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**Seventh Annual Fall Festival**

"Well, how fitting that you would have a magician here on such a magical day!" This comment came from a volunteer on a beautiful, sunny day that set the perfect landscape for Mercy Care Services' Seventh Annual Client Fall Festival. This family-oriented event is filled with outdoor fun and fellowship and provides an opportunity for clients to feel how much they are valued and appreciated.

Held in the parking lot of the Mercy Care Rawson Haverty Campus and attended by more than 450 persons, the October 8 festival featured music, dancing, a children's activity corner, a magician, a caricature artist, partner-agency exhibitions, no-cost health screenings and flu shots, and delicious hot dogs and sodas.

Volunteers from Saint Joseph's Women's Heart Health Center and Mercy Care volunteers provided blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol checks to guests and gave out new fleece blankets to each health screening participant—many of whom were homeless and will welcome the warmth of these gifts in the cold days ahead.

"We were very pleased with the increase in the number of persons who came for flu shots," said Quality Improvement Manager Tracey Scissum. "We gave 120 shots, a 14.2% increase from last year. It's just so important given the vulnerable health status of most of our client population that they get protected against the flu and what could spiral into more serious, even life-threatening illnesses for them."

The festival also helps to build patient and community awareness of Mercy Care's many health, education and supportive services. As the festival came to a close, one Emory School of Nursing student volunteer said, "Thank you for this awesome experience! I saw so many people here today who really need just basic health services. I didn't know there was a place like Mercy Care that reaches out to people the way you do to give them what they need. This day has made a huge impact on me."



Magician K.C. Roberts delights crowd

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## Saint Joseph's Annual Golf Classic

Saint Joseph's 20th Annual Golf Classic at Capital City Club in Brookhaven raised in excess of \$165,000 in net proceeds to benefit **Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services** and its efforts to take "health care where it's needed most."

The day included a blessing by Sister Valentina Sheridan prior to the 11 a.m. start; Titleist gift packages for golfers; an opportunity to win a Lexus GX460 courtesy of Hennessy Lexus of Atlanta; and a live auction of donated items, such as a chance to play at the Lexus Champions for Charity National Championship at Pebble Beach Resort in California; an Atlanta Falcons game package with gift card to Buckhead Life Restaurant Group; and donated raffle tickets for foursomes at several area golf clubs.

**Special thanks go to Dr. Byron Rosenstein and Barry Segars for their winning bid of \$15,500 for the Lexus Champions for Charity National Championship at Pebble Beach Resort. Thank you to Randy Cobb for purchasing the Atlanta Falcons game package.**

Saint Joseph's is grateful to the players, WINGS volunteers, co-chairs Paul Jefford, MD and Lorraine Peters and especially to our sponsors:

**Title Sponsor** - Emory Healthcare

**Presenting Sponsor** - King & Spalding

**Platinum Sponsor** - Segars Group General Contractors

**Gold Sponsors** - Cummins Power South, Catholic Charities of Atlanta, Hennessy Lexus

Bronze Sponsors - Transcend Services, Dell SecureWorks, Atlas Healthcare & Hospice, NCO Health Care, Cornerstone Investment Services, Eugene Davidson, MD, The Quikrete Companies, Art Plumbing Company, McKenney's Mechanical Contractors, Hewatt Electrical, Rosing Painting & Wallcovering, Thomas Group, Inc. and George F. Richardson

For information on this and other events, contact: Lisa McLean, 678-843-5711, [lmclean@sjha.org](mailto:lmclean@sjha.org)



Sister Val's hole in one!

## Renewed partnership with old friend

"We are very excited to renew our health care relationship with an old friend, The Open Door Community," said Tom Andrews, President of Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services.

During the early 1990's, The Open Door Community, a residential facility that provides shelter, breakfast, a soup kitchen, showers and clothes to the homeless, was one of Mercy Care Services first mobile clinic sites. As time wore on, the providers were seeing fewer patients and it was mutually decided that Mercy Care would cease to provide services at this location. "Things have changed," said Community Relations Director Robert Mason. "Open Door's clinic, staffed by volunteer Emory University medical students, is seeing larger numbers of patients and can really use our help in a number of areas."

Currently Mercy Care provides referrals for residents to access primary medical care at Mercy Clinic Downtown. Mental health assessment and case management staff travel to Open Door to provide services once per week. Said Mason, "We are working out the details for a special dental day at our downtown clinic and a time for our outreach screening nurse to visit Open Door."

In October, Mercy Care donated 50 influenza vaccines to the Open Door volunteer clinic. Said Clinic Coordinator Duncan Wilson, "We are so grateful for the donation of flu vaccines. At last night's clinic, we were able to provide protection to many of our homeless friends. Our patients told us how awful it is to have the flu while living on the streets and expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to be immunized."

## Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative

Mercy Care Services recently received a grant of \$35,000 from the US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA/Bureau of Primary Health Care to assist in moving the organization along the path to becoming a **Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)** and **accreditation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)**.

