

# CONNECTIONS



**35**  
YEARS OF  
MARY'S CENTER



*Learn about how Mary's Center's service offerings continue to grow in our 35th year.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Mary's Center is celebrating our 35th anniversary in October. In 1988, Maria Gomez, along with a group of health advocates and the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, established Mary's Center to provide prenatal care to immigrant women fleeing war and poverty in Central America.

Mary's Center has grown exponentially in both the number of people served and the services provided over that time. Today, we have five clinics and two Senior Wellness Centers across DC and Maryland and serve more than 65,000 people annually. This growth would not be possible without our loyal supporters like you.

In addition to celebrating our 35th anniversary as an organization, Mary's Center recently marked our 15th year serving participants in Montgomery County, Maryland. The first Montgomery County clinic opened in 2008 in the Long Branch area and in 2018, we expanded our services in the county by relocating to a new and larger site located at 344 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring. By the end of 2023, we will be providing medical, dental, behavioral health, sonography, and social services to approximately 25,000 participants in Montgomery County.

Since 2012, our Adelphi clinic, which is co-located at Cool Springs Elementary School, has filled a critical need in Prince George's County. Due to the upcoming renovation of the elementary school, our clinic will be moving to a new and larger site in Prince George's County in late 2024. This will enable us to address the increasing need for high-quality affordable healthcare in the county.

Our DC services continue to thrive and expand as we work to meet the ever-growing need of under-resourced families in the District. As you will read more about in this newsletter, our dental suite at the Petworth clinic is being renovated to add additional chairs, which will allow many more individuals to receive critical dental care.

Mary's Center continues our efforts to address the challenges that community members encounter. Currently, we are working to address the DC maternal mortality rate, which recent findings show was 23.1 deaths per 100,000 live births over five years from 2014 through 2018. This rate is relatively high compared to the nationwide average during the same period, which was 20 deaths per 100,000 live births. We are tackling this jarring statistic by supporting our participants with early entry into prenatal care, prioritizing our facilitated telemedicine services, pairing them with a personalized care coordinator, and ensuring they have multiple post-partum checkups. Mary's Center is fortunate to have a talented Women's Health Services team to address this public health issue.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to our incredible network of supporters. We would not be celebrating these anniversary milestones or addressing critical issues in our community without your partnership. Thank you for your continued commitment to Mary's Center's work and for helping to further the organization's impact in the DC region.



Wendy Goldberg  
Chair of the Board



Tollie B. Elliott, Sr., M.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



Wendy Goldberg  
Chair of the Board



Tollie B. Elliott, Sr., M.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

## NAME MARY'S CENTER IN YOUR WILL

Did you know planned gifts are a great way to care for the causes that matter most to you? Including Mary's Center in your estate plan will help ensure our life-changing work for generations to come.

Naming us in your will is simple. Here is some suggested language: "I give and devise to Mary's Center, located in Washington, DC, all (or state percentage) of the rest, residue, and the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund)."

**Interested in learning more?  
Contact Heather Morgan,  
Executive Vice President of  
Development, at (202) 579-6198 or  
[hmorgan@maryscenter.org](mailto:hmorgan@maryscenter.org).**



# DENTAL EXPANSION AT PETWORTH CLINIC

Mary's Center is thrilled to announce the expansion of our dental program at our Georgia Avenue clinic in the Petworth neighborhood. This expansion includes the addition of multiple new dental chairs and one wheelchair-accessible dental chair to expand services for those with special needs. This would not have been made possible without the generosity of the Robert I. Schattner Foundation. "The Foundation believes in making dental health affordable and accessible and is pleased to support the expansion of Mary's Center's much-needed dental programs," said Sidney Bresler, President & Chairman of the Robert I. Schattner Foundation. The expansion of the dental suite comes at a crucial time as the demand for dental services continues to grow, and the need for accessible care becomes increasingly evident.

Currently, Mary's Center's dental department handles an average of 3,300 encounters per month across all three sites. With 19 dental chairs, each sees an average of 160 visits per day. However, our Petworth site, which is our largest clinic, only has 5 chairs. To address this issue, Mary's Center has identified an underutilized conference room and office space conveniently located next to the existing dental suite as the ideal space to accommodate three new dental chairs. This cost-effective decision allows us to effectively address the need to provide dental services to more participants.

