



# Divine Mercy Care

Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare™

Summer 2018 News

## IN THIS ISSUE, LEARN MORE ABOUT...

**WHAT DRAWS  
SUMMER INTERNS  
TO DIVINE  
MERCY CARE**

**HOW TEPEYAC  
MEDICAL  
ROTATIONS  
INSPIRE**

**PRO WOMEN'S  
HEALTHCARE  
CENTERS:  
A GROWING  
PRO-LIFE  
RESOURCE**

**WHAT FRIDAY  
FEATURES  
TEACH US**

**...AND MUCH  
MORE**



# The Vision, Mission, and Eight Programs of Divine Mercy Care

- Divine Mercy Care is a non-profit that advances pro-life medicine through education and financial support.
- Our vision (and tagline) is transforming hearts through healthcare.
- Our mission is *servicing* those in need, *inspiring* caregivers and medical professionals, and *unifying* the pro-life movement.
- Our SERVE programs:
  - » Tepeyac OB/GYN, a pro-life medical practice and our primary program
  - » Infant Gift Baskets
  - » Perinatal Hospice and Infant Loss Support
- Our INSPIRE Programs:
  - » Pro-life Education and Outreach
  - » Medical Education and Outreach
  - » Aslan’s Army Church Education and Outreach
- Our Unify Programs
  - » Local Pro-Life Unification
  - » National Pro-Life Unification

**Since last month, when we introduced the logos for each of Divine Mercy Care’s programs, we hope you’ve enjoyed becoming more familiar with these symbols. Each represents an important aspect of our overall mission, and we’re happy to distinguish them for you.**

## Serve



Tepeyac OB/GYN



Infant Gift Baskets



Infant Loss Support

## Inspire



Pro-Life Education and Outreach



Medical Education and Outreach



Aslan’s Army Church  
Education and Outreach

## Unify



Local Pro-Life Unification



Pro Women’s Healthcare Centers

# Current Volunteer Needs

## DIVINE MERCY CARE:

- Serve on the Planning Committee for Tepeyac OB/GYN's 25th Anniversary celebrations.
- Phoned and written outreach to pregnancy centers and NFP instructors (DMC local unity efforts)
- Marketing/Communications research for quotable material from online sources.



To learn more about our programs or to volunteer, contact us at [info@divinemercycare.org](mailto:info@divinemercycare.org)

## SERVE

### Infant Gift Basket Program is Showered with Blessings

To replenish our Infant Gift Baskets, St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Chantilly, VA held a shower that generously addressed the needs of certain Tepeyac mothers for some extra help. Thank you, St. Tim's, for that assortment of stylish togs for the newborn lady and gentleman!



# SERVE

## A Reluctant Immigrant's Choice: Muhammad's Story

To say that Muhammad was your classic reluctant immigrant would be to understate the matter considerably. In 2002, when he began working as an interpreter for the U.S. Army in his home country, he had entertained no thought of ever leaving the land where he had been born, grown up, and sired a family. Over the years, however, local security conditions had grown increasingly perilous—and would so continue. By 2017, his employers were urging him to take advantage of special U.S. immigration visas for those engaged in work like his. Packing up his non-English-speaking wife and three children, he landed here in mid-July 2017 as a mature man of considerable talent, but without U.S. citizenship or gainful employment.

In late July, a new consideration was added to Muhammad's many challenges in a new society. At the emergency room where she had been taken suffering from severe nausea, his wife tested positive for pregnancy. During the next few weeks, her debilitating nausea continued unabated. Faced with the need to nurse her and care for the children while searching for a job that would provide them some income and some health insurance, Muhammad was barely able to cope with the family for which he was already responsible. He could see no alternative but abortion of his fourth child.

To help him find an abortionist, he called upon his friend John—who sent him, instead, to A Best Choice Mobile Clinic in Woodbridge for an ultrasound. “We don't *want* to kill our baby,” he told the staff members there. “If we can find a way to get help with our financial problems, we will *keep* it.” After hearing Muhammad's story, the dedicated staff there spared no effort in persuading him to nurture his wife's pregnancy and promised to find him the help needed to make that possible. Well aware of where that help would be found, A Best Choice referred Muhammad to Tepeyac OB/GYN.

