



# Mission of Love Charities

## 2009-2010 Year-End Report

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**M**ission of Love Charities (MOLC) is a multi-faceted nonprofit health and human services organization committed to providing programs and services that address short- and long-term needs of underserved, misfortunate and at-risk individuals and families in Prince George's County and surrounding communities throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Since its founding in 1990 and incorporation in 1991, MOLC has provided emergency assistance to more than 275,000 disadvantaged individuals and homeless families. In an average year, MOLC assists 6,000 first-time clients and 4,000 repeat clients, for a total of 10,000 clients per year and 16,000 units of service. A unit of service represents each time a client returns for any kind of service. MOLC services are provided free of charge to qualified individual and families under four core program areas: Basic Needs, Life Skills, Youth Development, and Senior's Network. This report covers MOLC's successes and challenges over the past year. However, in spite of many challenges over the years, MOLC has remained true to its mission of "helping people, changing lives."

## Challenges

On June 12, 2009, MOLC was forced to make the hard decision to lay-off its entire staff in order to keep the utilities on and to provide minimum services to those persons who have come to depend on MOLC for their survival needs. However, due to the goodwill of County Executive Jack Johnson, Councilman Samuel Dean and the County Council, MOLC was able to pay its bills and reopen with reduced staff on September 14, 2009.

In spite of our current economic climate, MOLC will continue its efforts to deliver services to low- and moderate-income individuals and families, most earning \$21,000 per year or less. These are generally individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 years old who live or are homeless in Prince George's County, Maryland, and surrounding communities throughout the Washington metropolitan area. MOLC remains the only organization with the capacity to handle such a large volume of individuals and families at no cost, thereby filling a greatly needed gap in services in the community.

## Basic Needs Program

MOLC provided 14,058 units of service to 9,234 individuals and families between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, through this program. Services provided included the following:

- Screened and served 5,841 first-time clients who initially came for clothing, furniture, household amenities, canned/dried food; many were referred to other programs or services.
- In addition to first-time clients, MOLC served 3,393 repeat clients who returned to shop for clothing, furniture, household amenities, canned/dried food, and were also referred to other programs offered by MOLC.
- Provided 296 families with Thanksgiving food baskets, and 324 children with toys, coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for Christmas.
- Referred 96 clients to partnering organizations.

### *Basic Needs Success Story*

Mr. David Henry came to MOLC downtrodden, hungry, out of work and homeless. He lost his construction job due to economic conditions and a permanent injury to his hand. This disability prevented him from getting new work on a continual basis in his field. He first came into MOLC because he was "just walking and looking for help."

After discussing his situation with MOLC staff, he was introduced to Dr. Edwards who found work for him and referred him to other organizations and other clients. Putting him to work made a tremendous difference in his life! He felt better about everything and he gradually put the pieces of his life back together. He now has a room in a house, furnished by MOLC donations, has steady work and now comes to MOLC to say hello or to work, instead of shopping for his survival needs.

## Life Skills Program

MOLC received 75 applications through this program, which prepares the unemployed and underemployed for jobs and higher paying, skills-based jobs in high-growth sectors of the workforce. We recruit, enroll, assess, and train clients for employment, as well as make referrals to Prince George's Community College, Job Corps, and the University of the District of Columbia.

MOLC stays in contact with clients, calling and/or visiting those who miss more than two classes. We also provide help with job search and referrals, conduct workshops and provide networking opportunities through the MOLC Alumni Association.

## Youth Development Program

MOLC provided 648 units of service to 51 youth and young adults through this program between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. This program seeks to provide positive developmental experiences for at-risk youth and young adults combined with guidance and skills training for young adults. The program is devoted to helping youth and young adults improve self-esteem, develop socialization skills, take on leadership roles, and stay in school. These workshops include Time Management, Financial Literacy, Computer Skills, and Know Your Legal Rights.

To add fun to the lives of our youth, the MOLC Movie Nights are always well attended. In addition, we give youth an opportunity to express themselves on any topic during our annual Open Mic Night.

## Life Skills Success Story

Linda Williams came to MOLC to shop for household items and saw the training advertisement. She made a decision on the spot to apply for home health aide training, and soon after recruited her sister, Leticia Bottom, into the program. MOLC assisted Linda in creating a resume, which



*Linda Williams (second from left) and Leticia Bottom (sixth from left)*

helped her get a job with Visiting Angels In Largo, MD. Linda says MOLC helped her develop writing skills and to communicate better with others — skills she uses every day in her job. Linda is dependable, motivated and is constantly striving to better herself. She has decided to pursue her long-time interest in culinary arts, by first getting a food handler's certification and later a certification in culinary arts.

For Leticia, Linda's sister, the Life Skills program not only helped her to understand opportunities available in the home health field, it also helped her get a good job as a home health aide with Nurses Unlimited. MOLC helped her get to know herself better and supported her in finishing her coursework at the University of the District of Columbia. Leticia also believes MOLC helped raise her self-esteem, improved her writing skills and helped her become a more loving and caring person. All these skills have helped her do well in her field. She recently attended an MOLC-hosted alumni luncheon where both Linda and Leticia expressed gratitude to MOLC for helping to change their lives.

