



Mercy Perspectives

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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, Reisterstown, Taneytown, 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.

Hope Springs Eternal at Mission of Mercy

As we welcome the arrival of spring and all the hope and rebirth that comes with the season, Mission of Mercy also celebrates with hope and thanksgiving our ability to continue to provide much needed medical care to the uninsured and underinsured members of our community.

We are pleased to report that the restructured clinic schedule we announced last fall has enabled us to continue to serve our patients with minimal disruption. By shifting some of our smaller clinics to our larger sites and relocating to larger facilities, we have been able to maximize our resources and expand the number of patients we see.

"The decision to eliminate our Thurmont and Mt. Airy sites was not made lightly," says David Liddle, Mission of Mercy's executive director. "But given the economic realities we are facing, we believe the decision presents us with the best opportunity to serve the majority of our patients with the least amount of inconvenience." Liddle says patients are reporting that thanks to the geographic proximity of many clinic sites, they are not facing significant transportation hurdles that would prevent them from getting the care they need.

"We will continue to evaluate our clinic schedules to ensure that we provide the same level of care that we have always given our patients, while also demonstrating to our generous donors that we are good stewards of the resources shared with us," Liddle says.



Community Rallies to Save M.O.M.'s Dental Clinics

Just when it looked as if funding shortages would force the closure of Mission of Mercy's dental clinics in Maryland and Pennsylvania, scores of generous businesses and individuals stepped up to provide an 11th hour rescue of the program. Thanks to their generosity, we have received enough funding to keep our dental programs operating through the end of 2010 and into the first part of 2011. Once again we find ourselves humbled and blessed by the incredible generosity of our friends and supporters. Thank you.

Volunteer Profile: Michael Dean

It didn't take Michael Dean long to become a dedicated volunteer for Mission of Mercy. In fact, it took just over an hour.

Two years ago, he attended a Coffee with Mom tour at the Frederick clinic site. During the tour, he recalls seeing clinic volunteers completely overwhelmed by the number of patients who needed help, especially in the prenatal clinic where 50 women were scheduled, and another 50 were on the waiting list. So after his tour was over, he jumped right in and started making copies. He's been involved ever since.



Michael Dean and J. Ferguson

"I was hooked immediately," he says. "I completely fell in love with the place."

Although his first volunteer effort focused on administrative tasks, Michael quickly realized he could contribute in other ways. Having spent six months studying in Mexico, he knew he could call upon his Spanish-speaking skills – however rusty they were -- to help patients communicate with the medical staff.

"I never really became fluent with Spanish so I had to work really hard to bring it back," he recalls. But as a researcher at the National Cancer Institute, Michael has found that honing his Spanish at Mission of Mercy has proven to be invaluable to him in other ways as well. During mission trips to Guatemala with his church, Michael has become connected with the country's Children's Cancer Hospital and he has become inspired to find ways to get the Latino community involved in

clinical trials and studies, where he says "they are an under-served community."

Michael currently volunteers two days a month at the Frederick clinic, using vacation days as well as allotted sabbatical time to work it into his schedule. "We are allowed to take sabbaticals, but I've never done so. So I said to my boss, 'I can leave for a year or I can spend a day or two each month helping out in the community.' He said he couldn't afford to have me leave for year, so this works for both of us."

And it works for the Mission of Mercy patients who rely on Michael and all the clinic volunteers to get the medical care they need. "We all work together to make the mission work, because as wonderful a medical director as Dr. Sullivan is, if he can't communicate with his patients he can't help them," Michael says. "It is amazing to be part of a family of people who have wonderful hearts and a genuine desire to give back. I really wish every American could spend a day in this place and see what one person with a vision can accomplish – without government help."

Despite the non-stop pace of an eight-hour day at the clinic, Michael says he leaves feeling exhilarated. "Even though my day starts early and we work non-stop, I feel refreshed," he says. It is a reflection of the bi-directional flow of God's love to which Mission of Mercy Foundress Gianna Talone-Sullivan often refers. "We go there to help people, but they all bless us and pray for us," Michael says. "I get way more out of it than I give."

Michael Dean says Mission of Mercy's work, especially with pregnant women, offers a modern take on an age-old story.

“How many times have we sat in church and listened to the story of Mary, a pregnant woman traveling through a strange land with no one to help her,” Dean recalls. “How strange that 2000 years later, in the richest country in the world, the story is often the same for many of our patients.”

David Liddle Assumes Role of Executive Director of Mission of Mercy's Programs in Maryland and Pennsylvania

After almost four years as Mission of Mercy's executive director, Linda Ryan resigned her position effective Dec. 31, 2009. David Liddle, who served as MOM's first executive director before assuming the role of director of expansion and chief financial officer in 2006, will once again assume the organization's leadership duties while also continuing his work as CFO.



Linda Ryan

involved," Ryan says. "But the demands of caring for my 89-year-old father made it increasingly more difficult for me to meet the demands of the executive director position."

