

## ONGOING

**Self-Help groups**  
Anyone seeking information on a variety of self-help groups may call the Michigan Self-Help Clearing House at (877) 777-5556.

**Grief support**  
Angela Hospice offers ongoing grief support groups every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the center, 14020 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Call: (734) 464-7870.

**Bipolar**  
The MODA Bipolar Support Group meets 3-5 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday at Beaumont Hospital, Administration Bldg., 3001 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Call Kathleen at (248) 544-1077.

**Divorce support**  
The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College will offer a "Divorce Support Group" 7-9 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Call the WRCC at (734) 462-4443.

**Bereavement**  
"Together to Share," a grief support group, meets 10 a.m. the first Monday of each month at American House on Middlebelt Road in Livonia. The group meets 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Dorvin Nursing Center on Middlebelt Road in Livonia. Both groups are facilitated by a bereavement coordinator from Heartland Hospice in Southfield. Call (800) 770-9859.

**Overeaters Anonymous**  
Support group for overeaters meets 7 p.m. every Friday at Providence Park-Novi, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi. Helpline: (313) 433-HELP or (248) 474-9456.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Everyone is welcome to Providence Hospital-sponsored AA meetings held: noon every Tuesday and Thursday at Providence Medical Office Center-Novi, 39500 W. 10 Mile Road (at Hagerty), Novi. Call (248) 348-9262; noon every Wednesday at Mission Health Medical Center-Livonia, 37595 Seven Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 953-1188; and 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Providence

Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. Call (248) 333-4911.  
**Thyroid cancer**  
Thyroid Cancer Survivors Association, Inc. support group meets 7:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Public Library, 223 S. Main Street, downtown Plymouth, in the Gold Room. For more information about the ThyCa SE Michigan Support Group, call Mary Rose at (734) 397-2801; e-mail SE-MI@thyca.org; or visit www.thyca.org. Call toll-free (877) 588-7904.

**Headaches**  
Suffer from constant headaches? Join the Headache Foundation Support Group, which meets 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Providence Northwestern Medical Center, 20055 Northwestern, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 258-9773. Family members invited.

**Gambling**  
The Gamblers Anonymous Support Group meets 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, in Classroom 4. Call (734) 655-2944 or (800) 494-0277. The group is open to anyone with a gambling dependency.

**Cancer**  
Join "Focus on Living," a cancer support group offered by a bereavement coordinator of each month at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. The group is designed to help cancer patients and families come together to help each other in living with a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Call (734) 655-8940 or (800) 494-1650.

**Tremor Disorder Support**  
Shari Finsilver of Orchard Lake leads a local support group for those who suffer from Essential Tremor, a debilitating and incurable movement disorder. The group meets 7:30-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Contact Finsilver at (248) 683-4138 or Finsilver@earthlink.net, or visit www.tremorsupport.com. To learn

more about the International Tremor Foundation, visit [www.essential-tremor.org](http://www.essential-tremor.org) or call (888) 387-3667.

**Parents Supporting Parents**  
Parents coping with the loss of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death meet 7 p.m. the third Monday of the month at Providence Hospital-Southfield, 16001 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. Call (248) 849-5342.

**Stroke**  
The St. John Health System-Providence offers a Stroke Support Group 7 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Providence Park-Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi. Call (248) 465-4190.

**Menopause**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Menopause Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Call the hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1100. Next meeting is Feb. 5.

## FEBRUARY

**Thyroid**  
Michigan Thyroid Disorders Support Group will meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Dr. David Aliyeh, from the Aliyeh Wellness & Injury Center, will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Tracy Green at (734) 453-7945; e-mail [mthyroid@comcast.net](mailto:mthyroid@comcast.net); or visit <http://mihomemtown.com/thyroid>.

**Diabetes**  
The Diabetes Support Group at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will host a discussion on "Ask the Pharmacist" 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the hospital's Auditorium. The speaker will be Navir Sleiman, R.Ph., CDE. The Diabetes Support Group presents a new topic on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. Call (734) 655-8961.

**Alzheimer's**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will host the second session of a two-part workshop on the challenges of

Alzheimer's Disease 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the hospital Auditorium. Free. Pre-registration required. Call (734) 655-8940 or (800) 494-1650 (out-of-town callers only). Visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

**Infant Care**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia offers an Infant Care Class 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in Classroom 1. Learn about feeding, bathing, sleeping, infant safety, immunization, signs of illness and caring for the sick infant. Call (734) 655-1100 or (800) 494-1650.