Meeting with Tepeyac's patient advocate resulted in Divine Mercy Care's providing Muhammad with the necessary financial help. As it turned out, due to the success of his job search, he only required three months' worth of utility bill coverage. Although his wife's nausea continued throughout her pregnancy, Tepeyac doctors worked to keep her healthy and stable. For each of her appointments, Muhammad had to take time off from work to accompany her as driver and interpreter. He was especially thankful for Tepeyac's flexibility over his many late arrivals.

Springtime 2018 saw the birth of a lovely daughter for the Muhammad couple. Dr. Pereira delivered the baby, arranging for mother and child to stay at the hospital for three extra days. The justification was Mrs. Muhammad's debilitation from the prenatal nausea she had suffered. For Muhammad, this accommodation was invaluable, allowing him to return to work rather than taking still more leave in order to care for his wife during her first few postpartum days.

Throughout our recent interview with them, the Muhammad couple's joy in their baby girl was evident. Proud to acknowledge that she's a little beauty, they were eager to express their deep gratitude to A Best Choice and to each Tepeyac doctor and staff member for helping them to give birth to this fine American-born daughter. We, in turn, are pleased to claim them as some of our newest Americans—and to give them all due credit for their commitment to life, to work, and to assimilating into their new country. Both Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac feel glad to have helped save the latest-born Muhammad family member from abortion and to have assisted her parents and siblings during their time of need.

# INSPIRE

## Summer Intern Alexis Heaslip: Why Divine Mercy Care?

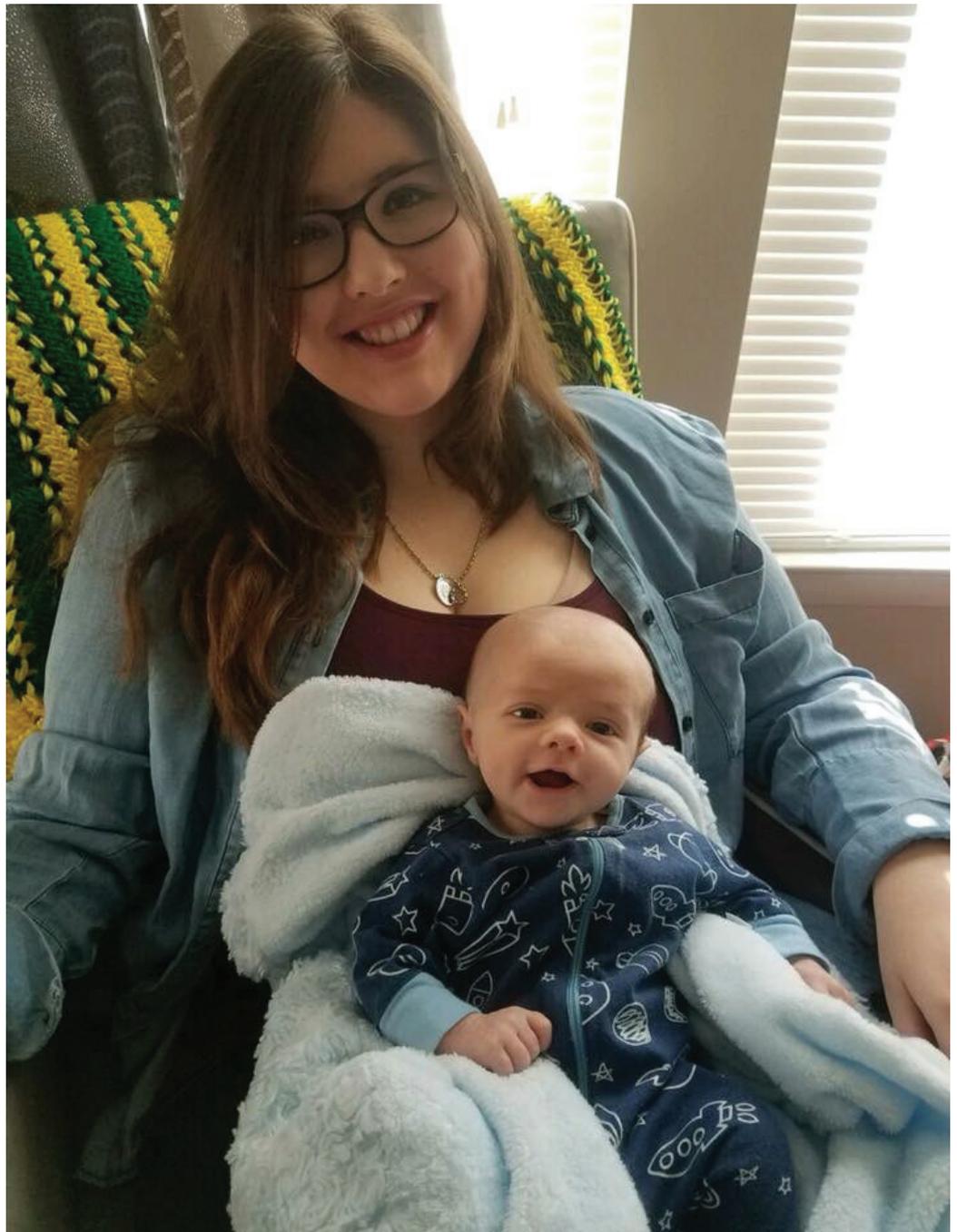
As a college student, I never expected to become pregnant while in school. I had been born and raised a Catholic and a lover of the Lord, but nobody is perfect. The summer after my sophomore year at George Mason University, my boyfriend and I learned that I was going to become the mother of his child. I was terrified--and afraid of failing my child.

