

# MERCY Perspectives

SPRING 2023



## Saving and Changing

# Lives

In 2020, Grace (not her actual name) was treated in the hospital for pneumonia and an abscess on her lung. This medical emergency totally depleted her life savings.

After her recovery she attempted to resume her work as a waitress, only to discover that the restaurant where she was employed had closed due to COVID.

Her struggles continued when she contracted other health issues. She visited a local urgent care facility where she was diagnosed with cellulitis and acute high blood pressure. They provided her with the names of a few physicians who might possibly accept her, since urgent care clinics do not treat on-going chronic health issues.

The challenge of finding a physician was further complicated by COVID, so she returned to the urgent care clinic for another minor issue. This time, however, "God's hand was in all that occurred that day," Grace said. Melissa LePlatt, who was at the time a Mission of Mercy volunteer, was at the clinic that day and overheard one of the physicians telling Grace that her blood pressure was dangerously high and she needed to seek treatment immediately to manage it.



Melissa informed the physician and Grace about Mission of Mercy. Then she contacted our Chief Medical Director, Dr. Michael Sullivan, who told Grace to come immediately to our mobile clinic. Dr. Sullivan started her on life-saving blood pressure medication. She continues to visit the clinic regularly and her blood pressure is now within the normal range. She has also been able to find work again.

And Melissa has a new job, too. She is now on the Mission of Mercy staff as a paid nurse practitioner.

One chance encounter a couple of years ago led to two lives that have been transformed by Mission of Mercy. "I so appreciate everyone at Mission of Mercy and people like Melissa and Dr. Sullivan. They truly have your best interest at heart," Grace said. "I am so grateful to have found such a wonderful organization."

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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Thank You!

# A Note from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Springtime this year has been amazingly gorgeous and delightfully refreshing. Although the temperature has been inconsistent, feeling the warmth of the sun and experiencing the splendor of nature is very enriching. It's as if God is saying "stay hopeful, I am with you."

It is especially imperative to persist in staying hopeful as we are bombarded daily with heartbreaking news, on-going increases in inflation and natural disasters.

For almost 30 years now we have stayed true to our mission of providing hope and healing for those who are uninsured and underinsured, who are poor and sick and have nowhere to turn for healthcare.

This life-saving medical and dental care and prescription medications is provided without cost to our patients because of your generosity and the help of many others. We are supported by 150 licensed medical and dental professionals, hospital partners that provide free lab work and x-rays, and church host sites that offer us clinical spaces for waiting and registration areas, nurse triage and physician examination rooms.

Our mission is best acknowledged through the words of grateful patients. Here is one such quote:

*"There are not enough words for me to express how grateful I am to find an organization that truly cares about my health free of judgment...During the most stressful and overwhelming time of my life, the nurses and doctors reassured me that I will be okay and am in great hands. I've never felt so much genuine care and concern for my future and well-being."*

As you traverse difficult times in your personal lives thank you for looking beyond yourselves to care for others in your communities who are working and unable to afford healthcare, to those who are retired and in need of dental care and prescription medications and to those who are unable to obtain employment due to mental and physical conditions.

You truly are partnering with us to save lives and enhance the well-being of those who are struggling to support themselves and their families.

You are providing "hope" and health and for this we are extremely grateful.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you and keep you well.

Gratefully,

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

Linda M. Ryan, MS, Executive Director

*"I have come to realize that the worst suffering any human being can ever experience is being unloved, unwanted, and treated without respect and dignity. Because of YOU, we are able to bring our patients hope and God's Love that they most desperately deserve."*

DR. GIANNA SULLIVAN, FOUNDRSS

*"Our MOM family—volunteers, staff, board members, benefactors, and those we serve—bring to the table a kaleidoscope of talent, and treasure and experience as well as invaluable time. So, too, they bring love, God's Love, on a bedrock of humility and prayer."*

DR. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR





# Mission of Mercy's *Legacy Society*

Mission of Mercy is pleased to announce the creation of a Legacy Society. Our first official Legacy Donor is Ms. Dorothy (Dottie) Etzler. Dottie is a long-time supporter of Mission of Mercy and has designated us in her will. Thank you very much, Dottie, for your present and future support of our organization. Through your Legacy Donation you are ensuring that our mission will continue for generations to come.

