

Our Mission

Mission of Mercy's mobile medical clinics seek to restore dignity to the sick, poor, and homeless by providing free basic healthcare and "healing through Love." This mission is accomplished primarily through a team of volunteer medical, administrative and hospitality workers.

Our History

Founded in 1994, Mission of Mercy is an independent, 501(c)(3), nonsectarian, community-based organization. Services provided include medical care for both acute and chronic conditions, oral health care, and pharmaceuticals. All services are provided free, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or religion. All funding is derived from private donations, including individuals, community groups, churches and foundations.

MD/PA Clinic Locations & Schedules

Mission of Mercy serves patients at regularly scheduled clinic locations in Brunswick, Frederick, Mt Airy, Reisterstown, Taneytown, Thurmont, and Westminster, MD; and in Gettysburg and Harrisburg, PA. To access the clinic calendar and appointment numbers, visit www.aMissionofMercy.org and click "Locate a Clinic Near You," or call **301-682-5683** or **717-642-9062**.

Difficult times bring additional patients to Mission of Mercy during our 15th anniversary year

As our nation's economic woes deepen, Mission of Mercy is experiencing a significant increase in the number of patients who visit our mobile medical clinics. More and more members of our community, many of whom have either lost their jobs or who are experiencing cuts in their pay and/or benefits, are turning to Mission of Mercy as their only option for free health care, dental care and free prescription medications.

Amid these challenging times, Mission of Mercy is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2009, marking an incredible journey of faith and service by our visionary foundress, Dr. Gianna Talone Sullivan and her husband, Dr. Michael Sullivan, and scores of dedicated volunteers.

Since 1994, Mission of Mercy has grown from an organization with six patients and one clinic site to a program with 17 sites in four states, sites that are impacting hundreds of thousands of lives every year -- literally. In Maryland and Pennsylvania alone, we have had more than 127,000 patients visit our clinics since our program began. In 2008, we saw 1,516 more patients at these sites than we did in 2007.

In 2008, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the number of uninsured Americans was close to 45 million. Even those with insurance are finding it more and more difficult to pay the cost of deductibles and co-pays, thus giving rise to a growing number of underinsured members of our community.

How ironic, therefore, that the United States, which leads the world in medical, surgical and pharmaceutical breakthroughs, finds many of its citizens delaying basic routine healthcare. Instead of seeking early treatment for chronic, treatable conditions, many patients wait until their illnesses have reached the acute stage and require a visit to the emergency room. Even more tragically, however, those who wait too long to get treatment may be putting their very lives in danger: A 2008 Families USA study revealed that more than one working-age Marylander died every day in 2006 due to a lack of health insurance.

As businesses close their doors, individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet, often sacrificing health care for life's daily basic necessities. Mission of Mercy is bridging the gap for many of our friends and neighbors who have either no health insurance or too little insurance and is providing what more and more people need: "restoration of dignity and healing through love."

Mission of Mercy is forever grateful for the financial contributions received from individuals, organizations and foundations, as well as for the in-kind donations from volunteers and the church host sites. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated now and in the years to come.



Dr. Sullivan and patient

News and notes from our Mission of Mercy sites



To demonstrate the 15 years of growth in Mission of Mercy's programs in **Maryland** and **Pennsylvania**, we invite you to take a ride on our mobile medical van to learn more about what occurs at our clinic sites:

Brunswick: Opened in the summer of 1994, our clinic site at the Faith Baptist Church draws as many as 20 percent of its patients from communities in West Virginia. Patients have been known to arrive as early as 2 a.m. in order to receive the care and compassion offered by Mission of Mercy and our cadre of volunteers. Faith Baptist Church also operates a clothing bank on our clinic days.

Frederick: In addition to providing medical, physical therapy, and dental (thanks to the support of the Frederick Dental Society) services, the Frederick site at the Church of the Brethren opened in the fall of 1997 and is the only Mercy of Mercy clinic location that also offers prenatal care. Demand for these and other services makes this one of our largest clinic locations. Church of the Brethren volunteers also prepare bagged lunches for our patients.

Mt. Airy: Our site at Calvary United Methodist Church opened in the fall of 2002 and enables us to see patients from a four-county area. More than 700 residents from Frederick, Carroll, Howard and Montgomery counties visited the Mission of Mercy mobile medical clinic during our monthly visits to Mt. Airy in 2008.

