

MERCY

Perspectives



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Thank you!

As 2019 winds down, it is time to reflect on our 25th Anniversary! What an amazing journey it has been for our patients, board, staff, volunteers, donors and for all of those who support our mission to “restore dignity and healing through Love.”

Since our inception in 1994, more than 44,000 medical and dental patients have been served at no cost, during over 224,000 visits. Also, more than 411,000 prescription medications have been dispensed. This has been accomplished through your support!

While interacting with patients at our clinic sites I often wonder, “What would these men and women do without Mission of Mercy?”

More than 75 percent of our patients suffer from chronic health issues such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, etc., and/or oral health issues. Many are working two and three jobs and they are not offered insurance, or they are unable to afford their copays or deductibles. When individuals do not seek healthcare or dental care, their health care issues become severe and sometimes life threatening.

Consider this:

- The U.S. Census Bureau reported that 28.5 million people did not have health insurance in 2017. A study done by Harvard Medical School with Cambridge Health Alliance, showed

that “nearly 45,000 annual deaths are associated with a lack of patient health insurance.” The study also found that uninsured, working Americans have an approximately 40 percent higher mortality risk compared to privately insured working Americans.

- A 2009 study in five states found that medical debt contributed to 46.2 percent of all personal bankruptcies.
- A 2013 study found that about 25 percent of all senior citizens declare bankruptcy due to medical expenses.

We at Mission of Mercy believe that we are not only “restoring our patients’ dignity and healing through Love, we are also helping to save their lives!

Thank you for partnering with us. You are truly healing the sick and the suffering and providing hope and a healthier life for them.

God bless you! We appreciate you.

Gratefully,

Linda M. Ryan, M.S.
Executive Director

Who We Are

In addition to our scores of volunteers at all our clinic sites, Mission of Mercy has a few staff members who provide professional medical, dental, fundraising and administrative services to help our patients and ensure that we keep the organization running smoothly.



Pictured left to right: Maureen Liddle, Nursing Director; Dr. Michael Sullivan, Chief Medical Director; and Barb Rebele, Physician's Assistant.

Our Medical Team

Lead by our core medical staff pictured above, Mission of Mercy enjoys the professional services of more than 220 volunteers across our service areas. Many of our physicians, dentists and nurses have retired after long careers in the health services field or decided to leave their prior positions to work with us. We are grateful for their expertise, dedication and compassion.

"I have lupus and am a single mother, so money is tight. With Mission of Mercy I am able to get my medications."

Our Dental Professionals

With our new dedicated mobile dental unit, our dental director, volunteer dentists, dental assistants and dental coordinator are now seeing double the number of patients than we have in the past. These professionals play a critical role in our commitment to comprehensive care by making referrals to our medical team when they see patients who show signs of other health conditions.

"I first came here with a swollen jaw and toothache. The dentist abstracted my tooth and put me on an antibiotic. I felt so much better. Mission of Mercy discovered I had high blood pressure. They put me on medication for that and that is now under care."



Dental staff pictured left to right: Bill Orndorff, equipment manager; Dr. Roslyn Kellum, dental director; Errol Kellum, dental coordinator; Todd Orndorff, equipment manager.



Our Administrative Team

Working behind the scenes, our administrative team members fulfill the critical responsibilities of fundraising, communication, advocacy and community engagement. They organize our numerous special events throughout the year, oversee grant proposals and handle our publicity. Simply put, the organization would grind to a halt without them.

Pictured left to right: Rachel Smith, Administrative Assistant; Julie Wohlfarth, Development Assistant; Jennifer White, Director of Development; and Linda Ryan, Executive Director.

What We Do

At Mission of Mercy, our patients are people: people who are suffering, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our goal is to help them retain their dignity while they seek the free help they desperately need to feel better.

Thanks to your generosity, during the 12-month period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, you helped us provide:



6,644

FREE PRESCRIPTIONS



6,937

MEDICAL PATIENT VISITS



4,734

DENTAL PROCEDURES



6

CHURCH PARTNERS

Faith Baptist Church, Knoxville, MD
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Frederick, MD
Gettysburg Foursquare Church, Gettysburg, PA
Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church, Harrisburg, PA
Reisterstown United Methodist Church, Reisterstown, MD
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taneytown, MD



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HOSPITAL PARTNERS

Carroll Hospital
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Gettysburg Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Pinnacle Hospital
St. Agnes Hospital

\$981,945

VALUE OF OUR
DONATED SERVICES

In their own words...



