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6th Annual Mercy Moves through Me Award Celebration

On February 17, Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services hosted its sixth Mercy Moves through Me Award celebration honoring Timothy J. Cambias, Jr. for his "committed and outstanding service and advocacy for the underserved." Held at the Atlanta Biltmore, the Bronze Sponsor for the event was Anatek, Inc. Other 2011 sponsors included Catholic Charities Atlanta, Dave Fitzgerald, Peter Hennessy—Hennessy Lexus, Patrick McGahan, Edward C. Mitchell, Jr., Bruce Simmons, SunTrust, Jim Winchester and Jack Winchester.

Cambias began his career in Atlanta with American Can Company and went on to become the major shareholder in Massey-Fair Industrial and MacSource, LLC, companies which supply raw material ingredients to the food industry. Since 1988, Cambias has lent his leadership skills to Saint Joseph's Health System as a board member, as chairman of the board of Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation, and a member of the sponsorship committee and the strategic planning committee. Cambias also served as chair for Saint Joseph's major capital campaign which benefitted Mercy Care's renovation and expansion, as well as the Florence Hays Erb Oncology Services Center, the Center for Nursing Excellence, and Saint Joseph's Heart and Vascular Institute.



L to R: SJMCS Board Chair Jane Haverty, honoree Timothy J. Cambias, Jr. and SJMCS President Tom Andrews

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Award (continued)

The award celebration was attended by 200+ friends and colleagues, community and business leaders, Saint Joseph's and Mercy Care board members and staff and community partners.

In accepting the award Cambias said, "I humbly accept this award on behalf of those who truly deserve it. They are the ones who serve the poor and the vulnerable—the Sisters of Mercy and the dedicated staff at Mercy Care Services."



Honoree with friend and colleague David Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald & Company who gave the introduction for Cambias.

Mercy Care AmeriCorps host site

Mercy Care Services is a 2011 host site for Atlanta Health Corps' AmeriCorps program. Since January 14, Atlanta Health Corps (AHC) members Tasia Kilgore and Robyn Moore have been acting as patient navigators at Mercy Clinics Downtown and North. As navigators, they help patients access services both within and outside the clinics, assist patients to register for medication programs, help in appointment scheduling and provide other general information, as well as specific information regarding the "medical home" concept of health care. Said Mercy Care President Tom Andrews, "We hope the outcome of our patient navigator efforts will produce a smooth, welcoming process for our patients, one that improves their quality of care experience."

AHC works to improve the access and quality of health care to traditionally underserved populations through education, outreach and direct service. Mercy Care is grateful to have Kilgore and Moore onboard through December 26, 2011.



Moore and Kilgore



Grady referrals

In the Fall of 2010, Mercy Care and Grady set a referral process in place to direct some of Grady's emergency room homeless patients who present with routine or chronic medical and dental concerns to Mercy Care's downtown clinic. Patients meeting the referral process criteria, are able to establish Mercy clinic as their medical home. The referral collaboration has been particularly successful with dental patients. Grady provided the majority of the funding to allow Mercy Care Services' downtown clinic to hire a new full time dentist, Dr. Brandi Ard, who serves these referral patients experiencing homelessness.

Hanging in the balance

Funding dollars for health care centers and for many other important programs that serve low income populations are in serious jeopardy. Debate continues in the nation's House of Representatives, and next in the Senate regarding reductions in these areas and citizen response is crucial to the ultimate outcome.

House Leadership drafted a bill that proposes a funding cut of \$1.3 billion to health centers. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council, as well as many other health center advocates, is urging individuals to contact their Representatives and Senators and encourage them to take a hard look at the benefits these centers contribute to our health system as a whole. Among many contributions, health care centers 1) help cut health system expenditures and public entitlement costs by reducing preventable illness and unnecessary hospital-based care; 2) create jobs and generate economic activity; and 3) promote access care for a vulnerable population. Community health centers are needed more than ever in these harsh economic times.

