Eastwyck Village Apartments to Open July 2011

This July, a grand opening is scheduled for Eastwyck Village Apartments, a unique luxury retirement community in North Greenbush for seniors 62 and older. No entrance fee or long-term lease is required.

Eastwyck enhances DePaul Housing’s mission to manage high quality senior communities that allow residents to lead active and healthy lives. A “Senior Engaged Life” (SEL) program is free to Eastwyck residents and focuses on health and fitness, lifelong learning, community activities, and leisure and recreation. The 10,000 sq. foot clubhouse is integral to the SEL program and features a state of the art New Walking Path for Seniors.

Similarly designed apartments at Eastwyck which are equipped with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, full size washer and dryer, and a new resource empowers mercy house guests.

New Resource Empowers Mercy House Guests

N. Jean Evans, longtime neighbor and supporter of Mercy House shelter for women, passed away March 7. Friends and family lovingly honored her with an outpouring of monetary contributions to Mercy House in her memory. These donations funded a computer station, set up the first week of May for the sole use of guests during their stay. Other guests have taught them the basics of navigation and email – the first of many great outcomes to follow. Thank you to all the loving friends and family of N. Jean Evans for giving Mercy House guests this new resource!

Message from Deborah

The other day, Paul came to me with the CDs of the Lord of the Rings movies and said, “Which one has that section about stories?” He was referring to the end of The Two Towers when Sam begins an uncharacteristically philosophical reflection:

“It’s like in the great stories . . . the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were . . . But in the end it’s only a passing thing this shadow . . . A new day will come, and when the sun shines, it’ll shine out the clearer . . . folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn’t. They kept going because they were holding on to something.”

“What are we holding onto, Sam?”

“That there’s some good in the world, Mr. Frodo, and it’s worth fighting for.”

I thought . . . our great stories are the ones in this newsletter and the ones lived each day by our staff, guests, tenants, and visitors. The stories of those who worked together to bring sunshine to a tough time at the Waldorf . . . of Catholic Charities, continuing to miss the inspiring, warm presence of Sr Maureen welcoming a new leader for these times . . . of Mrs. Evans, a caring neighbor to Mercy House whose passing brings new daylight through the labyrinth of corridors and stairwells with small bags of belongings, no t knowing how long it would be before they would be permitted back into their residence. The clock was ticking as a severe blizzard made its way to Albany and CCHO Staff worked tenaciously to find shelter for 46 tenants during a holiday weekend. Just as the first flakes began to fall at 8 p.m. that evening the last tenant was dropped off at a local hotel. . . . continued page 3
A Gift of Service from Syracuse University Alumni

A group of nine volunteers from the Syracuse University Alumni Club of the Capital District (pictured at left) spent the day at Dayhaven on March 19 for their annual community service event. Dayhaven is Catholic Charities Senior Services in Schenectady’s day services program for seniors with memory impairments and other disabilities. Earlier this year Dayhaven began providing service on weekends, and a few program participants were there for the visit.

The energetic volunteers cleaned out storage closets and rooms previously underutilized. They cleaned up the courtyard, providing a bright outdoor space for participants to enjoy the splendor of spring. They also gathered materials and furniture on hand to create a new quiet environment for participants. The new room is a calming refuge from the animated activities offered back-to-back throughout the day in the common area. One of the volunteers crafted a cheerful bulletin board and spring banner for the program. The new decor is suited to the spirit of light-hearted fun taking place at Dayhaven every day. Thank you Syracuse University Alumni for your dedicated efforts and support! –Kathleen Ide

CROP Walk to End Hunger

Catholic Charities Senior Services in Schenectady (CCHSSS) participated in the 30th annual CROP Hunger Walk in Schenectady, held on Sunday, May 1. CROP Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Emmanuel Friedens Church and the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) organized the Schenectady event, and CCHSSS Staff took part by walking, donating funds, registering walkers, directing parking, and coordinating and serving refreshments.

A group of approximately 500 walkers were there to raise awareness and funds to help alleviate hunger. Families, local church members, school groups and even four-legged friends participated—some pets sporting t-shirts like those worn by their human companions. Over $57,000 was raised locally, exceeding last year’s total. Seventy-five percent of the funds will aid international relief efforts in Japan, Haiti, and other areas in need, and the other 25% stays local to help food pantries, the Community Crisis Network, SICM, and Catholic Charities Senior Meals Program in Schenectady. Thank you to all of our 2011 CROP Walk participants! ( ) –Kathryn Henn

Past and Future Partners in our Mission . . .