## Mission of Mercy Nationally Recognized for *Outstanding Financial Stewardship*

Once again, we are pleased to report that Mission of Mercy has earned **Charity Navigator's highest rating of 4 stars** for our careful stewardship of funds from grants, special events, churches, civic clubs, businesses and individual donors. Charity Navigator is the world's largest and most trusted nonprofit evaluator, providing donors with free access to data, tools, and resources to guide philanthropic decision-making. Mission of Mercy has earned Charity Navigator's top rating since 2017.

Since 1994, Mission of Mercy has served more than 47,500 medical and dental patients completely free of charge by utilizing over 200 volunteer professionals (physicians, nurses, dentists, dental assistants and other non-medical personnel) along with a few paid staff.

Their efforts, combined with the financial support of our generous donors, allows us to serve the uninsured and underinsured in our communities with free medical and dental care and prescription medications. Our life-saving services continue to be in high demand and we remain forever grateful to all who make it possible for us to help those in our communities who are most in need.

### More Ways to Support Mission Of Mercy

As Dottie Etzler shows with her legacy gift, there are many ways aside from donations to help ensure the sustainability of Mission of Mercy. We can work with you to accept gifts of securities, bequests, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts and retirement assets, to name a few.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Mission of Mercy's Legacy Society, or you wish to discuss other planned giving options, please contact Executive Director Linda Ryan at 310.682.5683 or by email at [lryan@amissionofmercy.org](mailto:lryan@amissionofmercy.org).

# Have We Met?

Please take a moment to learn more about our dedicated medical team.

## Melissa LePlatt

Melissa LePlatt is a nurse practitioner with 12 years of experience in family practice and urgent care. She has 23 years of total nursing experience and has volunteered with Mission of Mercy for 11 years at our Frederick, Taneytown and Brunswick clinic sites before taking a paid staff position. She is very familiar with our mobile clinic model of care and is tasked with providing primary care services to adults, helping with the indigent drug program and patient referrals to community resources when needed. Melissa holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from West Virginia University and a master's in family nurse practitioner from Duke University.

## Sandra Cadigan

Sandra Cadigan is our new nursing director and has more than 20 years of nursing experience, having served as director of Clinical Services at Keystone Health in Pennsylvania and clinical manager for Sadler Health Center in Carlisle. She also served as a nursing assistant at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, PA and as a floor nurse at Carlisle Regional Medical Center. In addition to her work in health care settings, she has also served as an adjunct clinical instructor for McCann in Carlisle, PA. A native of Carlisle, PA, Sandra earned her associate's degree in nursing from the Pennsylvania College of Technology and a master's in nursing administration from York College of Pennsylvania.

## Dr. Michael Sullivan

Dr. Michael Sullivan is Mission of Mercy's Chief Medical Director. He provides direct patient care and oversees all clinic volunteers. Dr. Sullivan has a long and distinguished career in medicine, serving first in the Navy for four years and then in private practice with Geisinger Medical Center in Philipsburg, PA. Dr. Sullivan has served as Mission of Mercy's lead physician and medical director since the program began in 1994 and has received numerous awards for his tireless efforts to provide health care and dignity to all members of our communities, regardless of their ability to pay.

## Karyne German-Hogan

Karyne (Kary) German-Hogan is our new assistant nursing director and has extensive experience in the nursing field, including infection prevention and wound care. She was an LPN in the Littlestown Area School District and also worked in long-term care facilities and home health care for individuals with special needs. She holds an LPN degree from the York County School of Technology and an associate's degree in nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, NY. Kary is currently enrolled in the RN to BSN degree program at Chamberlain University.



Pictured L-R: Melissa LePlatt, Sandra Cadigan, Dr. Michael Sullivan, Karyne German-Hogan

## Did You Know?

More than 29 million non-elderly Americans are without health insurance. 1 in 5 American adults do not have health insurance because of the cost. Too many families are faced with choosing between healthcare, dental care, medications and paying for necessities.

CDC 2021 NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY



# Stories of Hope and Healing

Mission of Mercy continues to bring much needed health and dental care to those who do not have insurance or who cannot afford their co-pays or deductibles. Take a moment to read their personal stories of gratitude for the care and compassion delivered by Mission of Mercy's team of medical and dental care professionals.



## New Hope for Jai

I am writing this to express my deepest gratitude as a recipient of your free dental program. Special thanks to Dr. Roz and Dr. Snyder—they are two of the best dentists I've ever met. I must admit that I was a little bit nervous about the procedure, but Dr. Roz and Dr. Snyder's expertise and compassion eased my anxiety, not to mention Dr. Snyder's "genius trick" in reducing the pain of the anesthesia injection. That was amazing!

I am also thankful to the nurses, staff and the student intern for serving us patients with kindness. I also admire the parking volunteers and the welcoming receptionists who trade the comfort of their homes to serve others—waking up early and braving the cold of winter. You are all an inspiration.

Soon, I will get new dentures and I am excited. This changes my life, brings me hope and a sort of "freedom." No more hiding behind masks anymore!

With a grateful heart!  
Jai



## Relief from Chronic Pain

A few months ago, a wonderful middle-aged patient came to our medical clinic aided by two supportive friends who literally supported her so she could walk. A recent, terrible car accident resulted in her having chronic pain issues.

Tears were rolling down her cheeks as her friends assisted her to the medical van to meet with Dr. Sullivan, Mission of Mercy's Chief Medical Director. After a thorough evaluation, Dr. Sullivan determined that an injection would help alleviate her pain. Sandi, the nursing director, and Kary, the assistant nursing director, both held her hands during the procedure. She was so grateful that she turned and hugged them both. Sandi then assisted her to her vehicle.


The following month Sandi received a call from this grateful patient who was overwhelmed by all the kindness she received at Mission of Mercy. Although she wasn't totally pain free, the patient told Sandi, "I am able to walk and move without crying."

At Mission of Mercy, she was met with love, kindness and the medical care she needed to improve her quality of life. Since this time, she has been able to receive care from a pain management clinic.

"I am so grateful," she said. "You gave me hope and improved the quality of my life".

# The Healing Power of Your Gifts



Impacted  
 **47,566**  
PATIENT LIVES

Provided  
 **222,326**  
FREE DOCTOR VISITS

Offered  
 **22,111**  
FREE DENTAL VISITS

Dispensed  
 **442,100**  
FREE MEDICATIONS

## Thank you To Our Foundations

Our thanks to these national and regional foundations who have supported the work of Mission of Mercy with generous grants and gifts. Thank you for trusting us to serve those who need the dignity and healing our free healthcare, dental care and prescription medications provide.

Adams County Community Foundation  
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The G. Frank Thomas Foundation, Inc.  
The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County  
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# 2023 Clay Shoot

## *Another Great Success*

Many thanks to all our sponsors and to those who came out on May 6 to join us for our third annual Sporting Clay Shoot at Orvis Hill Country.



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MD Arsenal  
Morgan Keller Construction  
Schmuck Lumber  
Trout's Supreme Seafood

# Mark Your Calendars!



2023 GALA

**The 23rd annual Mission of Mercy Gala will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Talley Recreation Center in Downtown Frederick.**

Come and enjoy a delicious dinner, catered by Ceresville Mansion, and dance to the Silver Tones Swing Band led by trumpeter Dave Shuma and vocalist Wendy Marie. Foxtrot to classic hits from the Big Band era and groove to show-stopping tunes from the 1950s and 1960s.

Invitations will be mailed in late July or you may register online at [www.MissionofMercy.org/maryland-pennsylvania/events](http://www.MissionofMercy.org/maryland-pennsylvania/events). For additional information or to sponsor this event, please contact Jennifer White at [jwhite@MissionofMercy.org](mailto:jwhite@MissionofMercy.org) or call 301-682-5683 x204.



## MISSION OF MERCY'S 23RD ANNUAL GALA

*Saturday, September 9th, 2023*  
**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEW VENUE**  
**TALLEY RECREATION CENTER (FREDERICK ARMORY)**

### Gold Sponsors:



Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.  
operator of the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research





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## Take a Tour!

### LET US SHOW YOU HOW WE ARE GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR GIFTS

Schedule a clinic tour with Mission of Mercy and see first-hand the work we do and our impact in the communities we serve.

Contact Jennifer White, Development Director at  
301-682-5683 x204 or email [jwhite@amiissionofmercy.org](mailto:jwhite@amiissionofmercy.org).



## In Their Own Words...

*"To make a difference in someone's world, you don't have to be amazing, rich, talented, or beautiful. You just have to be you and CARE. I am blessed to be part of this ministry with you!"*

MISSION OF MERCY VOLUNTEER

*"The first time I came to Mission of Mercy I was a young single parent with no dental insurance. M.O.M. was a blessing for me at the time. Now I have a household with four kids and MOM is still helping me and that is helping my family keep our resources. Thank you M.O.M. and Jesus."*

DENTAL PATIENT

*"Mission of Mercy is a great opportunity for everyone who does not have insurance in this country. They are doing a wonderful job."*

MEDICAL PATIENT