

MEDBANK of MARYLAND, INC.

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CONTACT: Robert McEwan
Chief Executive Officer
410-821-9262 ext.102

Maryland MEDBANK Honors Key Senator, Health Advocates, and the Pharmaceutical Industry for Support of Underserved Patients in Maryland

Maryland MEDBANK Program Administrator, Bob McEwan, announced today at MEDBANK's Towson Headquarters, that MEDBANK of Maryland, Inc. has reached an important milestone in the history of the program, the 40,000 patient served and over \$120 Million in medications provided statewide. The program that provides access to medications for residents who fall below 300% of the federal poverty level, has realized a new growth spurt in the wake of seniors moving to Medicare Part D.

In Maryland's search for a solution to incorporate prescription drug access to its overall access issues for underserved citizens, MEDBANK stands out as one of its greatest successes and has led to programs modeled after the one here in Maryland, in Hawaii, New Jersey, Ohio and New Mexico and Washington, D.C.

Bob McEwan, founder and C.E.O. of MEDBANK of Maryland, stated, "We are gratified to have been supported by the state of Maryland and numerous local foundations to develop and manage their prescription medication safety-net program. This program has undoubtedly saved the state millions of dollars by reducing the number of emergency room visits and hospital stays for low income patients who do not have prescription medication access." Access to prescription medications is an important step in

proactive medical care and continues to prove to be the least expensive way to prevent otherwise avoidable emergency room visits and hospitalizations.”

MEDBANK is celebrating this historic milestone with a “MEDBANK Honors” program March 20, 2008 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel. There they will thank this years honorees for their countless hours dedicated to serving the underserved. Among the honorees are Senator Thomas (Mac) Middleton, Vinnie DeMarco, and Dr. Diane Becker. For its years of leadership and contributions of medications, Pfizer, will be this year’s honored pharmaceutical company contributor. “Were it not for the patient assistance programs provided by the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years, MEDBANK would not be able to help the thousands of patients it has served in Maryland,” said McEwan.

Maryland MEDBANK was established in as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with the mission to provide access to prescription medications for chronically ill, low income, underinsured/uninsured residents. MEDBANK assists healthcare providers and patients complete the forms and eligibility paperwork required to enroll individuals in Patient Assistance Programs provided by numerous pharmaceutical companies.

The organization maintains a website – www.MEDBANKmd.org - with information about its services.