Linda, Leticia and their family also give back to MOLC by donating clothes and furniture to others as well as providing backpacks to our youth during our back-to-school drive.

## Youth Development Success Story



At the Mission of Love Charities, we are very impressed with how Tatiana Johnson has grown as a result of being involved in MOLC's youth program. She is often commended by instructors for her noticeable poise and abilities. She is already a world traveler, has the ability to speak Spanish, and recently won Homecoming Duchess for the 10th grade class at Dr. Henry A Wise Jr. High School.

As a frequent participant in MOLC workshops over the last two years, we have witnessed Tatiana speaking up, being willing to learn, and being curious about every subject we teach. A lawyer who taught the Know Your Legal Rights seminar, which provides real cases for students to analyze, commented on Tatiana's abilities and resourcefulness. He said that she was actively engaged in the subject, passionate about bringing out the facts in the case studies, and volunteered to present her team's position.

In addition to her support of MOLC, she is active in her church — singing in the choir, serving in the usher ministry and helping with children. She also volunteered with Maryland Park and Planning this past summer at an elementary school summer camp.

Tatiana is always respectful, helpful, a fast learner and needs little direction. We are proud that she is a member of our Youth Development Program.

## Seniors Network Program

MOLC provided 764 units of service to 61 seniors through this program between July 1, 2009,

and June 30, 2010. This program is for seniors 60 years of age and older and gives them the opportunity to learn new skills and provide outlets for special activities. Seniors are able to learn basic and ad-

vanced computer skills, receive information on wellness, participate in health screenings, receive basic transportation assistance, and meet others in off-site social activities.

### Seniors Network Success Stories

#### Margaret White: A Hunger For Lifelong Learning

Ms. Margaret White came to the Mission of Love Charities because she heard about a computer program for seniors. Once she completed the orientation process, and met Ms. Flood, the instructor, who quickly put her at ease, she knew that she had again made the right decision.

Ms. White, who has been very active in the community and county as a civic worker for many years, said, "There are some seniors who 'retire to expire,' and others who 'retire to inspire.'" Margaret also said that she has always had a hunger for learning, even as a young person. In her work with civic and community organizations, she is constantly preparing letters, emails, fliers, new items, etc. on her computer (through trial and error at first) that are disseminated throughout the community. While she often encountered formatting problems of one kind or another, she still persisted. She said that there were many things she wanted to do on the computer but didn't know how. But not any more! Since she has been taking computer classes at MOLC over the past year, she has learned how to do many of the things that were stressing her out before and much more! She said that her newly acquired skills have enabled her to be more confident and competent on the computer, which now makes her community work even more enjoyable. She said that she is "astonished" and "very proud" of her present computer skills and feels a great sense of achievement. She credits her newly acquired computer skills to the very comprehensive training she received from her instructor, Ms. Flood, and the warm fellowship with her fellow classmates at the Dr. Douglas E. Edwards Training Center.

A retired career nurse for 40 years, she has worked in various hospitals such as Howard University, Georgetown University, DC General and George Washington University. Because of her hunger for learning, she has also worked in the area of real estate for 17 years. For Ms. White, "retirement" is not in her vocabulary. With the help of MOLC computer classes, she continues to be an inspiration and a very active senior with a hunger for lifelong learning.



Ms. Margaret White (center)

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#### Rachel Gould: Where There's A Will, There's A Way



Ms. Rachel Gould (center)

Francine Flood, instructor for MOLC's computer classes, said she is very impressed not only with Ms. Rachel Gould's desire to learn, but also with her tenacity, her independence, and how she does not allow her health challenge to preclude her from regularly attending class. Some people who have faced the on-going physical challenges, such as COPD and asthma for over ten years, might not have the fortitude or desire to step out into mainstream life and learn new skills. This is not the case for Ms. Gould. In fact, she has to carry a mobile Smart Dose Oxygen pack wherever she goes. She says she refuses to "let my handicap rule me, as I don't want to be living for the oxygen, but living for myself!"

Mrs. Gould, whose daughter signed her up for the computer class as a surprise, says she is so proud of herself and her newly acquired computer skills, and is more confident, comfortable and knowledgeable when working on her personal projects. Mrs. Gould says that she's no longer "afraid of the mouse," is very pleased with her new progress and enjoys the fellowship with her classmates.

Mrs. Gould has been retired for many years, having been employed a considerable time with both the Naval Department and the DC. Public School System. She boasts being married 55 years, with two adult children and three grandchildren. Her family, including her daughter, is very proud of her computer achievements and how she is a living example of "where there is a will, there is a way."



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#### **Administrative & Warehouse Facility**

6180 Old Central Avenue  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

#### **Training Facility**

1400 Doewood Lane  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

#### **Warehouse Hours**

(Donations & Shopping)  
Mon-Thur: 9:00am-5:00pm  
Fri: Closed (donations accepted)  
Sat: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Closed for shopping weekdays 11:45am-1:15pm

Pickup available for large donations.

MOLC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit committed to providing free programs and services to vulnerable, at-risk families and individuals in the Washington metropolitan area. Financial gifts, in-kind offerings and material donations are tax deductible as applicable by law.

United Way Agency #8002  
CFC Designation #79375

