

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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## **HEALTH COMMISSIONER PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL RUSSO AWARD**

**BALTIMORE, MD** (May 28, 2008) – Commissioner Joshua M. Sharfstein announces that Michelle Sheldon-Rubio RN, BSN, CDE, senior diabetes educator at the University of Maryland Joslin Diabetes Center, is the winner of the 2008 Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award.

The Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award was created in 2007 by the Baltimore City Health Department to recognize a healthcare provider who has provided dedicated and compassionate service to low-income individuals and families. The award honors Dr. Sebastian Russo, a Baltimore City family physician known for his tireless and devoted service to his patients. Before his tragic death in 1980, Dr. Russo was embraced by his community, who recognized the value of a physician who made house calls, learned multiple languages to communicate more effectively with patients, and charged only when patients were able to pay.

Ms. Michelle Sheldon-Rubio is a Registered Nurse with over 28 years of experience. She is the Education Coordinator of the Joslin Diabetes Center affiliate at the University of Maryland Medical Center, where she facilitates the Joslin Circle Diabetes Group; develops and implements diabetes education programs; and coordinates clinical research projects. In addition to her work at Joslin, Michelle volunteers every Wednesday at Our Daily Bread where she plans and cooks the meals.

Ms. Sheldon-Rubio's commitment to serving her community has been recognized by her patients and colleagues. As Dr. Tom Donner, Medical Director of the University of Maryland Joslin Center wrote in his nomination letter, "Michelle is someone who has been a longstanding and remarkably effective patient advocate, well deserving of the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award."

"Last year, the Health Department created this award to honor local health care providers who go above and beyond to serve their patients and the citizens of Baltimore," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. "From visiting patients when they are hospitalized, providing cards, gifts and emotional support when they're most in need, Ms. Sheldon-Rubio is an amazing example of a true public servant."

The Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award selection process is overseen by a committee at the Baltimore City Health Department.

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