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## **Mission of Mercy Opens Clinic in South Phoenix** ***St. Catherine of Siena New Host Site for Mobile Health Clinic for*** ***Working Poor and Uninsured***

**PHOENIX**— Mission of Mercy, a mobile Valley health care haven for the uninsured and working poor, will be opening a fourth clinic site in south-central Phoenix this July. The expansion comes on the heels of the organization marking its 100,000<sup>th</sup> patient visit milestone.

The site will open on July 8<sup>th</sup> and be located in the Teen Center building at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 6600 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix.

“We are very excited to see our dreams for expansion become a reality,” said Catherine Amiot, Executive Director. “For the majority of our patients, being sick is more than an inconvenience; it’s a catastrophe. Mission of Mercy provides a health safety net for folks that otherwise would have none.”

Mission of Mercy (MOM), a non-sectarian non-profit agency has been serving the Valley since 1997, taking a medically-equipped recreational vehicle to host sites in various neighborhoods throughout Maricopa County to serve the uninsured and working poor. The clinic offers free primary medical care and free prescription medications and currently operates at sites in central Phoenix, Maryvale and Mesa.

Since opening its doors, MOM has provided no-cost medical care to more than 40,000 patients and conducted 100,000 individual patient visits to families who otherwise would have sought primary health care services at local hospital emergency rooms or who would have simply gone without critically needed medical attention.

Arizona has the fourth highest uninsured population in the country, according the U.S. Census Bureau.

Dr. Brad Smith, Medical Director of the MOM Arizona Program, says the St. Catherine of Siena clinic will operate on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This bi-weekly schedule allows the site to

rotate its day of operation with the Maryvale clinic, which operates the first and third Tuesday. MOM will now operate a full three days per week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"By just adding this additional two days of service each month, we will have the capacity to provide an additional 1,200 patient visits per year," said Dr. Smith. This estimate is based on the number of patients MOM currently serves at its Maryvale clinic on a bi-weekly basis. In 2007, the Maryvale clinic served 571 patients and had 1,294 patient visits.

The St. Catherine of Siena site clinic will operate from 8am to 3pm. Appointments are recommended and can be made by calling the Appointment Line at (602) 486-7798 during the following hours: Tuesdays, 1pm-6pm and Thursdays, 9am-2pm. Some walk-ins can be accommodated; however, patients should arrive early as only a limited number are able to be seen.

"We are extremely pleased that Mission of Mercy will be here at St. Catherine's to serve the people of south Phoenix," said Fr. David Sanfilippo. "This is an extremely valuable service to the people who live and work here."

The work of Mission of Mercy would not be possible without a dedicated cadre of volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters, drivers, and other staff. There are more than 240 active volunteers serving throughout the Valley. Pro bono medical services are also provided by several Valley specialists and hospitals. Dr. Smith says that there is a current need for pro bono providers in all specialty areas, and particularly in the vision and dental fields.

"We could not do what we do without the generosity of our donors, the steadfast support of our community partners and the passionate dedication of our volunteers," said Amiot. "What makes it all work is the love and compassion in which we approach our task and the inherent belief we have been called by God to do it."

For more information about Mission of Mercy or about volunteer needs, please call (602) 861-2233 or visit us online at [www.amissionofmercy.org/arizona](http://www.amissionofmercy.org/arizona).

### **About Mission of Mercy**

*Mission of Mercy Arizona, a non-sectarian Valley non-profit agency that takes a medically-equipped recreational vehicle to host sites in various neighborhoods throughout Maricopa County to serve the uninsured and working poor. Mission of Mercy celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year of service in Arizona in 2007, and is funded entirely through private donations to provide free healthcare and prescription drugs to under- and uninsured individuals and families in Arizona. All services are free and no one is denied service due to inability to pay. Mission of Mercy was founded in 1994 and also operates in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Texas. Mission of Mercy seeks to restore dignity to all people by being an instrument of "healing through Love," and by the reciprocal sharing of God's mercy with those we serve. For further information, or to volunteer, call 602-288-7234 or visit [www.amissionofmercy.org](http://www.amissionofmercy.org).*

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