

MERCY Perspectives

FALL 2020



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Courage Amid the Crises

Many speak about courage like Nelson Mandela who said, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." Through this pandemic we at Mission of Mercy have experienced "courage in action." Despite the challenges and uncertainties that the pandemic has brought to our lives, Mission of Mercy's "heroes" – our medical and dental staff and volunteers have continued to serve courageously on the frontlines providing comfort and care for patients who are sick and suffering from chronic conditions and who are uninsured or underinsured.

Through both in-person visits and a hybrid telemedical/teledentistry model, our patients have received their lifesaving medical and dental treatments and medications. As we continue to fully utilize our church sites, we are increasing the number of patients served. This is crucial as so many are newly unemployed and without health insurance. Yet their chronic medical and dental issues are ever prevalent.

Since our inception we have remarkably served over 46,000 medical and dental patients during over 230,950 patient visits and we have dispensed over 400,000 medications – all at no cost to our patients.

This has been accomplished through our courageous "frontline heroes" and your support. Together we are living our mission to restore *dignity and healing through Love* to those who are sick and suffering.

May God bless you!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda M. Ryan".

Linda M. Ryan
Executive Director

Despite the pandemic and all its associated challenges, during 2020 Mission of Mercy has:

- Served 2,265 medical and dental patients
- Conducted over 6,600 patient visits
- Dispensed more than 8,600 medications

Our Medical Team

We ran out of space in our last issue to introduce all of our Medical team members who work alongside our Medical Director Dr. Michael Sullivan to provide thorough diagnostic and follow-up care to our patients. So here's the rest of the line-up:



Michael Flessner, M.D.

Dr. Flessner attended medical school at the University of Maryland and later trained at the University of Virginia Medical School. He had a robust career in teaching, clinical care and research at numerous institutions, including the University of Rochester, the University

of Mississippi, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the National Institutes of Health. Throughout his career, he has volunteered at free clinics like Mission of Mercy. "I am truly inspired by every Mission of Mercy clinic that I attend," he says.



Anne Murray, M.D.

A graduate of Vassar College and Columbia University Medical School, Dr. Murray performed two years of training in Internal Medicine at Bellevue Hospital before completing her Internal Medicine training at Yale Medical Center. She also completed a

fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology. She retired in 2012 after a 35-year career as a physician in the Veterans Administration, where she directed Primary Care and Internal Medicine. "I very much enjoy practicing medicine and even went so far as to get a Pennsylvania medical license so I could expand my clinical efforts with Mission of Mercy," she says.



Tapendu K. Basu, M.D.

Dr. Basu is a nephrologist who has practiced in Illinois and more recently in Maryland. A member of the Rotary Club of Baltimore, he enjoys his volunteer activity at Mission of Mercy, which he says is "a well-organized, well-run clinic that is dedicated to serving the

disadvantaged in need of caring medical care."



Wayne Allgaier, M.D.

Dr. Allgaier has been a regular volunteer for Mission of Mercy for many years. He attended medical school at George Washington University and performed his internship at the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. He eventually opened a solo practice in family medicine in

Brunswick, MD in 1974. He retired in 2008 and since then, he and his wife have served on four two-year missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He began volunteering for Mission of Mercy when he felt a need to contribute to the underprivileged in his community. "It has been a real pleasure to work with the staff there, especially the nurses and Dr. Sullivan. I often think I would like to be like Dr. Sullivan when I grow up. He is a remarkable man," Dr. Allgaier says.

MEDICAL CLINICIANS

Ohenewaa Ahima
John Alexander
Wayne Allgaier
Tapendu Basu
Everett Bayliss

Rick Davis
Ellen Farrell
Joe Ferguson
Michael Flessner
Robert Hopkins

Melissa LePlatt
Marcia McCarty
Ethelann Murray
Kathleen O'Farrell
Adedoyin Olufuwa

Barbara Rebele
Gary Schwartz
Michael Sullivan

Our Nurses

It is hard to find the space and words to express the appreciation Mission of Mercy holds for its volunteer nurses. They embody the “healing through Love” that is at the core of the work we do. Here are a few more of our nursing superstars.



