



FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keeping in Touch with You

Mahatma Gandhi
once said, "You must
be the change you
wish to see in the
world."

At Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation we embrace that philosophy. As a member of the Southwest Baltimore community, we work closely with our partners, especially the Operation ReachOut Southwest (OROSW) community coalition, to build upon the assets of the West/Southwest Baltimore Community with the goal of restoring this community to a desirable place to live, work, and play.

Since our founding in 1991, the Bon Secours of Maryland

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Aretha Franklin Performs Benefit Concert



On March 20, 2008 Aretha Franklin rocked the walls of the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Her tremendous voice, talent and presence was matched only by the more than 1,700 fans who sang and danced throughout her performance.

"This was a wonderful evening for everyone," said George Kleb, Executive Director. "Ms. Franklin is a great performer and the audience's energy was tremendous."

The evening raised over \$250,000 which will be used to support the programs of the Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation.

A special and warm thank you to this year's sponsors who contributions reflect their partnership and commitment to Bon Secours. Thank you! 

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Foundation and its partners have created 559 new housing units in the West Baltimore neighborhoods surrounding Bon Secours and nearly \$48 million in capital improvements.

But the real story is not the numbers of homes or dollars spent, the real story is the people living in this great community. Our intention from day one has been to improve the quality of life for residents of Southwest Baltimore. There is nothing that speaks to this success like watching families return to the neighborhood. In this issue of *In Touch*, we share a story of just such as family working hard to restore a family home and remain in West Baltimore.

We are making great strides with your support. Grants like those received from Community Legacy and Neighborhoods for All Ages are important to the work we've accomplished, but more and more, it's our neighbors and friends that are making a real difference. In the past year our donations from individuals have increased four-fold. People are seeing the results of our work and they want to be a part of it. Like us, they know that Gandhi was right — change is an active verb, and it starts with us.

George Kleb
Executive Director

Making a House a Home

On a quiet tree-lined street in West Baltimore, just a few blocks from the MARC train station, lives Helen and her daughter. They moved to their West Baltimore row home in 1978. The neighborhood itself dates from around 1910 and consists of modest Baltimore row homes. The neighbors are an interesting amalgamation of seniors, empty nesters and singles.



“This house used to belong to my aunt and uncle and I remember visiting here on holidays when I was a child,” Helen explained. The 12’ ceilings and hardwood floors are in beautiful condition and lead from the foyer into a living room with comfortable sofas and chairs. The chandelier in the dining room casts golden beams of light on the table below and a curio cabinet is filled with mementos of a full and rich life. Brightened by cheerful yellow paint on the first floor walls and shades of periwinkle blue in the basement, it’s a haven for Helen and her daughter.

Helen works in the financial industry and commutes to her job in Owings Mills. Her daughter, Jennifer, attended Southwestern High School and went on to obtain her bachelor degree in hotel and restaurant management at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Jennifer spent four unbelievable months working for Disney in Orlando, Florida, while working toward her degree. Now she is learning to adapt to the irregular hours that hotel and restaurant management demands, sleeping during the morning and commuting to work in the afternoons.

As a member of the Operation ReachOut Southwest community coalition, Helen learned of grants that were available for home improvement and decided to apply. “My mom taught me to work hard and I’ve done a lot of work on my home, but when I learned about the grants available from Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation, I knew it would help me handle some of the things that I just couldn’t fix on my own,” Helen explained. The windows in her home were original and in need of repair or replacement and the basement door and window had other issues.

Once Helen was approved for the grant by Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation, she began working with Joanna Pi-Sunyer. Together they tackled the list of potential contractors, eventually settling on one firm that could handle all of the improvements. Joanna helped Helen to obtain a new roof, gutters and downspouts, basement door and window, kitchen window and several faucets in the bathrooms. These may not be glamorous home improvements, but they are vital home repairs that could not continue to go unaddressed. “In the winter, I couldn’t even stand in front of this window when I was working in the kitchen. The draft from around it felt like a cold wind blowing. Now, I stand and look out of it all the time,” said Helen with a wide smile.

Not surprisingly, the most challenging part of the entire improvement process was obtaining bids from contractors and managing the work once it began. Helen is pleased with the results of the labor, though she admits the process was not always easy. “It is so hard to manage contractors,” said Helen. “When will they be here? Have they done the job correctly? These are things that I found hard to handle myself. I couldn’t have done it without Joanna,” Helen shares. “She knows so much about the whole process, and how to get things done!”

Helen and Jennifer have not decided how long they will stay in their cozy, little row house, but there’s no doubt that it may be a little hard to part with the house now that they’ve made it into a place that really looks and feels like home. “It’s warm and wonderful — it’s our home.” ♡

Faith in Action

The Community Faith Nurse Ministry Alliance (The Nurse Ministry) is an outstanding faith-based, high impact program of Bon Secours providing a vital gateway for medically underserved individuals to access healthcare.

