



**ST. FRANCIS
HOSPITAL
& HEALTH
CENTERS**

**Leading the Way to a
Healthier Community**

A Division of the Sisters of
St. Francis Health Services, Inc.

November 14, 2003

The Honorable Julia Carson
Julia M. Carson Govt. Center
300 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr #201
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Dear Representative Carson:

I was delighted to learn of your plans to nominate Dr. Mercy Obeime for the "Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends" award offered by the National Library of Medicine and the American Medical Women's Association. It is my pleasure to offer support for this nomination.

Every day, Dr. Obeime lives up to her first name through her commitment to treat the whole person, regardless of ability to pay. As medical director for the St. Francis Neighborhood Health Center at Garfield Park, she sees firsthand that uninsured and under-insured patients often make tough choices - such as whether to go to the doctor or feed their families - and need help accessing a variety of social services.

Although her commitment begins at home as a wife and mother of three, Dr. Obeime's zeal is fueled by the memory of the many underprivileged families she helps. She makes it her job to connect resources with under-served populations. Because of her persistence in seeking out funding, the Neighborhood Health Center now provides treatment regardless of fluctuating ability to pay; access to prescription drug assistance, childhood immunizations, and breast and cervical cancer screening; and classes and counseling in prenatal and infant care, nutrition, exercise, weight management and smoking cessation.

Dr. Obeime mentors new generations of physicians as a faculty member of the St. Francis Family Practice Residency and serves on many city committees in association with the Aesculapian Society for African American Physicians. She also helped institute computer tracking of health care needs for indigents throughout the Indianapolis metropolitan area through the Wishard Advantage program. By taking a public health perspective, Dr. Obeime enhances the quality of life for women, families and the community.

Dr. Obeime's strong leadership has made the St. Francis Neighborhood Health Center a successful presence in our community. On behalf of St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers, I want to thank you for nominating her for this honor. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (317) 783-8337.

Sincerely,


Sr. Corita Last, O.S.F.
Vice President, Mission Services

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