The purpose of this supplemental funding is to improve the quality of care, access to services, and reimbursement opportunities for health centers by supporting the costs associated with enhancing quality improvement systems and becoming a PCMH. These costs may include access enhancements, patient flow redesign, care planning, support for team-based models of service delivery, and necessary systems upgrades.

Mercy Care will be focusing its attention on the patient referral process and will partner with Pathways Community Network and Grady Memorial Hospital to pilot a new automated referral system, which will improve the ability to track and follow-up on patient outcomes and increase patient compliance. Mercy Care has one year from acceptance of the grant to receive Patient-Centered Medical Home status from the accrediting body NCQA.

## Mercy Moves through Me Award Luncheon

On February 16, Mercy Care Services will host its seventh Mercy Moves through Me Award event in The Georgian Terrace Hotel Grand Ballroom. This year's honoree is **United States Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA**, America's Doctor, whose history of community service and involvement is a glowing example of everything the Mercy award represents.

The Mercy Moves through Me award is given to individuals or organizations for committed and outstanding service or advocacy for the underserved. It was inaugurated in 2005 in celebration of Mercy Care Services' 20th anniversary and has continued as an annual luncheon event. First year honorees include Mayor Shirley Franklin and Congressman John Lewis. Other award recipients include Downtown Communities of Faith, Horace Sibley, Esq., Arthur J. McClung, Jr., Richard Besser, MD and Timothy Cambias, Sr.

For ticket information on this event, please call Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation at 687-843-5721.



## Health tip:

### The misunderstood spud

Source: Consumer Reports onHealth Magazine, September 2011

Potatoes make you gain weight, right? Wrong! A baked potato with skin may help keep excess pounds off thanks to a healthy dose of fiber. Of course, the secret is not to deep-fry or drown your potato in sour cream, butter and cheese. And with one medium-sized baked potato you get

- 925 mg of **potassium** to help keep your blood pressure in check.
- 50 mg of **magnesium** to help reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes.
- 5 grams of **fiber** to help keep your bowels running smoothly and your appetite under control.

So...long live the spud!

## Other news at Mercy Care

- Partner agency **St. Jude's Recovery Center** has received a grant from the Jesse Parker Williams Foundation that will allow Mercy Care to set up a **women's clinic** at their site, operating three half days a week. The funding will provide for a family nurse practitioner and a certified medical assistant. The clinic is expected to open during January, 2012.
- The annual **Mercy Day Drive** collected \$11,300 from Saint Joseph's Health System employees and community donors toward the purchase of prepackaged hygiene kits for distribution to Mercy Care homeless clients by social service and outreach workers. In addition, UPS agreed to sponsor the drive with a \$5,000 donation, bringing the total received to \$16,300.
- On October 20, in Savannah, Georgia, the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care awarded Mercy Care Services' certified medical assistant **Angela Addison the 2011 Curtis V. Cooper Special Recognition Award for Community Health Center Employee of the Year**. The award recognizes an individual for outstanding service, demonstrating achievement, commitment, excellence, compassion and caring in response to health care needs of patients. Representatives from Mercy Care attending the ceremony were Medical Director Dr. Mae Morgan, Grants and Operations Director Ken Prince, Community Relations Director Robert Mason and Finance Director Erica Clark. Said Clark, "Angela was just beautiful—she glowed with happiness. And she accepted the award with such humility. It was wonderful to be there to see her honored this way." Addison has been with Mercy Care for 19 years.



## Upcoming Events

*Mammography screenings at Mercy Clinic  
Downtown (call for appt. 678-843-8600)*

*December 20*

*Mammography screenings at Mercy Clinic  
North (call for appt. 678-843-8700)*

*December 8*

*Homeless Persons' Candlelight Memorial Vigil*

*December 21, 5:30 p.m.*

*Staff Christmas Potluck*

*December 9*

*Clinics closed for Christmas and New Year's*

*December 23 and 26*

*December 30 and January 2*

*Mercy Moves through Me Award Luncheon*

*February 16*

## Funding news

Mercy Care Services received the following funding awards during September, October and November 2011.

\$35,000	<b>Grantor:</b> US Dept. of Health & Human Services, HRSA <b>Recipient:</b> Bureau of Primary Health Care Patient-Centered Medical Home Supplemental Funding
\$25,000	<b>Grantor:</b> Raskob Foundation <b>Recipient:</b> Mercy Senior Care Capital Campaign
\$20,000	<b>Grantor:</b> SunTrust Bank Trusteed Foundations <b>Recipient:</b> Mercy Senior Care Capital Campaign
\$36,823	<b>Grantor:</b> Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative/SuperNOFA <b>Recipient:</b> Mental Health Case Management



Homeless Persons' Candlelight  
Memorial Vigil  
December 21

Thanks to SJHS marketing staff who helped with this newsletter.  
Send ideas, suggestions and information to Toni Graney, editor, at  
(678) 843-8509 or fax (678) 843-8501.

Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services is a nonprofit organization that relies  
upon contributions to continue delivering its services.

Donations may be sent to:

Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation, 5665 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd.,  
Atlanta, GA 30342

or call (678) 843-5710 for credit card donations



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Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services - a member of Catholic Health East, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy