

After four decades, a continued passion for service



Mark Hess, M.D.

“There will never be ‘enough time,’ and it is fruitless to wait for that magic day,” B. Mark Hess, M.D., FACP, often advises medical students and young physicians. “Begin early in your career with involvement in some type of volunteer service.”

Heeding his own advice didn't slow the inevitable rush of time for Hess, a charter member of the medical school faculty who recently retired but continues to serve as a clinical associate professor in internal medicine. However, it has allowed him to look back on a distinguished medical career spanning

four decades of service to his country, community, and profession.

In recognition of this service, the Ohio chapter of the American College of Physicians honored Hess with the 2007 Volunteerism and Community Service Award.

After graduating from medical school, Hess spent two years in Honduras with the Peace Corps. Hess moved to Troy in the mid-1970s, and nearly 25 years ago, he served as chair of the steering committee that established Hospice of Miami County. He has supported the organization ever since, serving as board chair for six years, medical director for 11 years, and assistant medical director for the past 13 years.

Ten years ago, Hess helped create the Health Partners Free Clinic. He served as board chair for four years and has been medical director for the past 10 years.

Throughout his career, Hess has enjoyed teaching medical students and residents, holding leadership roles with local and statewide professional organizations, and, most of all, working with patients. He has always considered the volunteer work that now occupies much of his time especially rewarding.

“Volunteer service provides a perspective, a grasp of reality, an understanding of humans that simply cannot be obtained in the typical medical office,” he said. “The experience of volunteering even a few hours makes a better, more compassionate physician during the remainder of his/her professional life.”

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The Mission of Health Partners of Miami County

To increase the availability of health care for the uninsured and under-insured in Miami County by providing a clinic for all ages, staffed by health care professionals.

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Hess helped create Health Partners of Miami County and has served as its medical director for 10 years.