Reisterstown: Given its proximity to Baltimore, our clinic site at the Reisterstown United Methodist Church might be considered our "United Nations" location. The site opened in the fall of 1995 and has numerous interpreters who volunteer their services to translate for patients who speak languages including Russian, French and Spanish.



Frederick Church of Brethren

Taneytown: Our site at St. Joseph's Catholic Church opened in the spring of 1996. The church sponsors on-site food and clothing banks during our regularly scheduled clinic visits, which provide additional assistance to our patients, many of whom are struggling to provide life's basic necessities to their families.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Thurmont

Thurmont: Perhaps more so than any other Mission of Mercy site, the Thurmont clinic at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church has the feeling of a small-town doctor's office. Opened in the summer of 1994, the Thurmont location is in the northern and more rural part of Frederick County. The patients we see in Thurmont return to us on a regular basis and are the working poor we so often hear about who are struggling to earn a living wage but whose employers do not offer any medical coverage.

Westminster: The Human Services Program Barrel House is the host site for our very first Mission of Mercy location in Maryland. The site opened in 1994 and we have now seen more than 34,000 patients at this location. Westminster is our only location with a permanent dental suite and has received strong support from the Carroll County Dental Society.



Gettysburg Foursquare Church

Gettysburg: Congregants from a ministerium of churches in the Gettysburg area volunteer to prepare bagged lunches for the patients at our clinic site located at the Gettysburg Foursquare Church, which opened in the fall of 1995. For some of our patients, these bagged lunches represent their only substantial meal of the day.

Harrisburg: Mission of Mercy continues to receive strong support for its medical and dental services at our site located at Christ Lutheran Church. The site opened in the fall of 2002 and continues to receive vital support from the Harrisburg Area Dental Society.

.....**News from Arizona and Texas:**.....

Arizona held its second “Mercy in the Morning” breakfast on Dec. 3, 2008 and raised more than \$275,000 in current and multi-year financial commitments. The breakfast drew a record crowd of nearly 300 people, of whom nearly two-thirds were new friends of Mission of Mercy.

Among the highlights of the morning’s festivities was an announcement by Jerry Wissink, CEO of BHHS Legacy Foundation, that his organization has awarded Mission of Mercy – Arizona a \$60,000 challenge grant to help expand its operations.

The need for expansion has never been greater. Visits to Mission of Mercy’s Arizona clinics were up more than 14 percent in 2008 as compared to the previous year and our clinicians dispensed 14,576 free medications during that time. Some of this increase in services can be attributed to a fourth clinic site expansion into south-central Phoenix in July, where in just six months more than 400 patient visits were recorded.

All indications tell us the need will continue to grow. Data from the *2008 Arizona Health Survey*, compiled by St. Luke’s Health Initiatives and other community groups, suggests that more than one million Arizonans are struggling with medical debt, causing many families to postpone or skip urgent and routine medical care and to not fill critical prescriptions needed to manage their health conditions. According to a March 2008 Mission of Mercy - AZ Patient Satisfaction Survey, 97 percent of our patients indicated they would have sought care in a local emergency room if a Mission of Mercy clinic was not available.



Additional physicians, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters and support volunteers are still sought after as the need for Mission of Mercy’s services continues to grow in these challenging times.

Mission of Mercy – Texas celebrated its first anniversary of service to the Coastal Bend area of Texas in September. During its first full year of service, the Mission of Mercy mobile clinic recorded 2,038 patient visits and dispensed 2,900 free prescriptions at its five sites located in the Corpus Christi area.

The generosity of the Coastal Bend community has been remarkable. Start-up costs were funded by three \$100,000 donations from local non-profit organizations and there were other donations from foundations, individuals and private corporations. Local attorney Bob Hilliard donated office space and Doctors’ Regional Hospital, Driscoll Children’s Hospital and CHRISTUS-Spohn Hospital have donated x-ray and other laboratory services. To date, more than 100 volunteers have offered their services to Mission of Mercy.



Profiles in Mercy



A closer look at the people who inspire our Mission of Mercy

Sharon Y. Alongi, MD

For Sharon Alongi, a small article she saw in a local newspaper 15 years ago became her personal mustard seed.

The story told of a newly launched community service organization that was looking for doctors who could donate some of their time to see patients who were uninsured or underinsured. The program, she thought, “looked like an interesting opportunity” so she responded to the ad.