Dean Baldwin, RN

“I have been volunteering for almost 20 years now. I became a registered nurse at 52 and although I did work professionally as a nurse, I know the real reason God

had me obtain my degree was to volunteer here. There are nurses who work in places like trauma centers and in ICUs. But I realize the skills I bring to MOM are quite different. Taking vitals, testing blood sugars, testing hemoglobin when necessary—these are simple skills. But what I do that I feel is most important is I look into the eyes of our people and just listen to them. This is REAL nursing.”



Katie Scofield, RN

“I volunteered for Mission of Mercy because I hoped in some small way, I could help relieve the stress of illness for those folks who have barriers to adequate health

care. My wish is to provide a welcoming and caring environment for everyone who needs medical management of acute and chronic health conditions. Mission of Mercy helps people take steps towards health and wellness. I hope my small part helps our patients make healthy decisions, follow their prescribed health care plans and live their lives at their maximum level of wellness.”

Eileen Hickey, RN

“My work as a volunteer for Mission of Mercy derives from my belief in the wisdom of universal access to primary health care. I became an RN at the age of 51 and my work as a community health nurse gave me direct witness to the old adage ‘An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.’ Mission of Mercy enables those who are uninsured or underinsured to have access to health care that they otherwise would not have. Volunteering for this worthy organization is a privilege and enables us to serve others and ‘do the good work.’”

Lorna Owens, RN

“I had heard a lot about this mobile clinic that visits Harrisburg, PA, but I never really paid much attention to it. I first learned about Mission of Mercy at the Walk for a Healthy Community in Harrisburg. About eight years ago, I needed to do something to take my mind off being a caregiver for my husband who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. It was tough being a caregiver, and volunteering at the clinic provided me with support, encouragement and a shoulder to cry on even for only a few hours when I needed it most. Caring for other people made me realize that I was not alone in what I was going through. I thank Mission of Mercy for that.”

NURSES

Ann Amrhein
Dean Baldwin
Priscilla Bernola
Laurie Boyer
Gabriela Brantmier
Rebecca Buffington
Beth Callahan
Kathleen Carlin
Marianne Caruso
Joan Condon
Jan Ferguson
Sally Fisher
Reneé Flaherty
Rose Marie France
Marti Garner
Ellen Hampton
Peggy Heffner
Mary Heibel
Eileen Hickey
Joyce Iglehart
Bonnie Isenberger
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Kathryn Moore
Mary Neglia
Frances Nocera
Sharon O'Connor
Lorna Owens
Mary Perrelli
Kate Plaut
Evelyn Robinson
Christina Rosenfeld
Katie Scofield
Jane Slacter
Marian Sutton
Carol Thomas
Dianna Tootill
Lisa Welsh

Our Dental Team

In our Spring edition of Mercy Perspectives, we touted our Dental Team and some volunteers, but space would not allow us to give them all credit in one issue, so here are some of our other wonderful staff and volunteers.

DENTISTS

Thomas Llewellyn
Walter Maust
Roslyn Kellum
Douglas Tavenner
Philip Uffer
Robert Vandre
William Wearing



E. William Waring, Jr., DDS

After 41 years of general practice in New Oxford, PA, Dr. Waring sold his practice but has found that Mission of Mercy is an excellent opportunity for him to

meet new people and continue his volunteer work, which also includes leading a medical-dental team to Honduras to try to address the overwhelming healthcare needs of its residents. "I thoroughly enjoy dentistry and feel privileged to be able to serve in this capacity," he says. "Mission of Mercy is another avenue to care for each other and I am grateful to be a part of this mission."

Dr. Walter Maust, Jr., DDS



A graduate of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Maust spent two years in the active duty Naval Reserve then returned to his hometown of Hanover, PA where he operated a general

dentistry practice for 41 years. After retirement in 2010, Dr. Maust first began volunteering—and is now running—the dental program for the Head Start Program in Gettysburg. He has also been involved with Rotary for 50 years. "Volunteering is one way of serving others that brings satisfaction to both the giver and the recipient," he says.



