Mission Forum: 
Advocacy on Behalf of Children and Families

SISTERS of CHARITY health system
VOLUME VII WINTER 2009
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A true devotion to healing. It’s a simple yet powerful calling. For the Sisters of Charity Health System and our diverse family of ministries, it is what guides us as we address the critical needs of adults, families and children – especially the needs of the underserved and those living in poverty.

In this issue of Mission Forum, we pay particular attention to initiatives and advocacy efforts on behalf of children and families. To truly live our mission, we must ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives so they can realize their full potential. That means combining efforts in the community with effective advocacy in the policy realm at the local, state and national levels.

A good start is paramount to a full and rich life. In Canton, Ohio, Mercy Medical Center helped implement an innovative baby shower program at a subsidized housing complex. The program teaches pregnant women how to care for themselves and their babies, while providing diaper vouchers, educational materials and numerous safety items. That program has generated two offshoot groups, a parenting class for women with young children and a mom’s group, which was formed by several motivated young women from the baby shower program. In this issue you will also read about the SPARK Ohio program, spearheaded by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton that helps children ages 3 to 6 get ready for kindergarten, and other work in Northeast Ohio and in South Carolina.

Our ministries believe the health and well-being of each person is intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community. A commitment to the common good is rooted in our Catholic tradition, but is echoed in the faiths of many. As a society, we have an obligation to protect children and make sure their basic needs of food, health care, housing, clothing, child care and education are all met through the cooperative efforts of families and communities, including the private and public sectors. One action that our federal lawmakers should take is to reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program in the beginning of 2009.

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher once said, “Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.” Now more than ever, it is up to all of us to ensure that children and their families have the opportunities to lead healthy, abundant lives.
Something new began growing this spring in Canton, Ohio: a sense of empowerment among young, single mothers, who together are learning they can be capable, caring parents.

In March, Mercy Medical Center (cantonmercy.com) began offering a parenting class for women with newborns to children age four living at Skyline Terrace, a subsidized housing complex in southeast Canton. The group is designed to help participants learn the basics of child safety, discipline and healthy parent-child interaction. It is supported in part by the Canton Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which connects health care workers and students with local communities.

This significant effort is not Mercy Medical Center’s first at Skyline Terrace. It is rooted in the hospital’s decade-long commitment to making a lasting difference in residents’ lives.

Baby Showers a Start

With help from various grants, Mercy implemented an innovative baby shower program in 2001 at Skyline Terrace. The program was designed to teach pregnant women about good baby care. The Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM) provided additional funding in 2006.

Karen Feller, manager of Mercy Mission Outreach, and others developed the baby showers after realizing how isolated and inexperienced the mostly teenage mothers were. “So many of these moms had no family support, friendships or connections,” she said. “No one had ever shown them how to care for a baby.”

Each baby shower group meets once a week for three weeks. Pediatricians, dietitians and other health care professionals from the medical center volunteer their time to talk about baby health and safety, infant nutrition and calming techniques. Upon program completion, the women receive monthly diaper vouchers, swaddling blankets, educational videos and a basket filled with safety items.

Part of the baby shower program for the past two years, Marcia Marhefka, M.D., a pediatric hospitalist at Mercy, emphasizes the importance of safety and prevention with the mothers.

She said, “I love talking with the women in such a positive, low-key setting. The first time I did a baby shower, I was eight months pregnant myself. I often end up sharing more of what I’ve learned from being a mother rather than what I learned in medical school.”

Tequila Jones, a Skyline Terrace resident since 2003, participated in the baby shower program just before her second child was born. “I wish I had known about the program before my older child was born,” said Ms. Jones. “During the shower, I really learned a lot about how to be a parent.”
An Offshoot: Moms Group

Karen McElhaney, Mercy Mission Outreach program assistant, regularly spends time at Skyline Terrace and facilitates most outreach programs there. Last year, Ms. McElhaney helped several enthused young women, including Jones, form a moms group following a baby shower. She coordinates the bi-weekly meetings and helps spur discussion on a variety of important topics, including nutrition, cooking, child health and safety, and domestic violence.

Representatives from Babies “R” Us and Help Me Grow, Ohio’s state-wide program for children from birth to age three, recently shared with the group and will participate in additional groups. Several Mercy volunteers and health care employees have also led meetings.

