THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

University of Chicago and University of Chicago Medical Center
Accomplishment Fact Sheet

Michelle Obama

University of Chicago, 1996-2002

In 1997, Mrs. Obama conceptualized and launched the University of Chicago Community Service Center which offered new opportunities to student, staff, and faculty for service learning, volunteerism and civic engagement. This was a first step for the University to engage students in community service activities. This Center now has over 2,000 students volunteering annually at over 150 community non-profit organizations in the Chicago area. Additionally, she served as Associate Dean of Students until 2002.

University of Chicago Medical Center, 2002- current

In 2002, she joined the University of Chicago Medical Center as Executive Director of Community Affairs and was promoted to Vice President for Community and External Relations in 2005. Mrs. Obama has led the effort to deepen the Medical Center's connections with the surrounding community through a series of successful initiatives:

Established the Medical Center's Office of Community Affairs

- She grew a staff of two into a diverse, 23-person team that carries out a threefold mission of improving community-based health care, increasing business opportunity of South Side businesses and enhancing the Medical Center's considerable service to the surrounding community.
- She provided the leadership that assured the vision of mutually beneficial community service extends through the entire Medical Center enterprise.

Led the Development of the South Side Health Collaborative (SSHC)

- She helped create a network of 19 community-based primary care and social service providers that serve those who do not have a "medical home" on the South Side of Chicago, providing comprehensive care regardless of the patient's ability to pay.
- Since its inception in 2005, the SSHC has served over 15,000 residents who visit the University of Chicago Hospitals Emergency Room and self-identify as not having a regular doctor.
- More than 4,000 patients have been successfully linked to the SSHC sites where they can better receive primary care.
- The SSHC continues to help these community health centers by providing a steady stream of appropriate patients.

Established Service Initiatives and Volunteer Programs that Deepen Community Connections

- Conceptualized and founded **Service Learning Initiatives** in the surrounding community that allow entire Medical Center units or departments to engage in community activities as a team, thus building teamwork while benefiting the community
- Created the hallmark **Day of Service and Reflection** that in May 2007 saw nearly 300 Medical Center volunteers work alongside community residents in area schools, gardens, churches and organizations
- Initiated **Adopt-A-School** programs, a five year program that partners with area schools in such activities as tutoring, Principal for a Day, science fair judging, job shadowing and *Best of the Best* school tours.
- Oversaw a three-fold expansion in the number of **community residents** who volunteer their time at the Medical Center.
- Hundreds of UCMC staff volunteered hundreds of hours in other community events like the Bud Billiken Day parade– a back-to-school promotion– and Real Men Cook celebration that promotes preventative health care for men

Established the Office of Business Diversity

- Created in 2002, the University of Chicago Medical Center Business Diversity Initiative to seek out and utilize a larger number of minority-and-women-owned businesses.
- For the construction of the University of Chicago Comer Childrens' Hospital, 39% of all construction-related contracts were awarded to minority and women-owned firms.
- Received the 2006 *Sharing Success* award from the Chicago Minority Business Development Council