

# Circle of Mercy

SAINT MARY HOME | THE MCAULEY

Winter 2013

## Philanthropists, Foundations, Corporations Endorse The Mercy Community's Care

The family of former residents Frank and Jane Murphy provided a generous foundation on which to build a palliative care program at The Mercy Community. In December, a gift from the Murphy family in the amount of \$150,000 was donated for the purpose of renovating rooms on Saint Mary Home's East Two that will be used as the program's pilot unit, creating dedicated bathing suites and a family room, and re-designing the courtyards adjacent to the unit.

"This gift in Frank and Jane's memory will advance the comprehensive, interdisciplinary program that we are formalizing to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for our patients with advanced illnesses," said William J. Fiocchetta, President and CEO of The Mercy Community. "Because of the Murphys' generosity, we will be even better positioned to respond to the medical and spiritual needs of our residents through an integrated plan of care, and we will be better able to offer their family members the unique support they need when a loved one is dealing with a serious illness or is nearing the end of life." Learn more about Frank and Jane Murphy and the launch

of the palliative care unit at Saint Mary Home in our *Annual Report of Giving* coming this spring.

West Hartford's Fisher Foundation has also invested in The Mercy Community's plans for palliative care. They bestowed a

\$5000 grant that will facilitate accessibility to the two courtyards adjacent to East Two for those residents whose mobility may be challenged. "With this grant, our Palliative Care Team at Saint Mary Home will be able to further expand on the concept of creating a unit that will provide a comfortable, versatile indoor and outdoor space for those residents in need of management of chronic, debilitating pain," Bill Fiocchetta explained.



Jane and Frank Murphy

The Fisher Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations located in and/or serving the residents of the Greater Hartford area. The Foundation invests in programs that benefit education, health and human services, housing and community needs, as well as arts and culture.

In July, The Mercy Community received a community grant from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation to further fund the Alzheimer's and Dementia Special Care Community at Saint Mary Home. The \$5000 grant will enable The Mercy Community to incorporate music therapy and other beneficial activities into the programming within this person-centered environment.

"We are very grateful to the Farmington Bank Community Foundation for its support of our initiatives to enhance our programs for residents living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Our Mission calls us to care for those entrusted to us with reverence, compassion and integrity. These funds will

*(continued, page 5)*



William J. Fiocchetta, (right) President and CEO of The Mercy Community and Sister Maureen M. Reardon, Senior Vice President, receive a Community Grant from Farmington Bank Vice President and Business Development Officer Kevin P. Kickery.



## Joy Ride

On August 29, The Mercy Community's President and CEO, Bill Fiocchetta, took Saint Mary Home resident Sister M. Frederick Tkacz for the first official spin around the skilled nursing facility's new circular entrance. Colleagues cheered on the symbolic ride; Saint Mary Home Administrator Pat Hamill and Resident Council President Alice Dostaler then welcomed Sister Frederick as the first person dropped off directly at the new front door.

The Mercy Community's Gateway Project enhanced access and security at Saint Mary Home by providing the direct drive-up to the facility, increasing lighting and the number of handicapped-accessible spaces, leveling hilly terrain that was sometimes difficult for residents and visitors to traverse, and upgrading the central security system technology. The official Dedication and Grand Opening of the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Entrance to Saint Mary Home, part of The Mercy Community, will be scheduled for Spring 2013. †



Colleagues and residents wave to Bill and Sister Frederick.



Bill Fiocchetta and Sister Frederick Tkacz take the first ride around the new Gateway entrance.





*“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...  
Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle;  
the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



In recent months, The Mercy Community has been blessed by a number of very *generous foundations, corporations and families*. You saw in our cover story that the Farmington Bank Community Foundation, the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation, The Fisher Foundation, XL Group's Social Responsibility Team and the Murphy Family have given to our ministries for Alzheimer's/Dementia care, Adult Day services, and Palliative Care. We are humbled by and grateful for this recognition of our Mission and of our existing and evolving programs of care.

We are also *blessed with talented people all around us* at Saint Mary Home and The McAuley. In the January 2013 issue of *Hartford Magazine*, our consulting pulmonologist, Dr. John W. Rodgers, was named among Hartford's best doctors in both the internal medicine and pulmonary medicine categories. You will read in this issue about the contributions of Dr. Romana Zar, of three Saint Mary Home colleagues who were recognized by the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, about Trustees and Sisters of Mercy who enrich our programs and support us in our endeavors, and you will see the faces of our residents and clients – those who are at the heart of all of our individual and collective efforts. You will read about colleagues who have served for 25, 30, even 35 years on this campus, and as the stories blend together, you will begin to understand why people stay. The Mercy Community's core value of reverence for each person is so deeply instilled, so ingrained, that it is the steady heartbeat that powers us and the force behind our every success.

*Our people are our greatest assets.* As the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” Our goals are not easy, our path is not clear. Together, though, the tireless, passionately concerned, dedicated women and men of The Mercy Community, with support and prayers from treasured friends, will advance the sacred Mission entrusted to us by the Sisters of Mercy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "William J. Fiocchetta". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'F' and 'W'.

William J. Fiocchetta, President and CEO

## COLLEAGUES BRING THE ISLAND TO MERCY

During 2012, the Culture of Inclusion Service Excellence Team, under the leadership of Financial Analyst Leesa George, introduced a new initiative. On a regular basis, the Team will be spotlighting a particular heritage in an effort to better understand cultural similarities and differences among our colleagues. The team selected Puerto Rico as its first assignment, publishing two brochures that highlight its history, contributions, and people. Each colleague received the informational publications during the summer months.



