

**DC PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION  
NEWS RELEASE**

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*Communications Specialist*

**DC PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION TO HOST ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY  
*Honoring Four Health Care Advocates in the Community***

Washington, DC--**Sharon A. Baskerville**, chief executive officer of the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) will present its 2008 Salmon Award to **María S. Gómez, RN, MPH**, president and chief executive officer of Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc. at the association's annual awards ceremony and reception at 6 pm today at Crowell & Moring LLP, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Baskerville said, "I am so happy to honor María with this award in recognition of a life spent swimming upstream."

In 1988, Gomez established Mary's Center to provide prenatal and post-partum care for Latino women living in Ward One. The nonprofit has grown from an initial budget of \$250,000 to an annual budget of over \$14 million. The federally qualified community health center now serves more than 10,000 individuals and families from across the DC metropolitan area. In early May, Mary's Center opened a second facility in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In addition to Gómez, Baskerville will recognize three other District health care advocates.

**Bailus Walker Jr., PhD, MPH**, professor of environmental and occupational medicine at the Howard University College of Medicine, will receive DCPCA's 2008 Chairman for Life Award, "in recognition of dedication through years of service behind the scenes, in quiet pursuit of excellence."

**Lawrence H. Mirel, JD**, a partner at Wiley Rein LLP, will receive DCPCA's 2008 Purple Heart Award "for daring to speak truth to power."

**Patricia D. Hawkins, PhD**, associate executive director at the Whitman-Walker Clinic, will receive DCPCA's 2008 Never Say Die Award, "in recognition of extraordinary persistence in health care advocacy and the tenacity to stay until the job gets done."

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Media must R.S.V.P. to [Audrey Kudler](#) at (202) 638-0252 (ext. 246) to attend DCPCA's Summer Reception, 6 - 9 pm, Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at Crowell & Moring LLP, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004.

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*DCPCA is a nonprofit health care reform organization founded in 1998 to improve the health of DC's vulnerable residents by ensuring that they receive high quality primary health care -- regardless of their ability to pay.*

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