“This group provides continued support for these young, mostly single moms,” Ms. McElhaney said. “When you’re all alone, circumstances can seem so traumatic. Our goal is to help friendships grow, offer accurate health information and give the women an opportunity to ask questions.”

Through the moms group, Ms. Jones said she’s learned “how important it is for a mom to take time for herself after putting the kids to bed.” In addition, she now knows and regularly talks with many other young mothers in her housing community. Continued on page 6
Ms. Feller noted that one unexpected outcome of these programs has been the creation of a “safe zone” for moms at Skyline Terrace. “When they are at wit’s end and totally distressed, they know they can go see Karen [McElhaney] and that she’s willing to help. Her presence there gives these young moms an outlet, a place to vent their frustrations.” Ms. McElhaney said the most critical aspect of managing the baby showers and related endeavors is making initial contact with pregnant women and developing those relationships. She usually speaks with previous baby shower participants at least once a month when they pick up their diaper voucher.

She said, “It’s a gradual, step-by-step process that can take months or years. Just getting a woman to come to a baby shower is a success. Then, we encourage her to be part of the moms group. Finally, if we can help her see the value of taking things further with the parenting class, we get so excited. Whenever I’m at Skyline Terrace, I feel if I can just touch one life that day, it’s worth it.”

Ms. Jones, who was also part of the first parenting group this spring, believes more moms will benefit from Mercy’s initiatives. “These are good programs, and I like to encourage other moms to try them out.”

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**BUILDING MOMENTUM TO SUPPORT FAMILIES**

Catholic Charities USA ([catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://catholiccharitiesusa.org)) has an overall goal to reduce poverty in the U.S. by 50 percent by 2020. Its Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America is also calling upon government to do more to serve those who are poor, and to improve public policies that strengthen and support families.

In reflecting on the important work of this ministry, “Mercy Medical Center’s programs to help young, mostly poor mothers at Skyline Terrace improve their parenting/family skills are perfect examples of tried-and-true practices suggested by the Campaign to Reduce Poverty,” said Susanna H. Krey, a senior vice president of the Sisters of Charity Health System. “Working with existing programs such as Help Me Grow, we can provide family centered services for low income expectant mothers, newborns, infants and toddlers and their families.”

Ms. Krey added that impactful programs, such as those offered by Mercy, make it easier to gain momentum in addressing the needs of the poor and underserved. “Using the grassroots efforts in the local communities, we can educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of those living in poverty, the good work of those who serve and advocate for the systematic changes that are needed to stimulate a lasting reduction of poverty.”
Using the grassroots efforts in the local communities, we can educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of those living in poverty, the good work of those who serve and advocate for the systematic changes that are needed to stimulate a lasting reduction of poverty. -Susanna H. Krey
The current population of baby boomers is 76 million people.

On average, the total expenditure on nursing home care is nearly $52,000 per year per elderly resident.
More Housing Choices for Seniors

THE ASSISTED LIVING MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM

With 2008 behind us, the oldest of the baby boomers are now becoming eligible for Social Security benefits. As this population of 76 million boomers ages, the number of seniors in nursing homes is set to swell. The aging of the baby boomers will weigh heavily on Medicaid, which pays most nursing home costs for people with limited income and assets. Medicaid pays for nearly half of all nursing home care in the United States*. On average, the total expenditure on nursing home care is nearly $52,000 per year per elderly resident.

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

When an accident left Debbie unable to live on her own and in need of a place to recover, a nursing home was her only option. She entered a nursing home with the help of Medicaid. She was told she would be there for two weeks while undergoing physical therapy for her knees. A few months went by with Debbie receiving only sporadic therapy. After a year and a half in the nursing home, Debbie still wasn’t fully recovered. She received a referral for Ohio’s Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program and was enrolled after meeting the eligibility requirements. She happily moved to Light of Hearts Villa thanks to the waiver program.

The program has made a big difference in Debbie’s life and has her on the road to recovery. It pays for her to receive daily physical therapy. She is walking more than once a day and expects to be out of her wheelchair soon.