Veron Raymond and Emma Duquette create the sounds of Puerto Rico

On October 17, the Culture of Inclusion Team hosted a "day of celebration" at The McAuley; on October 18, the celebration came to Saint Mary Home. Colleagues on each shift were encouraged to dress in traditional Puerto Rican clothing and were treated to exquisite delicacies, music, photos and film footage. Members of the committee had also created poster boards highlighting facts about Puerto Rican living. Colleagues praised the opportunity to get to know each other better through this fun and meaningful exploration. "The Culture of Inclusion Committee is so grateful for all of the support we received for this new venture," Leesa said. "From Dining Services to the Transportation team to our friends in Pastoral Care, the Adult Day Center and so many other areas at Saint Mary Home and The McAuley, we were met with excitement and so much willingness to help. In particular, our Puerto Rican colleagues were so cooperative. They enthusiastically shared their personal views, their memories and their favorite things about Puerto Rico. As a team, we achieved our mission to teach, to initiate dialogue, and to strengthen our bonds as one community made up of lots of individuals who have so much to share about who they are, where they come from, and what they are passionate about. We look forward to continuing this project in 2013." Leesa added that Jamaica will be the focus of the committee's and campus' next cultural celebration.



Colleague Emilio Lopez signals his appreciation for Puerto Rico Day at Saint Mary Home.



(L-R) Bill Fiocchetta congratulates colleagues Lindsay Cowles, Leesa George, Karen Tallis and Jesse Meyers on their contributions to planning and executing the cultural day celebrations.



The Cultural Day of Celebration Committee relaxes after Puerto Rico Day at The McAuley



Colleagues from The McAuley enjoy Puerto Rican delicacies.



## Philanthropists, Foundations... *continued*

greatly assist us in enhancing and expanding our approach,” Bill Fiocchetta said.

The Farmington Bank Community Foundation, developed by Farmington Bank to help both the economic viability and well-being of residents in the communities it serves, is equally enthusiastic about the program and its focus on a safe, nurturing environment for those in need of Alzheimer’s and dementia care.

“The Farmington Bank Community Foundation is pleased to provide Saint Mary Home support for its Alzheimer’s and Dementia Special Care Unit. The provision of quality stimulation in a safe environment will help maximize the cognitive and physical levels of those inflicted with these insidious diseases,” said Christine Traczyk, Executive Director of the Foundation.

In early December, The William and Alice Mortensen Foundation presented a grant of \$3995 to The Mercy Community for the purpose of installing one automatic swing door between the Alzheimer’s/Dementia Special Care Community and the courtyard adjacent to it. This will allow residents to safely access the outdoors, promoting their feelings of independence and well-being.

“We are delighted to be able to help your organization,” Robert S. Carter, Jr., President/Treasurer of the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation wrote to Bill Fiocchetta upon announcing the decision to provide funding to The Mercy Community. The West Hartford-based private foundation has been an extremely generous benefactor to not-for-profit agencies throughout the greater Hartford area since its establishment in 1982.

The XL Group’s Hartford Corporate Social Responsibility Team bestowed a \$2000 grant upon The Mercy Community’s Adult Day Center in November. It will fund recreational activities and events for the Center’s clients. “We are thankful for XL Group’s recognition of how important it is to keep our Day Center clients engaged in activities and excursions that stimulate the mind and encourage socialization,” said Bill Fiocchetta.

The Corporate Social Responsibility program at XL Group aims to support initiatives and programs within the communities in which it operates, increase support for employee volunteerism and raise awareness of social issues. It also reflects XL’s core values: respect, ethics, excellence, development and teamwork. †

Saint Mary Home’s Quilt to Remember was prominently featured at the Mercy Day Liturgy.



## Ushering in a New Season

Before delivering her September 20 Reflection on Mercy, Sister Patty Cook, a Trustee of The Mercy Community, grinned. She looked from the beams of sunlight shining in through the stained glass windows of The Archbishop John F. Whealon Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy to the faces of her audience. “The Spirit of Mercy vibrates in this house and brings us together today,” Sister Patty said.

Acknowledging the imminent Mercy Day on September 24 and the full week planned at The Mercy Community to commemorate its founders and sponsors, Sister Patty explained that she was bringing very good tidings from the House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. “The International Sisters of Mercy feel just as I do – that we should celebrate Mercy every chance we get! In fact, this year, we’re being invited to celebrate not just a day or a week, but instead, to celebrate a ‘Season of Mercy!’” Sister Patty announced that the season would stretch from September 24 – the date commemorating the opening of the House of Mercy on Dublin’s Baggot Street – to December 12, Foundation Day: the anniversary of the founding of the religious congregation of Sisters of Mercy. She suggested that the best way of celebrating the season would be to honor the Sisters’ prayer that God help them look at the world with a unique perspective. “The challenge of Mercy,” Sister Patty said, “is to seek the face of God every day in every place, in every person.”

In addition to Sister Patty’s Reflection, Mercy Week 2012 included musical performances by flutists Anastazia Oswiak and Donna Gollenburg, guitarists Elizabeth Keyes and Paul Recker, pianist Paul Bisaccia, singer John Banker and the quartet Irish to the Last Drop. Sister Peggy Luby offered a reflection on her experience as a Sister of Mercy, and Saint Mary Home and The McAuley provided a special “Chef Center Stage Meal” for Mercy Housing & Shelter clients at Saint Elizabeth House in Hartford.

The Mercy Community’s new Chaplain, Father Thomas Kelly, dedicated the September 24 Liturgy to the Sisters. “Mercy is who the Sisters truly are,” he said. “Mercy is a reason to celebrate and give incredible thanks to God. Showing compassion and joy is what it means to be a Sister of Mercy.” †

Sister Pat Colla and Sister Mary Coffey greet guests at the Mercy Day luncheon.



# Demystifying Alzheimer's

*The Mercy Community hosted its second Community Roundtable Discussion on Issues in Aging October 25.*

*Dr. Romana Zar, who practices at Saint Mary Home through the sections of geriatric medicine and internal medicine at Saint Francis Medical Group, presented: "Navigating the Enigma: Signs, Symptoms, Diagnosis & Management of Alzheimer's Disease."*

Dr. Zar began by describing dementia as cognitive decline that interferes with the activities of daily living, noting that it takes different forms. The final variation Dr. Zar mentioned – Alzheimer's Disease – is created by plaques and tangles in the brain that lead to neuron loss.

