

Shadow Program participant Aurelia Alice (left) examines medical slides under the watchful eye of Elizabeth Mayle, supervisor of histology at St. Mary's Hospital.



Judy Burkhardt, supervisor of acute care, describes physical-therapy treatment for patient Thomas Vigneri (left) to Damaris Ortega.

Students focus on health with Shadowing Program

ROCHESTER — Eight Hispanic students from the Rochester City School District began training with health-care professionals earlier this month when St. Mary's Hospital and Action for a Better Community (ABC) launched a new, seven-week Shadowing Program.

The program, which began July 12 and continues through August 23, is part of ABC's Health Careers Opportunity Program. The purpose of shadowing is to provide students — ranging from 14 to 16 years of age — with valuable hands-on experience in such hospital departments as nursing, physical therapy, social work and occupational therapy.

According to one hospital official, the Shadowing Program may spur some students into becoming involved with the health-care industry later on in life.

"We want to provide the students with

opportunities to learn about health-care professions because today's youth are potentially our future employees," said Patricia Moorehouse, recruit manager at St. Mary's Hospital.

The ABC students are attending classes this summer to improve their performance in English, science, history and mathematics. In addition to their normal workload during summer school, students will receive six-hour training sessions each week at St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St.

If the project proves to be successful, St. Mary's and ABC hope that next year's program can be expanded to include more students.

Those interested in finding out more about the Shadowing Program may call 716/464-3000.

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