

PERSPECTIVES

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Mission of Mercy designs unique 10th Anniversary Pin which is suitable for both men and women. If you would like to receive our 10th Anniversary Mission of Mercy pin, please contact us by phone, mail or email. Quantity is limited, please send the coupon on page 2.



Dr. Larissa Meyer joins Phoenix Medical Program. See page 5 for story.

A Decade of Service



10 years ago, Mission of Mercy started when our Foundress Dr. Gianna Talone-Sullivan took a risk for God, and in trust put a \$2,000 deposit on a used RV that she hoped would be converted into our first mobile doctors office. Within a few weeks, a donor came forward to purchase the RV, others came forward to help purchase the equipment and supplies, including the inventory of medications, and over 30 nurses, physicians and pharmacists offered to volunteer one or two days a month. We opened in just 3 locations, Westminster, Thurmont and Brunswick, Maryland, and if we treated 25 – 30 patients in a day we felt that it had been busy.

10 years later, Mission of Mercy operates 13 clinic locations in Arizona, Maryland and Pennsylvania. We regularly treat 80 – 120 patients a day, and in 2004 our pharmacy will dispense over 40,000 free prescriptions. The mobile medical program has expanded to include a dental program at some sites, a pre-natal clinic in Frederick Maryland, and a Diabetic Training Program in Phoenix Arizona. Over 500 physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, translators and registration people volunteer over 30,000 hours at the clinics each year.

This growth of service could not be accomplished unless Mission of Mercy kept its focus on our mission to restore dignity . . . “healing through Love,” and by remembering that it is in faith and trust that we serve the needs of others. This service can not exist if we forget that prayer must be the fuel. To this end, in 1996 our auxiliary, MOM’s Family was founded with three missions of Prayer, Service and Financial Support. This auxiliary has grown to over 1,300 individuals in 7 countries that regularly pray for Mission of Mercy, our patients, volunteers and benefactors, and also who regularly find ways to support the organization through their service and financial support of activities and special events.

As we prepare to close our 10th year of service we reflect on a few of the major events from this year:

- Maryland/Pennsylvania Program receives new 38 foot RV in donation (vehicle to begin operating in mid-December)
- Arizona Program hires its first full-time Executive Director, Catherine Amiot.
- Mom’s Family coordinates or participates in over a dozen special events to benefit Mission of Mercy.
- Steve Hasting, PA joins the Maryland/Pennsylvania program as staff clinician to help expand clinic services.
- Frederick Pre-natal Clinic doubles in size.
- 9 cities, counties and states honor 10th Anniversary with service proclamations.
- 10th Anniversary pin designed to honor volunteers and supporters.
- Dr. Larissa Meyer joins Arizona Program as Co-Medical Director to expand services.
- NASCAR Driver Scott Riggs and Valvoline sponsor Public Service Announcement during Phoenix race to help recruit new volunteer drivers with a good “track record.”

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Former Patient Rebuilds Her Life

“I do not know where I, or my family, would be if Mission of Mercy did not come into my life.”

Tammy (not her real name for purposes of anonymity) was in her early thirties and her life was falling apart. While going through a difficult divorce, her best friend died, one of her children was abused by a relative, her car caught on fire and burned up, she had no child care, and she was struggling to keep up with her college course work. The pressure of her situation was taking its toll. She was exhausted, constantly “stressed-out” and found herself wanting to stay in bed all day and unable to care for her three children. She lost her job, and with only one year left at College and a 3.8 GPA, she had to drop out of school. A hard worker, she did not know what was wrong. Uninsured, she could not afford to see a doctor.

Tammy doesn’t remember how or who helped her learn about Mission of Mercy, but in 1997 she came to the clinic as a new patient. Dr. Michael Sullivan, Chief Medical Director, identified that she had a sinus infection but he also recognized that she was depressed. After several visits, Tammy was diagnosed as having a mood disorder, and appropriate medication was provided. Tammy says, “Within 2 weeks I was better, I could think clearly, and I could take care of my family.

In time, Tammy was able to get and keep a part-time job at a local social service agency, but as a new part-time employee Tammy did not qualify for insurance benefits. She continued to use Mission of Mercy for her on-going care and the medication she needed to control her condition, however, out of embarrassment she used our Taneytown clinic, not Westminster, where many of the clients from the social service agency she worked at were also patients.

Last summer, Tammy was promoted by the social service agency to a full-time position with good benefits including medical, dental and pharmaceutical coverage. Now Tammy is under the care of a private physician. Mission of Mercy provided the new doctor with historical records for continuity of care. The medications Tammy must take, that were previously provided for by Mission of Mercy, are very expensive. Now her new insurance covers most of the costs, with a reasonable co-payment that Tammy can afford.

