



## MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY AND ALLIANCE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

In May 2000, the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) House of Delegates (HOD) established the MMS and Alliance Charitable Foundation for health and community action. The Foundation represents an expansion of the former Massachusetts Medical Society Alliance Charitable and Educational Fund and also builds upon the Community Action Grant program, previously administered by the MMS Committee on Community Action.

The mission of the Foundation is to support the charitable and educational activities of the MMS and the MMS Alliance — including, but not limited to, developing and nurturing of cooperation between individuals, the professions, the institutions, and the community to creatively address issues that may affect the health, benefit, and welfare of the community.

The Foundation currently administers three grant programs:

- Community Action, funding for community action projects which creatively address issues that affect the health and well-being of the community;
- Care for the Medically Uninsured, support for physician-led volunteer initiatives to provide free care to uninsured patients and increase access to care for the medically underinsured; and
- International Health Studies, support for medical students and house officers who are members of the MMS and want to pursue international education, particularly focusing on underserved populations.

In addition, the Foundation may undertake fundraising for specific causes or events. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11 against the United States, the Foundation solicited donations to help support relief efforts for victims and their families. The Foundation raised more than \$38,000 from a combination of donations from the MMS, its members, Alliance members, and staff.

For more information on the Foundation and its activities visit [www.mmsfoundation.org](http://www.mmsfoundation.org) or contact Jennifer Day, Manager of Development and Community Programs, at (781) 434-7044.

### 2001–2002 Grants

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**Dukes County Health Council** — \$10,000 to bring medical students and residents on rotation to work with Martha's Vineyard physicians to expand the Island's primary care resources.

**Great Brook Valley Health Center, Inc.** — \$10,000 to reinforce medical department protocols that identify and assist patients suffering from depression.

**Jane Doe Inc.** — \$25,000 to increase capacity to focus on three specific health care initiatives. Jane Doe Inc. is the umbrella organization for agencies and organizations in Massachusetts that provide direct services to survivors of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault.

**Massachusetts Citizens for Children** — \$20,000 to support the training expenses and prevention-related materials associated with the Central Massachusetts Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Campaign.

**Samaritans of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.** — \$10,000 to augment a recently awarded Massachusetts Department of Public Health grant to help implement the Educating for Life Program, a school-based suicide prevention program serving communities in Northeastern Massachusetts.

**The Hospitality Program** — \$5,000 to support the Needs Assessment Project with a three-year strategic plan. The Hospitality Program responds to the housing needs of patients and their families who travel to the Boston area for medical care.

**Vanitha Janakiram** — \$1,000

*Sharada Dhanvantari Charitable Hospital – Sringeri, India*  
“I have returned from Sringeri with a more realistic idea of how to be a medical professional with a stable involvement in improving health care in the developing world.”

**Sharon J. Phillips** — \$1,000

*Pathfinder International – Lima, Peru*  
“During my two months in Peru, I learned a great deal about the realities of living in a developing country. I am heartened to see so many people working to improve the health of those Peruvians with the fewest resources.”

**Jennifer Marie Wu, M.D.** — \$1,000

*Black Lion Hospital – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*  
“Working as an OB/GYN in Ethiopia I gained insight into the practice of medicine in one of the poorest countries in the world. I learned about the challenges and hardships that face physicians in a third-world country and about the extreme disparity of health care between developing and developed nations.”

**Laurie C. Zephyrin, M.D.** — \$1,000

*St. Mary's Hospital and McCord's Hospital – Kwazulu Natal, South Africa*  
“In South Africa, the HIV-infection rate is astounding and is especially devastating to women and children. Never before has worldwide support of equal access to health care and basic reproductive needs been so imperative. My South African experience has reinforced my commitment to public health and international health policy.”