Within days, Dr. Alongi received a phone call from Dr. Michael Sullivan, Mission of Mercy’s medical director. He explained more about the program’s desire to restore dignity to the sick, poor and homeless by providing free basic health care and “healing through Love.” It was a message that resonated deeply with Dr. Alongi, who once had the privilege to work with Mother Theresa amid the utter poverty of Calcutta, India.

Dr. Alongi was the first physician to “sign on” to help Mission of Mercy. She began by donating her services one day a week at the Westminster clinic site and continues her service today by working as a physician for Mission of Mercy one day per month. And her service continues even when she’s not at the clinic. Dr. Alongi invites Mission of Mercy to refer patients to her Family Medicine practice in Westminster and consistently ensures that unused sample

pharmaceuticals from her private practice are donated to Mission of Mercy.

Dr. Alongi’s selfless service to Mission of Mercy is a reflection of her entire life. A single mother of two children she adopted from Mexico and Peru, Dr. Alongi works with Catastrophic Health and the Department of Social Services to provide medical assistance to disabled and mentally-challenged members of her community. And despite the demands of her successful private practice, she continues to visit her home-bound patients.

The small seed she planted 15 years ago when she responded to the call for help has grown into a large mustard plant that now serves the poorest of the poor both through Mission of Mercy and her private practice. Yet through it all, Dr. Alongi remains a humble servant. “I am not anything special,” she says.

All those she has touched with her compassion would certainly disagree. Dr. Alongi is *very* special.



Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Alongi

2008 By the Numbers

The numbers don’t lie: A quick look at the services we delivered in 2008 demonstrates the vital need for our Mission of Mercy in Maryland and Pennsylvania:

Patient Visits (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2008) → 12,742 -- an increase of 1,516 medical visits over 2007

Dental Visits (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2008) → 1,098 -- an increase of 268 dental visits over 2007

Prescriptions Dispensed (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2008) → 26,666

Representing 1,688 more dental procedures performed than in 2007

Patient Profile:



Males:	43%	Minorities:	44%
Females:	57%	Caucasian:	56%
Elderly (64 and older):	5%	Underinsured:	3%
Working Age Adults:	93%	Uninsured:	97%
Children (birth to 17):	2%		



You're Invited!

Please join us for "Coffee with M.O.M."

Would you like to know more about Mission of Mercy? Perhaps you'd like to get an "up close and personal" tour of the Mission of Mercy mobile clinic and have a chance to speak with some of the scores of volunteers who make our program possible.

If so, we invite you to join us – and encourage you to bring a friend – to one of our upcoming "Coffee with M.O.M" tours that are held at our Frederick and Westminster mobile clinic sites.

Over coffee and some light refreshments, you will meet some of our clinic staff and volunteers who will share with you the history and "mission" of Mission of Mercy. You will then tour the clinic site, including the registration, triage and dental areas, as well as tour the mobile van. In less than one hour, we believe you will come to better understand the work we do and how you can be an integral part of our Mission of Mercy.

Upcoming "Coffee with M.O.M." Dates:

Frederick Church of the Brethren

May 4 & 11
June 1
301-682-5683

Barrel House – Human Services Program (Westminster)

April 29 • May 6 & 27
June 3, 10 & 24
410-857-4811

"Mercy in the Morning"

One hour, fundraising breakfast

We will host our annual "Mercy in the Morning" breakfasts on Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Non-Profit Center in Westminster and on Thursday, Oct. 15 at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick.

Please make plans to join us from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for an inspirational morning that will reveal the true impact Mission of Mercy has on the lives of our friends and neighbors. You will see first-hand the importance Mission of Mercy places on being good stewards of your financial support and on its commitment to restoring dignity and "healing through Love."

"Mercy in the Morning" breakfasts allow us to thank our friends and supporters for the vital role

they play in helping us fulfill our mission. Given the daunting economic times in which we live, this mission is essential and reminds us that never before has it been more important to serve as "our brother's keeper."

"Mercy in the Morning" Breakfasts

7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009 Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009

Non-Profit Center
255 Clifton Blvd.
Westminster, MD 21157
Mission of Mercy
410-857-4811

Dutch's Daughter Restaurant
581 Himes Ave
Frederick, MD 21703
Mission of Mercy
301-682-LOVE (5683)



Ausherman
Family Trust

Thanks so much! We would once again like to thank the Ausherman Foundation for its \$20,000 three-year challenge grant which was launched at our "Mercy in the Morning" breakfast last year. We have successfully completed our first year match of the \$20,000 and are hard at work securing an additional \$20,000 for the second year of the grant.