During the 12 months from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, Mission of Mercy had nearly 7,000 patient visits to its medical and dental clinics in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Here, in their own heartfelt words, are what your support of Mission of Mercy means to them:

“Mission of Mercy has been a blessing in my time of need, I probably would not be alive today if not for Mission of Mercy.”

“Mission of Mercy staff are a great group of individuals. They are very helpful and they listen to whatever is going on in your situation. From a 1-10 rating, I give them a 10. They go above and beyond to help. I would recommend anyone to come here. As a matter of fact, I referred my cousin. He needed a tooth pulled and was very pleased.”

“Mission of Mercy was the first place to treat me like a person in a long time. I look forward to my appointments because I always leave with a renewed sense of faith and a more positive outlook.”

“This is the only place that has treated me like a person who matters. They show me kindness and respect. I'd be lost without them.”

“Because of our current financial situation, we are not able to pay monthly for health insurance as I work and make \$9.00 an hour for less than 20 hours per week. I have another job too, but it is only 20-30 hrs. a month. My husband is on Social Security as he is older than me. Mission of Mercy is a Godsend for me. Thank you all!”



Why I Volunteer



Lynn Kaiser

In 1997, I learned how quickly life can change, and how life-saving health insurance can be. That was the year I noticed a lump in my groin and within a week was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Over six months, I had three (minor) surgeries, six courses of chemotherapy and four weeks of radiation. Fortunately for me, we had excellent health insurance. During one chemo session, I asked my oncologist

what he could have done for me if I did not have insurance, and his answer was both noncommittal and discouraging, with only vague references to exploring other possibilities.

Over the next 22 years, seven cancer recurrences, more chemo, radiation, and surgeries, a bone marrow transplant, new treatment with mono-clonal antibodies, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills followed. As I tried to remain hopeful even though I was often very sick and weak, I once told my daughters to remember that, "A good day is one where you don't throw up." Later, it would become our tongue-in-cheek mantra. As of now, I have been in remission for 11 years, though I am still regularly scanned and treated for blood conditions caused by my intense treatments and for bowel issues caused by radiation.

I write this not to ask for your sympathy but to explain why I have been a dedicated supporter of free clinics for the last two decades. Simply put, without health insurance, I would be at least bankrupt and probably dead. And yet millions of people in this country are not adequately covered. What is supposed to happen to them?

Faced with this question, upon retirement I began volunteering first at a free clinic in Kansas City, MO and later, at a clinic in Hudson, WI. Even before volunteering my time, one Christmas when chemo left me too weak to shop, I made a sizeable gift in the name of all my relatives to a national hospital providing free care for children with cancer. I did this because I could not imagine facing the devastating trauma of cancer, or any other serious health condition, without the hope-giving knowledge that you can put up a fight and beat back the fear.

I have now been a volunteer with Mission of Mercy for four years, assisting with the writing of grant applications. Not being a healthcare provider, it is the best I can do in helping to give people without health insurance the hope that I still had even in the darkest of my cancer days. And because the volunteers at Mission of Mercy give not only their time but the love, acceptance, and dignity that all patients need when they are at their lowest, my work here gives back to me the certainty that what we are doing matters. What more could a volunteer (and survivor) want?



HAVE YOU HEARD?

We Have a New Home in Frederick

As of July, our medical and dental units are now being hosted by the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** at 199 North Place, Frederick, MD 21701. We appreciate the congregation's hospitality and partnership.

We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Frederick Church of the Brethren, our host site for 25 years. The congregation was one of our very first partners and over the years, they were incredibly generous to our patients, our volunteers and staff. From opening up their building to us to providing bag lunches during our clinic visits, they demonstrated time and time again how they put their faith into action. We are eternally grateful.



How You Can Help

As we move forward into our next 25 years of service, we would like to remind you that there are many ways in which you can make a gift to Mission of Mercy. We appreciate your on-going generosity and your desire to help those who desperately need to have their health and their dignity restored through Love.

Examples of How You Can Give –

- \$100 provides steroid injections for a patient with arthritis
- \$500 provides treatment for four dental patients (average of six procedures each)
- \$1,250 provides 25 patients visits per month for one year (physician visit, labs, x-rays and medications).

Tribute Donations – Gifts “In Honor Of” or “In Memory Of” honors or remembers someone special in support of Mission of Mercy. In addition to your tax-deductible gift, we also mail a card in your name notifying the honoree or the family.

