Doctors and their Families Make a Difference

PHYSICIANS AND FAMILIES “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” FOR THOSE IN MICHIGAN'S CRISIS SHELTERS

2007 - The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Foundation mobilized hundreds of volunteers this month in its annual statewide effort to help provide basic comforts to those living in Michigan's domestic violence shelters. Participating volunteers go into their communities, distribute plastic bags and ask that they be filled with basic necessities such as over-the-counter medicines, disposable diapers, new socks and underwear, baby food and formula, and household cleaning supplies. Last year, volunteers managed to collect more than 12,000 bags, which helped approximately 24,000 people.

"The women and children in Michigan's domestic violence shelters often arrive there with only the clothes on their backs," said MSMS Foundation President Dorothy M. Kahkonen, MD, Ann Arbor endocrinologist. "We hope these simple gifts will make their lives more comfortable--more normal--as they face the difficulties created by domestic violence."

The MSMS Foundation’s 12th annual project is held in conjunction with the Gannett Foundation/Points of Light Foundation's national "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, October 25. The goal of this national effort is to simultaneously mobilize volunteers in communities across the nation on that day.

Partners in the MSMS Foundation's effort to help those in shelters across Michigan are MSMS physician members and their families; the MSMS Alliance organization of physician spouses; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM); East Lansing-based medical liability insurer American Physicians Assurance Corporation, and MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency.

"Our communities and our state really do need us, and we are pleased to be able to help through this good project. Our state wide volunteers collect he much needed items throughout the year to help in this cause," said Lakshmi Tummala, President of the MSMS Alliance.

Every year, MSMSA partners with the MSMS Foundation and Michigan county alliances to “Make A Difference”. If you or your county alliance is interested in participating this year, please let us know and we will get you plastic bags and additional information.