Individual and Church Donors

*It is with humility
and awe that Mission
of Mercy gratefully
receives the help and
kindness of our
generous donors:*

Churches

Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier
Christ United Methodist Church
Evangelical Reformed Church
Fairview Chapel
Foursquare Gospel Church
Frederick Church of the Brethren
Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
Glyndon United Methodist Church
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Monocacy Valley Church
Northminster Prebysterian Church
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church
St. Francis de Sales Parish
St. James Lutheran/ Social Ministry Committee
St. John's Catholic Church
St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Peter's Catholic Church
St. Vincent dePaul Society

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Acle
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Aiello
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Allwardt
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Beaumont
Mr. and Mrs. Dale P. Bentz
Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Blanchard
Dr. and Mrs. William A. Blattner
Mr. Douglas N. Boyle
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Brown
Dr. and Mrs. William Byrne
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall T. Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Critchfield
Ms. Janet Dihmes
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Domalski
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Ellis
Mrs. Martha C. Engstler
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Fitzsimmons
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Floria
Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Foscatto
Mr. Joseph Fugere
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Gallina
Dr. and Mrs. Ivan H. Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Michel J. Gemon
Dr. and Mrs. Laurence Gordon

Ms. Mary Ann Hayes
Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Heim
Col. and Mrs. John J. Hickey
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Barry L. Holdcroft
Ms. Hulda E. Holter
Mr. Mark Hubbard
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Huslig
Mr. Robert M. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kahne
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Koenke
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon B. Lamb
Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Lienesch
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Major
Ms. Harriet C. Maull
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Mayer
Ms. Mary Ann Scaffa McCaffrey
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. McCarthy
Miss Kathleen L. McClintock
Mrs. Joanne McClure
Dr. and Mrs. James A. Merkel
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Meyers
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Milbocker
Mr. Thomas D. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Miller, Sr
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Peloquin

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Perez
Dr. and Mrs. Albert R. Perrelli
Dr. Constance A. Price
Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Pritchard
Dr. and Mrs. Robert R. Redfield
Mr. John F. Regus
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Reynolds
Mr. Richard E. Rizio
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Rock
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Ross
Ms. Linda M. Ryan
Dr. and Mrs. David J. Salinger
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Sonberg
Drs. Michael & Gianna Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Sullivan
Dr. Vu A. Tran
Mr. Huong Giang L. Tran
Dr. and Mrs. John Vitarello
Mr. John H. Walsh III
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Warthen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Witzel
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Yezulinas
Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Young
Ms. Margaret Younger
Mr. Austin A. Younkens
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Zaudtke

Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of this list. If your name is incorrect or has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Christina Mazzanti at 301-682-5683 or cmazzanti@AMissionofMercy.org.

*For our 15th anniversary,
we wish for:*

- Continued prayers of love, healing and abundance for Mission of Mercy and our patients.
- Additional funds to hire a new assistant medical director.
- Additional volunteer doctors and dentists to see patients at our mobile medical clinic sites.
- Local pro bono medical specialists to see a limited number of Mission of Mercy patients in their private practices.
- New friends and supporters to join us at our Coffee with M.O.M. and Mercy in the Morning breakfasts.

Hail and Farewell

We bid farewell to one of Mission of Mercy's team members. Karen Murphy McClain recently accepted a new position as the executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County. We appreciate Karen's three years of service as our development director and we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Jennifer Gerlock will replace Karen as our development director. Jen comes to us with 15 years of experience in public relations and development, including five years as the director of development for the Frederick County YMCA. We are excited to welcome Jennifer to our team and we look forward to working together with her to promote Mission of Mercy.

Legacy Donor

Other Ways to Give

By Joe Cimino, Director of Planned Giving



During tough economic times such as these, each of us struggles with how to increase our financial support to our favorite charities. We are quite aware that organizations like Mission of Mercy experience a greater demand for their services when times are difficult.

We want to help, but are

concerned about reaching further into our already challenged financial resources to make any additional donations. Gifts other than cash could be just the right answer for you. In most cases, they will provide you with income and estate tax advantages as well. Here are a few ideas to consider:

• **Gifts of Appreciated Assets** - These could be investment securities or other assets that have appreciated significantly since you acquired them. That would include assets that you did not purchase but may have received from an estate distribution. These gifts would be eligible, at their current fair-market value, for income tax deduction purposes.

