

MERCY Perspectives



Achieving A Dream Story of Hope & Healing

We all have dreams. For some, those dreams may be of fame or fortune. But for others, they are much simpler. Some people just want to feel better and be well.

Just ask John, who attends Mission of Mercy's mobile dental clinic in Gettysburg.

John is in his 70s and has been on dialysis for 10 years. He desperately hopes for a kidney transplant, but could not be considered a candidate until his severe oral issues were resolved. Unfortunately, this would require the extraction of 13 teeth, and as a retiree with no dental insurance, John realized that paying \$200 to \$300 per tooth extraction would be impossible on his budget.

Then he found Mission of Mercy and his dream began to unfold.

The medical and dental teams collaborated to ensure that John could receive the oral care he needed. Dr. Roslyn Kellum, Mission of Mercy's dental director, ordered bloodwork to ensure that John's blood would clot properly, since dentists who treat dialysis patients on blood thinners must have medical clearance to ensure their patients' safety during and after dental procedures.

With the assurance that he could safely undergo extractions, John visited Mission of Mercy's mobile dental clinic after his regular



dialysis treatments, and with the approval of his medical team, had his problem teeth extracted over the course of a five-month span.

He had his 13th tooth pulled in October and his pressing oral health issues have been resolved. And because of Mission of Mercy's comprehensive care, his overall health has improved as well. "John also had acute acne prior to his extractions, and now his face is clear, and his health and well-being have improved dramatically," said Dr. Roslyn Kellum, Mission of Mercy's dental director.

John is now eligible for a kidney transplant and has begun the paperwork to make his dream a reality. If all goes well, he hopes to get his new kidney by the end of the year.

Throughout his journey, John, Dr. Kellum and the Mission of Mercy staff have become very close. They all hope to reconnect after John has recovered from his transplant so they can celebrate his long-awaited dream-come-true with him!

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A Note

from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is with an optimistic spirit and God's grace that we at Mission of Mercy continue to forge ahead, through a pandemic, economic challenges, world upheavals and organizational changes such as our recent retiring staff.

It is also through the persistent efforts of our amazing medical and non-medical volunteers, and faithful and generous donors like you, that we continue to provide medical and dental care, and prescription medications, all at no cost to those who are uninsured and underinsured.

Our patients, too, are extraordinary as they navigate the same societal changes and challenges we all face, yet without the provisions that many of us possess. They continue to support their families by working jobs where they are not offered insurance or if they do have insurance, they are unable to afford the co-pays or deductibles. Most qualify as a part of the United Way's ALICE (asset limited income constrained employed) population.

They are working but may be unable to afford their housing, utilities, food and other of life's essentials. Yet they have hope because of you! By receiving medical and dental treatments through Mission of Mercy, they know they can maintain their health and well-being even though they may have chronic health issues. Your contributions help us provide the gifts of health and hope for them. We sincerely appreciate you.

During this holiday season, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you, and your loved ones, a healthy, happy New Year ahead.

Gratefully,

Linda M. Ryan, MS
Executive Director



Have You Heard?

Mission of Mercy received the 2022 Gold Standard Award from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. The award is given to organizations that are dedicated to ensuring that patients receive quality healthcare.

Thank you to our tireless dedicated medical and dental professionals and volunteers. It is through their efforts that this award is possible.



Barb Rebele

Retires from her “Dream Job”

As a 23-year-old, Barb Rebele, accompanied her mother, who was battling lupus, on frequent hospital visits. She clearly recalls the stream of physicians flowing in and out of her mother's room, checking her chart, sharing medical updates, and then leaving. Although they helped treat her mother's disease, Barb was left with the nagging question, “But who really cares about my mother?”

That nagging sense that something was missing in healthcare was what led Barb to pursue a career in the field. She would go on to become a physician's assistant as well as a medical technologist, working for 10 years in a hospital chemistry lab. She also served as an employee health coordinator for Bon Secours Hospital.

Then she came to Mission of Mercy.

“The reason I so enjoyed being a part of Mission of Mercy for the past 13 years was because it was nice to be working with an organization where I could take extra time with patients, be empathetic and give personalized treatment,” she said. “I could really show patients that I cared, especially while treating those with mental health issues, since one of my family members has suffered from depression for years.”

During her time with Mission of Mercy, Barb was especially touched by, and gravitated to, immigrants who were understandably depressed as they had no friends, family or people to share their troubles with.

Barb also admits that her work in Mission of Mercy's mobile clinics gave her the opportunity to meet and to befriend patients with varied backgrounds, like those with tattoos and piercings. “I learned how to treat everyone with mercy and grace and not to judge them,” she said.

