



VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE, CHATTANOOGA, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL PHYSICIAN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AMA FOUNDATION AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM

CHATTANOOGA – Dr. Robert Bowers, MD, the volunteer Medical Director for Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga (VIM), will receive the prestigious 2011 Jack B. McConnell, M.D. Award for Excellence in Volunteerism which is presented by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation, in association with Pfizer Inc. According to Nancy Franks, President of VIM Chattanooga, “Dr. Bowers has served VIM Chattanooga since start up in 2005 as Medical Director. His unselfish service and leadership has allowed VIM Chattanooga to deliver \$8.6 million medical care at clinic rates or \$34.8 million medical care at Emergency Room rates to low income, uninsured residents of Hamilton County. The untold story is the improved health and well being of many individuals in our community who would not receive medical care without VIM Chattanooga. Dr. Bowers is a unique individual who unselfishly gives of his time and talents to help fulfill the Vision of VIM Chattanooga to serve the overlooked in our community.”



VIM Chattanooga is a faith based non profit corporation that operates on donations and non government grants. Costs are minimized by the large corps of volunteers who are involved in all aspects of the operation of the clinic. For more information visit www.vim-chatt.org. Additional details are included in the following AMA Press Release.

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CHICAGO – **Robert Bowers, MD** of Chattanooga, Tenn., is the recipient of the 2011 Jack B. McConnell, M.D. Award for Excellence in Volunteerism. Presented by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation, in association with Pfizer Inc, the award recognizes senior physician volunteers who increase access to health care in the U.S. The award will be presented on Tuesday, February 8, at the 2011 Excellence in Medicine Awards Ceremony, in conjunction with the AMA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

“These Excellence in Medicine Award recipients are truly awe-inspiring,” said AMA Foundation President Barney Maynard, MD. “They show everyone, inside and outside the medical community, the tremendous impact that one person can make in the world. They inspire us all to do more.”

An activist in organized medicine and community outreach his entire career, Dr. Bowers decided he was not going to slow down as a senior physician. At age 79, he has continued his commitment to increase access to health care for the uninsured of Hamilton County by serving as the Medical Director of Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc. (VIMC). In this volunteer position for over six years, Dr. Bowers played a key role in establishing the clinic's medical policies, securing medical equipment, implementing electronic medical records, creating partnerships in the health care community and recruiting volunteers. VIMC operates on the model established by Jack B. McConnell, MD, where people donate their time to help individuals who have no insurance and cannot afford medical care. Patients are qualified based on residency in Hamilton County, have no insurance and have a household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. They are treated at no cost. Since 2005, VIMC has logged over 28,000 patient visits and has delivered nearly \$8.5 million of medical care at clinic rates or nearly \$34 million at emergency room rates.

Dr. Bower's volunteer activities do not stop with VIMC. He is founder and past president of the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga and played an integral role in the creation of the Project Access Initiative, through which 650 Hamilton County physicians provide free specialty health care services to the underserved. Dr. Bowers has a long history of involvement in organized medicine and community outreach. His leadership extends to the Chattanooga-Hamilton Medical Society, the Tennessee Medical Association, the American Academy of Otolaryngology, and the American Medical Association.

Nita Shumaker, MD and Phyllis Miller, MD, leaders of the Chattanooga-Hamilton Medical Society and the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga, wrote of Dr. Bowers, “He is an extraordinary human being, and as a result, he is an extraordinary physician. His practice of otolaryngology has always been of the highest quality. He has been sought after to lead in every setting in which he devotes his time.”

The AMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation, is the philanthropic arm of the American Medical Association and is committed to improving the health of Americans through support of quality programs in public health and medical education. Visit www.amafoundation.org.

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