By adding new dental chairs, Mary's Center expects to accommodate more than 300 additional appointments per month, resulting in 3,600 additional appointments per



*The addition of new dental chairs at the Petworth clinic will allow us to serve more participants at our busiest site.*

year per chair. This expansion will not only alleviate access barriers to dental care but also enable the Petworth clinic to cater to its large participant base more efficiently. Each of our dental suites is open 6 days a week, 10 hours a day, allowing as much access to great dental care as possible.

In addition to the new chairs, Mary's Center is also excited to introduce a Compact Wheelchair Recliner at the Dental Suite. This specialized chair will enable the expansion of dental services to individuals with mobility needs, ensuring that everyone has access to the care they require. Wheelchair-bound patients face increased risks during the transfer process from their wheelchairs to dental chairs, often discouraging them from seeking dental care. However, this new chair is completely wheelchair accessible, allowing the user to receive dental care without having to leave their wheelchair.

Dr. Richard Gesker, Mary's Center's Executive Vice President of Dental

Services, summarizes the significance of this expansion, stating that "these additional dental chairs are much needed, long-awaited, and will provide a meaningful and powerful return-on-investment in care for many years to come."

Looking ahead, the potential impact of expanding the dental program at Mary's Center is significant. With this expansion expected to be completed by late November 2023, we envision offering complete unrestricted access to comprehensive dental services for more participants who need it. Having access to dental care not only benefits one's oral health, it also positively affects a person's overall health and quality of life.

All of us at Mary's Center are extremely grateful to the Robert I. Schattner Foundation for their support of this important endeavor, which will help improve the health, both oral and physical, of the thousands of participants we serve.

# MARY'S CENTER WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For all nonprofits, it is critical to have a strong and talented leadership team to ensure that the organization's initiatives and programming are effective in working to fulfill its mission. Just as important to a nonprofit's success is a board of directors comprised of skilled individuals who are passionate about furthering the mission of the organization.

Mary's Center is fortunate to have an incredible Board of Directors whose members provide oversight and strategies to propel our organization forward. This spring, Mary's Center welcomed five new members to our board:



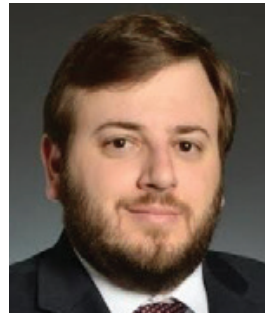
**Matthew G. Biel, M.D., M.Sc.**  
*MedStar Georgetown  
University Hospital and  
Georgetown University  
School of Medicine*



**Juan Corvinos Solans**  
*Hilton*



**Ellen Evans**  
*MHSA, BSN, RN  
Medtronic Gastrointestinal*



**Nick Friedmann**  
*BNY Mellon Wealth  
Management*



**Pepper Denise Reed**  
*DC Family  
Court Division*

These individuals demonstrate an unwavering commitment to improving access to high-quality health care and building stronger and healthier communities. Their passion and expertise can help influence how we improve upon our delivery of services.

While these five individuals may be new to our board, they are certainly not new to Mary's Center. In fact, Ellen is a former employee, who first served as a Clinical Nurse Supervisor at our Petworth clinic and later transitioned into the role of Clinical Director of Telemedicine to help with the launch of Mary's Center's Provider-to-Home program. Ellen shared that after departing Mary's Center in 2018, she had a strong desire to stay connected. "The mission never leaves you," she said. "I am thrilled to provide service to Mary's Center in a slightly different way - it's great to be back home."

Like Ellen, Nick is extremely passionate about Mary's Center's mission. "As the son of immigrants, I specifically admire the work to help diverse patient demographics," he said. As a new board member, Nick looks forward to leveraging his professional financial services expertise combined with his experience of being a long-time patient family.

In a similar vein, Pepper has been a member of Mary's Center's Community Engagement Council (CEC), which is solely comprised of Mary's Center participants and Briya Public Charter School students. Pepper serves as the Vice Chair of the CEC, which enables her to provide valuable feedback from the council to our Board of Directors.

Furthermore, these new board members are happy to provide their skills and expertise to their roles on the board. Juan, who has been a long-time donor to Mary's Center, said that he was inspired to join the board to "support Mary's Center in more ways than monetarily in order to make sure the organization is a long-lasting provider of this community." Juan also expressed the important role of the preventative medical services and social programs that Mary's Center provides to achieve improved public health outcomes.

We also look forward to having Dr. Biel as a member of our board. Dr. Biel has an extensive background in child and adolescent psychiatry and will offer his expertise as we work to strengthen our behavioral health services.