Dr. Zar detailed the tell-tale signs of Alzheimer's: memory impairment, difficulty making decisions, loss of initiative, lack of orientation, and challenge with sequencing. Dr. Zar explained that the sequencing was evident in a person's confusion over matters such as: "Should I put my jacket on first, or my shirt?" She then described other behavioral shifts that might serve as symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, reinforcing with the audience that they should always seek medical evaluation for a diagnosis, because other issues – from Lyme Disease to vitamin deficiencies – could also manifest in ways that would suggest Alzheimer's to an untrained caregiver.



Bill Fiocchetta, President and CEO of The Mercy Community, introduces Dr. Romana Zar.

Dr. Zar discussed many of the medical treatments currently in use for Alzheimer's patients; she also outlined some of the side effects that can result. She encouraged family members dealing with a loved one struggling with Alzheimer's to: "Be patient. Give the person extra time to complete tasks. Eat in front of them so that they can copy you. Music helps. Pets can help," Dr. Zar said. She said that validation can be very soothing to the Alzheimer's patient. "Telling them that you can see that they are upset and then trying to redirect them is going to be more successful than trying to reason with them," Dr. Zar suggested. "If you are a caregiver, be patient and compassionate."

Saint Mary Home sponsors support groups for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia. On the second Tuesday of each month, Support Groups for the Spouse meet from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Fitzgerald Café. Family Caregiver Support Groups meet on the second Thursday of the month from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. in the Center One Dining Room at Saint Mary Home. While walk-ins are always welcome, guests are encouraged to contact Eileen Cleary, director of dementia education and programming at Saint Mary Home, in advance at 860.570.8335 or [ecleary.smh@mchct.org](mailto:ecleary.smh@mchct.org). †



Her Saint Mary Home colleagues Phil Murray, Maryann Loveland and Pat Hamill congratulate Dr. Zar on her presentation.

## Navigating the Enigma



# Renowned Author and Speaker Jonathan Tidd Enlightens, Emboldens at The McAuley

“This is a topic that is important to many of us who have charitable causes and organizations dear to our hearts and want to approach philanthropy from a careful, intelligent perspective,” Bill Fiocchetta said by way of preface to The Mercy Community’s September Estate & Charitable Gift Planning Luncheon. The public event featured attorney and author Jonathan Tidd. A former director of planned giving at New York University, Tidd entered the practice of law and now specializes in estate and charitable gift planning.



Jonathan Tidd

Tidd defined a deliberate, coordinated approach to Wills, Trusts, retirement planning and philanthropic giving. He also offered tips on the team of experts that people should consult when planning involves complex estate or tax issues, including Trust & Estate lawyers and financial planners. “We’ve all got to take responsibility for our own situations,” Tidd exhorted. “We need to seek out competent attorneys who will stay abreast of tax law changes and notify us when they affect our plans.” Throughout his remarks, Tidd emphasized the critical nature of advance planning and careful research about consulting professionals, encouraging the audience members to seek out “folks who have been vetted by their peers as highly trained.” He recommended those accredited by the American College for Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC.) In this way, he suggested, people could build their best defense against predators, defined by Tidd as “someone who comes to you when you’re in a position of vulnerability seeking to further isolate you and gain access, gain trust.”

“Jonathan Tidd was extremely effective,” said Sister Maureen Reardon, steward of The Mercy Community’s development efforts. “Not only was he informative and engaging, but his compassion for seniors and his genuine desire to see them protect their assets and interests made him truly connect with our residents and guests. The Estate & Charitable Gift Planning Luncheon was the first in what we intend to be a continuing series of conversations that educate and empower retirees.” †



Jonathan Tidd discusses planned giving at The McAuley.



## Henry Gilchrist: Shining Star

Henry Gilchrist, Receiving Clerk in the Maintenance Department at Saint Mary Home, was recognized in December by the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for his outstanding fundraising efforts. "As Team Captain for the Angels of Mercy, Henry works tirelessly to encourage colleagues to participate in supporting the cause," said Therapeutic Recreation Director Jackie Holcomb. "Whether by wearing purple each Thursday for Alzheimer's Awareness, getting lots of our colleagues to sign up for the Walk to End Alzheimer's each fall, or participating in our smaller fundraising efforts throughout the year, Henry goes above and beyond as an advocate. He never seeks out the spotlight, but he's very deserving of recognition and thanks," Jackie added.

Caregivers of the Year  
Jackie Holcomb (left)  
and Cathy London



## A Lunch of Champions

Three of The Mercy Community's champions of those providing care to loved ones living with Alzheimer's and dementia were honored at the November 16 Caregiver Recognition Luncheon sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Saint Mary Home Therapeutic Recreation Director Jackie Holcomb and Adult Day Center Activity Assistant Cathy London were nominated for 2012 Caregiver Excellence Awards by their colleagues. As the luncheon program drew to a close, Patty O'Brian, the Connecticut Chapter's North Central Regional Director, surprised Eileen Cleary, RN, CRRN, MA, NHA, director of dementia education and programming at Saint Mary Home, with a special award. She gave Eileen the inaugural "North Central Regional Appreciation of Excellence in Support of our Caregivers Award," citing Eileen's facilitation of support groups, advocacy, and great value as a mentor to other colleagues specializing in Alzheimer's/Dementia care.

The new executive director of the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Eleonora Tornatore-Mikesh, commended the attendees on their passion for raising funds for Alzheimer's research, recruiting volunteers to expand a network of support at events including the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, and advocating for caregivers to avail themselves of support groups. "Reach out. Ask for help. We have enough heroes. Don't try to be a hero. Take care of yourself first, and then you'll be healthier to take care of your health partner," she told family and professional caregivers.

The McAuley hosted this year's event; dining services manager Lori Shipuleski coordinated a buffet feast for award recipients, those who nominated them, and the professional team from the Alzheimer Association's Connecticut Chapter. "On behalf of all of us, I want to thank The McAuley for donating this wonderful lunch and for supporting the Association," Patty O'Brian said during her remarks. †



The staff from the Alzheimer Association's Connecticut Chapter recognize Eileen Cleary (seated at center).



