



# Mercy Perspectives

Volume 16 - Number 2

## Our Mission

Mission of Mercy's mobile medical clinics seek to restore dignity to the sick, poor, and homeless by providing free basic healthcare and "healing through Love." This mission is accomplished primarily through a team of volunteer medical, administrative and hospitality workers.

## Our History

Founded in 1994, Mission of Mercy is an independent, 501(c)(3), nonsectarian, community-based organization. Services provided include medical care for both acute and chronic conditions, oral health care, and pharmaceuticals. All services are provided free, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or religion. All funding is derived from private donations, including individuals, community groups, churches and foundations.

## MD/PA Clinic Locations & Schedules

Mission of Mercy serves patients at regularly scheduled clinic locations in Brunswick, Frederick, Reisterstown, Taneytown, and Westminster, MD; and in Gettysburg and Harrisburg, PA. To access the clinic calendar and appointment numbers, visit [www.aMissionofMercy.org](http://www.aMissionofMercy.org) and click "Locate a Clinic Near You," or call 301-682-5683 or 717-642-9062.

## Hours of Operation to be Restructured at Several Clinics

In light of the increased demand for Mission of Mercy's free medical and dental care during these challenging economic times, Mission of Mercy will be instituting some changes to the schedules at our busiest clinics in Maryland and Pennsylvania this fall.

### EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2009

- \* The half-day Taneytown site will be increased to one full clinic day at the Taneytown Baptist Church, and will be held on Wednesday instead of Thursday. The Thurmont site will be closed; patients are encouraged to shift to the Taneytown or Frederick sites.
- \* The Mt. Airy site, which had been open one day per month, will be closed and patients will be encouraged to shift to the Westminster, Frederick, Reisterstown or Brunswick sites.
- \* The Westminster site will be open two Wednesdays per month and beginning January 2010 will be held at the Church of the Ascension in Westminster.
- \* The Gettysburg site will be open one Wednesday per month and beginning in January 2010 will be held at the Church of the Ascension in Westminster.
- \* Days and operating hours at the Harrisburg, Brunswick, Frederick and Reisterstown sites will remain unchanged.
- \* All dental clinics will also remain unchanged.

For specific clinic dates and times each month, please visit: [www.aMissionofMercy.org](http://www.aMissionofMercy.org)

## Now More Than Ever How you can help

Because Mission of Mercy accepts no government support, private contributions are greatly needed and appreciated, especially in light of the current economic downturn. Please help us continue to serve those most in need by making a donation – either by mail or online:

Mission of Mercy, 22 S. Market St., Suite 6D, Frederick, MD 21701  
or [www.aMissionofMercy.org/donate](http://www.aMissionofMercy.org/donate)

"Given the unprecedented number of uninsured and underinsured at this time, we will have additional volunteer physicians, dentists and other medical and non-medical volunteers positioned in

these busier clinic sites to serve additional patients and those who transfer from other clinic sites," says Mission of Mercy Executive Director Linda Ryan. "But in addition to these clinic changes, we are also doing everything we can on the administrative side to increase staff efficiency and control expenses during these difficult economic times."

Mission of Mercy will re-examine these clinic schedule changes throughout 2010 to meet the needs of its patients. "We will continually monitor our clinic reports to ensure that we are putting our resources where they are needed most so that we can continue our mission to *restore dignity and healing through Love*," Ryan says.

Visit Us Online >

[www.aMissionofMercy.org](http://www.aMissionofMercy.org)

# Mission of Mercy Welcomes New Assistant Medical Director Dr. Larry D. Romane

Dr. Larry D. Romane, a board-certified physician with 35-years of experience in emergency medicine, has joined Mission of Mercy as our new assistant medical director.

In his new role, Dr. Romane will assist Dr. Michael Sullivan, Mission of Mercy’s medical director, with the overall day-to-day operations of the clinics. In addition to direct patient care, he will also help recruit additional volunteer physicians and act as director when Dr. Sullivan is not available.