Mary's Center's staff are beyond grateful to all the incredible members of our Board of Directors. We appreciate their dedication to furthering Mary's Center's impact and improving the lives of our participants. To view the full list of Mary's Center's Board of Directors, visit

<https://www.maryscenter.org/about-us/board>

# TEAMING UP: MARY'S CENTER AND OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Mary's Center provides high-quality comprehensive care to participants in every aspect of their lives. To help ensure that our participants are on a path toward good health, stability, and economic independence, we rely on strong partnerships with organizations, including national entities like the National Association of Community Health Centers, as well as many local nonprofits.

One of these local nonprofits that we are proud to partner with is the Greater DC Diaper Bank (GDCDB). Since 2013, Mary's Center has proudly collaborated with GDCDB, benefiting from their donations of diapers and essential hygiene items, which our staff distributes to Mary's Center participants. GDCDB is a prominent organization serving the DMV area by providing basic baby necessities and personal hygiene supplies contributed by generous donors. Since partnering with GDCDB, Mary's Center has received 542,943 diapers and over \$52,983 worth of adult hygiene and baby items. GDCDB Interim Executive Director Jacquelyn Lendsey said of the partnership, "We are so honored to be able to work with and have such longstanding partnerships with incredible organizations like Mary's Center around the region. By providing a reliable source of diapers and other hygiene supplies, the staff at Mary's Center can focus their efforts and expertise on direct services for families."

Often, our partnerships with nonprofits develop to address a recent challenge impacting our local community. In the face of the recent migrant crisis, Mary's Center has strengthened collaborations with several local nonprofits dedicated to supporting the migrant community, like SAMU First Response. SAMU and Mary's Center were able to grow our partnership by providing care for the migrants over the past year, with Mary's



*Home Visiting participant receives diapers and other baby supplies.*

Center offering healthcare services and SAMU providing temporary lodging. Mary's Center recently initiated a program to distribute meals to asylum seekers that are being supported by SAMU's hotel housing. By connecting SAMU with one of our longstanding restaurant partners, Taberna del Alabaredo, Mary's Center has been instrumental in ensuring a secure supply of nutritious meals for the distribution program. Anticipated to be launched this fall, this joint initiative will distribute more than 100 meals every week, offering relief to the migrants who have endured challenging journeys in pursuit of safety.

Another nonprofit partner that is helping Mary's Center address a growing need in our community is the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter (NCA). Specifically, this collaboration's goal is to enhance care quality for the growing older adult population in the region. The DC Council reports that by 2030, the older adult population in the District could increase to 25% of the population. As the older adult community expands, Mary's Center and other healthcare entities must be prepared to meet this population's needs. Mary's Center recently participated in the Alzheimer's Association NCA's program called Project Echo, an innovative program that empowers primary care providers to develop a comprehensive understanding of Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. Sixteen Mary's Center caregivers participated in Project Echo and received specialized training to better understand the complexities of Alzheimer's so that they can offer improved memory care for older adults. By emphasizing high-quality care within community-based settings, the program holds great significance for providers who care for underserved communities.

**Greater DC Diaper Bank, SAMU, and the Alzheimer's Association NCA are just three of Mary's Center's many nonprofit partners. We are grateful to the numerous organizations that choose to collaborate with us to improve the lives of individuals and families in our community.**





# CONNECTIONS

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MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and Georgetown University School of Medicine

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Rouchon Dental

**Anne Tumlinson**  
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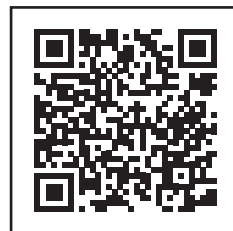
**Ellen Evans, MHSA, BSN, RN**  
Medtronic Gastrointestinal

**Patience White, MD MA**  
Got Transition and George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

**Nick Friedmann**  
BNY Mellon Wealth Management

## CONTRIBUTE TO OUR IN-KIND DONATION DRIVES

Mary's Center aims to support families in all aspects of wellness which includes assisting with day-to-day necessities, including clothing, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and more. Mary's Center hosts in-kind donation drives to help alleviate this need. Please consider uplifting our families by purchasing items from our online wish lists:



Please contribute by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.maryscenter.org/drives](http://www.maryscenter.org/drives)



Medical



Dental



Behavioral Health



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Social Services

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PAPER