

M.O.M. Set to Begin Service in Avondale

Mission of Mercy's mobile medical van will be rolling into the Far West Valley on November 8th to serve patients at its new clinic located at First Southern Baptist Church of Avondale.

Meeting Needs Loving People

"Mission of Mercy will meet needs in our community that will help us to love people in ways we haven't been able to do before," says FSBCA Pastor Jack Marslender. "It will help us to show the love of Jesus to people we have not even yet met."

It was this sort of compassionate sentiment that attracted Dr. Brad Smith, Medical Director M.O.M.-AZ, to the Southwest Valley church located near Dysart Road and Van Buren Street just south of the I-10.

Surrounding communities include Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Tolleson.

"We could not have found a better church home for our clinic," says Dr. Smith. "I found their mission to be very compatible with what we do at Mission of Mercy. They have an impressive volunteer outreach ministry already established. We are blessed to have found them."

Pastor Marslender describes his church as being part of a transitional community going through "an exceptionally tough time right now." He attributes the faltering economy, home foreclosures and job losses to the significant stress felt by many within his congregation, and he worries that some are putting off needed medical care to provide for themselves and their loved ones.

According to data analyzed by the *Arizona Republic*, home values in the Southwest Valley fell by more than 36 percent last year, from a median price of \$194,966 in 2008 to \$124,782 in 2009. Avondale and Buckeye had foreclosure increases significantly higher than the Maricopa County average.

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— Pastor Jack Marslender

many of them are actively serving to help others in their community. The church has hosted events for the homeless and operates a number of low-cost sports ministries for children and teens.



Photo by Deanna Dent

The patient registration and triage area at the new Avondale clinic will be similar to that of Shepherd of the Valley clinic site in central Phoenix pictured above.

While some of the churches' own congregants are dealing with these types of setbacks,

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Our Mission

Mission of Mercy Arizona is a non-profit, non-sectarian mobile medical outreach program serving Maricopa County. We provide access to health care to the most vulnerable in our community - the sick, poor, and uninsured - by making quality primary health care and prescriptions available at no charge. Mission of Mercy seeks to restore dignity to all people by being an instrument of "healing through Love," and by the reciprocal sharing of God's mercy with those we serve.

Clinic Locations & Schedules

M.O.M.-AZ serves patients at four sites in the Valley. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following days and locations:

- Maryvale - Church of the Nazarene, 3201 N. 51st Ave. Phoenix 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays
- South Phoenix - St. Catherine of Siena, 6600 S. Central Ave. Phoenix 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- Phoenix - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church 1500 W. Maryland Ave. Phoenix Every Wednesday
- Mesa - Christ the King Community Center 1616 E. Broadway, Mesa Every Thursday
- Avondale - First Southern Baptist Church of Avondale 1001 N. Central Ave, Avondale COMING SOON! 2nd & 4th Mon.

**APPOINTMENTS:
602.486.7798**

**Bilingual Telephone Hours:
Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

For additional information or clinic directions visit our web site at www.aMissionOfMercy.org

Executive Director's Message

How many of you have made a promise, a BIG promise? If you have, did you keep your promise? If not, do you regret you did not fulfill it?

Mission of Mercy has made a BIG promise. Our promise is to heal through love and to restore dignity to anyone in need. Anyone.

As I write this, even as I say this out loud, I realize what a huge promise we are making each day. We promise every elderly man, every young mother, every crying infant, every person who needs us that we will be there for them NO MATTER WHAT.

This past year, we made a promise to this community, a commitment that we would purchase a second mobile medical vehicle, retrofit it into a doctor's office on wheels, hire an Assistant Medical Director, find a supportive church in the West Valley, and provide our services to the hundreds of families and individuals who so need us there. I am happy to tell you that we have kept all of these promises and then some!

Further, we promise whether you are a patient, donor, volunteer, community partner or funder that we will be good stewards of your gifts and resources. And here is the truly remarkable part: We promise to keep doing this day after day, month after month, year after year. As long as the need exists, MOM will be there.

Thanks to each and every one of YOU who made this promise with us, we are able to keep ours. Promises are kept by each person, each family, each organization doing just what they say they will do. We have been blessed to be surrounded by a community of people who believe in something so much that the promise is kept. NO MATTER WHAT.

Thank you for your constant faith, belief and support and for your BIG promise that allows us to keep ours.



Catherine L. Amiot
Executive Director



How Do You Measure Up?

Lynda Bowman, Director of Sustainable Funding

I recently read a thought provoking blog by Tom Suddes, fundraising guru (he literally raised billions of dollars for Notre Dame). The title of it was "Success=the Quality of our Relationships."

Here's what struck me: Success looks different at each stage of our lives. When we are young and trying to "measure up"- our parents are the benchmark for how well we are doing. Then we become teenagers, and it's no longer our parents but the opinions of our peers that matter the most.

Somehow later on in life, and we've all done this, it seems that we measure ourselves by what we have -- our possessions, our things. Ultimately though, what I have come to realize at this later stage in my life, is that what matters, what defines success, what is really important, is having a PURPOSE for our lives.

Chances are if you are reading this now, it's because you have a purpose in your life. You care about something bigger than just you and yours. You are part of the bigger work, the larger calling to make a difference. Thank you for "measuring up" in such a powerful way by being involved with Mission of Mercy. Now, that's success we can all be proud of!

Speaking of success, please mark your calendars for MOM's 4th Annual Mercy in the Morning Annual Fundraising Breakfast on Thursday, December, 2, 2010. Many of you have hosted tables in the past or attended this free event. Either way, we count on your involvement to make the morning a success once again. For more information, please visit our website at www.amissionofmercy.org.