She said the nursing home was not the right environment for her. “I would have died there. I can’t even begin to say how much it’s meant to me to be able to be here,” said Debbie. “There’s independence, but I’m still looked after. Everything I want or need is here. This is like you’re living at home.”

Ohio now offers an Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program to delay or prevent nursing facility placement. This pilot program pays the cost for health and care services in certified residential care facilities for certain people with Medicaid. The resident pays monthly room and board expenses. The cost to Medicaid per person, at $1,500 to $2,100 per month, is nearly 60 to 70 percent less than the cost of nursing home care to Medicaid.

“Many people who may not need skilled nursing care are forced into nursing homes because they don’t have the money to pay for assisted living or other alternatives. The need for offering our aging population alternative choices for a continuum of care has never been greater,” said Light of Hearts Villa Executive Director Barbara Hammrel. Continued on page 10
Light of Hearts Villa (lightofheartsvilla.org), an assisted living facility in Bedford, Ohio and ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, became approved for the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program in 2006. The facility now has five residents in the program and a long waiting list of others interested in the program. The five residents each have their own private apartment and receive the care they need. (See “A Life Transformed” on page nine for one woman’s story.)

“With the increase in our aging population, the state will have a higher burden. It makes sense to use dollars more effectively,” said Ms. Hammrel. “It’s also a care issue. For the first time, people who need some assistance but not skilled nursing care can afford the independence and privacy offered in an assisted living environment.”

A Nursing Home Alternative
The natural progression in the continuum of care for many seniors who can no longer live on their own but need some support (such as assistance with bathing, toileting, dressing, eating or mobility) might be to enter an assisted living facility. If they need more skilled nursing care, then typically they enter a nursing home. There are many Medicaid eligible seniors that can no longer live on their own, but they do not need specialized 24-hour nursing care. If they cannot afford an assisted living facility, they often have no choice but to move directly from independent living to a nursing home.

In Light of Hearts Villa’s home county, Cuyahoga County, there are 11 assisted living providers participating in the program out of a total of approximately 100 eligible facilities. Light of Hearts Villa Community Social Services Coordinator Kathy Cline explained that many facilities are slow to apply to be part of the new waiver program because Medicaid reimbursement for care is less than what residents pay out of pocket.

“It needs to be a care issue and not a financial issue. If Medicaid can close the gap, more facilities may become part of the program,” said Ms. Cline. “Other types of waiver programs have proven to be cost effective.”

The Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program is open to individuals currently living in a nursing facility or existing Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs, such as PASSPORT, Ohio Home Care or Choices. It is also available to current residents of residential care facilities who have paid privately for at least six months. Participants must be financially eligible for Medicaid and determined by an Area Agency on Aging to need a “nursing facility level of care.” The pilot program is capped at 1,800 participants statewide.

“For people who need skilled nursing care, a nursing home will enhance their quality of life. For those who don’t need that care, the program provides an opportunity to live in an environment where they have choice and quality of life they wouldn’t otherwise have,” said Ms. Hammrel. “As a nonprofit, it’s vitally important we embrace the needs of more people. This program is a great opportunity to provide for their needs.”

Visit the Ohio Department of Aging at www.goldenbuckeye.com for general information on this program.

ANGEL’s Reach Out to African Americans

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER PROGRAM ADDRESSES BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES

Breast cancer is a risk for all women. The good news for African American women is that breast cancer incidence is actually lower for them than for other races. The bad news is their mortality rate is much higher compared to women of other races. Nationally, the mortality rate is 36 percent higher than among Caucasian women. Mercy Medical Center (cantonmercy.com) enlisted the help of ANGELs to work on reversing this trend.

Mercy adopted a local chapter of the African American Women Nurturing and Giving Each Other Life (ANGEL) Network in 2005 as a way to break through racial barriers. Mercy’s ANGEL Network focuses on reducing the number of breast cancer deaths among African American women in the Canton, Ohio area through early-detection programs, screening access and breast health education. Modeled after a successful program in Colorado Springs, the network is supported in part by a grant from the Northeast Ohio affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

The program began with two volunteer “ANGELs.” There are now 80 locally trained ANGELs who spread lifesaving messages about appropriate breast care among African American women. The program helps overcome a mistrust of the health system that is dominated by Caucasian providers, according to Diane Wofsey, RN, BSN, Mercy Breast Care Center coordinator.