When I reached out to George Mason's Student Support and Advocacy Center, the only information about resources for pregnant students who do not wish to have an abortion was information on adoption agencies. This was extremely frustrating and disappointing. Thankfully, the Catholic Campus Ministry of George Mason University was extremely helpful and had information for NOVA Crisis Pregnancy Center. They assisted my boyfriend (now husband) and me through the entire pregnancy.

After giving birth to my son, Luke, in January, I felt called by the Holy Spirit to find a way to help women who are in the same situation that I was in; however, I was a full-time student as well as a mother. With limited time, I was only able to participate in the pro-life rosary on Saturdays with Students for Life, but I was craving to help in a bigger way. I just was not sure how. That is when I was introduced to Divine Mercy Care--an organization that loves women and babies and desires to help in any way by bringing peace into this world.

One of the core values of Divine Mercy Care is light. In my time of darkness and

confusion, it was the light of others that helped me through depression and anxiety. It was the light of others and the love of God that provided my husband and me peace during time of such uncertainty. I hope that through the work of Divine Mercy Care I can help be light in this culture of death. In a room of darkness, just one lit candle, although small, makes an impact--and I hope to be that one candle for many.



# INSPIRE

## Summer Intern Cecilia Hassan: Lifelong Ties to the Pro-Life Cause



Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My parents have been donors to DMC for years, and Dr. Bruchalski delivered my little brothers. Even when I was too young to do anything for Divine Mercy Care (besides helping to fill donation bottles with pocket money), I was always involved in the pro-life movement. From participating in the March for Life since toddlerhood to regularly praying with friends in front of abortion clinics, I have been and am still actively involved in supporting life.

Being pro-life is an intrinsic part of who I am. Hence, Divine Mercy Care's mission resonates strongly with me. The work of Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac shows their undying care and passionate determination to witness the dignity of the human person at all stages of life, and I am blessed to now be a part of it. However, the people at Divine Mercy Care are more than just a business to us - they are friends. That is why I want to work here at Divine Mercy Care: I am happy and excited to work with people I care about for a cause I care about. For years I have watched Divine Mercy Care give so much for the pro-life movement; now, in a way, I have the opportunity to give back.

## A Medical Student Evaluates Her Tepeyac Rotation

*Long before she arranged to do a brief rotation with Tepeyac OB/GYN, medical student M.B.P. had a received a strong and favorable impression of Dr. Bruchalski and his work. Here, she shares what her rotation with Tepeyac taught her about the possibility of practicing pro-life medicine even now, in a world that continues to oppose such caregiving at every turn.*

"I have been familiar with Dr. Bruchalski and Tepeyac Center for several years now. When I was a student at Georgetown University School of Medicine and was involved in the Medical Students for Life organization, Dr. Bruchalski came and gave a powerful talk on his change of heart regarding abortion to me and a roomful of my peers; it was definitely one of the best lectures we ever sponsored. The following year I had the privilege of rotating through Tepeyac Center for a couple of days. My time there reinforced to me that it was possible to have a successful, pro-life, Catholic-oriented OB/GYN medical practice. A few months later, when I began my OB/GYN residency as a NFP-only resident, I reached out to Tepeyac Center to get some in-depth medical advice on how to ethically manage ectopic pregnancies.

