TH ANNUAL MISSION OF MERCY GALA
Friday, Oct. 9, 2020
Ceresville Mansion, Frederick, MD

Thank you to our current Gala Sponsors:

Premier Gold: Woodsboro Bank, Frederick Regional Health System, The Kahlert Foundation

Silver: Turning Point Financial
Silver: Carroll Hospital Center

Bronze: All-Shred, Inc.
Bronze: Peekskill Electric, LLC

Thank YOU

We are grateful to all of the organizations and foundations that have shown their support for our work with life-saving grants to Mission of Mercy. On behalf of our staff and our patients, we offer our most sincere gratitude for these gifts of generosity.

Adams County Community Foundation
Ausherman Family Foundation
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Women's Giving Circle
Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
Elder Services Provider Council of Frederick County
Express Scripts Foundation
Frederick County Partnership Fund
G. Frank Thomas Foundation, Inc.
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Israel & Mollie Myers Foundation, Inc.
Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation, Inc.
McCormick Family Foundation
National Catholic Community Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
Oral Health Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy
Qlarant Foundation
Rotary Club of Carroll Creek
Rotary Club of Frederick
Rotary Club of Gettysburg
The Columbus Foundation
The Community Foundation of Frederick County
The George L. Shields Foundation
The Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
The Joseph D. Baker Fund, Inc.
The Kahlert Foundation, Inc.
The Laughlin Family Foundation
The Love of Christ Foundation
The Marian and George Creel Family Fund
The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County
United Concordia
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of Frederick County
Wawa, Inc. Corporate Giving Program
William E. Cross Foundation



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A MESSAGE

from the Chief Medical Director Dr. Michael Sullivan

As we prepare to deal with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to say thank you to all of you who have supported us and will continue to support us in the months and years ahead when we expect to see a surge in patients once we re-open our clinics.

During these trying few months, many have experienced serious illness or even death. Many others have and will suffer significant financial burdens. As health care providers, we have tried to work with other providers, public servants and volunteers to mitigate some of these problems.

But amid all the pain of this time, I am reminded again and again that good can emerge from where no good is apparent. These kinds of trials and tribulations can strengthen our character, provide us with extra opportunities for charity and encourage us to remember that prayer can become a very powerful part of the care plan. Prayer is the lifeblood of Mission of Mercy so as we pray for our Mission of Mercy family and all in the world, we ask that you pray for us!

As you will read about in this issue of Mercy Perspectives, our MOM family—volunteers, staff, board members, benefactors and those we serve—bring to the table a kaleidoscope of talent, treasure and experience as well as invaluable time.

Sometimes the words “Thank You” can seem too simple, superficial, overused and almost robotic. Our Mission of Mercy family—yes, a team united by common convictions to serve with God’s Love—deserves more than a “thank you.”

I therefore want to extend my gratitude and offer a heartfelt acknowledgement and appreciation for the gifts they share. It is through God’s Love, with humility and prayer, that they provide healing—psychological, spiritual and physical—and the restoration of that sense of worthiness which is an essential ingredient in our mission to restore dignity.

Please accept our genuine gratitude. May God bless and protect all of our Mission of Mercy family members—past, current and future!