

# Natural Care Center Patient Fund

## At a Glance:

For nearly 40 years, the Natural Care Center has been an outstanding regional integrative health center. As the primary teaching clinic for the university, it provides a safe, supervised, and nurturing environment where student interns can practice their healing skills. Patients and clients thrive with the relationship-centered and highly personalized care they receive. The Natural Care Center Patient Fund is being established to deliver integrative health care to previously underserved populations and to support our students to move through their clinical experience with ease.

Contributions to this fund will be used to:

- Offer free or highly discounted treatments to underserved populations
- Subsidize patients and clients of our student interns to provide optimum care to those in need while enabling students to complete their clinical experience more quickly
- Create a model of compassionate, non-discriminatory, pro-bono, health care that our graduates can replicate in their professional practices

**Funding:** \$1 million

## Integrative Health Practices can Address Rising Healthcare Costs and Chronic Disease

In 2009, Maryland University of Integrative Health decided to embark upon an ambitious plan to significantly expand academic offerings, attract and retain the best and most talented faculty, and achieve university status. By the end of 2013, we had achieved each of these goals. In just four years, our academic programming has grown from four degree and certificate programs to 18, and enrollment has nearly doubled to 800 graduate students. Also in 2013, we earned university status, making MUIH the only regionally-accredited university on the East Coast exclusively dedicated to integrative health and natural wellness.

We have much to be proud of and many reasons to share our success. As we look to 2013 with plans to expand our academic and clinical offerings, it seems timely to also expand our service to the greater community. The time is right to widen the door of access to integrative health care to those with the greatest needs.

Healthcare costs continue to rise just as we are experiencing a national epidemic of chronic illness. Obesity, cancer, heart disease, hypertension, and behavioral health challenges are pervasive in every socio-economic segment of our population. Integrative health practices have proven to be extremely safe and effective in supporting patients with these conditions.

## Bridging Healthcare Disparities

Unfortunately, access to integrative care has traditionally been available only to those who can afford to pay out of pocket. Health disparities in integrative health are more exaggerated than for western medical care. As leaders in creating a new model of health care, MUIH is committed to making whole-person care available to as many people as possible. The Natural Care Center Patient Fund will provide free or highly discounted services to underserved populations, including veterans, seniors, single parents, and patients struggling with chronic illness.

The Natural Care Center currently provides more than 15,000 treatments and consultations each year. As we open the doors to an increasingly diverse population

with myriad health challenges, our students will benefit from treating them as much as the patients will benefit from the treatment. Our students will develop cultural competency, essential in healthcare today, and heighten their skills in becoming a healing presence. The Natural Care Center Patient Fund will allow us to provide a model of compassionate, non-discriminatory, pro-bono healing work for our students to replicate as they graduate and build their practices.

## **Join Us**

Please join us in building the NCC Patient Fund so that the great work of our student interns can reach those with the greatest need. Help us to deliver on our promises to heal in a more expansive, inclusive way.



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Maryland University of Integrative Health is one of the nation's only accredited graduate schools with an academic and clinical focus on health and wellness.