



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Lyda Vanegas
Director Advocacy and Communications
202-420-7051
lvanegas@maryscenter.org

Mary's Center Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Washington, D.C. – [Mary's Center](#)'s sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from [Charity Navigator](#), America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the third consecutive time that Mary's Center has earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added a second dimension of Accountability and Transparency (A&T) to its rating methodology, and now reviews 17 governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, providing information on its web site for each of the charities it evaluates. The A&T metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Mary's Center's coveted [4-star rating](#) puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Ken Berger, President and CEO, Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that, now, with our new Accountability and Transparency metrics, demands even greater rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Mary's Center's supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

Only 12% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Mary's Center outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Mary's Center from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

"It's gratifying to be acknowledged by the transparency of our work, operations, and best practices," says Maria Gomez, President and CEO, Mary's Center. "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously."

For more information about how to support Mary's Center's \$2 million fundraising efforts for FY 2014, please contact our Chief Development Officer, Rebecca Diamond at 202-420-7071 or at rdiamond@maryscenter.org.

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[About Mary's Center](#)

Founded in 1988, Mary's Center is a [federally qualified health center](#) that provides health care, family literacy and social services to 40,000 individuals whose needs too often go unmet by the public and private systems. Mary's Center uses a holistic, multipronged approach to help each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stable families, and economic independence. The Center offers high-quality, professional care in a safe and trusting environment to residents from the entire DC metropolitan region, including individuals from over 110 countries. www.maryscenter.org.

[About Charity Navigator](#)

Charity Navigator is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of roughly 5,500 mid-to-large sized charities that garner roughly 50% of all private contributions made in the USA each year (not including houses of worship). Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 201, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.