## Jan Albetski's Message Receives National Exposure

On Thursday, September 6, Jan Albetski, Supervisor of the Assisted Living Services Agency at The McAuley, was featured in a live studio interview by Connecticut's FOX 61 News. Invited by the CT1 Media Group to present on "Making the Transition to a Continuing Care Retirement Community" at the September 9 Transitions Expo in Rocky Hill, CT, Jan's appearance promoted the Expo. In the interview, Jan described the difference between independent and assisted living, touted The McAuley's distinction in the greater Hartford area as a CCRC that allows residents to age in place, and shared insights about how families can be supportive of a loved one's decision to move into a CCRC. The interview was picked up by affiliates across the nation; it is available for viewing at [www.TheMercyCommunity.org](http://www.TheMercyCommunity.org) on the "News and Events" tab.



## Approve This Message!

We invite all friends of The Mercy Community to participate in *Hartford Magazine's* annual "Best of Hartford" survey. Visit [www.hartfordmag.com](http://www.hartfordmag.com) or clip the paper ballot in the January 2013 issue and vote The McAuley "Hartford's Best Retirement Community" and The Mercy Community as "Hartford's Best Senior Services." The Magazine must receive all ballots by March 4, 2013. If you vote by paper ballot, please mail it to:



We thank you for supporting The Mercy Community in this special way!



*The next time you're on Facebook, please take a moment to visit and "like" The Mercy Community's page. Just enter "The Mercy Community" into the search bar and click on the "like" button. We'll be maintaining this page as a senior health and wellness resource and hot spot for news and photos.*

# High Praise for Higher Learning, Gratitude

*Friends of The Mercy Community gathered at The Governor's Residence in Hartford October 9 for the annual President's Reception. The Dining Services teams from The McAuley and Saint Mary Home provided elegant cocktail fare, and the beautiful sounds of Hartt School GigLine performers Sheri Ziccardi, Mike Cartwright and Paul Feyer added to the evening's ambience. Georgeann Vumbaco, RSM, Chair of The Mercy Community's Board of Trustees, delivered the invocation and welcomed President and Chief Executive Officer William J. Fiocchetta.*



Henrietta Cass and Gerard Barrieau admire the newly remodeled Governor's Residence.

Bill reminded guests of the significant purpose for the gathering, saying: "We want to give thanks to you for your support of the residents and clients at both The McAuley and Saint Mary Home. We want to remind you that no matter the size or form of your contributions, they make an impact on the programs and activities that we can provide. In this year alone, we have seen the power of individual gifts working alongside foundation grants like those bestowed by the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, the Catholic Health East Heritage Fund, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and NewAlliance Bank to move us closer to completion of our Gateway Entrance at Saint Mary Home." Bill explained that the Gateway Entrance would officially be named "The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Entrance to Saint Mary Home" at a grand opening event scheduled for Spring 2013.

Bill acknowledged the generosity of the Farmington Bank Community Foundation in supporting the Alzheimer's/ Dementia Special Care Unit at Saint Mary Home as well as Catholic Health East's Heritage Fund grant, which funded the remodeling of the Frances Warde Towers Dining Room. He said that while "strategic, steady" capital investments in the facilities at both Saint Mary Home and The McAuley were critical, they were not the only means to chart growth. "By strengthening our existing partnerships with some of Connecticut's finest institutions of higher learning and building new ones, our offerings to our residents and colleagues are growing," Bill said.





# for Generosity Mark President's Reception

He thanked student volunteers and faculty lecturers from the University of Saint Joseph for their longstanding commitment to collaboration with The Mercy Community. Then, Bill recognized Goodwin College. "We now have a formalized arrangement for those colleagues who come to us inquiring about a tuition reimbursement program so that they can advance in their professions," Bill said, underscoring the efforts of Human Resources Manager Karen Landsberg and Jeff Lee, who helped implement the agreement before his recent retirement from Goodwin College. Next, Bill shared the consistently strong enrollments in the Trinity College courses offered at The McAuley and praised that institution's Academy of Lifelong Learning for its outstanding approach to adult learners.



(L-R) Pat and Bill Fiocchetta welcome Valerie and Phil Bonee to the President's Reception

Announcing that there was even more cause for celebrating learning at The Mercy Community, Bill shared that the University of Hartford's Presidents' College would be the newest educational partner on site. During the spring semester, faculty members from the University will present "The McAuley Lectures:" a series of dynamic academic presentations.



Carolyn Dodd takes in the premiere showing of the Living Library segment in which she is featured.

Following his remarks, Bill presented the next two installments of the "Living Libraries" series. Profiles of McAuley residents Paul Anderson and Carolyn Dodd premiered; they are now available at [www.TheMercyCommunity.org](http://www.TheMercyCommunity.org). As Bill put it: "One click of the mouse, and you will see faces, hear voices, and listen to stories that will clarify for you why those of us who work with seniors are so passionate about our roles. Each day, we benefit from the wisdom, the compassion, the humor and the grace of those we serve." †



Saint Mary Home Administrator Pat Hamill chats with Randi Ashton-Pritting (left) and Nancy Mather (center) from The Presidents' College at the University of Hartford.

# Celebrating Our Finest

The Mercy Community celebrated its Tenth Annual Colleague Service Awards Ceremony October 11. More than 65 colleagues were recognized for achieving milestones of service between five and 35 years at Saint Mary Home, The McAuley, and Mercy Community Health. An additional five colleagues were honored for their receipt of 10 or more Angel of Mercy cards. These cards are submitted by residents, clients or members of their families who commend a colleague for going above and beyond his or her assigned duties to provide extraordinarily compassionate care.

Bill Fiocchetta congratulated colleagues, saying: "We come together on this (beautiful) autumn day to "celebrate fall's finest." It is a chance for each of us to express our thanks and our congratulations to "seasoned" professionals – men and women who bring their gifts, talents and experience to work with them every day. By doing so, they make the lives of our residents and clients better."