All of us have a voice in the ultimate decision to protect the health care benefits of indigent and homeless persons and reject major reductions in their care by calling the Congressional switchboard at 877-210-5351 and the Senate switchboard at 202-224-3121 and asking to be connected to your US Representative or Senator. Or alternatively, contact may be made through these web sites: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Other news at Mercy Care

- Mercy Care recently became a participant in Embraced Atlanta, a non-profit organization that provides gently-used orthopaedic equipment to facilities whose patients would otherwise not have access to much needed medical equipment. Such items as crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, prosthetics, orthotics, braces, slings, ace bandages and walking boots are collected by Embraced Atlanta and shared with agencies, both locally and globally, that work with underserved populations.
- In August of 2010, a tip box was placed at Saint Joseph's Hospital's The Daily Grind coffee shop, inviting coffee-lovers to drop in their loose change for Mercy Care Services. Since that time, that little tip box has yielded \$2,762, enough to cover the costs of serving approximately 79 indigent patients. Thank you Saint Joseph's staff and visitors—as you can see, every little bit helps!



baristas L to R: Megan Whittington, Alex Burns and Adero King

Other news (continued)

- Henry Schien Cares, the global social program of Henry Schien, Inc., selected Mercy Care as a recipient for a two-year cycle of donated medical and dental supplies valued between \$5,000 and \$25,000. The program helps to increase access to health care for underserved communities through the donation of medical and dental supplies to community-based health entities.
- Mercy Care congratulates staff members who passed a rigorous testing process to receive their Commercial Drivers Licenses, which allow them to drive the new, air-brake equipped mobile health coach. Staff members include, Andrew Anderson, Bernard Bagley, Robert Mason, Mary Watson and Sam Wilcher.
- During the week of January 10, when snow and ice literally froze Atlanta, Mercy Clinic Downtown was unable to open until Thursday, January 13. Concerned staff made a request of Mercy Care Services' leadership to allow the clinic to open on Saturday, January 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a special "make-up day" to help medical and dental patients who could not be seen during the inclement weather. The Community Homeless Outreach Program (CHOP) team transported 20 patients to the clinic who could not brave the still icy streets on their own, and overall staff delivered services to 30 patients.
- In December, a gift of \$20,000 from Georgia Power Company completed the first phase of Mercy Senior Care's 30th Anniversary Capital Campaign, bringing the current total to \$600,000. The initial gift of \$500,000 from Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation enabled Mercy Senior Care to purchase property for a new facility. Said Director Rita Lawler, "Georgia Power's very generous gift helps us to reach a milestone in the funding campaign that will carry our mission into the future." Located in Rome, Georgia, Mercy Senior Care, a subsidiary of Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, Inc., is a community-based health agency that offers care to the underserved senior population of northwest Georgia.

Health tip:

Healthy Living

a lunch & learn presentation by Mercy Care Health Educator Raquel Iwelomen

- **Eat natural, whole foods.** Stay away from refined sugars and carbs.
- **Hydrate your body every day.** Drink 8-10, 8-ounce glasses of water daily.
- **Eat frequently.** Healthy snacks during the day keep the metabolism going and stop the urge to eat huge meals in the evening.
- **De-stress!** First recognize stress before you try to reduce it. Take a thoughtful inventory of the stressors in your life as a good place to start.
- **Attend to your emotional needs.** Look inwardly, because our emotions are usually at the heart of what affects our eating patterns.
- **Cultivate spiritual health.** Learning more about your spiritual needs can make a dramatic improvement in your health.
- **Get up and move.** Start with any type of physical activity and advance toward a varied exercise routine.
- **Set a weight goal.** Target losing 10 percent of your weight. It can lower BP, LDL, cholesterol and triglycerides, helping protect you from heart attack, stroke and diabetes.

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

Funding news

Mercy Care Services received the following funding awards during December 2010 and January and February 2011.

\$315,400	Grantor: City of Atlanta, Housing Opportunities for Persons living with AIDS Recipient: The Edgewood
\$10,000	Grantor: The Haverty Foundation Recipient: Vision Program
\$2,000	Grantor: MetroPower Recipient: General operations
\$775,724	Grantor: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Ryan White CARE Act Part C Recipient: Early Intervention Clinic
\$5,000	Grantor: Wachovia-Wells Fargo Foundation Recipient: Recuperative Care Program

Upcoming Events

*Mammography screenings at Mercy Clinic
Downtown (call for appt. 678-843-8600)
March 29, April 12 and May 24*

*Mammography screenings at Mercy Clinic
North (call for appt. 678-843-8700)
March 3 & 17, April 21 and May 5 & 19*

*SJMCS Board of Directors Meetings
March 29 and May 24*

*Staff Retreat
April 15*

*New Employee Orientation
May 16 2:00 p.m., update 2:45 p.m.*

*Employee Inforum
May 20*

*Clinics closed for Memorial Day
May 30*



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