

MERCY

Perspectives

SPRING 2024



Celebrating 30 Years of Miracles: A New Mobile Medical Unit Hits the Road

Mission of Mercy marked another milestone in its 30-year history last fall when donors, staff and volunteers celebrated the launch of the organization's newest mobile medical vehicle. With additional space for the pharmacy and Dr. Sullivan's office, the new mobile vehicle meets the expanding needs of Mission of Mercy.

The new 28-foot unit was made possible thanks to generous support from The Kahlert Foundation, The George L. Shield's Foundation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Leidos Biomedical Research, QTC Management, A Leidos Company, and private donors, including a gift from long-time Mission of Mercy supporter Dottie Etzler, who also remembered the organization in her will.

This marks the fifth mobile medical unit that Mission of Mercy has used since its founding in 1994. Drs. Gianna and Michael Sullivan launched Mission of Mercy with a used RV they converted into a mobile medical clinic. Within the first six months, they treated 400 patients with the help of medical professionals who volunteered to support their new mission to treat vulnerable individuals who fall through the cracks of our healthcare system. The Sullivans' mission was simple: to restore dignity and healing through Love.

To date, more than 50,000 medical and dental patients have been treated by Mission of Mercy over the course of 250,000 patient visits. Many patients suffer from chronic illnesses and often visit Mission of Mercy's clinics an average of three to four times a year.

Mission of Mercy operates one medical and one dental unit, with each unit visiting the same sites together and working in tandem. The retired mobile clinic this new vehicle replaced is currently for sale.



WHAT'S INSIDE

Executive Director's Message

Passing the Baton

Dental Program Rolls Along

Community Connections

Thank You!



A Message

from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is with heartfelt thanks, many wonderful memories, and mixed emotions that I share with you that I am retiring on July 1, 2024.

I have been blessed to have been a part of Mission of Mercy for the past 30 years. I originally met Drs. Gianna and Michael Sullivan through Sr. Mary Bernadette, a Daughter of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD. She shared the Sullivans' "mission" with me and said, "I believe this is a cause that you would really like to be involved with." She was correct. Shortly thereafter, the Sullivans invited me to be a member of their newly formed board of directors. I served for a few years in this capacity before they asked me to be the executive director. Having had experiences as an executive director with other non-profit organizations, I felt very comfortable accepting this remarkable position.

It has been a gift serving those who are disenfranchised and who are unable to obtain the healthcare and dental care that they so desperately need. Spending time in our clinics observing how our staff and volunteers treat our patients with love and dignity has enlightened and encouraged me to perform my job to the best of my ability.

The patients themselves have taught me what reciprocal mercy means: when we give, we receive. This is a phrase that Dr. Gianna Sullivan shared with the Board since the organization's inception, and it has carried through with me today.

Throughout these 30 years I have also enjoyed meeting and working with many wonderful, generous staff, board members, volunteers, leaders of other non-profits and foundations, businesses, hospitals, churches, and other community members. Thank you for inspiring me and supporting me in innumerable ways. For this I will be eternally grateful.

Each person's life is full of chapters. I am so grateful that this chapter has been totally fulfilling and rewarding for me. I look forward to my next chapter which I hope includes spending more time with my family, friends and traveling.

To all of you, I again extend my heartfelt thanks. You will remain in my heart and in my prayers.

Gratefully,

Linda M. Ryan, MS
Executive Director

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and supporting me in innumerable
ways. For this I will be
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Passing the Baton

Jennifer White Named Mission of Mercy's Executive Director

Jennifer White will assume the role of Mission of Mercy's executive director when Linda Ryan retires on July 1, 2024.

Jennifer has been with the organization for 27 years, having begun as the assistant to former CFO David Little. For the past nine years, she has served as Mission of Mercy's development director, managing vital grant applications and oversight to ensure all use and reporting guidelines are met. She also directs other fundraising efforts, including private donations, legacy gifts and annual fundraisers such as the Clay Shoot and Gala.

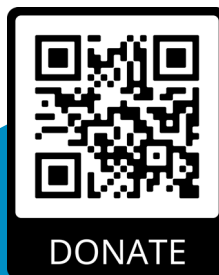
Given her tenure with the organization, Jennifer has an in-depth knowledge of the organization's fiscal and operational areas. In addition, she has a wealth of institutional knowledge that is invaluable to staff and volunteers, having developed scores of contacts within the communities Mission of Mercy serves.

