

HONORING BRO. BOB DONOVAN

By Joseph Keisler

We are honoring Bob Donovan, physician and Marianist brother, for his critical role in establishing the Center for Respite Care, and for his 23 years of dedicated service to people who are homeless in Greater Cincinnati. After graduating from medical school, he set up private practice and for four years served families in the northern part of Cincinnati. As much as he enjoyed this part of his life, he couldn't overlook the struggles of the poor that surrounded him. At that time Bob also felt called to deepen his faith commitment, joining the Society of Mary as a Marianist Brother.

These two callings came together and Brother Doctor Bob's home and practice soon became Over-the-Rhine. Working the Cincinnati Health Network's Healthcare for the Homeless program, his office became a mobile medical van, reaching out to those who were homeless and in need of medical care. He lives his faith through service to the poorest in our community.

Joining together with others to start the Center for Respite Care was a natural extension of his practice and passion to serve. The community needed a permanent place where people experiencing homelessness could receive care after being hospitalized or if they were too ill to be in a shelter. As both Medical Director and its physician since the opening of the Center, Dr. Bob views healing as more than just improving physically; it also means healing emotionally, mentally and spiritually, having a home and taking the next steps into a new life.

Bob sits on many boards and has been recognized with innumerable honors. Most recently he was elected President of the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council and has earned an international reputation for his work. The greatest tribute, however, comes from the people he serves. "Healing is in this man. It starts with his hand shake and his smile and continues even after I have left the room. Thank you for this man."

Dr. Bob, please come forward. In addition to the award, you will be presented with a drawing of you surrounded by clients under your care. A copy of this drawing will also be hung at the Center in your honor.