“Our ANGEL volunteers are having a huge impact on breast cancer and health care in general among African Americans in our area. Mercy is quickly gaining a reputation that we truly care and are here to serve for breast health and beyond,” said Ms. Wofsey.

The ANGELs are helping enhance Mercy’s outreach efforts by giving the Mercy breast care team legitimacy in the black community. At health fairs in the past, African American women would walk past Mercy’s booth, which would typically be staffed by Ms. Wofsey and Karen Coughlin, administrative director of cancer services at Mercy, both of whom are white. An ANGEL now helps staff the Mercy booth at health fairs. When an African American woman stops at the booth, the ANGEL includes Ms. Wofsey or Ms. Coughlin in the conversation. Continued on page 13
Breast Cancer Disparities with African American Women

1. National incidence rate lower, but mortality 36% higher than Caucasian women

2. Ohio incidence rate 6% lower than Caucasian women, but mortality rate 33% higher

3. 5-year survival rate 77% versus 90% for Caucasian women

Socioeconomic Factors and Disparities

1. Association between stage at diagnosis and income level

2. Lack of access to appropriate medical services and/or lack of private health insurance

3. Cultural/ethnic beliefs and fears
Advocates for Increased Access

From an advocacy standpoint, the ANGELs bring a new perspective in discussing policy issues and urging for additional funding to increase access to health care for lower income women. The Mercy cancer team regularly brings ANGELs to events in Columbus and Washington, D.C. The group attended the national Susan G. Komen for the Cure’s Mission Conference for the past three years, which provided an opportunity to speak with Ohio’s U.S. senators. Several ANGEL representatives also accompanied Ms. Wofsey earlier this year to an advocacy forum in Columbus. There, they met a number of state representatives and also had a private session and tour of the governor’s mansion with Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland.

“Continuing to get funding for uninsured or underinsured women so they have access to the breast care and resources they need is critical,” said Ms. Wofsey. “Without proper access, many lower income women put off seeking care if they find a lump because they can’t afford the screening or treatment. By the time they come to us, many women are in more advanced stages of breast cancer.”

The ANGEL Network also works with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society and is highly visible at many public events that advocate for cancer research and care. In the summer of 2008, one of the ANGEL co-project directors traveled to San Diego to hold a briefing for the Catholic Health Association’s annual assembly. Because of the success of the ANGEL Network at Mercy, it has been spreading to other hospitals across Northeast Ohio. There are now two programs in Cleveland, one in Youngstown and one planned in Akron.

“Our ANGEL Network is a shining example of the way Mercy works to remove barriers to care, in culturally sensitive ways, for at-risk people who are un- or underinsured,” said Sr. Carolyn Capuano, HM, vice president of mission and ministry, Mercy Medical Center. “It is one of the many ways we provide quality, compassionate, accessible and affordable care for the whole person.”

Twelve Angels accompanied Diane Wofsey (bottom right), Mercy Breast Care Center Coordinator, to the national Susan G. Komen for the Cure’s Mission Conference in Washington, D.C. The Angels, who covered most of their own expenses to attend, took part in a variety of breast health seminars and discussions, and also had a chance to speak with several legislators.
Ready Kids, Ready Schools

SPARK OHIO BUILDS ON SUCCESS TO REACH MORE YOUNG CHILDREN

Nearly one-third of the children entering Ohio’s kindergartens each year are not prepared to learn. Many require special intervention, and many eventually repeat kindergarten or another grade during their primary years. SPARK Ohio (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) helps children ages 3 to 6 get ready for kindergarten by offering families a variety of support services and educational supplies. SPARK is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in partnership with the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton (scfcanton.org).

SPARK Ohio has served nearly 800 children in the Stark County, Ohio area since 2004. The results show promising progress. On standardized tests through third grade, SPARK children have scored significantly higher in several areas than other children – 20 percent higher in 2007.

Thanks to the program’s success in its first five years, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton a $1.5 million grant to extend the reach of SPARK. The foundation staff and SPARK team will support replication in up to 10 more Ohio communities and serve as the hub for communications, professional development and evaluation.