After the presentation of awards, colleagues shared a harvest feast provided by the dining services team. The event was beautifully planned and executed by Karen Landsberg, Valerie Romano and Karen Hightower from the Office of Human Resources.

## 35-Year Award

Henry Gilchrist  
Cathy London  
Maria Reyes

## 30-Year Award

Henry Dawkins  
Jemimah Sterling  
Lilieth Thompson-Reid

## 25-Year Award

Monica Christie  
Patricia Kaplan  
Oneil Richards  
Una Rosetta  
Merline Thomas  
Venus Lillian Watts

## 20-Year Award

Delroy Bennett  
Diana Tyrell

## 15-Year Award

Dawn Arel  
Arthur A. Duke  
Lily Iloeje  
Shadeed Islam  
Deborah Jefferson  
John Mills

Georgina Ortiz  
Julie A. Plourde  
Linda Stewart  
Deloris White  
Debra Zandonella

## 10-Year Award

Winsome Eubanks  
Verona Francis  
Angella Frazer  
Lucie Heleniak  
Roseline G. Joseph  
Robert Kirschner  
David Maldonado  
Lynn Misenti  
Dorette Y. Morris  
Jane Ranger-Cameron  
Carol Stewart-Savage  
Tallisha Tabanna  
Simona Thomas  
Janice Walker-Grant  
Marie Wright

## Five-Year Award

Peter Abell  
Melesa Anderson  
Eileen Cleary  
Janet Cyr  
Jennifer DeLeon  
Shelia Deslaurier  
Pat Doyley  
Emma Duquette  
Lucy Frederick  
Audrey Gordon  
Uvanne Hales  
Angela Heron  
Jacqueline Holcomb  
Jamiel Julien  
Marlene Khouri  
Shakira Khouri  
Christine Looby  
Doris Osei-Gyawu  
Malane Powel  
Kenroy Sergeant  
Jacquelyn Sheehan  
Parlet Whyte

## Angel of Mercy Recipients

(10-card status)

Mark Linton  
Ramona Perez  
Lilieth Thompson-Reid  
Desne Townsend  
Lynette Walton

Bill Fiocchetta bestows Angel of Mercy recognition on Saint Mary Home colleague Mark Linton.



Bill Fiocchetta congratulates Carol Stewart-Savage on her 10th anniversary at Saint Mary Home.



Joke Trzaskos and Steve Surprenant celebrate Marie Wright's 10 years of service to The McAuley.



# Trinity Health and Catholic Health East Agree to Explore Coming Together

**THE BOARDS AND SPONSORS** of Catholic Health East (CHE) and Trinity Health, two leading Catholic health systems, announced in October that they signed a non-binding Letter of Intent to come together into a unified national health system that will enhance their mission of service to people and communities across the United States. The Mercy Community is one of Catholic Health East's 18 regional health corporations; it is the only one based in Connecticut.

The boards also announced that Joseph R. Swedish, president and CEO of Trinity Health, would become president and CEO of the anticipated new organization, and that Judith M. Persichilli, president and CEO of CHE, would become executive vice president of the new organization. Until the new organization is created, both executives will lead its formation while retaining their current title, role and responsibilities for their respective organizations.

The consolidation would create a health system that serves people in 21 states from coast to coast with 82 hospitals, 89 continuing care facilities and home health and hospice programs that provide nearly 2.8 million visits annually. More than 87,000 employees, including 4,100 employed physicians, would provide care in the new system.

*"Trinity Health and Catholic Health East are strong Catholic health care systems that share a Gospel-based mission and an unyielding commitment to care for people who are poor and underserved," said Sister Mary Mollison, CSA, chair of Trinity Health. "This consolidation advances the vision of congregations of Sisters that founded these health care ministries, addresses the changing health care environment and takes a bold next step for Catholic health care."*

*"The joining together of Catholic Health East and Trinity Health represents the next step in the courageous journey begun more than a century ago by the women religious of our founding congregations," said Sister Barbara Wheeley, RSM, CHE's Sponsors Council coordinator. "We are confident this will help preserve and strengthen Catholic health care for generations to come."*

*"A unified ministry allows us to better leverage our talents and size, and to use our resources more effectively in furtherance of our mission," said Dennis Fitzpatrick, chairperson of Catholic Health East's board of directors. "Together, we will have a greater ability to influence and transform health care at the national level."*

*The new system would have annual operating revenues of about \$13.3 billion and assets of about \$19.3 billion, and would return almost \$1 billion to its communities annually in the form of charity care and other programs.*

*"To serve people best in today's health care environment, health systems must have ready access to resources and ideas across the broad spectrum of care, and this consolidation would help us achieve that goal with an exceptional national network," said Joseph Swedish, president and CEO, Trinity Health. "We are excited about the benefits our combined organizations will bring to people and communities nationwide."*

*The consolidation will help address the rapidly changing health care environment that requires more focus on population health and the delivery of more coordinated and integrated care and health and wellness services.*

*"By bringing Catholic Health East and Trinity Health together, we will enhance our ability to create innovative models of care and advance clinical quality across the continuum," said Judith Persichilli, president and CEO, Catholic Health East. "This is a wonderful opportunity for both ministries to build upon our common mission, and enhance our collective ability to be a transforming, healing presence in the communities we are privileged to serve."*

*The development of the consolidation is in its preliminary phase. Over the next few months, the systems' boards and management will pursue the potential consolidation and conduct due diligence with a goal of reaching a Definitive Agreement in spring 2013.*

**About Catholic Health East:** Catholic Health East (CHE) is a multi-institutional Catholic health system, co-sponsored by eight religious congregations and Hope Ministries, a Public Juridic Person within Catholic Health East. Based in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, the System provides the means to ensure the continuation of the Catholic identity and operational strength of the sponsors' health ministries, which are located in 11 eastern states from Maine to Florida. The System includes 35 acute care hospitals, four long-term acute care hospitals, 26 freestanding and hospital-based long-term care facilities, 12 assisted-living facilities, four continuing care retirement communities, eight behavioral health and rehabilitation facilities, 31 home health/hospice agencies and numerous ambulatory and community-based health services. Catholic Health East is the largest not-for-profit provider of home health care services—ranked by number of visits—in the nation, as well as the nation's leading provider of PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) based on the number of programs. *For more information about Catholic Health East, visit [www.che.org](http://www.che.org), or "like" CHE on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicealtheast](http://www.facebook.com/catholicealtheast).*