Like many of Mission of Mercy’s staff members and volunteers, Dr. Romane first heard about M.O.M. through people whose lives it had touched. “In the emergency room, we often had patients list Mission of Mercy as their source of follow-up care,” he says.

Shortly after retiring from the ER at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Dr. Romane realized he missed taking care of patients. He contacted Dr. Sullivan to find out more about Mission of Mercy and inquire about helping at its clinics in Maryland and Pennsylvania. “I am not a family physician and although there is some overlap between emergency medicine and general practice, I asked if I could spend some time shadowing Dr. Sullivan so I could be comfortable doing that kind of work,” he recalls.

It didn’t take long for Dr. Romane to realize what so many others already know: Mission of Mercy clinics are special places.

“Mission of Mercy has a feel about it and it only takes one shift to sense it. The staff, the volunteers, the patients – they are all amazing,” he says. “I just fell in love with it.”

He fell in love with it so much that he decided his retirement would have to wait -- for awhile at least.

When Dr. Sullivan asked Dr. Romane if he might be interested in taking on the new assistant medical director position, he jumped at the opportunity to contribute to an organization that literally leaves a lasting touch on both the patients and the caregivers.

Dr. Romane is a graduate of Temple University’s School of Medicine and has served two terms as the president of the Frederick County Medical Society. He co-founded both the Frederick Memorial Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine as well as the Frederick County Paramedic System. He resides in Frederick with his wife, Betty Ray.

“  
I am always moved by how grateful the patients are. When someone takes your hand and grabs it with the other and says – through an interpreter – thank you and God bless you, that is pretty powerful.  
”

## Be a Designated Giver

September marks the beginning of annual workplace giving campaigns and we again ask you to designate Mission of Mercy as the recipient of your payroll deduction.

Be sure to check your forms carefully, since the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and state campaigns require different designation numbers for Mission of Mercy.

In 2008, Mission of Mercy received nearly \$25,000 in designated funds from the workforce giving campaigns in Maryland and Pennsylvania. We hope we can again count on your support, especially as we see an increased need for our services during these very challenging times. **Now more than ever, we need your help.**

MARYLAND CAMPAIGNS	#
MD Charity Campaign (State Emp.).....	4502
Combined Charity Campaign (Balto. City).....	4502
CFC of Central Maryland.....	15828
CFC of Eastern Panhandle.....	64562
CFC of Eastern Shore.....	64562
CFC of Western Maryland.....	15828
CFC of National Capital Area (DC).....	64562
Frederick County Employees.....	0551
Frederick County Board of Education.....	0551
Frederick City Employees.....	0551
United Way of Frederick County.....	*
United Way of Central Maryland.....	*
*No designation number. Please write in “Mission of Mercy” and our address.	

PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGNS	#
SECA (PA State Emp.).....	5000-0099
America’s Charities.....	4602
CFC of Central Pennsylvania.....	15828

# Check it out!

## Mission of Mercy's website has a new look

Surfing Mission of Mercy's website just got much easier, thanks to a new design that features easy-to-navigate links to all aspects of our program such as clinic dates and times and information on how you can get involved and make a donation.

### The improved site includes:

Individual links to each of Mission of Mercy's program areas in Arizona, Maryland/Pennsylvania and Texas. Click on the program area of interest and from there you will be directed to specific information on local clinic dates and locations, upcoming special events, news and publications, and much more.

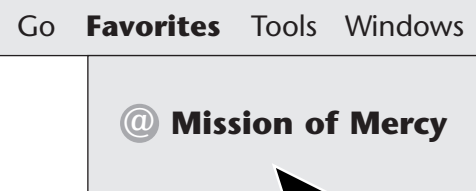
Insights into our patient demographics, the services we provide and testimonials from those whose lives we have touched.

A new, secure online donation option, as well as valuable information on a variety of ways that you can support Mission of Mercy, both financially and through your time and talents.

Important organizational information on our board of directors and our annual financial reports.

