

## DR. DEBORAH L. MCCULLOUGH

Although performing multiple surgeries in the East African Bush country with only local anesthesia was not foreseen by Dr. Deborah McCullough, they nevertheless provided her with some of the most fulfilling experiences of her career. She chose the medical profession thirty- six years ago because she wanted to make a difference in the lives of the underserved—especially women. Helping to establish and implement a clinic in a little town outside Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa at the behest of the Greek Orthodox Church provided her with multiple opportunities to truly make a difference in the lives of the underserved and marginalized.

As far back as her teenage years Deborah Lynne McCullough envisioned herself as a gynecologist giving special attention to women and girls in a profession which at that time was overwhelmingly held by males. That impetus sent her to Indiana University where she received the Doctor of Medicine Degree and gained the distinction of being the first African American female to graduate from Indiana University School of Medicine.

That was only one of the “firsts” of Dr. McCullough’s outstanding career. She served a Categorical Internship and then Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Upon graduating, she became the first African American female to complete an ObGyn residency at Cook County Hospital.

Fully prepared, Dr. McCullough established private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Northwest Indiana and was the first African American female to do so. At that same time she served as staff physician in area hospitals—Methodist, St. Catherine and St. Mary Medical Center. However, the dream of making a difference was still foremost in McCullough’s consciousness. Thus the concept of the Renaissance Center was born and established.

The Renaissance Center emerged as a resource where women could receive comprehensive information and assistance for complete health care. Lessons were given to manage weight control, lectures on how to care for themselves and their children after childbirth, about job opportunities, investments, even how to make themselves look better—beauty secrets. Through the years, patients often brought these topics to her during routine visits and she realized how important they were to a woman’s total healthy lifestyle. At the Renaissance Center psychiatrists, mentors and lecturers have all been available to prevent females from becoming overlooked and discounted in the community.

Dr. McCullough’s humanitarian feats are legendary. Recognized by the Speaking of Health Steering Committee, she received the Alice Burrell Humanitarian Award in 2005. She has provided medical care to children at Thelma Marshall

Children's Home; mentoring and financial support to community co-ed basketball leagues, and, as owner of the Bomani Stable, supports equine assisted therapy activities for disabled young people. One of Dr. McCullough's most sustained and far-reaching endeavors for Northwest Indiana residents has been **Lunch with the Doc**. For 16 years on the first Friday of every month she co-hosts lunch with participants while providing simple health remedies, education on health matters and preventative health ideas to women who are often not knowledgeable about common illnesses and disorders.

Dr. McCullough has served as guest lecturer and guest instructor in many cities across the nation and in Bomberg, Germany, Okinawa, Japan and Kenya Africa. Her duties and interests have also taken her to Greece, Australia, Italy, France and Switzerland and multiple trips to South Africa. It was due to her African connections that leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church engaged her to organize and run the Family Health Clinic outside Nairobi. She more recently was the recipient of the Community Service and Leadership Award presented by the National Council of Negro Women as well as The 2014 Fannie Lou Hamer Humanitarian Award by the NHBW .She now also is teaching medical students as a guest instructor at Indiana University School of Medicine in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. McCullough's additional current medical appointments include:

- Indiana University Advisory Board , Member 2016-current
- Indiana University Medical School Board IUNW. Member 2015-current
- Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health to which she was appointed by Governor Frank O'Bannon to in 1999
- Medical Director, Canaanite Adolescent Home
- Assistant Medical Director, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Methodist Hospital
- Associate Professor, Family Practice Residency Program, Indiana University School of Medicine, Northwest Campus

She also has served and is affiliated with the following community organizations:

- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Diamond life Member
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority , Inc Past Health and Wellness Chairman
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Alpha Chapter Inductee ,presently Gary Alumni
- Air Pollution Board
- Lake Area United Way Board
- Urban League of Northwest Indiana
- Indiana State Board of Health
- YWCA Board
- Lake County Board of Health
- Anthem HealthCare PIQ

Dr. McCullough has one son and continues to practice Ob-Gyn in Northwest Indiana.