“Evaluation is critical to success and replication. With proof the program works, we can attract more funding partners, expand our reach and get attention on a state level,” said Joni Close, senior program director, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. “Evidence helps provide model programming for state-based agencies and legislators to use when determining support programs for early childhood readiness.”

Reaching Out to Schools

The $1.5 million grant also includes a $150,000 match to support the roll out of a “Ready for School–Ready School” program, which advances the concept of preparing schools beyond the SPARK Ohio initiative. Through the leadership of SPARK Ohio, the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA) and the Ohio Department of Education, a ready schools resource guide was developed to meet the needs of elementary principals and early childhood educators.

The Ready for School – Ready School plan is being piloted in 20 elementary schools over the next two years, which will help inform statewide policy development. The resource guide for the program was released at a Ready Schools forum this fall hosted by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. OAESA will help distribute the guide and provide training to as many as 500 principals initially at regional meetings across Ohio. The goal is to eventually get the resource guide and associated training to the approximately 2,500 public and charter school elementary principals in Ohio.

Stark County and foundation representatives are actively involved in a variety of state-level work that affects early childhood development. Ms. Close said that involvement and the extensive work in early childhood issues has give Stark County clout on the state level. “Our efforts in early childhood development are spreading far beyond our community and influencing policies and practices across the state,” she added.
Such efforts have helped bring more attention and resources to early childhood issues. The Ohio State Board of Education convened a School Solutions Readiness Group in 2005. The group created a roadmap to help ensure high-quality early learning experiences are available to every Ohio child and that all families have access to information and services to enable them to be their children’s first and most effective teachers.

One of the group’s recommendations led to the creation of an “Early Childhood Cabinet” to help improve the policy decision process. Early childhood issues have also caught the attention of Governor Strickland. He referred to early childhood education in his 2007 State of the State Address as, “One of the best investments we can make.” He went on to say, “Those early years affect everything. Research shows a better start for our children ultimately means there will be less crime and more college, less teen pregnancy and more home ownership, less welfare and more health.”

![Governor Ted Strickland held the Ohio Governor’s Forum: Linking Ready Kids to Ready Schools on September 15, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio.](image-url)
More Tools in the Toolbox

LEARNING ACADEMY HELPS SOUTH CAROLINA NONPROFITS BUILD CAPACITY

A welcome economic break, nonprofit organizations can meet the cost of training offered by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina’s Learning Academy (sistersofcharitysc.com). The workshops are free. Organizations in large numbers across South Carolina have been taking advantage of the capacity building workshops. Nearly 300 nonprofit practitioners are expected to participate in 14 scheduled sessions in 2008.

The workshops provide intensive training in such areas as grant writing, policy and advocacy, board governance, financial management and more. The Learning Academy works to develop individuals and organizations who are empowered, informed and responsible, while integrating emerging trends and innovation into its workshops. To allow more interaction, each workshop is limited in size and prospective participants must submit a detailed application form to be selected to participate.

“The Learning Academy is important because the foundation wants to go beyond grant dollars in supporting nonprofit organizations and programs. Unfortunately, we cannot provide everyone with funding, but by expanding their skills and knowledge we can still assist these organizations in achieving change in their communities and sustainability for their organization,” said Katrina Spigner, senior program officer, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina.

For the York County Christian Women’s Job Corps in Rock Hill, South Carolina, information from the Learning Academy will help expand its reach. “What I learned will ultimately result in more women and children overcoming the grips of poverty,” said Debbie Wieland, executive director.

Ms. Spigner said the eight workshops conducted already this year have received great feedback and high marks in evaluations. She said one participant in the Grant Writing Basics course had never written a grant application. After the workshop, he wrote four grant applications and received three grants.

“Each organization represented in the workshops provides valuable services to their communities. The effectiveness and impact of how well they do so is often critical to the well-being of the individuals, families and groups within those communities,” said Ms. Spigner. “However, there are many challenges. If through our Learning Academy we can provide them with tools to meet such challenges, they emerge stronger and more empowered to truly be agents of change.”

Ginny Waller, director of development at Sexual Trauma Services in Columbia, South Carolina, attended workshops on marketing and grant writing, both of which she said were very helpful. “I’ve written seven grants since the workshop at the end of July. I would not have been able to write them without the class,” said Ms. Waller.

