

Mission of Mercy - Arizona Staff

Dr. Brad Smith, Medical Director
Dr. Roselynde Bryant, Assistant Medical Director
Donna Castrenze-Steele, FNP, RN, Nursing Director
Debi Lynch, RN, Assistant Nursing Director
Paula Carvalho, Executive Director
Diana Navarrette, Office Coordinator
Shoshana Simones, Community Engagement Manager

MOM Clinic Tours Are Back!

As a MOM volunteer you are our best recruiters and ambassadors for Mission of Mercy. Inviting potential donors and/or volunteers to a tour will help open their eyes to all MOM does. We would love it if you would invite your friends to come tour our clinics.



JOIN US FOR A CLINIC TOUR

Come see firsthand how we bring doctors to the people to **restore dignity, empower patients and strengthen communities.**

Mission of Mercy has been providing free medical care and prescription medications to those in need for 24 years in Arizona! Join us for a tour and bring a friend.

2021 Tour Dates

Please note dates are subject to change

**1st Monday of month
West Valley**

Avondale Baptist Church
1001 N. Central Ave.
Avondale, AZ 85323

**2nd Wednesday of month
Central Phoenix**

North Phoenix Baptist Church
5757 N. Central Ave., Bldg. B
Phoenix, AZ 85012

**3rd Friday of month
East Valley**

Chandler First Church
of the Nazarene
301 N. Hartford St.
Chandler, AZ 85225

Tours are held from 10-11 a.m. Reservations required. Masks required.

Contact Diana at 602.861.2233 or dnavarrette@amissionofmercy.org to schedule your tour today.

Healing Hearts

Mission of Mercy Volunteer News

Summer 2021

Keeping an Eye on Good Health

When it comes to our patients' health, MOM is always looking for opportunities to improve the lives of those we serve. That's why we were pleased to welcome Stanley Shorb, M.D., to our roster of impressive medical volunteers earlier this year

Dr. Shorb is a renowned ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal diseases. He ran his own practice for many decades and served as the team ophthalmologist for the Arizona Cardinals.

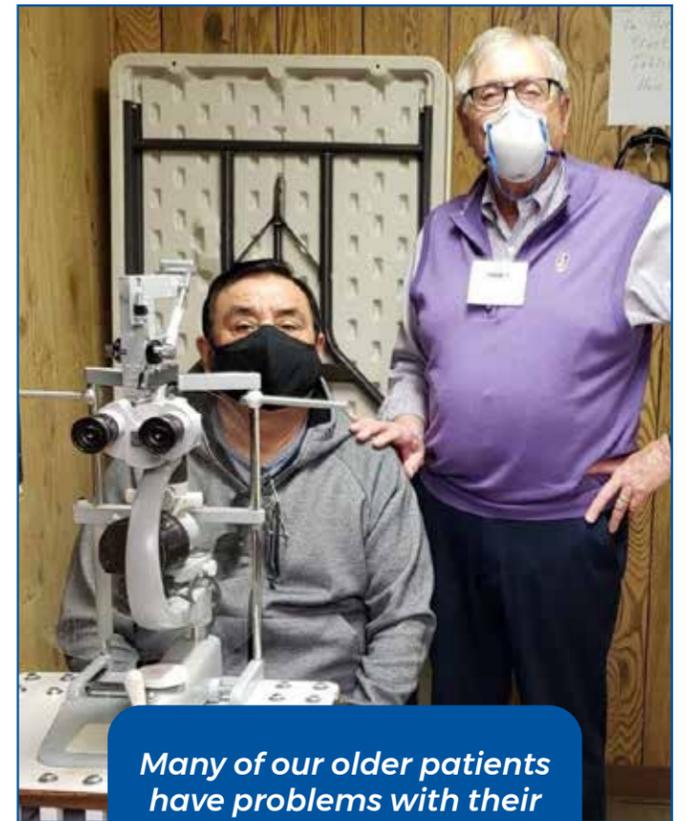
After closing his practice late last year, he discovered he was too bored to retire, so he decided to volunteer his time at our Mesa clinic and also with St. Vincent de Paul. He also recently joined another local practice three days a week to fill his time because full-time retirement wasn't for him!

Dr. Shorb has been lending his expertise to MOM patients with Type 2 diabetes. He is considered an expert in diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration. Many of our older patients have problems with their eyesight, and Dr. Shorb's insight has already been a blessing to them.