Tammy says, “I do not know where I, or my family, would be if Mission of Mercy did not come into my life when it did. My older girls are honor role students at High School and in time I will go back and finish my college education. But right now I need to focus on my work and my family.”

Tammy tells me that she knows there is a stigma of having a mental illness. But she also knows that there is help for those who suffer and she regularly refers others to Mission of Mercy for medical and dental care. She knows that Mission of Mercy will treat each patient with dignity, and through the loving service of the nurses, doctors, pharmacists and other volunteers, each patient may experience what Tammy experienced, “healing through Love.”

A Decade of Service, *continued from page 1*

To express our heart felt appreciation for you, and in honor of our “Decade of Service,” Mission of Mercy designed a unique 10th Anniversary lapel pin which is suitable for both men and women. As our gift, we would like to provide you, our supporters and community partners, with a free lapel pin. If you would like to receive our 10th Anniversary Mission of Mercy pin, please contact us by phone, mail or email.

Yes, please send me _____ 10th Anniversary lapel pins.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

* Quantities of the 10th Anniversary Pin are limited. Free pins are available on a first come first served basis.

Please mail to: MOM’s Family, c/o Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 102, Fairfield, PA 17320 • MOMsFamily@aMissionOfMercy.org

November 1, 2004

Dear Mission of Mercy,

I have a little story that I want to share. A few months ago I was detained in jail for eight months while awaiting trial on petty theft charges. And before you get the wrong idea, I am not proud of that fact. While incarcerated I developed symptoms of hypertension which runs in my family and I began receiving free medications for those symptoms. I also began seeing psychiatrists and therapists and receiving medication for my mental health issues as well.

Upon release, I was faced with some difficult challenges. I had no follow-up medical attention, no money, barely a place to stay and my meds were days from being empty. With hopes to receive that same free support, I contacted doctors at the health department who had treated me in the jail. To my dismay I was told they could do nothing for me. See the problem is I have no insurance, I was unemployed and would not be able to pay for the expensive medications myself. I couldn't even get an appointment with a doctor.

A very good friend of mine suggested that I reach out to other public and private resources. This led me to the Department of Social Services where I was told that there were cutbacks and assistance just wasn't available to able-bodied young men. They gave me a number of referrals but these attempts all led me smack into a wall of frustration because no one could do anything for me without a prescription for a doctor which, without insurance, I couldn't afford.

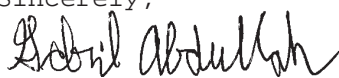
By then my meds were gone and days of searching had made no gains. My options were next to none. I could feel within myself that my heart wasn't getting rest and my body did not feel right. With nothing left to do I made a nighttime dash to the emergency room of Frederick Memorial Hospital, and to no surprise I was close to stroking out with a blood pressure of 198 over 95 with symptoms of unsteady vision, headache and light-headedness. A number of expensive tests were run at the emergency physician's advice, and I was also given medication. It all was very helpful and I'm thankful that my health was restored before damage was done. I was given a prescription to fill and sent on my way.

The next day I contacted the Religious Coalition and they were glad to pay one month worth of medication. After this experience I didn't want to be in the same boat in a very few short weeks later. Then a friend told me about a bus with Christian doctors and nurses with helpful hearts by the name of Mission of Mercy. So my friend and I made a trip up to Brunswick. I explained my concerns and from that moment on I was treated like family with smiles, hugs and reassurance that things would be alright. I even have a nurse that I look for and ask about especially every visit, a sweet little lady who goes by the name of Rosie.

I'm up to my fourth visit now and have several months' supply of my meds, have seen a couple of different doctors—even got my blood pressure med changed recently due to side effects—and it's been a complete turn around. It's amazing—I'm no longer drowsy and my blood pressure is always right in the range of 120's over 60-70.

I want it to be known that because of your help and support I have been able to focus on things in life other than health worries. While the hospital treatment was good, there was a big bill shortly after. But Mission of Mercy, being a gem, has continuously treated me and been constant in their concern for my welfare without requesting a dime. In the world we live today, that is a true rarity and blessing. So to you all I give my thanks and may the peace and blessings of the Lord be with us all.

Sincerely,



Gebril Abdullah

Thank you Mission of Mercy, you having truly been a Blessing to me. I lost my insurance 3 years ago and was desperate. My prescription medicine would be about \$47.00 a month now and I only worked part time for the Cartwright School District. A very good friend told me about Mission of Mercy, so on November 20, 2001 I came for the 1st time. Because of them I have only had to buy 1 prescription a month that they don't carry. I now have been hired full time by Cartwright School district and will have Insurance beginning soon. May God Bless each of the workers for working at such a worthwhile job. You will definitely receive your reward in heaven.