Ryan is one of Mission of Mercy's founding board members and had served several terms as president

Ryan will continue to serve on Mission of Mercy's Carroll County Leadership Council but felt it necessary to resign from the demands of the executive director position so she would have more time to devote to the needs of her family. "I really have a great love for the organization and still want to be



David Liddle

expertise, which includes financial advising and consulting experience with profit and non-profit clients, to continue Ryan's work as Mission of Mercy moves forward. "Linda did a wonderful job of increasing public awareness of Mission of Mercy," he says. "It is my job to make sure we continue the good work she started."

of the board of directors. "Linda has been an integral part of this organization since our founding," says Liddle. "Without her, Mission of Mercy would not have obtained the initial funding necessary to get our mobile medical clinic out on the road. She will be missed greatly not only by our staff, but by the many volunteers and supporters she has touched over the years."

Liddle will use his extensive business

We're Online! Are You?

Want to keep up-to-date on the latest news from Mission of Mercy? Have a question or a message of thanks that you would like to share? Maybe you'd like to connect with other Mission of Mercy donors and volunteers.

If so, join our growing family of friends on Facebook and Twitter! Mission of Mercy is using these new social media to keep in touch with our supporters and to encourage them to network with each other so they can share their own messages of inspiration, hope and mercy instantly.

While you're online, don't forget to visit our updated website www.amissionofmercy.com for detailed information on our clinic schedules, special events or

to make a donation. And please make sure we have your current email address on file. We are increasing our use of electronic forms of communication rather than traditional printed mailings as a way to communicate more frequently, but less expensively, with our friends and supporters.

We look forward to connecting with you in cyberspace.



@missionofmercy

Events

A Day of Celebration for Mission of Mercy

January 27th was a day of celebration for Mission of Mercy as we gathered in two counties to celebrate collaborations and historical partnerships!

The Church of the Ascension in Westminster served as host to a morning reception honoring the historical partnership between M.O.M and the Human Services Programs of Carroll County and St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Taneytown. Both entities were crucial in the establishment of medical and dental services for the needy in Carroll County. Guests at the event were also introduced to the new clinic site and given tours.



Linda Ryan and Angela Biggus present the artwork to the crowd.



Dave Liddle, Executive Director, speaks to guests at the Westminster ceremony.

That same evening a wine and cheese reception was held at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center in Frederick to celebrate an artistic rendering of M.O.M's work by local artist Angela Biggus. The evening was sponsored by Mike and Marlene Young with refreshments provided by Debbie Williams of the Patty Pollatos Fund. It was truly a day of hope and celebration!

BB&T Brightens the Holidays for Mission of Mercy's Families

For the eighth consecutive year, the generous employees and customers of Frederick County BB&T branches stepped up to donate toys for several hundred families during the holiday season. The toys were distributed to patients who were waiting at M.O.M's clinics to receive free medical services administered by Mission of Mercy. "These families don't have money for health and dental care, so they

probably don't have money for toys for their children, either," said Gwen Hartman, branch manager of the Route 40 BB&T. Mission of Mercy is grateful for the generosity of BB&T's staff and customers who were able to make Christmas merrier for our patients during these tough economic times and we commend BB&T for its efforts to make our community a better place.

News from Mission of Mercy's Arizona & Texas programs

Arizona

Blessed by Grace & Love of Supporters

Nearly 400 people attended M.O.M.'s 3rd Annual Community Awareness Breakfast. Themed "Weaving a Tapestry of Grace," the event was held at the beautiful Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort where attendees gathered to listen to stories of healing and hope by clinic volunteers, including Dixie Melby and Tomas Abrate.



Tomas Abrate and Dixie Melby

At age 90, Dixie is one of our most 'seasoned' volunteers, a woman of tremendous compassion and love for our patients. Tomas, a mature young man of 17, shared how he came to M.O.M. looking to fulfill some community service hours for school and instead found himself inspired to pursue a future career in medicine.

Catherine Amiot, M.O.M.-AZ executive director, invited attendees to join Mission of Mercy in its dream to create a compassionate community of health and wholeness. "Your support is directly transforming the lives of people just like us who desperately need to experience the miracle of God's grace," said Amiot. "Together we are God's hand-chosen threads in our community's beautiful tapestry of grace."

Larry Hall, M.O.M.-AZ Leadership Council member, made an exciting announcement about 2010 West Valley expansion plans facilitated by generous lead gifts from Thunderbirds Charities and the Foster and Lynne Friess Family Foundation. In early 2010, the BHHS Legacy Foundation also made a multi-year commitment of support toward this effort which is now in the active planning phase.

These new and returning partners will allow Arizona to purchase a second medical van, a key component to extending its services into the Far West Valley, an area that has the highest number of newly unemployed individuals and home repossessions. M.O.M.-AZ also anticipates adding an additional service day in 2010 and seeing 1,000 more patients during the first full year of this important expansion.

Texas

Charity League, a non-profit organization comprised of 40 women who annually raise funds for charitable projects in the Corpus Christi area, has selected Mission of Mercy Texas as its 2010 grant recipient. The organization's volunteers are helping raise \$175,000 to purchase a new mobile vehicle for the Texas program. Through a huge outpouring in the community, \$193,000 has been raised to date and additional pledges should bring the total to \$200,000.