Errol Kellum, Dental Coordinator

Errol Kellum is a proud Vietnam veteran who served as a radar man on the USS Intrepid. After his time in service, Errol transitioned

to a new career as a dental practice manager and radiology technician. He attended the University of Maryland College Park where he majored in business management. Today, he brings his wealth of knowledge and experience in onsite mobile dentistry to his role as the dental coordinator and radiologist technician for the Mission of Mercy mobile dental clinic. He and his wife, Dr. Roslyn Kellum, Mission of Mercy's dental director, are the proud parents of Maya, who is a registered nurse and a Mission of Mercy volunteer diabetic educator.

Martha DeBarthe, Dental Registrar

"I was officially retiring in August 2018 from my part-time job as an administrative assistant when I heard about an opportunity to volunteer with Mission of Mercy. I had no previous knowledge of it, or its mission, until then. Since many of my neighbors were already volunteers for MOM, I learned of the impact it has on its clientele and subsequently inquired how I could be part of it. Becoming the dental registrar for Taneytown was a good fit for me with my administrative skills and for being part of the mission of service in my community. I enjoy interacting with the medical staff and all the clientele we serve."

**JoAnn Hare, Dental Registrar**

JoAnn is an active retiree who volunteers for numerous organizations but serving as a dental registrar for Mission of Mercy brings her particular satisfaction. “One

of the unique aspects I love about Mission of Mercy is that money or insurance does not determine who gets help. I don’t have to ask intrusive questions about income, medical history or employment. Registration gives me the chance to be kind, fair and do something truly worthwhile with my day,” she says. JoAnn marvels at the patients who live with pain and fear yet get out of bed in the morning to wait hours for dental services. “Every time we hold clinic, I’m reminded that no one gets to choose if they are born to a poor or wealthy family.”

**Todd Orndorff, Dental Equipment Manager**

Following careers in masonry and with the U.S. Postal Service, Todd Orndorff continued to assist his wife Chris with her mother’s guest

cottage business, Brierfield Guest Cottages which sit on 17 acres just outside of Gettysburg. During their time working there, Todd and Chris have made many friends who love their eight chickens, two turkeys and their dogs. Todd began volunteering for Mission of Mercy in 2018 when he answered a request in the church bulletin to help out while an employee recovered. This temporary position developed into a part-time position as a dental equipment manager. He also volunteers with the medical unit when needed. “Every day I feel blessed that God brought me to Mission of Mercy,” Todd says. “The gratitude I see in our patients, and the giving of all the volunteers, makes this job so fulfilling.”

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Kathleen Carlin
Hailee Hollabaugh
Melanie Hoyt
Errol Kellum
Indira Rai
Gianna Sullivan
Divija Takkalapelly
Joanne Tavenner
Kevin Xu

DENTAL REGISTRATION

Mary Frances Balch
Martha DeBarthe
JoAnn Hare
Pat Koziski
Michael Koziski
Robert Rittler
Kathleen Rittler
Rocki Thompson

Our Dynamic Duos:

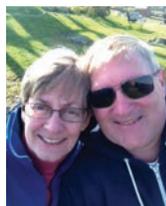
Couples who Volunteer Together at Mission of Mercy

**Ed and Ruth Edder**

The Edders have been faithful volunteers at numerous Mission of Mercy clinic sites for more than 10 years.

Ruth is a patient

advocate who helps patients who qualify receive their non-generic medications and also serves as the site coordinator for the Taneytown clinic. Ed assists with patient information data entry and supports Ruth’s work as site coordinator. “We enjoy helping the patients and Mission of Mercy staff. We have made many new and wonderful friendships. Most of all, we feel we are helping our Lord by doing what He asks us to do—care for His children.”

**Pat and Mike Koziski**

The Koziski’s have been volunteering with Mission of Mercy by assisting with dental registration. As former residents

of Alexandria, VA for more than 30 years, they were interested in finding volunteer opportunities in their new community of Gettysburg, PA after retiring from their careers in nursing and federal government work. “We consider ourselves lucky to have found Mission of Mercy and all the wonderful and caring people associated with it.”