Our sincere condolences go to the family of Mr. Ernest Francis. Ernest, a long-time member of the Senior Community Board of Directors, passed away April 30. Ernest was known by fellow board members and DePaul Housing Management Staff as a committed and dedicated advocate for the seniors who made the Delhi Senior Community their home. We are most grateful for his many years of tireless service to Delhi Senior Community and its residents.

We are blessed by the support of a newly-appointed board member—Ms. Jane Sanders of Bethlehem Senior Services who now serves on the Marie-Rose Manor Board of Directors. Ms. Sanders provides services for seniors in the Town of Bethlehem, including residents at Marie-Rose Manor. She brings to the Board both expertise in and a commitment to services that support the independence and health of the seniors we serve.

Welcome Janet! –Kathleen Ide

Vicente Colombo is Named Catholic Charities C.E.O.

Vincent W. Colombo, Commissioner of the Albany County Dept. of Social Services (DHSS), has been named CEO of Catholic Charities of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese. Colombo has served the county for more than 37 years in positions of increasing responsibility within the aging and social services delivery systems. He returned to the DHSS as Commissioner in 2000 after serving as Commissioner of the Albany County Dept. of Aging. In these 37 years of progressively responsible positions in these general, he oversaw planning, implementing, directing, and evaluating the delivery of community and human services programs. Colombo will succeed Sister Charla Commins, CSJ, who has served as interim CEO for the last year, after the death of Sister Maureen Joyce, RMS, the longtime CEO of the agency. He will start his new position July 5. We look forward to his keen leadership and this exciting new stage for Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese!

Flooding Strikes Day After Christmas . . . continued from page 1

Tenants were scattered into the homes of family and friends, as well as rooms at the Shelter Inn thanks to the resounding support of Fr. Peter Young, who opened the doors to this transitional housing program for 20 tenants without a moment’s hesitation. Twenty other tenants stayed throughout other CCHO housing locations. Tenants took the inconvenience of this unexpected relocation in stride, figuring out new routes to their workplace and other daily engagements from locations with which they were not familiar.

In the days that followed staff worked with vendors to have the furnace repaired, the fire and sprinkler systems recertified, the electrical system checked, and to have Albany Code Enforcement spaces, overhauling basements, and will continue through the wood lined grounds behind the apartment community.

We are grateful to the Foundation and to Assemblyman Reilly for selecting Bishop Hubbard Senior Apartments as a funding recipient this year. This award will make it possible for residents to safely enjoy life outdoors. ( ) –Emily Petric

New Walking Path for Seniors at Bishop Hubbard

Bishop Hubbard Senior Apartments in Halfmoon recently received a $5,000 grant to construct a walking path through the attractive and serene setting of the community. The grant was awarded by the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region in conjunction with the Assemblyman Robert Reilly Salary Fund. The path is to be built this summer and will connect the community room and deck to the gazebo (pictured at right), and will continue through the wood lined grounds behind the apartment community.

We are grateful to the Foundation and to Assemblyman Reilly for selecting Bishop Hubbard Senior Apartments as a funding recipient this year. This award will make it possible for residents to safely enjoy life outdoors. ( ) –Emily Petric

Though major repair expenses associated with the flooding were covered through insurance funds, many out-of-pocket expenses were incurred to provide food, transportation, and incidental expenses for tenants during their displacement—if you would like to help CCHO with the costs of emergency provisions please consider making a donation to our emergency assistance fund: Catholic Charities Housing Office 41 N. Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203

Emergency Housing: City of Albany, NY

- DePaul Residence
- Waldorf Residence
- St. Peter’s Residence
- SRO Residence
- Emergency Services for Refugees & Victims of Human Trafficking

Support Services for Homeless Individuals & Families

- Aging Services
- Information & Assistance
- Emergency Services
- Dayhaven Adult Day Services
- Meals on Wheels

Nutrition, Education & Outreach Program

Senior Dining Centers

SCHENECTADY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

SENIOR SERVICES IN SCHENECTADY

Emerging Needs & Opportunity Council

Senior Housing

SCHENECTADY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

SENIOR SERVICES IN SCHENECTADY

Aging Services

Information & Assistance

Dayhaven Adult Day Services

Meals on Wheels

Nutrition, Education & Outreach Program

Senior Dining Centers

Senior Transportation

Call (518) 372-5607 for more information about these programs