But most importantly, Jennifer is devoted to Mission of Mercy's goal of restoring dignity/healing through Love. "Mission of Mercy has consistently maintained its care model and provided critical healthcare services without cost to the most vulnerable," she said. "It has been an incredible journey to work with this remarkable organization since its infancy, and I'm deeply honored and excited to step into the role of leading our exceptional team of staff and volunteers as we continue our mission and this important work."

"Jennifer is both a friend and a colleague," said Linda Ryan, Mission of Mercy's current executive director. "She is dedicated, intelligent, personable, creative and has great leadership attributes that will enable her to easily move into the role of executive director. She has the expertise and talents to ensure Mission of Mercy will continue to thrive and grow."



"I'm deeply honored and excited to step into the role of leading our exceptional team of staff and volunteers as we continue our mission and this important work."



Can You Match This?

Aushman Family Foundation Offers Generous Matching Challenge Grant

In celebration of Mission of Mercy's 30th anniversary, the Aushman Family Foundation has offered the organization a Matching Challenge Grant. Every dollar raised by Mission of Mercy in Frederick will be matched by the Aushman Family Foundation up to \$30,000.

For many years, the Aushman Family Foundation has been one of Mission of Mercy's most faithful supporters. Donors can respond to the foundation's generosity by matching the challenge grant goal by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2024.

Donations can be made by contacting Jennifer White at (301) 682-5683 ext. 204 or by emailing jwhite@amissionofmercy.org. Gifts can also be made online at www.amissionofmercy.org.

Please contribute and help double the impact of your gift to Mission of Mercy.



Dental Program ROLLS ALONG

When Dr. Roslyn Kellum joined Mission of Mercy in 2019 as its first full-time dental director, she was given the task of transitioning the program's dental services into a new, dedicated state-of-the-art mobile dental program.



Until Mission of Mercy launched its permanent mobile dental clinic in 2018, dedicated staff would have to set up and break down the dental equipment and supplies at each church the mobile medical clinic visited.

But thanks to the new state-of-the-art dental vehicle, the dental team can see more patients during their clinic days and increase the number of fillings and extractions they perform. In addition, with Dr. Roz leading the team, patients are also triaged for other medical conditions as part of the intake process. The simple, but life-saving, assessment of blood pressure can be an indicator of more serious conditions for which patients are referred to Mission of Mercy's medical team.

Dr. Roz says this kind of holistic care is just one aspect of what makes the dental program so vital to patients who cannot afford routine oral health care. She recently shared some additional insights into Mission of Mercy's dental program.

Q: What are the newest dental program developments?

A: We now have a part-time volunteer oral surgeon working on the unit who can treat many complex patient cases, especially the extraction of wisdom teeth.

Q: Are you seeing any striking patient trends?

A: We are seeing an increased number of patients in their late 30's and early 40's. There has also been an increase in patients on fixed incomes due to retirement or disability.

Q: Are you seeing an increase in any particular dental issue?

A: Yes, we are seeing an enormous demand for third molar / wisdom tooth extractions. There has also been an increased number of patients who grind their teeth due to stress and anxiety.

Q: Can you explain the connection between medical and dental issues?

A: As a nurse and a dentist, I perform blood pressure screenings on all our dental patients. This is a new directive from the Centers for Disease Control, as some medications used in the treatment of oral issues could cause patients' blood pressures to rise. Research has also shown a strong link between gum disease (periodontal disease) and an increased risk of heart attack, stroke or other serious cardiovascular events. In fact, many patients who come to Mission of Mercy are aware that they have other health issues, but they do not have the funds necessary to treat these conditions. That's why we often refer these individuals to our medical program for treatment and medications.

Community Connections Program

Did you know that in addition to providing medical and dental care and free prescription medications, Mission of Mercy also offers several ancillary services for our patients?



Food Distribution: On the last Monday of the month from March to December, the Maryland Food Bank brings 6,000 to 9,000 pounds of food to Mission of Mercy's Frederick clinic site at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Volunteers from local banks, real estate companies, businesses, churches and others divide the food into bags to distribute to our grateful patients.