Continually updated photos from our clinic sites and Mission of Mercy special events and functions.

Please bookmark [www.aMissionofMercy.org](http://www.aMissionofMercy.org) as one of your "favorites" and visit our site often for the most current news and information on our programs.



## Coffee with M.O.M.



If you would like to learn more about Mission of Mercy and see for yourself the merciful works of love and healing that occur at our clinics, we invite you to join us for one of our Coffee with M.O.M. tours this fall.

Bring a friend and join us for coffee and light refreshments as we share our mission and introduce you to many of the volunteers who make our Mission of Mercy possible. We will show you how we "restore dignity and healing through Love" as we tour the mobile medical van at our Frederick and Westminster clinics.

### Frederick Church of the Brethren

Oct. 12 and 26  
Nov. 9 and 23  
Dec. 7 and 21

### Barrel House - Human Services Program (Westminster)

Oct. 7, 14 and 28  
Nov. 4 and 25  
Dec. 2 and 16

Please let us know if you can join us by calling 301-682-LOVE (5683).

# Profiles in Mercy: Patient Dawn Gerst

**Dawn Gerst is all smiles.  
But it wasn't always that way.**

A dedicated employee of a local cleaning company, Dawn receives enthusiastic praise for her custodial work. Yet like many Americans whose hard work is recognized and valued, Dawn receives no benefits – including medical insurance – from her employer.

Without insurance coverage, Dawn was forced to ignore dental problems that had plagued her for some time. As a result, she had several missing teeth and gum disease. The only solution was dentures, but her remaining teeth had to be pulled in order to get the dentures. The cost for the teeth extractions alone was estimated to be nearly \$1,200.

Despite trying to save for the extractions, Dawn found herself overwhelmed by the cost of the dentures themselves along with the challenge of meeting everyday expenses.

Dawn's sister eventually recommended she visit Mission of Mercy's Frederick clinic at the Church of the Brethren.

Because dental patients are seen on a "first come-first served" basis, Dawn took a day off of work – without pay – so that she could get in line at 3:30 a.m. She found that even after arriving five hours prior to the clinic opening, she was still the eighth dental patient in line. It was nearly noon before Dawn was finally seen

by one of Mission of Mercy's volunteer dentists. In the weeks and months that followed, Dawn returned to the Frederick clinic site three more times – always in the middle of the night so that she could get a place in line – to be seen by a dentist.

Eventually, the extractions were completed and Dawn is smiling again, thanks to the volunteer dentists, hygienists and administrative volunteers at Mission of Mercy who helped her along the way. "They are the kindest people," she says. "They are patient and always willing to help in any way."



*Dawn Gerst and Dr. Michael Sullivan*



*Mission of Mercy seeks to restore dignity to all people by being an instrument of "healing through Love" and through the reciprocal sharing of God's mercy with those we serve.*

## Now More Than Ever

**The Mission of Mercy 2008 Annual Report** is now available. Packed with information about our work in Arizona, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Texas, the report details the growing demand for our services and shares stories of actual Mission of Mercy patients whose lives have been touched by our commitment to restoring healing and dignity through Love.

If you did not receive a copy of the Annual Report in the mail, or would like extra copies to share with others, please give us a call at 301-682-5683 or email [jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org).

# News from Mission of Mercy's Arizona & Texas programs

## Arizona

Mission of Mercy – Arizona continues to earn the respect and support of some of Arizona's most prominent foundations and organizations, including:

- ◆ The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust awarded M.O.M. – AZ \$20,000 from a critical impact grant for Maricopa County nonprofits providing direct services to the community.
- ◆ The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust designated M.O.M. – AZ as a "critical service" organization and awarded a \$100,000 one-time grant to help M.O.M.-AZ meet the increased demand for its services in Maricopa County.
- ◆ The Changing Faces of Poverty campaign awarded M.O.M.-AZ \$50,000 as part of its effort to support essential service organizations.
- ◆ Channel 12 NBC in Phoenix honored Mission of Mercy as one of its "12 Who Care" award winners. As a recipient, M.O.M.-AZ received a \$1,200 donation, 30-second public service announcement and was featured on the station's "Arizona Midday" and "12 News" broadcasts.
- ◆ Mission of Mercy was selected as one of six "Blue Ribbon" non-profit programs to receive technical assistance and mentoring from Phoenix business executives in a unique one-year partnership.