Thank you again;
with all my love & prayers
for each of you.
Judy Truitt

Nov. 24, 03

TO ALL AT MISSION OF MERCY,

I just want to Thank You all for being Gods insterments of Mercy to me. You have provided help for me, when I had a stroke and found out I had Diabetes. I moved out here from N.C. not knowing anyone. After the stroke unable to work and needing a Doctor and medicines. Everyone at Mission of Mercy have been helpful, kind, and caring. God only knows what I would have done without His help through you. Once again THANK YOU!

Dorothy A. Ball

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CUIDADO DE MISERICORDIA
LE DOY GRACIAS POR AYUDARNOS PORSE TIEMPO
TAN VALIOSO QUE NOS DEDICAN.
Y ESO ME MOTIVA A SEGUIR ADELANTE A NO
SENTIRME DEPRIMIDA RUANDO PIENSO QUE YA NO
TENGO SALIDA;
SE QUE DIOS ESTA CONMIGO POR MEDIO DE
USTEDES
GRACIAS
MARIA

Dr. Larissa Meyer Becomes Co-Medical Director



Larissa M. Meyer, M.D., is living the life she would choose if she ever won the lottery.

“I didn’t win the lottery, but working with Mission of Mercy is exactly what I want,” reflects the family physician with a warm, confident smile.

Dr. Meyer was appointed Co-Medical Director of Mission of Mercy Arizona Mobile Clinic in May, sharing responsibilities with Dr. Brad Smith. Besides spending time with patients, Dr. Meyer wants to focus on what she envisions as a Mission of Mercy’s niche – quality primary care, basic to broad-spectrum healthcare, and the resources to move these areas forward.

Focus on the individual

“Mission of Mercy’s philosophy of Healing through Love and restoring dignity means we give with our hearts and focus on individual needs, rather than the number of patients per day,” she says. “We give individuals what they need, even if it’s not medically related.”

As an example, she tells of a patient who visits weekly to learn more about his condition. “He wants explanations and someone to spend time with him.”

Rewarding, unexpected move

A call from God and a need to be near family led Dr. Meyer back to Phoenix in September 2001. After an Arizona childhood and graduation from Xavier College Preparatory School, she moved to New York to study political science and pre-med at Vassar College, then returned to her home state for an M.D. at University of Arizona. After graduating, she again moved back East, working near Pittsburgh to complete her residency in Family Practice and to work in private practice with a group of family practice physicians.

The move, though unexpected at the time, produced triple rewards: spending more time with her family, working at Mission of Mercy, and meeting the man who would become her husband.

Need for volunteer physicians and services

Encouraging other primary care physicians and medical testing facilities to donate their time is another area Dr. Meyer hopes to contribute to by networking in the medical community.

“We would love to have more primary care doctors to accept referrals from Mission of Mercy and donate their services at our mobile clinic, but that’s not the only area of assistance we need.”

There’s also a need for doctors to conduct testing in their offices at donated or reduced fees, and for doctors to see patients in their own offices or via phone consultations.

“Although we are not a faith-based organization, our doctors, staff and volunteers come from all faiths or no faith,” she explains. “There is an immense amount of gratification and appreciation at Mission of Mercy, so we are flexible at providing ways for others to participate.”

Dr. Meyer pauses to think about her Mission of Mercy experiences before summarizing why she truly feels like a lottery winner: “The biggest benefit is to serve someone who couldn’t otherwise get care.”

On Oxygen 24/7, “Billie” drives for Mercy



Volunteer Billie Corbett drives patients to the clinic.

Rose Marie “Billie” Corbett, first learned about Mission of Mercy 10 years ago, but she did not know how she could help. She is on oxygen 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and does not have any medical experience. She helped her best friend Jean, a retired nurse with 27 years’ experience, become involved with Mission of Mercy by driving her to a volunteer open house.

Billie still didn’t think she had anything to give. But after volunteering a few weeks at the Reisterstown clinic Jean realized that if Billie could drive her to the open house, then Billie could also provide transportation services to some of our patients that can not get to the clinics. Billie’s volunteer role was born, and after 8 years, Billie has not only become an instrumental part of the Mission of Mercy clinic, but has also become a friend to many patients that would not be able to get to the doctor without her. Two stories reflect not only

the value of what Billie provides, but also how, with a quiet and humble demeanor, Billie is regularly an instrument of “healing through Love.”

Recently, a patient that Billie has been driving for many years was complaining of chest pains. Her son could not be reached immediately and Billie offered to drive her to the hospital emergency room. At the hospital it was determined that the woman was not having a heart attack. Throughout the day of tests, Billie stayed with her. It wasn’t until they were able to reach the woman’s son and he got to the hospital, that Billie left her side.