**About Trinity Health:** Trinity Health is the 10th largest health system in the nation and the fourth largest Catholic health care system in the country, by total number of hospitals and total bed count, respectively. Based in Novi, Mich., Trinity Health operates 47 acute-care hospitals, 432 outpatient facilities, 32 long-term care facilities, and numerous home health offices and hospice programs in 10 states. Trinity Health reports about \$9.0 billion in unrestricted revenue. As a not-for-profit health system, Trinity Health reinvests its profits back into the community through programs to serve those who are poor and uninsured, manage chronic conditions like diabetes, health education and promotion initiatives, and outreach for the elderly. In fiscal 2012, this included more than \$616 million in such community benefits. *For more information about Trinity Health, visit [www.trinity-health.org](http://www.trinity-health.org), follow @TrinityHealthMI on Twitter, or become a fan of the Trinity Health Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/trinityhealth](http://www.facebook.com/trinityhealth).*



The Elves of Saint Mary Home

## Starting a new Family Tradition at Saint Mary Home

Colleagues at Saint Mary Home, under the leadership of the Director of the Department of Therapeutic Recreation Kara Trosen, made the holiday season very special for residents, clients and their families. On December 6, more than 100 individuals attended Saint Mary Home's first Resident/Family Holiday Party. Colleagues decked out in red and green tops (and the occasional antlers or elfin caps) served as wait staff; the Saint Mary Home Dining Services and Dietary team whipped up a remarkable feast and transformed the Saint Mary Home

Auditorium into a winter wonderland. It was no surprise, then, that Santa himself showed up to delight both the youngest and eldest dinner guests! Local talent Lara Daniela provided the holiday music. "It was a night of holiday spirit and community spirit," said Saint Mary Home Administrator Pat Hamill. "Those of us who worked the event had every bit as much fun as our families did. I am very proud of the collaboration and care that went into this party; it was obvious in every last detail, and our families were so appreciative." †



(Above and right) Santa double checks the finer points of holiday wish lists for believers of all ages.

### Interested in Lending a Hand?

If you have ever considered volunteering at The Mercy Community, we have two different ways for you to explore the opportunities available on our campus. You are welcome to contact Lynn Seiden-Preminger, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Saint Mary Home, at 860.570.8314 or [lpeminger.smh@mchct.org](mailto:lpeminger.smh@mchct.org) or Janet Finney, Activities Director at The McAuley, at 860.920.6323 or [jfinney.mca@mchct.org](mailto:jfinney.mca@mchct.org). Another convenient way to learn about our specific needs for volunteers is by going online to **www.volunteermatch.org**. Simply indicate our zip code, 06117, and the key word "seniors," and a current listing will appear at your fingertips! We would love to make you an integral part of The Mercy Community as a valued volunteer.



Father Thomas Kelly congratulates Katherine Hynes on her 100th birthday.



# The Mercy Community's Spirit of Giving Brings Light, Warmth to Greater Hartford

## During the Winter

Father Thomas Kelly, chaplain, presided over The Mercy Community's December 19 National Homeless Persons Memorial Day Interfaith Prayer Service. The service, held in the Saint Mary Home Auditorium, featured violinist David Dyson. Father Kelly delivered a reflection on homelessness, drawing on stories film director Frank Capra told about his Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, in his autobiography, *The Name above the Title*. Father shared: "In his autobiography, Frank Capra said: '*It's a Wonderful Life* wasn't made for the oh-so-bored critics, or the oh-so-jaded literati. It was my kind of film for my kind of people... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure.... I wanted to shout, 'You are the salt of the earth.

And *It's a Wonderful Life* is my memorial to you.'" Father recounted the film's central message, saying "No person is poor if he has one friend," and talking about the importance of moments of connection in affirming and elevating humanity.

During the four weeks of Advent each year, The Mercy Community initiates the "Mercy Giving Tree Project." Colleagues, residents and clients, and visitors are encouraged to donate personal care items, winter outerwear, blankets, stationery and stamps as well as nonperishable food items at baskets positioned at the main entrances of Saint Mary Home and The McAuley. Father Kelly blessed 16 large boxes of gifts at the prayer service. On December 20, drivers from The McAuley distributed them to Mercy Housing & Shelter, Mart's House and The Salvation Army's Marshall House in Hartford, and The Town of West Hartford's Human and Social Services Division. †

Father Thomas Kelly blesses gifts collected for the homeless.

## West Hartford Chamber of Commerce Participates in Mercy Giving Tree Project

Each month, the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce holds Business After Hours events designed to promote networking among its more than 400 members and to spotlight member business facilities. On December 13, The McAuley hosted the Chamber's Holiday Business After Hours. The dining services teams from The McAuley and Saint Mary Home decked The McAuley Auditorium in icy winter silver and prepared a winter feast for more than 100 guests. Bill Fiocchetta gave a warm welcome, saying: "I want to extend my best wishes to those of you who are celebrating Hanukkah. You are in our thoughts and prayers during these eight holy days. For those of you who will celebrate Christmas in just a bit more than a week's time, I bring

you good tidings. May we all enjoy a peaceful and joy-filled new year together." He went on to describe The McAuley's strengths as a West Hartford destination for independent and assisted living. When Chamber members were invited to the Holiday Business After Hours, they were made aware of The Mercy Giving Tree Project: The Mercy Community's Advent Season collection of outerwear, personal care items and nonperishable foods that is distributed to area shelters and agencies just before Christmas. Most guests brought donations with them, filling large boxes bound for men, women and children who would treasure the gifts as well as the spirit in which they were given. †



(L-R) Barbara Kreitner, Director of Membership Services and Community Relations for the WHCC; Cynthia Cicchetti, First Vice Chair of the WHCC Board of Directors; Bill Fiocchetta, Christine Looby and Tomas Casul from The Mercy Community; and Maryellen Milio, WHCC Associate Director of Communications/Special Events/Administration proudly display some of the donations collected at the Chamber event.