**Overeaters**  
Overeaters Anonymous Support Group meets 7 p.m. every Friday at Providence Park-Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi. Next meeting: Friday, Feb. 14. Call (313) 433-HELP or (248) 474-9456.

**Fibromyalgia**  
St. Colette's Parish Health Ministry will host chiropactor Dr. Paul Masalski, who will speak on all aspects of fibromyalgia 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. The presentation will take place in the church's social area. The church is located at 17500 Newburgh (across from Laurel Park), Livonia. To reserve a seat, call (734) 464-4436.

**CPR classes**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will offer adult and pediatric classes 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 15. CPR, rescue techniques for choking and signs of life-threatening emergencies will be

taught. Participants will receive a CPR participation card. Pre-registration required. Call (734) 655-8940 or (800) 494-1650 (out-of-town callers only). Visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).  
**Stop smoking**  
Providence Hospital and Medical Centers will hold the Wellness Seminar for smoking cessation at the following times and locations: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 15, at Providence Hospital, Medical Building, 22250 Providence Drive, Southfield; and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Mission Health Medical Center, 37595 Seven Mile Road (at Newburgh), Livonia. Call (877) 345-5500.

**Weight reduction**  
Providence Hospital and Medical Centers will hold the Wellness Seminar for weight reduction at the following times and locations: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Providence Hospital, Medical Building, 22250 Providence Drive, Southfield; and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Mission Health Medical Center, 37595 Seven Mile Road (at Newburgh), Livonia. Call (877) 345-5500.

**Stress**  
Botsford Center for Health Improvement will offer "Reduce Stress, Organize Your Life," a workshop for individuals and entire families that focuses on ways to get organized, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. Learn how to

streamline your life, which can lessen your overall stress level. Cost is \$25. Register by calling (248) 477-6100, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The center is located at 39750 Grand River Ave. between Hagerty and Meadowbrook, Novi.

**Prostate**  
Dr. Michael Lutz will present "Prostate Cancer and Bladder Concerns" 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Weisberg Cancer Center, 31995 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills. Free supper and lecture. Registration required. Call (248) 538-6514.

**Immunizations**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will offer a "Walk-in Infant and Child Immunization Clinic" 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the Auditorium. Call (734) 655-8940 or (800) 494-1650 (out-of-area only).

**Women's heart conference**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will offer a "Heart-to-Heart: Women and Cardiovascular Disease" conference 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Learn about medical, physical and emotional well-being. Blood pressure, stroke, cholesterol, bone density, depression and anxiety, and alcohol screenings offered. Lunch included. Free massages and drawings for prizes. Cost: \$30. Registration required by Feb. 12. Call the Community Outreach department at (734) 655-8950.

## Gates announces global health grant

BY PAUL GETTNER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Microsoft founder Bill Gates has announced a \$200 million grant to help identify and solve the "grand challenges in global health" that the private sector has little financial incentive to tackle.

Under the program announced at the annual World Economic Forum Sunday, a panel of top scientists will draft a list of critical problems whose solution could lead to important advances for the developing world, such as novel ways to combat the AIDS virus or to prevent mosquitoes from transmitting malaria.

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health in Washington then will award grants of up to \$20 million to investigate them.

"This to me is an opportunity for us to come together as a world community to find world solutions to health problems affecting all of us," said U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson,

whose department includes the National Institutes of Health.

At a news conference with Gates, Thompson noted Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent remarks that the fight against HIV infection and AIDS is "bigger than the war on terror."

"People really don't understand that, but it truly is," Thompson said.

The money comes from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has focused on promoting health care in poor countries. He said he was "super-excited" by the team working on the initiative, which he said he would monitor "with great interest" but not personally participate in.

Chairing the board will be Dr. Harold Varmus, a Nobel laureate and president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

NIH director Elias Zerhouni, who will also serve on the board, noted that his agency — one of the world's leading centers on biomedical research — spends \$2.6 billion annually on

AIDS — "which affects obviously the United States" — and only about \$300 million on other global health issues.

"So about 10, 11 percent of our budget relates to potentially 90 percent of the urgent diseases in the world," he said.

He said he hoped the new "public-private" model would help fill the gap in research capacity.

"Progress will not be made unless we are able to interest the ... topflight scientists today to get involved in adapting all the progress we have made to date ... to the diseases that affect the developing world," he said.

Ismael Serengeldin, a former World Bank adviser, said governments and philanthropies had to do more for diseases prevalent in the developing world because there are no big potential profits that would interest drug companies.

"The market isn't there to justify developing treatments for some diseases that will ultimately have to be given away or sold at cost," he said.

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