Although I am sure he was extremely busy, Dr. Bruchalski got back to me the very next day and answered all my questions. Dr. Bruchalski is definitely one of my role models and I can see myself opening up a clinic like Tepeyac Center in the future."

- M.B.P.



# INSPIRE

## Friday Features on Facebook: Educating

Just one example of the growing enthusiasm for the education and inspiration embodied in our Friday Features is this reaction we received to our April theme of Bioethics.

“MANY THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO PRODUCE SUCH A FUN VIDEO AIMED TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND CURRENT ISSUES IN BIOETHICS. OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SHOWS THAT THERE IS GREAT INTEREST—OVER 200K REACHED, WHICH MEANS THE VIEWS ARE ON THEIR WAY. JUST THIS MORNING I GAVE A TALK TO A SCHOOL ON BIOETHICS BECAUSE THE PARENT CLUB SAW THE VIDEO AND WANTED TO KNOW MORE.”

Jennifer Watson  
Executive Director, Culture of Life

To access any of May's Friday Features, centered on the various forms of infant loss experienced by many families, or to revisit June's theme of Pro-Life Medical Advances, click on the appropriate link(s).

June's Friday Features looked at medical advances that have helped strengthen the pro-life cause. Click on any of the links below for an appreciation of this topic.

4 May [My Baby's Heart Stopped Beating](#)

1 June [What Science Has to Contribute to Being Pro-Life](#)

6 May [‘There is no heartbeat’: Mom uses daughter's stillbirth to help ‘other parents who will walk this road’](#)

3 June [Medical Breakthrough Likely to Result in Fewer Abortions](#)

9 May [Pregnancy after miscarriage: what an obstetrics expert wants you to know](#)

6 June [A New Front in the War Over Reproductive Rights: ‘Abortion-Pill Reversal’](#)

10 May [Older Siblings Need Support After Pregnancy Loss, Too, Doctors Urge](#)

8 June [How Ultrasounds Inspired the Pro-Life Cause](#)

16 May [Burying Miscarried And Stillborn Babies Is A Policy Of Love, Not Offense](#)

15 June [10 years. No oopsies. Fertility Awareness is as effective as you want it to be](#)

22 May [What I wish someone had told me the first Mother's Day after losing my son](#)

22 June [Laparoscopy for Surgical Infertility Testing and Treatment](#)

25 May [End-of-month YouTube interview with Laura Ricketts, a bereavement doula.](#)

29 June [Will Waldron interviews Drs. Lorna Cvetkovich and Marguerite Duane in pro-life medical advances.](#)

We're eager to learn what Friday Feature topics you'd like to see us covering in the months to come! Please let us know at 703 934-5552 or by emailing [schang@divinemercycare.org](mailto:schang@divinemercycare.org).

# INSPIRE

## Unraveling the Baseball

*We're always inspired when DMC donor/volunteer Burman Skrable agrees to serve as a guest writer for us. Here, just in time for baseball season, he shares some insights on the similarities between the construction of a baseball and the protection of the institution of marriage. Once you've read his offering, its connection with the good work of Tepeyac OB/GYN won't be lost on you!*

By Burman Skrable

What has been called the U.S. national pastime is an outdoor game called baseball. It evolved in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century from an English game called "rounders." When baseball's basic rules were set in 1845, the smaller, hard "baseball" after which the game was named replaced the softer ball used in rounders.

The standards for the ball have remained essentially unchanged since 1872. Each of the approximately 600,000 baseballs used annually in Major League games must weigh between 5 and 5.25 ounces and measure between 9 and 9.25 inches in circumference. An official Major League baseball consists of a round cushioned cork center called a "pill," wrapped tightly in windings of wool and polyester/cotton yarn and covered by stitched cowhide. The pill, now a rubber-cork core encased in black rubber, is the main source of the baseball's resiliency. It is surrounded by four windings of wool and polyester-cotton yarn. The outside covering of top-grain cowhide from white Holstein cows, which replaced horsehide in 1974 due to a shortage of horses, is precisely stitched with 88 inches of red waxed thread. The only other changes to the baseball since 1900 were to the pill. Initially made of rubber, it was replaced by a livelier cork core in 1910, marking the end of the "dead ball" era. When that proved *too* lively, a less resilient rubber-cork composite was substituted in 1931. Minor differences between American League and National League balls were eliminated in 1934, and the baseball has been essentially unchanged since.