With her retirement in June of this year, Barb leaves behind a healthcare environment that she will never forget. “I worked in multiple places, but Mission of Mercy was the best place with the best people,” she said. “I will miss Dr. Sullivan, and Dave and Maureen Liddle, along with the rest of the staff and volunteers. God prepared me for, and guided me to, Mission of Mercy. It was truly my dream job!”

Nurse Practitioner Melissa LePlatt, a retired lieutenant colonel and long-time volunteer, has stepped into Barb's position.

Welcome Melissa.

We appreciate you and thank you for the talents that you bring to Mission of Mercy.

And to Barb, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the blessing of your service for the last 13 years.

Mission of Mercy's *Community Impact 2022*

Mission of Mercy brings tangible and intangible benefits to the patients and communities we serve:

Our care is comprehensive:

- Adult primary care
- Continuous care for chronic illnesses
- Official medical records
- Acute care (non-emergency) as needed
- Free basic laboratory testing and x-rays
- Free prescription medications
- Medical interpretation as needed
- Drug screens
- Dental care (primarily fillings and extractions, plus medical triage)
- Referrals for free care from specialists, laboratories, other private practitioners

Since 1994, Mission of Mercy's Maryland/Pennsylvania program has served nearly 50,000 patients with:

 **221,100+**
FREE DOCTOR
PATIENT VISITS

 **21,900+**
FREE DENTAL
PATIENT VISITS

 **440,900+**
FREE PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS



Top 4 Diagnosis or
treated conditions:

- 1** DIABETES
- 2** HYPERTENSION
- 3** HIGH CHOLESTEROL
- 4** ARTHRITIS



Estimated value of donated services
and in-kind donations:

\$3,507,800



ROI

According to the Mobile Health Clinics Association, the positive return on investment for mobile clinics is \$12 for every \$1 spent. That means a gift of \$10,000 brings a value to the community of \$120,000.

\$1  **\$12**

**But the greatest return
on our work does not
equate to dollars:**

We bring hope, healing and the
restoration of dignity to patients who
are sick and suffering.

THAT IS PRICELESS!

Mission of Mercy's Volunteers: The wind beneath our wings

Mission of Mercy is sustained by volunteers: licensed physicians, nurses, dentists, dental assistants, and non-medical personnel. These frontline heroes are truly the “wind beneath our wings.”

We were honored to be able to gather again in person to show our appreciation for their contributions at our Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Taneytown Municipal Park. Under perfect skies, we honored our retirees, Barb Rebele, Dave and Maureen Liddle for their efforts. It was also an opportunity to thank our clinic volunteers for their hard work and dedication to Mission of Mercy.

“It was a great day all around,” said Mission of Mercy’s Executive Director Linda Ryan. “When we are in the clinic, we are always so busy that it can be difficult to just sit and talk and get to know each other better. Many of our volunteers’ spouses attended the picnic, which made it even more special for us. Mission of Mercy is so blessed to have all of these wonderful people in our ‘family.’”

Harrisburg Clinic Site

Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church,
2217 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA



Taneytown Clinic Site

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
38 West Baltimore St., Taneytown, MD



Frederick Clinic Site

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
199 North Place, Frederick, MD 21701



Gettysburg Clinic Site

Gettysburg Foursquare Church,
328 W. Middle St., Gettysburg, PA



Reisterstown Clinic Site

Reisterstown United Methodist Church,
246 Main St., Reisterstown, MD



Brunswick Clinic Site

Faith Baptist Church,
2212 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD



Thank You

Many thanks to all those who supported and attended our 20th Annual Mission of Mercy Gala in September. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and again, we are humbled and deeply grateful for the outpouring of support we received. Between the gala sponsorships and ticket sales, as well as the silent auction, we raised over \$130,000 to continue to help those most in need of healing and dignity through Love. Thank you!

2022 Gala Sponsors

Gold



Silver



Bronze

Brown, Schultz, Sheridan, Fritz, CPA
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A&S Construction LLC
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McPherson & Associates
Superior Specialty Supply, Inc.
TRM Health LLC
VW Brown Insurance Service

Our ability to provide our patients with the free medical and dental care they need, as well as free medications, is greatly attributed to the generosity of businesses, churches, and community and civic organizations. We thank them—and all of our donors—for their continued support of the life-saving and life-affirming work we do.

