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Mission of Mercy

BY DICK WATSON
Times Staff Writer

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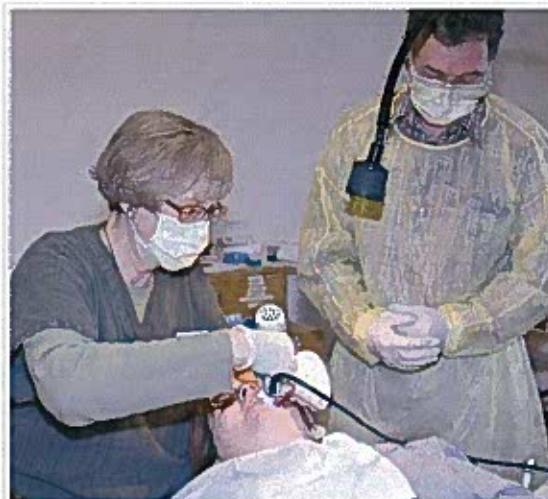
As it celebrates its 15th anniversary during these hard times, Mission of Mercy personnel are observing a change in their clientele.

"In addition to seeing various minorities, more Caucasians are also taking advantage of our free medical and dental services," said David Little, CFO.

Over the past 15 years, Mission of Mercy has treated more than 125,000 medical patients and performed 45,000 dental procedures.

More than 300,000 free prescription medications have also been dispensed.

Over the past two years, the numbers have increased 30 percent. Operating its mobile medical van, Mission of Mercy makes two visits per month to seven Maryland and two Pennsylvania communities, Harrisburg and Gettysburg.



Mission of Mercy volunteer dentist Julie Shedlosky of Camp Hill works on a patient as dental assistant Ivan Pare looks on. The organization has been providing free medical and dental care in Gettysburg for 15 years.

Here in Gettysburg, the mission formerly used one of the locker rooms at the Gettysburg College Stadium.

"That changed three years ago," said David Little, chief financial officer who has been with the organization since its beginning. "Since 2006, we've been welcomed at the Four Square Church of Gettysburg at 330 W. Middle Street.

"We see about 60 patients between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at each location," said Little.

Anyone in need of medical care would do well to make an appointment by calling 549-3069 on a Wednesday or Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are allowed, but they must check-in by 6 a.m. Only dental care is available for walk-ins.

Thanks to church members of the Gettysburg Ministerium, patients waiting to be seen are served free lunches.

Last week, because of a little communication mixup, patients received lunches from both the Lutheran Seminary and Christ Lutheran Church. As usual, except for medical director Michael Sullivan, MD, who has also been with the organization since its beginning, last week's Mission of Mercy crew of a second doctor, a dentist, nurses and helpers were all volunteers,

"Right now, our biggest need is for a volunteer dentist one Thursday a month," said Little.

Even with volunteer help, Little noted that the annual operating budget for the organization in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Texas is around \$1 million.

"We accept no government money," he said. "About 80 percent of our funding comes equally from individuals and foundations; 20 percent from a few special events."

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to Mission of Mercy at 22 S. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701.