Frederick Health Hospital: Nurses from Frederick Health occasionally come to the Frederick clinic site to conduct bone density screenings. If a follow-up DEXA Scan is recommended, this is done at the hospital at no cost to the patient. Frederick Health also provides free lab work and x-rays for our patients and access to diabetes programs.



Free Health Screenings: The Frederick County Health Department sends representatives to the Frederick clinic site on a regular basis to share information about free colonoscopies, mammograms and HIV testing available to patients.

CHIP Program: Through Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services, a representative visits Mission of Mercy's clinic sites in Gettysburg and Harrisburg to provide information on how to register children for the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Informational Packets: Provided at the front desk of our clinics for mental health services and other services patients may find beneficial.



Dental Program Superhero *Dana Deyton*

Dana Deyton is a definite multi-tasker who seems to possess superhero powers when it comes to supporting Mission of Mercy's dental program.

Dana serves as the program's equipment manager, dental assistant and driver. She transports the dental clinic to and from clinic locations, arriving early to get the clinic ready for patients and staying late to clean up after each day.

She also registers and triages dental patients and assists the dental team with various

needs while simultaneously providing patient care and charting.

Dana joined Mission of Mercy two years ago as a paid staff member responsible for clinic support/equipment and records management. She was so inspired by the work of the dental team that she decided to pursue certification to be a dental assistant and a dental radiation technologist. Thanks to The Community Foundation of Frederick County Scholarship program, she accomplished both.

"God led me to Mission of Mercy," Dana said. "I am so very thankful and blessed that I get to help so many of my brothers and sisters daily. We are all made in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity, mercy and love. I am thankful that I can be a part of such a wonderful organization, and I feel that I have found my true calling."

For her outstanding efforts, Dana recently received the Touching Lives Award from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Alliance.

Community Impact

since 1994



Impacted

49,340
PATIENT LIVES



Provided

227,814
FREE DOCTOR VISITS



Offered

24,199
FREE DENTAL VISITS



Dispensed

458,000
FREE MEDICATIONS

Thank You

Our thanks to the following national and regional foundations that have supported the work of Mission of Mercy with generous grants. Their funding helps us continue to serve so many who are sick and suffering by providing free, compassionate health and dental care as well as prescription medications.

Adams County Community Foundation
Ausherman Family Foundation
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Corporate Giving Program
Major Dan Campbell Veteran Services
Capital Blue Cross Activities Association
Eugene B. Casey Foundation
Community Partnership Grant
William E. Cross Foundation
Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
Dominion National
LaGarde Family Charitable Fund
Frederick County Partnership
Frederick Health
Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Frederick, Inc.
Donald Lewis Community Impact Fund
Gordon F. and Jocelyn B. Linke Foundation
North Star Foundation, Inc.

Oral Health Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy
Nora Roberts Foundation
The John M. and Margaret T. Ahern Foundation
The Ashland Foundation
The Joseph D. Baker Fund, Inc.
The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle
The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
The Community Foundation of Frederick County
The Marian and George Creel Family Fund
The Kahlert Foundation
The Laughlin Family Foundation
The Jack V. Leishear Endowment Fund
The Maryland Society for Disabled Children & Adults Foundation
The Israel & Mollie Myers Foundation, Inc.
The George L. Shields Foundation
The Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
The G. Frank Thomas Foundation, Inc.
The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County
United Way of Adams County
Peggy Waxter Fund

Thank you Sponsors and Guests

Premier Sponsors:



Lunch Sponsors:



Save the Date!

MISSION OF MERCY

GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

TALLEY RECREATION CENTER

121 N. BENTZ ST., FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Music and Dancing with The Silver Tones Swing Band

Sponsors:





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Please Join Us FOR A CLINIC TOUR

Spend one hour and see for yourself how Mission of Mercy *restores dignity and healing through Love* by providing free, compassionate healthcare and dental care.
Tours run from 10-11 a.m. and are held at each clinic site.

Email Julie Wohlfarth at jwohlfarth@ameissionofmercy.org
or call 301.682.5683 to speak with Julie or Jennifer White to schedule your visit.