**David and Karen Keller**

The Kellers have been Mission of Mercy volunteers for three years. David drives the mobile medical and dental vehicles

and ensures that the mobile medical unit is set up for patient visits. He and Karen perform data entry of patient information and are the first smiling faces patients encounter when entering the medical unit. “We are proud to be a part of Mission of Mercy. It is amazing to observe how the organization continues to prosper. We also enjoy the fellowship we have developed with other volunteers, staff and the patients.”

The Season of Giving:

How You Can Help Mission of Mercy

During these especially difficult times, please note these special ways that you can support the life-saving work of Mission of Mercy:

Adams County Giving Spree

Please support Mission of Mercy and its Gettysburg clinic through the Adams County Giving Spree on Thursday, Nov. 5 during the Annual Day of Giving in Gettysburg, PA. Mission of Mercy receives 100 percent of all donations designated to us.

There are three ways to give this year:

1. Mail your gift with a completed donation form (available at www.AACFGivingSpree.org) directly to the Adams County Foundation. Checks must be received by Nov. 5 and made payable to the Adams County Community Foundation. Make sure you check the box on the donation form for Mission of Mercy.
2. Give online at the Adams County Foundation site, www.AACFGivingSpree.org, on Nov. 5 between 12:01 am and 12 midnight.
3. Hand-deliver your gift and the required form on Nov. 5 to the Gettysburg Area High School parking lot between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

#GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Dec. 1 for #Giving Tuesday, a day of giving and generosity across the globe. Join millions of donors on this special one-day movement and make a tangible impact on your community by supporting Mission of Mercy's medical and dental clinics in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Give online at www.aMissionofMercy.org/Donate or text HOPE to 80888. Gifts can also be mailed to Mission of Mercy, 22 S. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701 or email Jennifer White at jwhite@amissionofmercy.org.

Bill Traube, KOC, collects scrap metal to support Mission of Mercy and other local charities.



Mark Chester, Pastor of Gettysburg Foursquare Church, with Mission of Mercy Staff during our Dental Clinic Open House.

Karen McNitt, Exalted Ruler, Frederick Elks Lodge 684 presents donation to Mission of Mercy



On behalf of Mission of Mercy patients and the volunteers who work so hard to care for them, THANK YOU. We appreciate your past support and your help again during this especially challenging year!

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous 20th Annual Mission of Mercy (Virtual) Gala Sponsors

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Glade United Church of Christ
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LifePoint Church
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Reisterstown United Methodist Church
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Rotary Club of Frederick
Rotary Club of Littlestown

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St. James Lutheran
St. James the Apostle Orthodox Church
St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. Mary's Church Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St. Peter's Catholic Church
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Taneytown Lions Club
Taylorsville United Methodist Women
The Lions Club of Frederick, Inc.
The Woman's Club of Glyndon
Thurmont United Methodist
Tom's Creek United Methodist Church
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
Trinity United Methodist Church
Union Bridge Lions Club
Women's Fellowship and Service Guild
Wonders Found Thrift Shop



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But Don't Take Our Word for It...

During our clinics, we occasionally conduct short surveys with patients who are willing to share with us what Mission of Mercy means to them and how we are impacting their lives. Here's a small sampling of what they said:

“ I have experienced health improvement without a dent in my wallet. The care I receive is exceptional. Thanks to all who make this possible to the uninsured like me. ”

“ After a devastating accident, bankruptcy and heart surgery, Mission of Mercy was my only resource for healthcare. They saved me and have continued on my behalf since 2011. Many thanks. ”

“ Since coming to Mission of Mercy, I've learned so much about my health and healing. The nurses and doctors are gentle, patient and explain everything to you. Much needed. Thank you kindly to all involved. ”

“ Since coming here I've been without insurance more than I've had it; been homeless; and now disabled. There is just no way I could have afforded all my meds and services without your kind care and assistance. ”

These heartfelt comments confirm that our volunteers and staff truly are living our mission to restore dignity and healing through Love. To all of you—our volunteers, staff, donors and especially our patients, thank you again!