

Healing ministry defines mission

BY DR. PHILLIP FRESE
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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark is a community-based healthcare services ministry of the archdiocese. We are a family of affiliated corporations that includes Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health, Mount Carmel Guild Schools and Domus Corp.

Services were started in 1903 by providing healthcare to children. Over the years the organization expanded its family health services to include spiritual, mental and physical relief to those in need. Today, Catholic Charities health services impact over 10,000 individuals a year. The following is a brief description of some of the services offered by Catholic Charities.

Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare System

Mount Carmel Guild, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, provides mental health services that touch the lives of over 8,000 individuals a year. Mount Carmel Guild is committed to providing quality comprehensive services to patients and their families in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties. Services include inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care, residential programming, partial care, help for the mentally ill with chemical addictions and programs for children with emotional and behavioral problems.

Mount Carmel Guild Academy Autism Program

The Catholic Charities healthcare ministry has expanded to the



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classroom with the establishment of an autism program at Mount Carmel Guild Academy, located in West Orange, which serves surrounding school districts. Autism affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans.

The academy's program serves students ages 5 to 14 years old in small classroom settings, combining social skills and movement training with academic courses such as science, art, and music.

Mount Carmel Guild Little Schoolhouse "Snuggles Program"

The Little Schoolhouse program in Union County provides daycare for mildly ill pre-school children while enabling parents to meet their employment obligations.

Saint Bridget's Housing and Franciska Residence Services for the HIV Positive

New Jersey has the fifth-highest rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the nation. Catholic Charities addresses this epidemic by offering transitional housing and medical services for homeless men living with HIV/AIDS at Saint Bridget's Residence, Newark, and Franciska Residence, Jersey City. Both locations provide 24-hour services,

offering residents access to temporary housing in a safe, clean environment.

Inmate HIV and Substance Abuse Program

Catholic Charities participates in a national initiative for HIV detection and AIDS prevention among inmates at the Union County and Hudson County Jails. Those incarcerated are more likely than the general population to be infected with HIV. The program features HIV discharge planning, educational programs and rapid testing.

(Editor's note: Frese is the president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Visit the organization's Web site—www.ccannj.org—for more information on programs and services.)



Advocate photo — Ward Miele

LIFE-SAVING WORK SALUTED—Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark (right), celebrated the seventh annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Mass on Sunday, April 26, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. After Mass, he greeted the faithful on the steps of the Cathedral Basilica and blessed the rosary beads of an EMS worker. In his homily Bishop Cruz said EMS technicians have dedicated their lives to caring for those who are injured, sick and dying. "You have a difficult job," he declared, calling what they do a vocation.

Trinitas outlines free May seminars

ELIZABETH—Trinitas Regional Medical Center, 210 Williamson St., is sponsoring a series of healthcare seminars during the month of May. Events are free and open to the public, however pre-registration by phone is requested to help with event planning. Call (908) 994-5138 to register for the clinics unless indicated otherwise.

There will be a seminar on heart disease for the English and the Spanish speaking communities Tuesday, May 19. The Spanish presentation will be begin at 11 a.m., while the English forum will start at 1 p.m. Dietitians will give a cooking demonstration and distribute samples, while nurses will conduct blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Call (908) 994-8916 no later than May 15 to register.

A forum on stroke awareness and prevention, jointly sponsored by Trinitas, the Jewish Family

Service of Central New Jersey, and the City of Elizabeth Recreation Department, will be held Tuesday, May 19, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Elmwood Raquet Club, 23 Fernwood Terrace. Debra Milkowski, RN, stroke program coordinator at Trinitas, will be the featured speaker. Call (908) 352-8375 by May 14 to register. In addition, Trinitas will host a free stroke screening clinic (blood pressure, glucose, auscultation, consultation with nurses) on Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m.-noon.

A summer skin care seminar, featuring a presentation on how to prevent skin cancer by Carol Blech, Advance Practice Nurse, will be held at Trinitas Thursday, May 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

"Fitness for Seniors," a program featuring John Dunleavy, director of Trinitas' Health and Rehabilitation Center, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 10:30 a.m.-noon.



St. Michael's

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receives reimbursement far below the costs incurred by the hospital in providing care (see *The Catholic Advocate*, July 16, 2008).

"Taken together, these complicating factors create a 'per-

dition, the Connie Dwyer Breast Center recently was accredited as a center of excellence for breast imaging.

Saint Michael's is working to weather the current economic storm to ensure that the medical center can continue providing care to patients such as Dolores Harrison, who sat in her hospital bed recently awaiting