



CHRIST HOUSE

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS SINCE 1985
EMMANUEL HOUSE KAIROS HOUSE BRANNER APARTMENTS

ELIZABETH F. BEBBER, MDIV
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CEO
JANELLE GOETCHEUS, M.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
DONALD E. MARTIN, M.D.
ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MARY JORDAN, CRNP
CLINICAL DIRECTOR
ALLEN GOETCHEUS, MDIV, MS
PASTOR

March 24, 2017

Michael Durham, Membership and Development Coordinator
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
PO Box 60427
Nashville, TN 37206

Dear Mr. Durham,

We, the members of the Kairos Program Leadership Board at Christ House, are writing in support of a nomination of Dr. A. Janelle Goetcheus for the Philip W. Brickner National Leadership Award.

All members of the Kairos Program are formerly homeless men in addiction recovery, living with chronic illness, committed to living together within the larger Christ House community. We, the Kairos Program Leadership Board members, serve as an advisory group to the Christ House staff for the purpose of screening new program candidates. We know Dr. Goetcheus personally and collaborate with her regularly, and we can speak to her strong character.

First of all, Dr. Goetcheus is a fierce advocate for the homeless. She will stop at nothing to reach the most vulnerable, most addicted, and those with the most dire medical needs. She may appear meek and small in stature, but there is no street, alley, or drug-infested neighborhood she will not enter in order to reach those with serious medical problems that need immediate attention. While many medical professionals have their patients come to them, Dr. Goetcheus goes into the trenches to find the most vulnerable. It is no wonder the people closest to her have called her "The Mother Teresa of Washington."

Dr. Goetcheus also demonstrates a persistence that is evident in all she does. Not only has she founded Christ House, a 24-hour medical respite for homeless, and served as its medical director for over 30 years, she continues to see patients on weekends at one of the nation's

1717 Columbia Road NW ♦ Washington, DC 20009-2803
202.328.1100 (Phone) ♦ 202.328.1850 (Fax) ♦ www.christhouse.org

♦ *Please remember Christ House in your will* ♦



CHRIST HOUSE

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS SINCE 1985
EMMANUEL HOUSE KAIROS HOUSE BRANNER APARTMENTS

ELIZABETH F. BEBBER, MDIV
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CEO
JANELLE GOETCHEUS, M.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
DONALD E. MARTIN, M.D.
ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MARY JORDAN, CRNP
CLINICAL DIRECTOR
ALLEN GOETCHEUS, MDIV, MS
PASTOR

largest homeless shelters and refers them to Christ House when appropriate. This level of commitment would be noble for *any* health professional, but Dr. Goetcheus is well into her 70s. When most people her age are retired and enjoying their golden years with their bridge clubs, Dr. Goetcheus is getting up early, driving to a locale most people try to avoid at all costs, and caring for the sick who have little or no access to health care.

In all she says and does, it is clear—without a doubt—that Dr. Goetcheus cares deeply for the people she serves. She has been able to move mountains in the city of Washington, DC because she finds great joy in knowing, listening to, and caring for the poor. Her humility, her compassion, and—above all—her faith, create a sense of mutuality within this Christ House community, and we all know her not just as “doctor” but as “mother” and “sister.” Her caring spirit is contagious, and it motivates each of us to care more deeply for the most vulnerable among us as well.

Dr. Goetcheus has lived her mantra well: “Poor people don’t deserve poor health care.” And she has done it all while serving as a loving mother to three, grandmother to eight, and wife to her equally-persistent husband. We cannot imagine a more deserving person for this most prestigious award than for our own Dr. Goetcheus to be honored for the work she has given her life to: providing high-quality health care for those who otherwise would go untreated and creating a little bit of heaven on earth for those who have already been through hell and back.

Kairos Program Leadership Board

1717 Columbia Road NW ♦ Washington, DC 20009-2803
202.328.1100 (Phone) ♦ 202.328.1850 (Fax) ♦ www.christhouse.org

♦ *Please remember Christ House in your will* ♦