



## **Keren Call, M.D. Receives Award for Volunteer Contributions**

Dr. Keren Call is not your average retiree. While most people enter retirement looking forward to leaving their careers behind, it's apparent that this was never Dr. Call's intention. Since she retired in 1998, the majority of her free time has been spent providing volunteer medical care for Colorado's underserved, making her the ideal recipient for the 2002 Harold E. Williamson Award.

The award provides a \$10,000 donation from the Foundation to the 501(c)(3) organization of the recipient's choice. Dr. Call has elected to direct this donation to Doctor's Care, a south metro Denver organization that provides its patrons access to affordable health care.

Dr. Call was chosen from an outstanding slate of nominees. According to COPIC's Chairman and CEO Dr. Jerome Buckley, Dr. Call's accomplishments are deserving of this recognition. "Dr. Call's volunteer efforts preceded her entrance to medical school and continued during her 30 years of practice. Her volunteer efforts just became a 'full-time job' when she retired and continue to this day. She epitomizes the giving physician," said Buckley.

### *About Dr. Call*

When Dr. Call finished her residency, she joined Eastside Health Center where she learned how much need there was for quality health care for the poor and uninsured and how important it is to provide quality care equally to everyone. "People deserve a bright spot—to be heard and cared for and respected. I stayed at (Eastside) for ten years, but knew someday I would have the luxury of returning to care for the neediest among us," said Call.

In September 1998, after 30 years of private practice, Dr. Call joined COPIC's Volunteer Physician program.\* Those who know her well will tell you that she's busier now than ever before. She spends her time in various roles throughout the metro area, including

- Volunteer preceptor for residents at Children's Hospital and volunteering 1/2 day per week for the Children's Hospital Continuity Clinics.
- One to two days per week, she provides direct treatment to children at Doctor's Care. Recently, when the organization risked losing its family resident training program because they were unable to find a preceptor, Dr. Call willingly took on the responsibility. And when the volunteer physician who normally cared for the ADD/ADHD patients could no longer provide services, Dr. Call again stepped up to the plate.
- Dr. Call volunteers at Comitis Crisis Center in Aurora, a program for at-risk youth. Her assistance does not end there—according to Assistant Director Anne Ayers, Dr. Call pitches in wherever she can by helping with such duties as filing, emptying the trash, and assisting with a variety of non-medical problems. "One of the luckiest days for the center was the day Dr. Call became a volunteer for us. It does not matter that someone is homeless and hasn't showered in three days—she will make them feel welcome and takes care of them. She 'walks her talk' and does not want any recognition for what she does," said Ayers.
- In addition to providing medical services, Dr. Call volunteers every week at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in the Prehistoric Journey exhibit. She is also a volunteer naturalist at Roxborough State Park in Littleton.

Dr. Call believes it's a privilege to volunteer here in Colorado, and she credits her local endeavors to giving her the confidence to serve in other countries as well. In May 2002, she joined Healing the Children Northeast and traveled to El Salvador with a surgical team who focused on burns and cleft lips/palates. In June, she joined the Peruvian/American Medical Society on a two-week mission to provide general pediatric care to poverty-stricken children. Upon returning to the U.S., she signed up for additional classes to learn more about cleft palates to be better prepared for her next trip.

Also, in order to provide the highest quality of care to her patients, Dr. Call recently started taking classes and receiving private tutoring to learn Spanish.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Call and all those nominated for this award. COPIC wishes to thank those who took the time to honor the outstanding physicians in their communities and the physicians whose tremendous contributions benefit us all.

For more information about how to nominate a physician for 2003, please visit our Web site at [www.copicfoundation.org](http://www.copicfoundation.org).

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