## Texas

Despite being a relatively new player in the Coastal Bend non-profit arena, Mission of Mercy has garnered strong support from the community:

- ◆ The Coastal Bend Diabetes Initiative (CBDI) granted Mission of Mercy–TX \$40,000 for its work on the front lines of battling diabetes. The money will help M.O.M. address the critical need for diabetes care in Nueces County, where it is estimated that 40,000 people have diabetes and another 40,000 have pre-diabetes. Projections also reveal that one in three children born in the area since 2000 will develop diabetes.
- ◆ Dr. Coleen Madigan, Mission of Mercy's Texas medical director, was recently honored by the YWCA of Corpus Christi at its annual "Y Women in Careers" banquet which recognizes outstanding achievements by Coastal Bend women. In addition to serving as M.O.M. -TX medical director since the program's inception, Dr. Madigan also maintains a part-time private practice.
- ◆ The first Mission of Mercy Invitational Golf Tournament scored a hole-in-one – literally and figuratively! Not only did the event meet its revenues projections, but one player (whose mother volunteers at one of the Texas clinic sites) even hit a hole-in-one resulting in a \$10,000 prize! The live auction that followed the tournament raised enough money to help M.O.M-TX claim a \$5,000 challenge grant offered by a local philanthropic organization! Many thanks to Champions Tour Player Phil Blackmar who served as the tournament's guest professional and played first drives with each team, and to the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team members who made putts for golfer's in need of their expert skills.
- ◆ Mission of Mercy–TX recently conducted a patient satisfaction survey that revealed the impact its services have on its patients and local emergency rooms. When asked how many times during the previous year the patients sought care from a local emergency room, 23 out of 35 patients reported that their number of visits ranged from one to eight, but since becoming Mission of Mercy patients, that number dropped to **zero**. The remaining 12 patients who completed the survey revealed their visits dropped to just one or two. With local emergency room visits running around \$10,000, this easily translates into over \$200,000 in non-reimbursed emergency room charges that were not incurred.



## Gala 2009

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 14 and help us celebrate our 15th anniversary with an evening of dinner and dancing at our annual Mission of Mercy Gala and Auction at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. and will include a wonderful silent and live auction featuring scores of tempting goodies, from tickets for first-class plays and live entertainment to get-away accommodations in Deep Creek Lake and Bethany Beach. Tickets to the black tie optional gala are \$150/person and all proceeds from the event will benefit Mission of Mercy.

**For more information or to reserve tickets (or a table), please contact Jennifer Gerlock at [jgerlock@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jgerlock@AMissionofMercy.org) by Nov. 12.**

## Mission of Mercy Volunteer Miriam Lane wins Wertheimer Fellow Award

Miriam Lane, a volunteer physical therapist for Mission of Mercy, was recently named a 2009 Wertheimer Fellow in Volunteerism by the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

With the award, a \$10,000 fund will be established in Miriam's name at the Community Foundation and Miriam has designated that Mission of Mercy will receive a percentage of the fund's value each year.

It is only fitting that Miriam be honored for her work with Mission of Mercy since no one better understands the importance of adequate health care coverage.

Miriam has battled cancer since 2004, undergoing several major surgeries and numerous rounds of chemotherapy during that time. The costs of these treatments have been staggering, yet Miriam counts herself as one of the lucky ones. At least she has health insurance.