The manufacture of baseballs has been carefully monitored and scrutinized to maintain the integrity of the game. Baseball just wouldn't be baseball, and baseball records would be meaningless, if the standards were not maintained. Although the rise in home run rates have led to periodic assertions that the ball has been "juiced up" to liven up the game, Major League Baseball has consistently d those assertions and no proof of such "juicing" has ever been produced.

Much longer than the history of baseball is that of marriage, the first sacrament, and the natural law/Christian vision of the use of our sexual powers. Marriage's key

elements are mutual faithfulness (sexual exclusivity), permanence, and openness to children. In practice, it involves a compact, tightly wound, mutually reinforcing combination of understandings, laws and customs by which a man and a woman commit themselves to one another for life. To use the baseball analogy, marriage involves a protective covering of permanence and faithfulness. Inside is the natural relationship between sexual intercourse and the conception of a child, surrounded by a winding of laws and customs purposefully designed to protect the integrity of the process by which children are begotten and raised. These surround a core, analogous to baseball's pill, of sexual attraction and sexual activity, that highly pleasurable engine of human procreation. The covering and windings are designed to keep sex in its place; they also give context, and thus meaning, to the sexual act by making it the marital act. All this is intended to protect offspring and their mothers from the vagaries of the fallen male's strong, unruly, and unfocused sexual desire. In a society formed by this Christian understanding, couples know that you only get to enjoy that core by agreeing to enter the "game" of marriage.

An enduring theme of fallen human history is the struggle to free the pill of sexual activity from the tight constraints of its natural-law marital windings. The Bible documents that the Jews' approach was divorce, which Christ explained was contrary to God's intention "from the beginning." In the U.S., the traditional Christian view generally prevailed, supported by strict laws against divorce and even the Comstock laws against contraception. In the early 20th century,



# INSPIRE

## Unraveling the Baseball Continued

there were efforts to loosen the threads of the cover by weakening divorce conditions. These finally succeeded in 1960, when California passed the first no-fault divorce law, and all the other states soon followed.

The big opening to unwinding came with contraception. The 1930 Anglican Lambeth Conference ended the universal Christian consensus that contraception was always evil. Despite Catholic efforts (*Casti Connubii*, 1931, *Humanae Vitae*, 1968), other denominations followed suit. With that religious lead, science and the law stepped in: first science, with the development of the contraceptive pill in 1960; law followed to ensure contraception's universal availability. Within 13 years, the winding that linked sex and conception was totally broken: the Supreme Court threw out laws preventing contraception in 1965 and 1972, and allowed the ultimate contraceptive, abortion, in 1973. The contraceptive mentality continued its inexorably logical development; the Supreme Court opined that if there is no inherent connection between sexual activity and procreation other than a person's will, homosexual activity must be a right (2003). And if homosexual activity is on a par with heterosexual relations, then gay marriage must also be a right (2015).

On ballfields across the U.S. and in Canada, baseball continues to be played using essentially the same ball used in 1934. Although various rules and conditions

of play have been tweaked, the ball has not; it is constantly monitored to ensure that its surface and resiliency are unchanged. On the marriage front, the old marriage "baseball" lies in tatters. Because of that the game of marriage is over, except among an apparently decreasing remnant (in 1960, 59% of women 18-29 were married; in 2010, 20%). The effort to shred its remnants further continues as the very notions of male and female and masculine and feminine are being questioned. Thanks in large part to the dominance of the contraceptive pill and related devices and surgeries, the now-meaningless "pill" of sexual activity lies free for all to experience sans constraint.

