



**CONTACTS:**  
**Catherine Amiot (602) 861-2233**  
**Pastor Jack Marslender (623) 932-2723**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept. 14, 2010**

## **Free Mobile Medical Program Expands into Southwest Valley** *First Southern Baptist Church of Avondale Church to Host Clinic*

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

"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 was this sort of compassionate sentiment that attracted Dr. Brad Smith, M.O.M. Medical Director, 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" mainly due to the faltering economy and home foreclosures. "Quality medical care is much needed," he says. "Many are simply ignoring their medical needs while they do what they can to provide for the other needs of their family."

M.O.M. has been in the Valley since 1997, providing free primary medical care and free prescriptions to the uninsured, working poor and homeless. There are no co-pays or proof of poverty required. Appointments are recommended and can be made by calling the appointment line at 602-486-7798. M.O.M. currently operates at church host sites in central Phoenix, Mesa, south Phoenix and Maryvale.

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 FSBCA clinic will operate out of the church gymnasium and be open on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 8 am to 3pm. The church is located at 1001 N. Central Ave.

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. Lay volunteers needed include van drivers, interpreters and registration staff. For more information please contact Dr. Smith at M.O.M.’s office by calling 602.861.2233.

### **About Mission of Mercy Arizona**

*Mission of Mercy is a faith-motivated, non-sectarian, non-profit organization that has been serving the Valley since 1997, taking a 36-foot mobile medical unit to host sites in metropolitan Phoenix to provide free primary medical care and free prescriptions to the uninsured, working poor and homeless. Mission of Mercy is the only free mobile health clinic requiring no co-pays or proof of poverty in Maricopa County. The organization does not accept government funding, and is fully funded through private donations and grants. In 2009, Mission of Mercy provided 10,027 patient visits and dispensed 17,292 free medications. For more information, please visit our website at [www.amissionofmercy.org](http://www.amissionofmercy.org)*



*Mission of Mercy mobile medical van*