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American Legion Auxiliary Francis X. Elder Post 121
American Legion Gold Star Post 191
American Stories Tours
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Dominion National
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First Missionary Baptist Church
Fountain Rock Management Corp.
Frederick Chapter 79/Order of the Eastern Star of Maryland
Frederick Church of the Brethren/Friendship Sunday School Class
Frederick Lodge No. 684, BPO Elks

Frederick Presbyterian Church
Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Glade United Church of Christ, Inc.
Gladhill Furniture
Glyndon United Methodist Church
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
Grace United Church of Christ
Greater Horizons
Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church
Hawkins Landscaping
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K & R Management, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Frederick, Inc.
Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Valley # 11703
Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.
LifePoint Church
Light House Seafood N Deli
Lions Club of Frederick, Inc.
Locust Grove Church
Mary Mother of Peace-Medjugorje Charity, Inc.
Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church
Mt. Joy Lutheran Church
Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Club
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Orthodox Christian Charities of Greater Harrisburg
Our Lady of the Valley Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus #11703
Pennsylvania Chamber Insurance

Patapsco United Methodist Church
R. W. Bozel Transfer, Inc.
Real Estate Teams LLC
Roaring Run Lions Club
Robert W. Sheekles, Inc.
Rotary Club of Frederick
Springfield Presbyterian Church
St. James Lutheran Church
St. John Properties
St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Church/Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. Peter's Catholic Church
Stoney Point Farm
Taneytown Lions Club
Taylorsville United Methodist Women
The Clean Doctor
The Woman's Club of Glyndon
Thomas, Bennett & Hunter, Inc.
Toms Creek United Methodist Church
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
United Concordia
VFW Post # 6918 Monocacy Valley Memorial Aux
Women's Fellowship and Service Guild
Wonders Found Thrift Shop

Tis' The Giving Season

Please consider supporting Mission of Mercy this holiday season. Your generosity will bring the gift of health and healing to those who need it most.

There are many ways to give, below are just a few:

- **Mission of Mercy is now accepting Cryptocurrency!** – Give directly through our secured Crypto giving platform to convert your crypto to dollars. You will receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the Crypto in dollars.
- **Corporate Matching Gifts** – Ask if your employer will match your gift and double your impact.
- **Stock or Securities Gifts** – Instruct your broker to send securities to DTC 0141 (First Clearing / Wells Fargo Advisors) to Mission of Mercy Account #8515-0972. *Please contact us before making a gift so we'll know to follow up.*
- **IRA Required Minimum Distribution** – If you are 70.5 or older, donate a portion (or up to \$100,000) of your annual IRA Qualified Required Minimum Distribution to Mission of Mercy and reduce your tax basis.
- **Planned Giving** – Many of you have supported Mission of Mercy for years and we need and appreciate your ongoing support. Please consider supporting Mission of Mercy long after you've gone by including us in your Will.



To learn more about all of these and more “ways to give”, scan the QR Code and go directly to our Website. Here you will find our Crypto secure giving link and a link to donate directly online if you wish.



Stay up-to-date with Mission of Mercy's latest news and activities with our monthly eNews!

Sign up now by scanning the QR Code to the left and enter your contact information and we'll make sure you receive the very next issue!

MATCH POINT: Double the impact of your gift to Mission of Mercy!

We are excited to share two matching grant awards:



The Ausherman Family Foundation has generously awarded Mission of Mercy a \$25,000 matching grant that will match dollars received from Frederick County donors.



The Knott Foundation has generously awarded Mission of Mercy a grant to support our Maryland clinics. \$10,000 of this grant needs to be matched from Maryland donors who reside outside of Frederick County.

For more detailed information or questions on ways to give, scan the QR Code above or contact Jennifer White, Development Director at 301-682-5683 x204





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Tax ID# 86-0704883

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Mark Your *Calendar!*

The holidays may be just around the corner, but it's not too soon to start thinking about our spring Clay Shoot!



**Mission of Mercy 3rd Annual
Sporting Clay Shoot**
Saturday, May 6, 2023
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
ORVIS Hill Country

To participate or sponsor the event contact Jennifer White, Development Director at 301-682-5683 x204 or email jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org or visit our website at www.AMissionofMercy.org/events.

In their own words...

“Mission of Mercy has helped me tremendously with my fight with diabetes. As a former firefighter/paramedic (volunteer) I appreciate your help. You are a Godsend. Thank you.”

“When I first heard about this organization I had no insurance, no doctor and could not even afford one, but since then, my health has been so much better. The food bank was a Godsend for me, a single parent of two boys. What more can I say except: God bless and reward your labor of love.”

“Having severe knee problems (both) and no insurance, Mission of Mercy has made it possible for me to function in life. They are truly a blessing.”

“The loss of my job due to COVID and health issues took a toll on my finances. I could not ask for better care.”