To learn more or for a schedule of upcoming workshops, visit sistersofcharitysc.com.
Spiraling home foreclosure rates, increasingly complex child custody cases, a lack of legal services funding and a number of other issues make it difficult for indigent citizens to get the legal help they need in civil matters in South Carolina. Defense sources are available in criminal cases for those who cannot afford an attorney, but a large segment of society with low income does not have the means for representation in civil matters.

The Supreme Court of South Carolina recognized this need to expand access to civil legal representation and established the South Carolina Access to Justice (SCATJ) Commission last year. SCATJ is working to address a number of issues, such as language barriers, attorney fees, court costs, lack of transportation to courthouses, illiteracy, lack of notice, lack of disability accessibility, lack of sign language interpreters for the deaf, and poverty guideline cutoffs that prevent some people from getting legal aid. With the creation of the commission, South Carolina joins 26 other states that have staff dedicated to access to justice.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina (sistersofcharitysc.com) is well represented on the SCATJ Commission and at public hearings on the issues. Tom Keith, executive director of the foundation, was appointed to the commission by South Carolina’s chief justice. The commission held a series of public hearings earlier this year around the state to identify unmet legal needs and barriers, and ways to meet those needs.

Fathers and staff representing the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (scfathersandfamilies.com) spoke at several of the hearings. The fathers who testified represented thousands of low-income fathers who want to help parent their children, but don’t have legal visitation rights and can’t afford an attorney to help them gain rights.

The final hearing was in October at the South Carolina Supreme Court. A full summary of the entire public hearing process was to be provided to the public, followed by suggestions for change in the South Carolina court system. In addition to studying the request for more pro bono work from lawyers, various ways of expanding easy access are being explored, including self-help centers or research areas where the public can do some of their own work.

“We believe that many in the underserved population are often marginalized by either lack of quality legal representation or understanding the complexities of the court system,” said Mr. Keith.

He added that the commission has been thoroughly listening to these concerns so it can be in a strong position to make specific recommendation to court administration. “One of the strengths of the Access to Justice Commission model is that it engages the highest levels of the state bar and judiciary in the effort to expand access to civil justice,” said Mr. Keith.
Advocacy in Action

From left: CHA Senior Director, Health Reform Initiatives, Jeff Tieman, U.S. Representative Ralph Regula (OH 16), and Mercy Medical Center President Tom Cecconi discussed health care reform at a lunch forum: Business and health care in an election year, in Canton, Ohio.

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families traveled to Capitol Hill for an advocacy day in July 2008. Pictured are (from left) Pat Littlejohn, interim executive director; U.S. Representative John Spratt (SC 5); Derrick Dease, executive director, Man 2 Man Ministries and Lisa Potts, Center policy director. Robin Bachman, director of public policy and government affairs, Sisters of Charity Health System was also in attendance.
FROM LEFT: DAVID GORMSEN, D.O., MERCY MEDICAL CENTER; SR. JUDITH ANN KARAM, CSA, SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM; CHANTAL DALENCOUR, M.D., WESTSHORE PRIMARY CARE; SR. CAROL KEEHAN, DC AND JEFF TIEMAN OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (CHA); MARY LOU STRICKLIN AND SUSANNA KREY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CLEVELAND SERVED AS PROGRAM GUESTS, ADVOCATING FOR A NEW VISION FOR U.S. HEALTH CARE TO THE WEWS KALEIDOSCOPE TELEVISION AUDIENCE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HEALTH REFORM VISIT: OURHEALTHCAREVALUES.ORG

CLEVELAND CITY COUNCILWOMAN PHYLLIS CLEVELAND AND ST. VINCENT CHARITY HOSPITAL PRESIDENT JEFF JENY AT THE CELEBRATION OF WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR SPONSORED BY BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

U.S. SENATOR SHERROD BROWN (OH) VISITED MERCY MEDICAL CENTER, CANTON, OHIO INCLUDING ITS HOSPITAL-BASED DENTAL CLINIC. MERCY MEDICAL CENTER PRESIDENT TOM CECONI LED THE TOUR.