Matching Gifts – Many employers match their employee’s contributions to charities like Mission of Mercy, which is a great way to double your impact. If your employer participates in a matching gifts program, we’re happy to help with the necessary paperwork and submit the request. Please contact Jennifer White at 301-682-5683 x204 for more information.

Stock/Securities Gifts – You can make a donation of stock or marketable securities. Instruct your broker to send securities to “DTC 0141 (First Clearing / Wells Fargo Advisors) for Mission of Mercy Acct# 8515-0972. Please contact Jennifer White by phone or email to let us know that you will be making a gift of securities: jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org or 301-682-5683 x204.

Donate A Car – You can donate a car that you don’t use or want anymore for an easy tax deduction! The car can be in any condition and pick up is provided. Call 1-855-500-RIDE (7433).

Workplace Giving Campaigns – Participate in United Way, Community Health Charities or America’s Charities campaigns by pledging a pre-tax contribution through payroll deduction.

- Maryland State Employees – Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) 860704883
- Federal Employees – All Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC) 64562
- Many campaigns will allow you to write-in the charity name, in this case, write Mission of Mercy, Inc., 22 S. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701, Tax ID 86-0704883

Gift Planning – Consult your tax advisor to determine the best way to include Mission of Mercy in your charitable giving plans. Did you know that if you are over the age of 59 ½ and able to withdraw from your traditional IRA or other tax-favored retirement plans, you may be able to make a gift without paying an early withdrawal penalty. Those over 70½ may consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution that enables you to make gifts directly from traditional or Roth IRAs to qualified charities in a total amount up to \$100,000 without incurring federal income tax.

WE ARE SO grateful!

Mission of Mercy held its annual Gala on Friday, Oct. 4 at Springfield Manor in Frederick. Our thanks to all our generous sponsors who helped make this evening possible. The event raised more than \$100,000 to support our work in Maryland and Pennsylvania!

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to the organizations and foundations that supported Mission of Mercy in FY20 with grants:

Delta Dental Care Foundation
Elder Services Provider Council
Frederick County Partnership Grant
Laughlin Family Foundation
McCormick Family Foundation
Qlarant Foundation
The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle
The Community Foundation of Frederick County
The George L. Shields Foundation
The Kahlert Foundation
The Marian and George Creel Family Fund
The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick Co.
United Concordia
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of Frederick County
William Cross Foundation

2019 Gala Sponsors

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Marian and James Sutton
Marlene and Michael Young
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Turning Point Financial



The September issue of Frederick magazine featured a story about Mission of Mercy's 25 years of work in Frederick County. Accompanied by both new and archival photos, the article highlighted the history of M.O.M. and the role its partner churches and health care providers (such as Frederick Memorial Hospital), have played in helping reduce health care costs while serving those most in need of healing and dignity through LOVE.

IN THE NEWS



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VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We are in need of volunteers to assist us at our clinic sites one to two days a month. Can you help us? Can you help us spread the word?

- Dentists: Taneytown, Gettysburg and Harrisburg
- Dental Assistants: Brunswick, Taneytown, Reisterstown and Harrisburg
- Dental Registration: Frederick, Brunswick, Reisterstown and Harrisburg
- Interpreters: (Spanish, French, Arabic, Nigerian) Reisterstown and Harrisburg
- Physical Therapists: Brunswick, Taneytown, Reisterstown and Harrisburg
- Medical Registration: Gettysburg
- Diabetic Educators: Brunswick, Taneytown, Reisterstown, Gettysburg and Harrisburg
- Specialists: Oral surgeons, neurologists, cardiologists, podiatrists for all of our service areas. We would appreciate it if specialists would accept one to two patient referrals per year in their private offices.

If you're interested in volunteering, please call Julie Wohlfarth at 301-682-5683 x207 or email her at jwohlfarth@amissionofmercy.org. If you'd like more information, please consider joining us for a tour to learn more about our mission and program. Julie will assist you with arrangements.

Giving Opportunities

Please set a reminder on your phone for **Giving Tuesday, on Dec. 3, 2019**. This global day of giving is fueled by the



power of social media and collaboration. This is an easy way to make your end-of-year gift while also lowering our fundraising costs. You can support Mission of Mercy easily by simply going to our website, www.amissionofmercy.org, and clicking the "Donate" button. Thank you!

We are excited to share that the Ausherman Family



Ausherman
Family Foundation

Foundation has awarded Mission of Mercy a \$20,000 matching grant. This means your \$25 gift is matched by the Foundation to become \$50. Please help us maximize our gifts by taking advantage of this grant during this holiday season!