# The McAuley Welcomes Mrs. Malloy



Cathy Malloy, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Hartford Arts Council and Connecticut's First Lady, visited The McAuley on May 31 as the featured speaker for a local women's networking organization. Residents of The McAuley served as greeters and guides for the breakfast event. During her remarks, Mrs. Malloy acknowledged the high therapeutic value in bringing arts programs to seniors. "I'm sure you meet with great success when you offer your residents cultural opportunities both on and off site," Mrs. Malloy said. "Art affects our quality of life, and I commend facilities like The McAuley for recognizing and affirming this."†

## Lenten/Holy Week Series

Presented by The Mercy Community Pastoral Care Team. Listed by location – all are welcome at each program/service.

### SAINT MARY HOME

#### Ash Wednesday

*February 13th*

3:00 p.m.

Ashes distributed in the Archbishop John F. Whealon Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy (third floor, Saint Mary Home)

#### Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, Part 1

*Monday, February 18th*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Father Thomas Kelly

#### Interfaith Reflection Service

*Thursday, February 21st*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

The Mercy Community Health Clinical Pastoral Education Team

#### Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, Part 2

*Monday, March 4th*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Father Thomas Kelly

#### "Rainbow Reflections: God's Covenant With Us His Faithful People"

*Tuesday, March 5th*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Rev. Ute Schmidt, Coordinator for Clinical Pastoral Education

#### Service with an Episcopal Deacon

*Wednesday, March 6th*

2:30 p.m., Saint Mary Home

Center 1 Dining Room

Rev. Walter McKenney

#### Lenten Reflection

*Sunday, March 10th*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Peggy Luby, RSM

#### Lenten Reflection and Lenten Music

*Monday, March 11th*

"God does not love us IF we change.  
God loves us so that we can change."  
- Richard Rohr

2:00-3:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Father Henry Frascadore

Musician: Luke Scott

#### Mass of the Anointing

*Wednesday, March 13th*

10:00 a.m., Chapel

Father Thomas Kelly,

Father Henry Frascadore

#### Service with a Baptist Minister

*Wednesday, March 13th*

2:30 p.m., Saint Mary Home

Center 1 Dining Room

Rev. Tom Carr

#### Lenten Reflection, "The Loveliness of Lent... 2013"

*Thursday, March 14th*

3:00-4:00 p.m., Chapel

Presenter: Patty Cook, RSM

#### Passover Service

*Tuesday, March 19th*

2:00 p.m., Saint Mary Home

Callaghan Center Dining Room

Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

#### Interfaith Reflection Service

*Thursday, March 21st*

2:00 p.m., Chapel

The Mercy Community Health Clinical Pastoral Education Team





### **Palm Sunday**

*March 24th*

10:00 a.m. Mass, Chapel  
Distribution of palms during Mass

### **Reconciliation Service**

*Monday, March 25th*

2:00 p.m., Chapel  
Father Thomas Kelly,  
Father Henry Frascadore

### **Holy Thursday**

*March 28th*

4:00 p.m., Chapel  
Mass of the Lord's Supper

### **Good Friday**

*March 29th*

3:00 p.m. Service, Chapel  
Service of the Passion and Death of  
Our Lord, Holy Communion

### **Holy Saturday**

*March 30th*

4:00 p.m., Chapel  
Mass and Service

### **Easter Sunday**

*March 31st*

10:00 a.m., Chapel  
Mass

### **THE McAULEY**

#### **Ash Wednesday Service and Distribution of Ashes**

*February 13th*

2:00 p.m., The McAuley Auditorium  
Pat Piano, Pastoral Associate,  
Saint Timothy Parish

#### **Lenten Reflection and Lenten Music**

*Tuesday, February 26th*

*"God does not love us IF we change. God  
loves us so that we change." - Richard Rohr*

3:00 – 4:00 p.m., Auditorium  
Father Henry Frascadore  
Musician – Luke Scott

### **Finding God in the Winters of Our Lives**

*Thursday, March 7th*

2:00 p.m., Auditorium  
Using her book *The Tree That Survived the  
Winter*, Sister Mary Fahy will help us see the  
hidden growth of the dark, cold, winter times  
of our lives.

### **Passover Service**

*Monday, March 25th*

2:00 p.m., Auditorium  
Reservations required by March 20th.  
Transportation will be provided - Please call  
extension 8229. A ceremonial sharing of the  
Seder with Cantor Susan Levine.

### **Ecumenical Service of the Passion**

*March 29th*

3:00 p.m. Service, Auditorium

A proud grandmother enjoys her special day.



Some very special guests came to celebrate Grandparents Day.

A surprise peck

## Grandparents Day Brings Families to Saint Mary Home

The Department of Therapeutic Recreation at Saint Mary Home invited residents' families to come spend a day on The Mercy Community's beautiful grounds Sunday, September 9. The gorgeous autumn day provided the perfect backdrop for music, games and even a petting zoo! Thanks to all of our families, colleagues, residents and friends who made this new event so successful. †



Resident Anna's family gathers for Grandparents Day.

## The Mercy Community's Partnership with Sodexo Senior Services Benefits Mercy Housing & Shelter

On August 30, Bill Fiocchetta, President and CEO of The Mercy Community; Sister Maureen Reardon, Senior Vice President/Chief Mission and Compliance Officer; Tammy Daysh, General Manager of On-Site Service Solutions; and Karen Tallis, Operations Manager for Saint Mary Home Dining/Dietary Services, went to Mercy Housing & Shelter in Hartford to present Executive Director Patricia McKeon, RSM, with a check for \$1000. That amount represents proceeds earned through Sodexo Senior Services' STOP Hunger campaign. At The Mercy Community's Circle of Mercy Golf Outing in June, Karen Tallis spearheaded a fund raiser for Mercy Housing & Shelter's Saint Elizabeth House. Donors were eligible to win an iPad courtesy of Sodexo Senior Services.

