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### **Newsletter Fall 2015**

What a wonderfully crisp Fall we've had!

Thanksgiving was so blessed. Thank you one and all for assisting us in our stewardship as we:

- 1) expanded our teaching program to include 3 Nurse Practitioner Schools along with our wonderful partnership with West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine:
- 2) once again, held a successful Emmitsburg Community Health Day, including multiphasic lab draw, hearing and vision screening, therapy connections and much more:
- 3) reduced the building debt and continue to plan for the next opportunity to break the LIBOR swap so that we might again reduce the clinic's total loan burden:
- 4) provide service to the medically uninsured (yes, even with government programs we have many people who cannot even afford the minimal cost required to participate in these programs) and the medically underinsured, especially those with high deductibles and copays for both medical services and needed mediation.

#### **Our Students:**

**WVSOM Osteopathic Medical students:** many now moving to their residencies, others to complete their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year rotations: Kiteria Finlayson; Monka Kauffman; Jennie Zhang; Anastasia Gevas; Ali Imtiaz; Nathaniel Thomas, Andrew Lee

**Nurse Practitioner Students:** Eliza Jones, Jessica Pires: University of Maryland; Jo-Ann Middleton, Sarah McCarthy, Melissa Bassett, Tracy: Chang Simmons; Nina Chase: University of Cincinnati

#### **Our Patients:**

This year I have a family story to share with you. It takes a strong woman to raise her own children, and have them grow up to be wonderful citizens of the world. Then Stephanie Maher worked and worried about other children, those who had significant psychiatric handicaps and were orphaned and considered unadoptable. If just one such child were adopted, and given such loving care, they would truly deserve great acclaim. Stephanie Maher adopted 4 children with mental and psychiatric handicaps and has and continues to raise them with love and determination. Often without resources she has fought for their care and stability when no one else would help even a little. This woman has worked with her children for over twenty years. Stephanie never looked back, second guessed herself or did anything but love her children. Stephanie's first family of three children did not understand and wanted no part. Her husband

could not accept these choices setting Stephanie on a heavy, lonely and at times overwhelmingly challenging journey. To date her own children have not reached out to her. EOPCC has worked with this family through the years helping where we can to obtain the medical and psychiatric care they need, connecting them with other providers who would do the same. While Stephanie worked through the harsh realities of little money and the limitations of medical assistance programs, and often poor choices made by her children as they came into their more active teens and early adulthood, we EOPCC did our best be of support. It is with great joy that Stephanie went home to a wonderful welcoming class reunion but not able to connect with her biologic family. Stephanie's glow on her return was visible and palpable to us, pangs remain along with forgiveness regarding her biologic children.

There are other brave families whose stories we cannot share. We thank Stephanie Maher who was eager to share her story. Knowing these women, helps keep us on our EOPCC mission to serve those in need of healthcare regardless of their ability to pay. It also convinces us, more than ever, that God wants us to be playing on this team, in this wonderfully created world. We get out of bed each morning happy to be a member of our great team. Yes we have our foibles and we run into glitches, but we keep trying, every day to make ourselves and our patients better.

### **Christmas Angels:**

Every Year for the last several years two anonymous donors have made it possible for 3 families to receive a Christmas rescue of about \$500.00 of saved change to help them get through what could be a tough season. This year two more donors helped two more families with similar donations. Also the anonymous donors have made it possible for to children to have Christmas bicycles and for two families to have a complete Christmas dinner. EOPCC is a mere conduit for all this goodness to reach out to those who could use a break from their many life challenges. We are so blessed to be a part of the Angels' work.

### **Gifts, Fundraising and Paying down the debt.**

Our **Founders Club** continues to gather new members.

Welcome Elizabeth Prongas!

Last fall we lost a treasured Friend: Father Paul Redmond. This year we received a monetary gift for \$5, 000.00 from his estate. Spring 2016 we will honor him with a memorial bench and table set up in our healing garden where he so wanted a memorial bench. Thanks to this great gift, Fr. Paul Redmond became a member of our Founders Club.

Thanks to our wonderful Board and Auxiliary Board, our September 26, 2015 **Wine Tasting** Event was the most successful yet as it netted \$ 6,300. Dr. David Rehm, PhD, who again donated his services, provided the wine choices, as he swept us off our feet with his knowledge, wit and wisdom. Our 75 attendees left all smiles.

Last Spring our **Celtic Spring Fling Dinner** gave EOPCC Building Fund a boost of over \$2000.00. We are grateful to St. Joseph’s Church providing us space and time; to Bill O’Toole and Cathy Bodin for organizing and coordinating, to Albert Hobbs donation of time and talent, Cormorant’s Fancy musicians, and to Margaret and Ed Baker, who again provided us all with excellent food.

The bake sales, Community Day tours, St. Anthony Yard Sales all have helped each in its own way to provide resources for EOPCC.

While we could not have our scheduled November 14, 2015 Retro Rockets Rock and Roll fundraiser because of a glitch in our booking with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, we look forward to their return for our November 2016 Dance fundraiser.

**Our EOPCC brick project:** to complete the healing Garden, we are looking forward to holding a new campaign for brick donations: Smaller bricks will be used for a framing wall on the east side of the garden and larger bricks will be used for enclosing the building siding to provide a warm witness in the garden to so many who have journeyed with us. Your donation of a brick can make all the difference. Remember those you love with a Memorial Brick:

\_\_\_\$50.00: 4 “x 8” brick: 4 lines of up to 18 characters each

\_\_\_\$100.00: 8”x8” brick: 8 lines of up to 18 characters each

\_\_\_ \$150.00: 12”x12” brick: 12 lines of up to 18 characters each

MY BRICK DEDICATION:

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**Your Donation Matters:**

Our economic times are more stressed than ever. We are asking everyone who receives this letter to help us continue our work by donating: \_\_\_\$5, \_\_\_\$10, \_\_\_\$15, \_\_\_\$25 or \$\_\_\_\_\_. Also, if you have any items lying about the house, taking up space, that might serve as a prize in silent auction, or anything that will help EOPCC pay down its debt, or enhance services, make our website more functional, WE WILL WELCOME THEM WARMLY! All donations are used toward paying down the building debt unless designated otherwise. Please remember, your donation counts!