Diabetic retinopathy is caused by damage to the blood vessels of the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye (retina). Patients with Type 2 diabetes who often also have high cholesterol, high blood pressure and issues maintaining a healthy weight are most at risk for the condition. Diabetic retinopathy can begin with only mild vision problems, but eventually it can lead to blindness.

"Dilated eye exams prevent blindness," said Dr. Shorb. "I'm enjoying my time at the Mesa clinic working with MOM patients and helping with their eyesight issues." He recently worked with a patient who had an unusual eye inflammation that, after testing, turned out to be sarcoidosis, a rare inflammatory disease that can sometimes be life threatening. He worked with Dr. Ira Ehrlich, another MOM volunteer physician, to confirm the diagnosis and develop a treatment plan.

We are grateful to Dr. Ehrlich for referring Dr. Shorb to MOM! He has been a blessing to our clinic. ■



Many of our older patients have problems with their eyesight, and Dr. Shorb's insight has already been a blessing to them.

Medical Team Update:

Dr. Brad & Dr. Roz

A little more than a year after COVID-19 disrupted “normal” clinic operations (and one in which the Mission of Mercy Arizona clinics can proudly say that we did not miss one single day of getting medications to our established patients), we are now beginning to see more of our valued volunteer doctors, nurses and clinic support staff returning to our clinics. During the pandemic, we dipped below 50% of our usual volunteer force and relied more heavily on MOM staff to continue serving our patients. As vaccines are now widely available to all, we hope to see more of our volunteers returning to our clinic sites.

Additionally, we have been accepting new patients on a limited basis at most of our clinics since late 2020. Our new RV, which was finally put into service last October, has been a blessing to store medications, manage patient refills and conduct exams that require privacy.

Based on our numbers, we are well on our way to ramping back up following a challenging year. During the first five months of 2021, **MOM has logged over 5,400 patient visits** (including 665 diabetes/nutrition/food encounters), and we have **given out over 17,000 prescriptions** (that translates to more than 840,000 pills)! Humana Pharmacy’s donations have greatly aided us in this endeavor, and in particular, the help of pharmacists Kevin, April and others who have separated and logged numerous medications.

Although this has been a tough year for our patients (many of whom lost friends and family members due to COVID), we continue to keep our mission focused on restoration of dignity to the poor and healing through Love. Continued thanks to our dedicated volunteers for their time and talents, Sonora Quest for providing patient labs, the Arizona Health Fund Partnership board for their leadership, and all those who pray daily for us and our important mission! ■



Former Volunteer Leaves Legacy Gift

We recently received news of a generous legacy gift to MOM following the 2020 passing of Mary Carlson, a registered nurse who volunteered with us in registration shortly after our first two clinics opened.



Legacy gifts create additional financial resources for MOM’s long-term needs and offer lasting economic stability, despite economic conditions. Through a charitable provision in a will, trust or gift annuity contract, or by designation of a future gift of insurance or retirement assets, legacy gifts to MOM ensure the continued vitality and growth of our mission.

For more information about legacy giving, contact Paula Carvalho at pcarvalho@amissionofmercy.org or 602.861.2233. ■

In Memoriam

Earlier this year, we lost two long-time volunteers who dedicated many years of service to MOM.

Helen Davis was integral in the planning and launch of our very first clinic sites. As a founding registered nurse, she loyally volunteered for us for more than two decades, and her compassion for the patients she served was evident in all that she did.



Shelby Carl was a dedicated member of the Avondale Baptist Church, and served faithfully at our clinic there since its opening in 2010 until he could no longer do so in 2018. As a registration volunteer, he was one of the first smiles our patients received.

Focus on Volunteers



- > 80 active volunteers in 2021
- > 15 physicians
- > 25 nurses
- > 17 interpreters
- > 9 fundraising/administrative
- > 15 various clinic roles

Between January and May, volunteers contributed 3,783 hours valued at \$137,867!

Continuing to Serve Our Community During the Pandemic

Statistics represent MOM’s impact from April 2020 to March 2021



Volunteer Survey Responses



93% of volunteers would recommend MOM as a great place to volunteer

“Mission of Mercy goes the extra mile always in order to provide the best care and treatment for our patients.”



98% of volunteers find their time at MOM to be enriching

“Mission of Mercy is an incredible support for people without medical insurance and low income that makes them feel that they are not alone in the care of their health.”



Average volunteer age is 72

“MOM does a good job serving our patients and showing them kindness, patience, and understanding. Also, seeing the face of God in each person.”