



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Washington Adventist Hospital and Mary's Center Celebrate Opening of Primary Care Center for Under-served in Maryland**

*Collaboration Expands Health Care Access, Strengthens Region's Safety Net*

**Long Branch, MD** – Washington Adventist Hospital and Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, a federally qualified, comprehensive health center based in Washington, DC, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 8, to mark the opening of a primary care center in the Long Branch area of Montgomery County. The primary care center, the first Mary's Center location in Maryland, will offer a full range of vital health-care services to residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, regardless of ability to pay.

"We believe our partnership with Mary's Center and the opening of the primary care center in Long Branch will further expand access to health-care services for the communities we serve – a key element in our Vision for Expanded Access initiative," said Jere Stocks, President of Washington Adventist Hospital. "Together we are strengthening the region's health-care safety net."

The 3,600-square-foot primary care center located at 8709 Flower Ave. in the Long Branch section of Silver Spring, will provide the full range of services to include: prenatal care, pediatric/adolescent health services, adult health services and women's services, including obstetrical and gynecological care, as well as social-services programs. These services will be provided by a multidisciplinary health-care team. With a grant from Washington Adventist Hospital, Mary's Center will be able to expand health-care access in the region.

"We, at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, are constantly striving to serve the needs of our communities," said Maria Gomez, president and CEO of Mary's Center. "We are happy to extend these services to those who live in Maryland. Our partnership with Washington Adventist Hospital will allow Maryland families to receive quality and culturally appropriate services, thereby bridging the gap and promoting healthier communities."

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and other government and elected officials attended the event. Leggett praised the "partnership between Mary's Center and Washington Adventist Hospital," saying Montgomery County cannot do it alone when it comes to providing health care for those in need.

With 20 years of experience, Mary's Center demonstrates how improved access to family medical care, coupled with sensitivity to culture and language, lead to healthy families and safer communities.

"We recognize that our communities benefit greatly when we form partnerships like the one between Washington Adventist Hospital and Mary's Center," said Bill Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. Robertson said he was proud to add Mary's Center to the many partnerships that Adventist HealthCare has formed over the years, including Casa De Maryland, Mobile Med, Impact Silver Spring and many other organizations." "We have more impact to expand access to care when we work together."

For more information about Washington Adventist Hospital's Vision for Expanded Access, go to [www.expandedhealthaccess.com](http://www.expandedhealthaccess.com).

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**Washington Adventist Hospital** is a 285-bed, state-of-the-art acute care facility located in Takoma Park, Maryland. Washington Adventist Hospital is Montgomery County's first complete cardiac center, performing more than 500 open-heart surgeries and more than 7,000 heart catheterizations each year. Washington Adventist Hospital is part of Adventist HealthCare, an integrated health-care delivery system based in Rockville, Maryland. For more information, visit [www.washingtonadventisthospital.com](http://www.washingtonadventisthospital.com).

**Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care** is a federally qualified health care center that has been serving DC Metro area residents for more than twenty years. The mission of Mary's Center is to build better futures through delivery of health care, education and social services as we continue save lives and strengthen communities, one family at a time. [www.maryscenter.org](http://www.maryscenter.org)