The Nurse Ministry was developed in 2004 by Joe Ann Murphy, RN, Nurse Ministry Manager, with the support and energy of Sister Alice Talone, CBS. Realizing the Southwest/West Baltimore communities meet the federal profile of medically underserved populations, Sister Alice and Joe Ann believed area residents would be comfortable receiving healthcare education and services in their houses of worship where they have a sense of community and felt safe. The Nurse Ministry's primary purpose is to improve the health outcomes of area residents. Since its inception, The Nurse Ministry has grown from serving five to 61 churches. In its first year of operation, The Nurse Ministry served 300 parishioners; just one year later the number had grown to more than 2,000.

The success of the program is based on the recruitment of Volunteer Nurses who are assisted in setting up The Nurse Ministry in his/her own congregation. The Volunteer Nurses, with support from Joe Ann and his/her church, are helped to identify specific unmet health needs of that congregation and supported in establishing a monthly schedule of services for parishioners.

While a wide variety of topics are brought to the churches, the reoccurring topics include:

- Educational seminars on disease management (heart disease, diabetes, stroke, arthritis)
- Health screenings that look for early warning signs of medical conditions
- Weight control and nutrition education seminars
- Health education materials and speakers on the topics of heart disease, diabetes, abuse/violence in the home, and rape
- Smoking cessation classes

In addition, the Volunteer Nurses provide referrals to physicians for individuals who need medical care and do not have a physician and make in-home visits to parishioners who become home-bound.

All that said, the Nurse Ministry's greatest strength is its ability to personally touch the lives of individuals with a vital service that improves their quality of life and reminds individuals, many of whom are physically ill, that someone cares and they are not alone. ♡

Health System Update

It is my pleasure to introduce Douglas David Mayo, M.D. as the new Medical Director, Emergency Department for Bon Secours Baltimore Health System, effective February 11, 2008. Dr. Mayo is double boarded in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. He is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a degree in Finance, and later a Medical degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. Most recently, an Attending Physician at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland, in the Department of Emergency Medicine, and at Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Mayo is also a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, where he is an Assistance Professor of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Mayo is a former Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic, and was also a Senior Financial Analyst for the Virginia Bureau of Insurance. Awards presented to Dr. Mayo include, the Governor's Citation in 2005 for volunteer medical relief work provided in Louisiana to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Mayo brings a passion and expertise to the Bon Secours' Emergency Department that is an excellent match with the complexity of medical conditions and extraordinarily high usage of Emergency Department Services by the community.

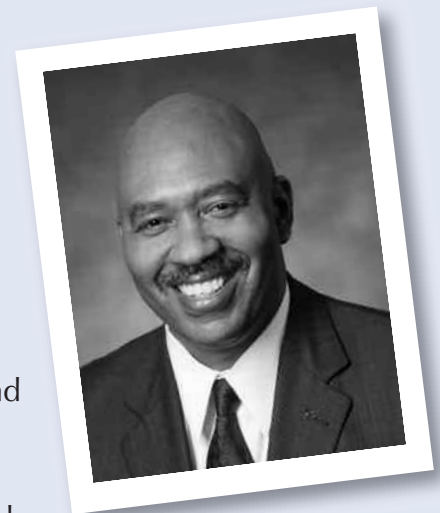
In addition to welcoming Dr. Mayo, it is my pleasure to share the good news of changes to the processes within the Emergency Department, which have resulted in improved patient care and comfort. Bon Secours Baltimore Health System is proud of its national visibility in many areas of its care, and is actively pursuing an Emergency Department with a similar reputation.

While I wish you good health, please know Bon Secours Baltimore Health System is available to you should you need quality emergency services.

Sincerely,



Samuel L. Ross, M.D., MS
CEO



DR. ROSS, CEO
Bon Secours Baltimore Health System



DR. MAYO
Medical Director, Emergency Department



Aretha Rocks Baltimore for Bon Secours!



Bon Secours was selected as host site for Governor O'Malley's and Mayor Dixon's press conference announcing the federal stimulus package and encouraging all Baltimore City residents to complete a 2007 tax return. Governor O'Malley also congratulated Bon Secours and its Our Money Place for their outstanding work in preparing more than 750 free tax returns — with two weeks left to go until tax day!

InTouch

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Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation
26 North Fulton Street
Baltimore, MD 21223

George Kleb, *Executive Director*

Erika McClammy, *Director, Housing*

Christiane Walker, *Director, Philanthropy*

For more information, please contact Chris Walker at 410-383-4715 or christiane_walker@bshsi.com

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