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Mission of Mercy Arizona Medical Team

Brad Smith, N.M.D.
Medical Director

Jill Utley, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

Jeanne Karnell, R.N.
Nursing Director

Ann Collins, R.N.
Assistant Nursing Director

Debi Lynch, R.N.
Assistant Nursing Director

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Alice Ehmann
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Rachel Oesterle, M.S.R.
Mary Schneider

Advisors to Leadership Council

Earl J. Baker, M.D.
Claudia Critchfield
Marisue Garganta
Judy Walruff, Ph.D.

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Pastor Marslender says people in the church have already begun to ask him about getting involved with M.O.M. "The initial response from our church has been overwhelmingly positive," he says.

FSBCA provides a church home to approximately 500 people, with 20 percent of those attending the Sunday Spanish service. "Though we minister in two languages, we operate as one church with a great deal of cooperation between the different language groups," says Pastor Marslender.

The clinic will operate out of the church gymnasium, and it will be open on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Jill Utley, M.O.M.-AZ Assistant Medical Director, will oversee patient care at the site (see related story at right).

Dr. Smith anticipates the clinic will be a busy one given the unmet need for medical services for underserved populations in the Far West Valley and its close proximity to a local DES office. "Finding patients is never the problem," he laments. "What we need to find are medical professionals to volunteer and donate their time and skills."

Retired or currently practicing doctors and nurses are needed to see patients at the clinic, as well as pro bono specialists in the surrounding community. For more information please contact Dr. Smith at M.O.M.'s office by calling 602.861.2233.

Dr. Utley Brings Love, Healing to Clinic

On recent Monday morning on her day off, Dr. Jill Utley wasn't catching up on house work or running errands as many of us do. She was at a McDonald's sitting in the children's play area reading a book and enjoying the sounds of laughter around her.

"I just love kids and being around them," says Dr. Utley warmly, who prior to coming to Mission of Mercy worked in pediatrics and internal medicine in Illinois.

"I felt like I needed a change from the private practice environment I was working," recalls Dr. Utley, who has been with M.O.M.-AZ since March as the Assistant Medical Director.

After seeing the work of Mission of Mercy, there was no question that this was the right place for me...I feel like God just picked me up and led me out here."

Dr. Utley's strong faith and the love and support from co-workers have helped her to transition into her new job. "The volunteers at M.O.M. are wonderful. The clinic could not function without them," she says fondly.

The ability to spend more time on preventive care with patients, and to see some take responsibility for their chronic conditions through better diet and exercise is gratifying, adds Dr. Utley. "It's wonderful to be able see a patient's health improve because of their own hard efforts."

Dr. Utley says she has "never been happier working anywhere," and adds, "I don't feel guilty for loving my patients here. I am a better doctor for it."

Time, Talent & Treasures



New Assistant Nursing Director

Ann Collins, RN, a volunteer since 2007, has been selected as the new Assistant Nursing Director for M.O.M.-AZ. Ann says one of the most satisfying aspects of her work is the opportunity to see a patient have all their needs met in just one visit without the red tape. "We're able to offer patients immediate help. It's a wonderful feeling to be part of this work," says Ann.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join your friends at
Mission of Mercy for our

Great Maine Lobster Bake

Dig into a fresh steamed Lobster (or Angus Steak) while enjoying a beautiful desert sunset and a star-filled evening of fun.

Sunday, October 17, 2010
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets, please contact
Paula Carvalho at 602.861.2233

Planned Giving...Honor the present by making a commitment to the future.

A Legacy gift is a living reminder left by individuals and/or families that will continue to support the causes they believe in for years to come.

- Donors can designate Mission of Mercy as partial or total beneficiary to their estate through their Will.
- A donor can add Mission of Mercy as a beneficiary to an existing will with a simple and inexpensive codicil to the Will.
- Suggested beneficiary language: "I bequeath the sum of \$ _____, or _____% of the residue of my estate to benefit the charitable endeavors of the Mission of Mercy, a 501(c)(3) organization (Federal Tax ID #86-0704833), its successors and assigns."

Please consult your financial advisor for information about meaningful opportunities to leave a legacy for future generations. To discuss other ways you can leave a sustaining gift in support of Mission of Mercy, contact Lynda Bowman at 602.861.2233.



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Read the latest updates about M.O.M.-AZ and our sister programs in the East Coast and Texas on our website at www.amissionofmercy.org.

MOM

**4th Annual Mercy in the Morning
 Community Awareness Fundraising Breakfast**

“Grace Sustains Us”

Please be our guest at this complimentary inspiring one-hour fundraising breakfast as we share stories of healing and hope made possible through our free mobile medical clinics.

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Registration: 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.

1-Hour Program Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort

Hohokam Ballroom

7677 North 16th Street, Phoenix, Arizona

To host a table, reserve your complimentary seat or for more information, please contact Paula Carvalho at 602.861.2233 or pcarvalho@amissionofmercy.org

You Are Invited To Attend A “Coffee with M.O.M.” Clinic Tour

***Come and see
 for yourself!***



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ

(Located on the NW Corner of 15th Ave. and Maryland Ave.)

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

2010 Remaining Tour Dates

September 22	November 10
October 13	November 17
October 27	December 8
November 3	December 15

Please R.S.V.P. to Carmen Mones at 602.861.2233 or cmones@amissionofmercy.org
www.amissionofmercy.org