



MercyHealthClinic

Quality Health Care from
the Heart for Those in Need

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**PRIMARY CARE COALITION AWARD HONORS
MERCY HEALTH CLINIC FOUNDING MEDICAL
DIRECTOR JAMES A. RONAN, MD**

Jackson Award recognizes commitment and courage in serving disadvantaged families

December 18, 2009

Gaithersburg, MD—James A. Ronan, MD, Medical Director at the Mercy Health Clinic in Gaithersburg, received the Mary C. Jackson Award from the Primary Care Coalition (PCC) at their Annual Meeting December 9, 2009, at the AFI Silver in Silver Spring. The award is made annually to an employee or volunteer at a non-profit agency who has demonstrated a strong commitment and courage in serving underprivileged, underserved, and disadvantaged families.

As volunteer Medical Director since the Clinic's inception in 2000, Dr. Ronan has achieved the mission of improving and expanding high quality primary and specialty care for low income, uninsured patients. With an all-volunteer physician staff of 54, the clinic saw 1,944 patients with over 10,000 patient visits this past year, ranking 4th in number of patients served among all PCC clinics. Mercy is one of the few free clinics in the Montgomery Cares clinic network.

The first physician to sign on with the Clinic, Dr. Ronan recruited and led every one of the 54 volunteer physicians and 1 nurse practitioner who currently volunteer at the Clinic. He also recruited most of the partners who donate all of the Clinic's lab work (Shady Grove Adventist Hospital) and radiology (3 radiology practices). His presence has insured a strong reputation for the Clinic among the medical community. He personally reviews every medical record of every patient seen to insure appropriate and thorough treatment.

Volunteering tirelessly for 9 years—sometimes 4 days a week at the clinic plus additional hours at home—Dr. Ronan has shepherded the Clinic from its inception, including moving from Germantown to Gaithersburg in 2007. The Clinic is now preparing to expand its facility into adjoining space.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Clinic and one of the corporate officers, Dr. Ronan has also been a successful fundraiser. He once secured an individual gift of \$50,000 from a wealthy former patient and also obtained foundation grants while signing mail appeals to local individuals. In nine years on the Board of Directors, he has missed only a handful of Executive Committee and Board meetings.

Dr. Ronan is rightly viewed by the Board and staff of the Clinic as the heart and spirit of the Clinic. Although he recently announced his decision to step down as Medical Director, his legacy of selflessness and service will endure at the Clinic. While no one is indispensable, Dr. Ronan comes very close to that definition.

For more information, visit the Mercy Health Clinic website at www.mercyhealthclinic.org or phone Ryanne Clarke, Clinic Administrator, at 240.773.0307.