Sister Pat McKeon expressed her gratitude for the ongoing collaboration between Mercy Housing & Shelter as well as for the gift presented. She made it clear that her thanks were not only on her own behalf, but also on the behalf of each man, woman and child served by the ministries of Mercy Housing & Shelter. "It's not just the food or the donations," Sister Pat said. "It's the fact that they know the community cares about them." †



Top Row (L-R) Sister Pat McKeon, executive director of Mercy Housing & Shelter, gratefully accepted the Stop Hunger donation on behalf of the St. Elizabeth House community from The Mercy Community colleagues Karen Tallis, Bill Fiocchetta and (bottom L-R) Tammy Daysh and Sister Maureen Reardon.



# Poetry Curve

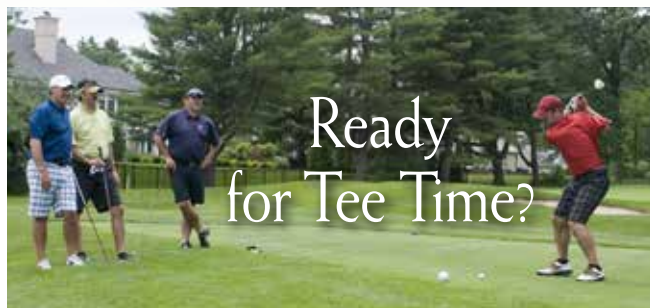
Contributed to Circle of Mercy by The Reverend Henry C. Frascadore

## Our Hands

In the beginning/  
with the touch of God's hand  
we became who we are  
God then sent us into the world  
to reveal with our hands  
the beauty of creation  
With our hands we turn soil  
and lay within it  
tiny seeds  
With our hands we tend the ground  
carefully each day  
until a garden's born  
Within our hand a pen married to fantasy

can read minds and hearts  
and unravel stories that never end  
Within our hand  
a brush can touch  
a color-full palette  
And arrange its reds yellows and blues  
in shapes upon a canvas ready to  
startle our imaginations  
With our hands' nimble fingers  
we can draw from strings  
the sounds of seas and winds  
With our hands we can fashion spires  
that pierce the skies

and point us to eternity  
With our hands we can find  
within a piece of stone  
the face of tranquility  
With the touch of our hands  
we can discover the beauty  
deep within the one we love  
God dwells within our hands  
reveals the glories of creation



## The Mercy Community's 13th Annual Circle of Mercy Golf Outing

The **MERCY** COMMUNITY  
THE MCAULEY | SAINT MARY HOME

Monday,  
June 10, 2013



Save  
The Date!



2021 Albany Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

SAINT MARY HOME  
THE MCAULEY

*A member of Catholic  
Health East and sponsored  
by the Northeast Regional  
Community of the Sisters  
of Mercy of the Americas*

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, February 22/1:00 p.m./ The McAuley Auditorium

### **What is a Language?**

Humphrey Tonkin, University Professor of Humanities and President *Emeritus*, is widely published in English Renaissance literature (Shakespeare and his contemporaries) and in aspects of language policy and planning. His February lecture will explore dialects, conundrums and common misperceptions of language. Admission to the lecture series is \$25.00 for residents of The McAuley. It is free to Fellows of the Presidents' College and \$15.00 per lecture for all others.

Friday, March 22/1:00 p.m./The McAuley Auditorium

### **Searching for Shangri-La, the Hidden Paradise**

Catherine Stevenson, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Hartford, will lead us in an examination of the ancient origins of the notion of Shambhala/Shangri La in Hindu and Buddhist texts, as well as its influence on spiritualism in the 19th century and its impact on 20th century culture. Admission to the lecture series is \$25.00 for residents of The McAuley. It is free to Fellows of the Presidents' College and \$15.00 per lecture for all others.

Friday, April 26/1:00 p.m./The McAuley Auditorium

### **Whatever Happened to Little Miss Muffet? Music in Early Childhood.**

John Feierbrand, Professor of Music Education and Director of the Division of Music Education at The Hartt School, will deliver the final installment in The 2013 McAuley Lecture Series. Join us in learning about young children's development of musical intelligence, behavior and spirit. Admission to the lecture series is \$25.00 for residents of The McAuley. It is free to Fellows of the Presidents' College and \$15.00 per lecture for all others.

Monday, June 10/10:00 a.m./Hartford Golf Club

### **13th Annual Circle of Mercy Golf Outing**

For information about sponsorship opportunities or golfer registration, contact Christine M. Looby at 860.570.8305 or [clooby@mchct.org](mailto:clooby@mchct.org).

## Who We Are...

Mercy Community Health (MCH) is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Northeast Community, and is a member of Catholic Health East. MCH is a faith-based organization that promotes wellness, embraces diversity, and enhances quality of life. As a health care provider and in partnership with the communities we serve, MCH respects and empowers individuals, restores health, provides comfort, and witnesses compassion and healing to all, especially the elderly poor. †

Please visit our website at

[www.TheMercyCommunity.org](http://www.TheMercyCommunity.org)



Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation  
of Rehabilitation Facilities—Continuing Care  
Accreditation Commission (CARF—CCAC).

**Saint Mary Home** provides skilled nursing, rehabilitation, dementia, subacute, residential and adult day center.

- Admissions, Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein, RN (860-570-8269)
- Adult Day Center, Maryann Loveland (860-570-8234)

**The McAuley** is a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) which promotes and fosters an independent lifestyle within a life care setting. The McAuley offers an Assisted Living Program for those residents who require more assistance with daily living.

- Marketing Directors Pat Kaplan (860-920-6304) or Janice Lohneiss (860-920-6346)

**Office of Development** For information on how to make charitable gifts to Mercy Community Health or any of its ministries, contact Sister Maureen Reardon, Senior Vice President/Chief Mission & Compliance Officer (860-570-8339).

*Please write to us at our mailing address if you wish to have your name removed from the list of those to receive the Mercy Community's future fundraising requests.*

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