

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Health Department Seeks to Honor Health Professionals Committed to Service in Baltimore City

BALTIMORE, MD (April 9, 2009) – The Baltimore City Health Department is seeking nominations of healthcare providers who have made significant contributions to their fields by providing dedicated and compassionate service to low-income individuals and families. Winners will receive the Sebastian Russo Memorial Award.

This award, created in 2007, honors Dr. Sebastian Russo, a Baltimore City family physician known for tireless and devoted service to his patients. Over his long career, Dr. Russo exemplified a commitment to reducing barriers to health care access. Before his tragic death in 1981, he 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 truly able to pay.

Any health care doctor, nurse, physician's assistant or other health professional practicing in Baltimore City may be nominated for the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award. The deadline for nomination submissions is May 15, 2009.

The idea for the award was conceived after senior Health Department staff met with Dr. Russo's daughter.

“By honoring one of the clinicians who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service to our City, this award allows us to express our appreciation,” said Dr. Charlene Brown, Acting Chief Medical Officer of the Health Department. Nomination forms for the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award are available online at www.baltimorehealth.org or can be picked up in the Administrative Suite of the Baltimore City Health Department at 1001 East Fayette Street. For more information, call Jamie Saltsman at (410) 396-6903.

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