The patients Miriam sees at Mission of Mercy are not as fortunate. That is why in between her surgeries and exhaustive rounds of chemotherapy, Miriam has continued to travel throughout Frederick County to serve Mission of Mercy patients four days a month at our clinic sites in Frederick, Mt. Airy and Brunswick. "She scheduled her chemotherapy so she wouldn't miss a day with us," says Maureen Liddle, Mission of Mercy's nursing director. "I know she has come in when she wasn't feeling great, but despite the



*Miriam Lane (left) and patient*

exhaustion and fatigue that comes with chemo, she always has a smile on her face. She sees as many patients as she possibly can."

In addition to her work with Mission of Mercy, Miriam is a tireless volunteer at her church, Trinity Lutheran in Taneytown where she has served on the church council, sung in the choir, and taught Sunday School. She also organized a campaign that has congregants knit sweaters for children living in poverty.

Miriam says she has found inspiration in those she helps, but all those she touches through her tireless volunteerism while in the midst of her own difficult battle with cancer would agree that she is one who is truly inspiring.

# Thanksgiving and praise

Amid the staggering economic downturn of the last year, Mission of Mercy has continued to be blessed by the generosity of scores of corporations and foundations in Maryland and Pennsylvania that have bestowed upon us grants and awards totaling nearly \$165,000 since Jan. 1 of this year.

Many of these gifts come from long-time supporters of Mission of Mercy, but several are first-time gifts from organizations that have recently been introduced to our work in the area:

Alexander Stewart Foundation  
The Ashland Foundation  
Bechtel Group Foundation  
Carroll County Dental Society  
Community Foundation of Carroll County  
The Drescher Foundation  
The Hershey Company  
Hoffman Charitable Endowment  
Holmes Foundation  
Hoverter Foundation  
John J. Leidy Foundation  
Kahlert Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente

Quality Health Foundation  
Rotary Club of Carroll Creek  
S.H. Tevis & Son  
Spirituality & Medicine Foundation  
St. Francis de Sales  
St. Francis Xavier  
St. James Lutheran  
United Concordia  
United Way of Central Region  
Wal-Mart  
Wells Foundation  
Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County

Despite the fact that some of these corporations and foundations had to scale their contributions back this year due to the economy, Mission of Mercy has continued to serve our growing number of patients by finding other ways to cut costs and work more efficiently. We are proud to say we have not missed a beat: our clinics have been fully operational and open as scheduled.

Unfortunately, however, the financial challenges are sure to remain with us as we move into 2010. But as we continue to seek out all sources of funding so that we can provide uninterrupted service to our patients, we ask all our friends and supporters to go that extra mile with their financial donations and prayers so that we can continue to provide dignity and healing through Love.

## Going...going...green!

To help us save green and go green, Mission of Mercy is collecting e-mail addresses.



Over the next few months we will begin phasing out many of our paper communications and replace them with e-mail documents. This will enable us to communicate with friends and supporters on a regular and timelier basis while also reducing the environmental and financial impact of the amount of paper we use.

The e-mail address you provide us is for our purposes only and we will not share it with others.

Please send your address to: [jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org)



**MD/PA Program**  
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To receive this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to  
[jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org)

## Mercy in the Morning

Please make plans to join us for our "Mercy in the Morning" complimentary community awareness breakfasts in Frederick and Westminster during the month of October. Bring your friends and family – you can "host" an entire table -- and enjoy a delicious breakfast while learning more about the stories of health and hope that have been made possible through our free mobile medical clinics.

### Mercy in the Morning Breakfasts

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
The Portico at St. John's  
Catholic Church  
43 Monroe St.  
Westminster, Md.

**RVSP by Sept. 28 to  
Joe Cimino at 410-875-4811 or  
[jcimino@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jcimino@AMissionofMercy.org)**

Thurs. Oct. 15, 2009  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
Dutch's Daughter Restaurant  
581 Himes Ave.  
Frederick, Md.

**RVSP by Oct. 12 to  
Jennifer Gerlock at 301-682-5683 or  
[jgerlock@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jgerlock@AMissionofMercy.org)**

