

At New Church Home, Members Welcome Mission of Mercy, Patients

"I'm helping Mission of Mercy because it's a mission of my heart. I don't believe that anyone should have to go without health care," said Mary Ann Turner, a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 38 West Baltimore St. in Taneytown.

Mission of Mercy relocated to Trinity in July after outgrowing their past location at Taneytown Baptist Church. With the new, larger location, they've added dental services to their current offering of primary healthcare services and prescription medications. All of the healthcare services and medications are provided to patients for free.

A retired nurse, Ms. Turner is putting her passion for Mission of Mercy's work into action. She organized members of Trinity – as well as residents of Carroll Vista Community – to make sandwiches and provide fresh fruit, coffee and water to waiting patients throughout the clinic day each month when Mission of Mercy is in Taneytown.

She noted that the patients are very grateful for the refreshments. "Yesterday someone insisted on giving us \$2 for the food and drinks – we couldn't make him keep it. But after he left, we put it in the Mission of Mercy box," she added.

"Pastor Josh Semovoski and members of his congregation have gone out of their way to welcome Mission of Mercy and our patients to our new Taneytown medical home," David Liddle, Mission of Mercy's Chief Financial Officer, said about the move.

"We're utilizing their fellowship hall and three of their Sunday School rooms," explained Mr. Liddle. Mission of Mercy's Mobile Health clinics are comprised of not only their distinctive RV with the logo painted on its side, offering medical services with a pharmacy, but also a host church, where registration, triage, dental, hospitality, and records administration services are set up.

The Needs in the Taneytown Area are Great

“There’s a huge need in Taneytown for our services for the working poor and those who are uninsured or underinsured,” said Dr. Michael Sullivan, Chief Medical Director.

Ms. Turner said that as a volunteer, she has seen at least one person she knows come to the clinic for care. “I had no idea that person would need of Mission of Mercy’s services, but you never know,” she added.

Mission of Mercy provided more than 750 patient visits in the last 12 months in Taneytown. Currently, more than 200 patients have received care at the Taneytown clinic, and more than 750 patient medical visits were provided in the past 12 months. Elizabeth Galaida, grant writer for Mission of Mercy, noted that the nonprofit would now also have the capacity to serve up to 300 dental and physical therapy patients in the next 12 months. (Mission of Mercy is looking for a physical therapist to donate one day a month so they can offer physical therapy services.)

“The mission of the Maryland/Pennsylvania Program of Mission of Mercy is to restore dignity and provide “healing through Love,” said Jennifer Charlton, Executive Director of Mission of Mercy.

“That’s why we don’t ask patients to prove their poverty, and there’s no cumbersome paperwork to fill out. Instead, we serve them with skilled care from experienced medical professionals, along with care and compassion, through every step of the process,” she continued.

Once patients are registered at Mission of Mercy, they can make appointments for the monthly mobile clinic. Walk in patients, however, are served on a “first come, first served basis.”

“There were people in line when I arrived at 6:30 a.m. to set up. Yesterday the clinic saw around 55-60 people. The need is really there,” said Ms. Turner.

Seventy percent of Mission of Mercy’s patients suffer at least one chronic illness; visiting Mission of Mercy’s mobile clinic gives these patients access to much needed healthcare on a regular basis, which improves their overall health.

Additionally, nearly 10 percent of their patients are seniors on fixed incomes with Medicare who often find themselves unable to afford their medical insurance co-pays and deductibles, which leaves them without access to critical health care and medications. Mission of Mercy serves seniors so they do not have to cut corners - or medications – in order to survive.

“Taneytown is an important location because it allows us to provide services to the smaller, rural and under-served communities in the immediate vicinity that have no facilities at all. This includes towns like Union Bridge, New Windsor, Keymar, Middleburg, Frizzleburg and Uniontown, as well as folks in neighboring Adams and Frederick Counties, including Thurmont, Sabillasville and Littlestown,” explained Ms. Charlton.

“Ideally, we’d like to get additional financial support from the community so we could have two clinic days a month in Taneytown,” she added.

For more information on Mission of Mercy, or to contribute, visit www.aMissionofMercy.org or call 301-682-5683. To volunteer or sign up for a tour of the clinic, contact Curtis Jamison at 301-682-5683, cjamison@amissionofmercy.org

Suggested Sidebars:

An Overview of Mission of Mercy in Taneytown:

Annually, more than:

- 200 active patients

- 800 medical visits
- 1,200 FREE prescription medication
- 75 new dental patients

Mission of Mercy Hosts Golf Tournament, Gala

Mission of Mercy has several exciting fundraising events planned for this fall. The first is their 17th Annual Golf Tournament at Gettysburg's Meadow Brook Golf Course, 835 Goulden Road, Gettysburg, on Saturday, September 28, 2013. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with a Shot Gun start at 8:30 a.m. They are still seeking both players and sponsors.

The cost for an individual player is \$65; foursomes are \$260. The cost includes soft drinks, beer and hot dogs during play, and a picnic-style buffet and prizes. Sponsorships from \$150 to \$1,000 are available.

For additional information, please contact Debbie McClain at 301-788-5095 or email her at MOMgolftournament@gmail.com. To give online, go to www.amissionofmercy.org/donate. To learn more about other opportunities to support the mission's work, call 301-682-5683.

Mission of Mercy's annual gala, "Bubble Ball, An Evening of Elegance and Giving," is set for Friday, November 1, 2013 at the Frederick Holiday Inn at 5400 Holiday Dr., Frederick. The gala, which starts at 6:30 p.m., will feature silent and live auctions, a cocktail reception and seated dinner, and dancing to the tunes of the Junkyard Saints. The cost is \$150 per person. For more information on the Bubble Ball, or to be a sponsor, call 301-682-5683

About Mission of Mercy

Founded in 1994, Mission of Mercy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. With the support of approximately 300 volunteer medical and administrative professionals, Mission of Mercy has served more than 28,000 patients through more than 166,000 visits to their six clinics in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania. In addition, the Maryland/Pennsylvania program has dispensed more than 358,000 free prescription medications. Mission of Mercy is not a recipient of government funding and relies solely on donations from churches, private sector civic organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals for its charitable services.

