

TO MEDIA:

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EXCELA HEALTH CARDIOLOGIST'S PHOTOGRAPHY TOUCHES HEART

GREENSBURG, PA, September 21, 2012 ... Howard P. Grill, MD, FACC touches hearts daily as a board certified interventional cardiologist and medical director of Excelsa Health's cardiac catheterization laboratory. Honorary chair of this year's Westmoreland Count Heart Walk, Dr. Grill also touches hearts with his awe-inspiring photography.

Patients of all sorts experience this Johns Hopkins fellowship trained physician and self-taught photographer's work when they receive service at the newly renovated Excelsa Square at Norwin in North Huntingdon. Excelsa Health purchased 47 prints from his collection to adorn the walkways and public spaces to help create the intended spa-like atmosphere in this medical complex.

Dr. Grill's interest in photography began at a young age when he asked for a camera and basic black and white darkroom setup as a grade school graduation present. His parents granted his request, and the interest in photography followed him through high school.

The rigors of college and career development overshadowed his avocation until 2003 when "I rediscovered my passion for photography, which has become an important part of my life and my mode of self-expression." Now, this graduate of Harvard Medical School puts his heart into fulfilling both interests.

Dr. Grill focuses much of his photography on nature and landscapes; on his Web site, www.howardgrill.com, he organizes his portfolio in categories such as "Pittsburgh Parks," "Odds N' Ends," "Landscapes," "Dreamscapes" and "Urban."

His most recent project photographing the Carrie Furnace, a former blast

furnace used to make iron in Rankin, PA, culminated in an eBook. Dr. Grill began the project simply “attracted to the surreal beauty of the astonishing array of graphic lines and shapes made by the furnace, stove, and pipes.” He soon found interest in the production of iron and daily life of the furnace’s employees.

“I was able to interview Ron Gault, who had worked at Carrie when he was a teen-ager and into his early 20s. Talking with him was one of the absolute delights of working on this project,” Dr. Grill writes on his photography blog, *Motivation* found at blog.howardgrill.com.

In the digital book, Gault’s commentary is featured alongside Dr. Grill’s photos and information about the Carrie Furnace and the nonprofit organization restoring the historical site called Rivers of Steel. The book can be ordered online for \$7.99, with 25 percent of the purchase price donated to Rivers of Steel. Soon, Dr. Grill’s photos of the furnace and the eBook will also be available from Rivers of Steel through their gift shop and Web site.

Beyond Excelsa Square at Norwin, Dr. Grill’s artwork has been on view locally during shows hosted by The Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild and the Pittsburgh Public Library, as well as The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO; Spokane International Airport; Starbucks, and featured in various magazines.

“The goal of my photography is not necessarily to show what a place looks like, but, rather, what it feels like to be there. If one of my images can do that, then it is successful. I can think of no better place than a medical facility for me to share with people the glory of nature that abounds not only in exotic locations, but in our own backyard as well.”