Another example of how Billie has helped restore dignity to a patient is the story of a patient from India. The patient was living in the Owings Mills area, but did not drive. She was working, but did not have insurance, so she became a patient of Mission of Mercy. For several years, Billie regularly transported this woman to her appointments at Mission of Mercy and also for lab and diagnostic tests. In time, the patient got a full-time job with benefits. This patient invited Billie, other Mission of Mercy volunteers, and people from other agencies that had helped her, to a party at her home. This woman had been treated with dignity and loving compassion and wanted to say thank you. It has been a few years since she was a patient of Mission of Mercy or since Billie has driven her, but recently the former patient married and was going to be moving from the area with her new husband. The former patient threw a moving party and again invited her old “friend” Billie.

Rose Marie “Billie” Corbett is an excellent example of the humble servant. Without medical experience and with the limiting factor that she has to use oxygen 24 hours a day, Billie has found a niche at Mission of Mercy. It isn’t a flashy job, and in fact many do not even know that Billie is driving our patients. Most importantly, Billie has the opportunity to be an instrument of “healing through Love,” but if you hear Billie tell it, she has been the recipient of our patient’s love.

Family Prayer Service: Everyone Welcome

Mission of Mercy sponsors a Family Prayer Service on the second Sunday of each month at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Fairfield, PA at 2:00 p.m. The service includes Mass, Rosary, Confession, fellowship and refreshments. Coming together we pray for Mission of Mercy’s patients, staff, volunteers and benefactors, the intentions on Our Lady’s prayer scroll maintained by MOM’s Family Prayer Mission, world peace, and the private intentions we hold in each other’s hearts.

St. Mary’s is located on Tract Road, just outside Fairfield, between Gettysburg, PA and Emmitsburg, MD. For directions call (717) 642-9021 or email MOMsFamily@aMissionOfMercy.org.

1,300 Auxiliary Members Support Mission

In 1996 a small group of volunteers got together to find ways to support the mobile medical program and further the goals of Mission of Mercy. Some of them asked, "we don't have a lot of money and we aren't medical people, what can we do?" And then they realized they could support through the three missions of Prayer, Service and Financial Support. Now, eight years later, there are over 1,300 members in seven countries. Following is a list of some of MOM's Family activities in 2004:

- Monthly prayer service
- Mother's Day 3K Run/Walk
- Golf Tournament
- Two volunteer retreats
- Westminster Fall Fest
- Feast dinner party
- Lobster bake
- Bake sale
- Macy's charity shopping day
- Yard sale
- Brewer's Alley charity day
- Boscov's charity shopping day
- Tenth Anniversary open houses at clinic sites
- Serve as clinic registration / hospitality volunteers
- Pizza Hut charity day
- Maintain prayer scroll, over 1,500 prayer intentions
- Organize Christmas toy program



If you are interested in more information about MOM's Family, please see our website, www.aMissionOfMercy.org, or return the following coupon

Yes, please send me more information about MOM's Family Auxiliary

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Please mail to: MOM's Family, c/o Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 102, Fairfield, PA 17320 • MOMsFamily@aMissionOfMercy.org



Foundation Donates New Mobile Vehicle to Maryland/Pennsylvania

Dr. Michael Sullivan, Medical Director of the Maryland/Pennsylvania mobile medical program could not be more excited. Not just for himself, but for the thousands of patients and volunteers who will be treated in greater comfort and with more privacy.

Early this year the Charlotte English Foundation contacted a board member of Mission of Mercy. It seems they had heard about our good works, but had also heard that the old mobile clinic had been experiencing some mechanical breakdowns. They asked if we could use a replacement vehicle. Dr. Sullivan could not contain himself.

New RV to begin service in mid-December.

Now, after several months of probate and then several months of manufacturing, Mission of Mercy has taken delivery of a brand new 38 foot Winnebago Adventurer. Unlike previous RV's that we have purchased, this vehicle was specially designed at the Winnebago factory to provide more space for clinic operations. The new van provides larger, private exam rooms and expanded storage.

Two other areas that are dramatically improved are the pharmacy and data input areas. The pharmacy is substantially larger with more storage for the 225 medications that the clinic keeps in inventory. With the increase in the number of patients treated and the number of prescriptions dispensed, over 200 separate prescriptions per day, we now need two volunteer pharmacists, and the new vehicle has more counter space to accommodate both volunteers. The data input/computer area, which previously was a small pull-up table top behind the passenger seat, has been expanded to be a custom built computer desk, with storage. No longer will the driver/data input volunteers have to hold the patient chart on one knee and the computer mouse on the other.

At the time of this writing, the new vehicle was having the final custom work completed in Baltimore. We look forward to putting the new mobile clinic into service in mid-December. If you see the new clinic honk and wave, or stop by for a visit.

Tax I.D. # 86-0704883

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REQUESTED**

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MISSION OF
MERCY
Healing through Love