• **Gifts Directly from an IRA** - If you are at least 70 and a half years old, you can make a donation directly from your IRA to Mission of Mercy and it will not be subject to income tax. You will not be able to deduct it as a charitable donation, but you have the advantage of making your contribution from monies that have never been taxed. The maximum contribution you can make is \$100,000.

• **Gifts of Life Insurance** - With cash value insurance policies that you no longer need, you can make an irrevocable gift of the ownership rights to the policy to Mission of Mercy. The gift will be eligible as a tax deduction for you this year. If you are still paying premiums, you can choose to continue making the payments and get further tax deductions, or stop making payments. You should not cash-out the policy to make the gift, however, as this would result in a taxable event for you.

• **Gifts of U.S. Savings Bonds** - If you have Savings Bonds that are no longer accruing interest, or close to that point, you can cash-out those bonds and gift the proceeds to Mission of Mercy. The amount of accrued interest will be taxable to you, but in many instances, the amount of tax deduction you will receive from making a gift of the full proceeds will offset all, or most, of the tax liability.

All of the above ideas will also result in estate and inheritance tax savings, since the value of the gift(s) will no longer be included in those tax calculations at death. Please contact me by telephone, or email, to discuss these ideas further: **410-857-4811** or jcimino@MissionofMercy.org

GIVING WAYS

As we all search for ways to tighten our belts during these difficult financial times, we would like to remind you that in addition to cash contributions, there are many other ways in which you can contribute to Mission of Mercy. You can help us continue to serve the most vulnerable members of our communities by:

- ✓ Donating your used vehicle to Mission of Mercy.
- ✓ Instead of gifts or flowers, consider a gift to Mission of Mercy in someone's name to celebrate occasions such as birthdays, holidays, retirements or Mother and Father's Day.
- ✓ Making a planned gift through wills and trusts.
- ✓ Naming Mission of Mercy as your matching gift partner from your employer.
- ✓ Designating Mission of Mercy as the recipient of a portion of the value of a previously established fund. Dr. George Waxter used the \$10,000 he received for being named a Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism to establish the Peggy Waxter Fund at the Community Foundation of Frederick County. He directed that Mission of Mercy will receive a percentage of the fund's annual value every year.



MD/PA Program
Mission of Mercy
22 S. Market Street, Suite 6D
Frederick, MD 21701-5572

Tax ID# 86-0704883

www.aMissionofMercy.org
301-682-5683 / 410-857-4811 / 717-642-9062

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to jwhite@aMissionofMercy.org

Ready, set...go!

**Mark your calendar for fun in the sun
with Mission of Mercy**

Break out the sunscreen and make plans to join us for a number of special events as we gather under the warm summer sun for fun and fellowship in support of Mission of Mercy!

June 15: Mission of Mercy's Golf Classic

River Creek Country Club, Leesburg, VA
Best Ball Scramble format
Registration at 8 a.m. Shot Gun Start at 8:30.
Breakfast, lunch, dinner and prizes included.
Sponsored to date by BB&T, SAIC-Frederick, Inc., TerpSys, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Morgan-Keller, Inc., The Matan Companies, Carroll Hospital Center, and Van Sant Plumbing and Heating. Some sponsorship opportunities still available.
For more information, please contact Linda Ryan at Mission of Mercy 301-682-5683.



July 25: Mission of Mercy's Regatta and Family Picnic

Still Pond, Westminster, MD
Noon to 5 p.m.
Entry Fees: Single Landlubber: \$20 Two Salty Dawgs: \$30
The Whole Crew \$50; fees cover boat entries, food, music, games and awards.
RSVP by July 18 to 410-857-4811.



Sept. 26: 12th Annual Mission of Mercy Golf Tournament

Meadow Brook Golf Course, Gettysburg, PA
Registration: 7:30 AM, Shot Gun Start: 8:30 AM
\$65.00 Individuals \$260.00 Team
Prizes and lunch included.
For information about participating on a team or as an individual or for volunteer information, please call Wayne Warthen at 301-447-3913.

Sept. 24-27: Fall Fest

Downtown Westminster
Carnival, parades and live entertainment over four days to benefit local charities, including Mission of Mercy.
For more information, please contact Christina Mazzanti at cmazzanti@aMissionofMercy.org or 301-682-5683.