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**J. Scott Golding, MS**  
Executive Director

December 18, 2009

Dear Friend,

“Access to care” is a phrase that I use often. It is a common phrase in the world of charitable clinics, and it refers to the efforts that we — the board, staff, volunteer and Medical Care Mission friends like you — make to ensure that those who need health care receive it, regardless of their economic situations.

Of course, these days, the economic situation of the nation as a whole is sending more and more people to our doors at 1857 Pine Street. In truth, the medical clinic’s move has created a greater visibility to the public at large and a stronger collaboration with Hendrick to offer a medical home to patients who once turned to the Trauma Center for primary care.

These two factors combined have created an influx of new patients. In the past, our records have increased by 1,000 patients each year. We made chart number 1,000 for 2009 on November 12. That means we’ll probably add 200 more patients this year than last, and if trends continue, we’ll add 1,400 in 2010. We are happy to add these patients to our current 55,000 because we know they need help. Our new location has increased access to care for many.

But some people are still being turned away. Now, you know we don’t turn people away because of an ability to pay. At the Mission, low income is not a barrier to care. Still, each week, we’re turning away 75 people who would like to become new patients because we don’t have the staff to see them. You see, we open our books for new-patient appointments each week on Monday at 9 a.m. Usually by 9:30, the books are closed again . . . because the new-patient schedule is full for the week.

When they call, many of our potential patients are struggling with serious illness, such as diabetes. They’re out of medication and have no way of obtaining more. Some have never been on the proper medication at all, and they don’t remember the last time they’ve had blood drawn to check the appropriate levels. They are hurting now and are told that we might be able to see them later, if they’ll just call back next Monday . . .

If we at the Mission could hire another medical provider, we could increase the access to care that is available to our current and prospective patients. Let me be clear about the fact that the quality of care is not the problem. I have heard several stories of patients in the past few weeks saying things such as, “I may have lost my insurance, but at the Mission, I’ve found the best physician I’ve ever seen.”

Drs. Darrold Stoebner and George Woodward as seeing as many patients as they

can, and they are grateful for the help from the rest of our medical staff and our volunteer physicians. Still, we are not keeping up with demand of our neighbors in our community who need care and have nowhere else to go.

I am writing to you today to try to explain how critical the needs of our patients and potential patients are right now and to ask you to consider making a gift that would allow us to hire another medical professional who could help offer more people access to care through this ministry of healing.

Could you consider making a gift today to help this effort?

Only you know your giving capacity, and only you know what is in your heart concerning this ministry. I am grateful for your consideration. Gifts from you and others who care about the Mission's patients will ensure that more and more people receive the care they need at the time they need it.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, and please keep the Mission's board, staff, volunteers and patients in your prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Scott Golding, M.S.  
Executive Director



Scott, enclosed is my year-end gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as the Mission seeks to serve even more people in need.

### COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES AND UPDATES:

Add me to the e-mail list:

My mailing address has changed:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive e-mailed materials only.

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