As part of its fundraising efforts, Charity League sponsored a luncheon and fashion show featuring the creations of New York designer Josie Natori. A crowd of nearly 780 people – the largest charity event in Corpus Christi – attended the event. Themed "La Vida Verde," the luncheon featured beautiful flower arrangements on each table that were made from pages of magazines and crafted into exotic looking flowers.



Mission of Mercy's Texas staff, Patty Clark, Coleen Madigan, MD, and Lynette Navar, RN

Going, Going, Gone!

More than 175 of Mission of Mercy's friends and supporters attended our annual gala and auction at the Turf Valley Country Club in November.

The event raised nearly \$110,000 for Mission of Mercy and our efforts to provide dignity and healing through Love to the scores of uninsured and underinsured members of our communities.

Decked out in their holiday finest, guests were treated to more than 300 fabulous auction items, ranging from beautiful gemstone necklaces courtesy of Pomeroy Jewelers to fabulous vacation getaways to Hawaii, the Outer Banks and Colorado, to name just a few.

Mission of Mercy is grateful for the hours of hard work donated by the event's volunteers, including Nicole Robertson, who chaired the gala, and Fran Rock, the auction chair. We also thank Debbie Lobo for her invaluable contributions as the auction advisor.



Robert Steward, Gianna Talone-Sullivan, Mike Sullivan & Dixie Steward



Miriam & Rebecca Liddle



This Just In: Date Set for 2010 Gala!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Nov. 6 when Mission of Mercy will host its annual gala at the Turf Valley Country Club in Ellicott City. You won't want to miss this fabulous evening of food, entertainment, laughs and poignant stories of mercy and healing through Love.

Please consider sharing your energy, enthusiasm and creativity with the Gala Committee. Volunteers are always needed to help make this event the smashing success it is every year. Please contact Jennifer White at jwhite@amissionofmercy.com for more information on how you can help.



In Gratitude...

Mission of Mercy continues to be blessed by the generosity of corporations and foundations in Maryland and Pennsylvania that have bestowed upon us grants and awards that will enable us to extend our mission to those in need.

Sincere gratitude is offered to the following:

Ausherman Family Foundation
Bechtel Group Foundation
Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier
CVS/Caremark
Davis Library Fund
Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.
G. Frank Thomas Foundation
Glen S. Bair Fund of the Community
Foundation of Carroll County
Highmark Foundation
Joseph D. Baker Fund
Joseph D. Byrd Fund of the Community
Foundation of Frederick County

Marian and George Creel Family Fund
March of Dimes
Patty Pollatos Fund
Quality Health Foundation
Robert C. Hoffman Charitable
Endowment Trust
Rotary Club of Carroll Creek
Safeway Foundation
Tevis Oil, Inc.
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
Wells Foundation
Wertheimer Fellows Award

Donate Your Vehicle to Support Mission of Mercy!

When it's time to donate your old car, truck, trailer, boat or RV, please don't forget Mission of Mercy!

Vehicle donations made to Mission of Mercy are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The IRS allows taxpayers to claim a tax deduction of the value of a vehicle up to \$500 without documentation, or if we sell the vehicle for more than \$500, you will receive a completed IRS tax form 1098-C, with the vehicle's actual value, for your tax purposes.

A specialist handles the details of vehicle transactions, including free pick up, towing and sales. The vehicle does not need to be running, but in most cases, a title is required. To arrange your donation, please contact Jennifer White at 301-682-5683 or jwhite@amissionofmercy.org.





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To receive this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to
jwhite@aMissionofMercy.org

Chase Away those Winter Blues

Make plans for M.O.M.'s Spring and Summer 2010 events

If you've had enough of the white stuff this winter (and who hasn't?!), mark your calendar today for Mission of Mercy's spring and summer events:

5th Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

Saturday, May 22, 2010
City Island, Harrisburg, PA

The 5K walk and one-mile fun run benefit local non-profits, including Mission of Mercy.

For more information and to register, please visit:
www.walkforahealthycommunity.org.

Mission of Mercy Golf Classic

June 21, 2010
River Creek Golf Club
Leesburg, VA

This event is filling up quickly, but a limited number of platinum and foursome sponsorships are still available. Visit

www.amissionofmercy.org/golfclassic for more details.



Coffee with M.O.M.

If you resolved to get more involved with Mission of Mercy in the new year, please mark your calendar to attend an upcoming Coffee with M.O.M. tours in Frederick or Westminster.

These one-hour tours will give you the opportunity to learn more about the work we do, while you see first-hand how our clinics are run. After coffee and light refreshments, we will tour the mobile medical clinics and give you the opportunity to be inspired by our volunteers and patients.



Frederick Church of the Brethren

(Mondays)

April 12
May 10
June 14
July 19
August 9

Westminster Church of the Ascension

(Wednesdays)

April 21
May 19
June 16
July 14
August 18

Please call 301-682-LOVE to let us know if you can join us!