

INFORMAL RESOLUTION  
TO HONOR THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
DR. VIOLA "VI" STARTZMAN ROBERTSON

WHEREAS, Dr. Viola "Vi" Startzman Robertson was recently honored by the American Medical Association as the recipient of its 2008 Jack B. McConnell, MD Award for Excellence in Volunteerism, an award conferred upon senior physicians in recognition of their commitment to volunteer medical care to those without access to health care in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Startzman, a native of Caldwell, Ohio, graduated from the College of Wooster, where she majored in chemistry; she subsequently received an MS from Western Reserve University; worked as a bacteriologist at the Health Laboratories of Cleveland for six years; and, after first being refused admission based upon her age and gender, subsequently received her medical degree in 1945 from the Western Reserve University college of medicine; and

WHEREAS, she came to Wooster in 1950, becoming the first pediatrician in the area; in 1952 she joined the medical staff of the Cleveland Clinic, becoming the first female physician on the clinical staff, and where she started the Clinic's department of pediatrics; and in 1956 she returned to Wooster to become the director of student health services at her alma mater, the College of Wooster, a position from which she retired in 1979, and from which she had a beneficial impact on the lives of countless students, as well as faculty and staff members; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, at the age of 78, she accepted an assignment from the Mayor of Wooster, J. Clyde Breneman, to study health care needs in Wayne County; as a result of that study, the Healthcare 2000 Community Clinic was formed and was later renamed the Viola Startzman Free Clinic in honor of her work; the clinic provides free comprehensive medical and dental care to low income, uninsured residents of Wayne County in an atmosphere of dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, to this date Dr. Startzman remains an active member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Wayne County Medical Society, the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, in connection with her service to her patients and the citizens of Wooster, Dr. Startzman also served in several other important capacities, including:

- In the early 1960's, she started a female healthcare clinic that eventually became the local office of Planned Parenthood; and
- She was Chairman of the Mental Health and Recovery Board in Wayne County in the 1960's; and
- She was an original board member for Outreach Community Living Services, a non-profit agency providing homes and case management for mentally retarded adults in Wayne County; and

- In 1981, while living in New Hampshire with her late husband, she developed a local hospice organization to care for cancer patients, through which she led training groups, held bereavement groups and visited patients; and
- Through Coptic Evangelical Organization of Social Services, she made three mission trips to Egypt, most recently in 1996 (age 82), to work in Moslem villages rendering healthcare and nutrition education. She continues to financially support this mission; and
- She has been a very active Board member of the Viola Startzman Free Clinic since it opened in 1995, being the first Board chair, and continues to participate on a regular basis; and
- She has been a very active member of First Presbyterian Church of Wooster for more than thirty years including helping to organize the adult education program, with which she remains active; serving on two pastor nomination committees; serving as an Elder and member of the Session; serving on the Deacon Board; teaching Sunday School and Bible study; and being instrumental in starting an Eldercare Program in 2006; and
- She has made immeasurable financial contributions to many, many organizations, locally and throughout the world.

WHEREAS, in recognition of her contributions to her profession and her community, Dr. Startzman has received numerous honors, including:

- 1988 ~ Named to the College of Wooster Athletic Hall of Fame
- 1990 ~ Received the Woman of Achievement Award from the City of Wooster
- 1994 ~ Received honorary Doctorate Degree from the College of Wooster
- 2001 ~ Named Citizen of the Year by the Wooster Daily Record
- 2002 ~ Named to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame
- 2003 ~ Received the Champion of Free Clinics Award by the Ohio Association of Free Clinics
- 2004 ~ Received the Jack O'Donnell Award for Community Service by the Wooster Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, throughout her active life Dr. Startzman was guided by the love and devotion of her late husband (and colleague) Dr. James Robertson, with whom she helped to raise four children; the family now includes six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, whether as a physician or in civic affairs, Dr. Startzman always comported herself with dignity, respect, integrity, modesty, and an obvious affection for her community and its people, and thus has served as an example of citizenship to those around her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Wooster and members of the City Council of Wooster, Ohio, for ourselves and on behalf of the citizens of Wooster, do hereby honor the life and achievements of Dr. Vi

Startzman. We thank her for her contributions to the lives of her family and her community, and we look to her as an example of a life well lived.