The sexual revolution that shredded the marriage baseball and freed the pill of unconstrained sexual activity has produced real casualties. Many who come to Tepeyac are those casualties. They bear its physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds and scars. As part of its mission, Tepeyac functions as one of Pope Francis's "field hospitals." Every day Tepeyac sees the wounded, and its staff do their best to bind up their wounds with trained hands and the love of Christ. Like a good hospital, Tepeyac not only exercises its care to heal the wounds, but also tries to limit future damage. Through training and guidance such as natural fertility awareness and natural family planning, the rewinding of the baseball begins--one string, one person or family at a time--to help take them out of the fray that brought them to Tepeyac in the first place.



# UNIFY

## Pro Women's Health Centers



Are you following the growth of our Pro Women's Healthcare Centers (PWHC) program? Applauding the increasing number of new center certifications as we've been featuring them on our Facebook page? Noting that centers-to-be are currently located at various points along the path to the certification process? Liking our Facebook Page @pwhcenters?

Click on the following photos to reach DMC's Facebook coverage of the certification tally. Learn about each PWHC center already certified as of this writing—and rejoice with us about those yet to come!



**Bella Natural Women's Care and Family Wellness**



**Morning Star OB/GYN**



**Tepeyac OBGYN**



**Aid to Women Center**



**Guiding Star Tampa**

If you know of pro-life OB/GYN practices anywhere in the U.S., be aware that we're eager to contact them about becoming PWHC centers. To share with us whatever information you may have on "kindred spirit" practices across the nation, phone us at 703 934-5552 or email [cmullins@divinemercycare.org](mailto:cmullins@divinemercycare.org).



**Recently, Will Waldron and Chaney Mullins introduced Pro Women's Healthcare Centers to a nationwide audience at the Pro Life Women's Conference in Missouri. Didn't our display look good?**

# UNIFY

## Media Hits



We helped sponsor CareNet Pregnancy Center's participants the "Run 4 Hope Walk 4 Life" event. Tepeyac's logo on the back of their signature tees helped spread awareness that there's a local pro-life OB/GYN practice to which pregnancy centers and others can refer.

Both Dr. Bruchalski and Pro Women's Healthcare Centers garnered media attention from the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists (AAPLOG)! [Click here to see the coverage.](#)

Dr. Bruchalski wasn't silent about the proposed sex education program changes for Fairfax County Schools. In ample time to inform the decision makers, he added his signature to an important [letter to the School Board from prominent local physicians](#). The letter called attention to the complete lack of medical justification for the proposed changes.

You saw the Infant Basket shower photo on an earlier page—now [click here](#) to see Chaney Mullins' talk about DMC work to St. Timothy School's 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who assembled goodies for that shower.



# Ways to Give

If you're considering a gift to Divine Mercy Care, know that your investment helps serve those in need, inspire caregivers and medical professionals, and unify the pro-life movement.

## More Details on Specific Ways to Give:

**Consider Becoming a Merciful Monthly Donor through Automatic Check:** Contact your bank to set up a donation to our mission.

**Wire Transfer:** To wire funds directly to Divine Mercy Care, contact us at [info@divinemerccare.org](mailto:info@divinemerccare.org) for bank information.

**Stocks, Bonds, or Securities:** Your stock broker can wire shares to Divine Mercy Care's account at the Reston, VA office of Morgan Stanley. Inform Divine Mercy Care via fax (703-934-2187), mail, or email William Waldron, Executive Director, at [wwaldron@divinemerccare.org](mailto:wwaldron@divinemerccare.org). Your broker will need the account number, DTC Number, broker's name, telephone number and Fed. I.D.#.

**IRA Charitable Rollover:** If you are a U.S. taxpayer and at least 70 1/2 years of age, you may make gifts to DMC from your IRA without having to count those funds as part of your

adjusted gross income. Consequently, you do not have to pay taxes on the donated amount. Distributions must be made directly from the IRA trustee to Divine Mercy Care, and the individual maximum is \$100,000 per calendar year. For more information, please contact William Waldron, Executive Director, at [wwaldron@divinemerccare.org](mailto:wwaldron@divinemerccare.org) or 703-934-5552.

**Planned Gift or Bequest:** Planned gifts may consist of cash, securities, life insurance proceeds, real estate, and/or personal property. To discuss your gift, please contact William Waldron, Executive Director, at [wwaldron@divinemerccare.org](mailto:wwaldron@divinemerccare.org) or 703-934-5552.



**Divine Mercy Care**

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