

Home for terminally ill patients seeks funding

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Workers at Elisha House, a home for patients with AIDS and other terminal illnesses, marked its second anniversary in February hoping that it won't be the facility's last.

"We're doing the risky thing here," stated Episcopal Deacon Lynne McNulty, director of the house at 370 Chili Ave. "We're relying on Christian love."

Deacon McNulty's husband, Brian, serves as a deacon for the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, while Lynne serves St. Stephen Episcopal Church.

In addition to a number of individual donors and foundation grants, Elisha House has been supported over the past two years by the Episcopal and Catholic dioceses. St. Stephen Episcopal and St. Augustine churches have played integral roles in the house's short existence.

But money from foundation start-up grants is rapidly running out, Deacon Lynne McNulty said, making it necessary for the house to seek new funding sources. The agency operates on an annual budget of \$51,000, which encompasses the salaries of Deacon McNulty and the night staff, along with medical supplies as well as maintenance and administrative costs.

The 1992/93 budget includes \$20,000 worth of grant funding, along with \$25,000 in donations. The key to



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Episcopal Deacon Lynne McNulty, director of Rochester's Elisha House, visits with resident Dan Allen during one of her shifts at the alternative care facility for people with AIDS and other terminal illnesses.

securing the house's finances, she said, is to increase its donor base or to garner new grants. Elisha House receives no money from health-insurance plans or government programs, she noted, because such programs usually cover only patients' visits to health facilities and some home nurses and health aides.

In particular, she said, the house would like to become financially independent from St. Augustine Parish,

which owns the building and currently pays the house's utility bills. The parish charges no rent for the program, Deacon McNulty added.

Elisha House is seeking to secure its financial status at a time when the number of AIDS patients is increasing, she explained.

"Here we have already noticed an increase in the number of AIDS referrals we receive, especially those who come from our own urban neigh-

borhood where drug abuse is on the rise, and where the gay population is growing," she asserted.

The number of patients who have stayed at Elisha House belie the number of people wishing to stay there, Deacon McNulty emphasized.

Elisha House has hosted 29 terminally ill patients since its establishment in 1991. Of that number, 13 have had cancer and 16 have had AIDS. But the facility has turned away 104 cancer patients and 28 people with AIDS, she said.

If they wish, patients and their families may donate to the house, but no one is charged for staying there, she commented.

Deacon McNulty noted that Elisha House opened to cater especially to patients in the terminal stages of AIDS because many of these patients come from families either unable or unwilling to care for them. However, the agency has seen many reconciliations in the end between families who initially turned away from a member dying from AIDS, she added.

"A lot of lifestyles which were always concealed get revealed in a diagnosis," she said. "Anyone who comes here is facing their own death. It's a great time for reconciliation."

EDITORS' NOTE: Those wishing to help can send a check to Elisha House, 370 Chili Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. The house also needs volunteers for a range of tasks, most of which demand only a few hours a week or month. Call 716/464-8852.

Diocese unveils compensation package

Includes raises, housing stipends

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Under the Rochester diocese's compensation package for the 1993/94 fiscal year, most parish employees are to receive 5 percent raises, Pastoral Center workers will receive increases of 4 percent, and diocesan employees can now participate in dental insurance as well as flexible spending account plans.

In addition, women religious are to receive housing stipend increases with the package, released Feb. 24. The package, which goes into effect July 1, 1993, contains the recommended salary ranges for diocesan employees and details the benefits package offered through the diocese.

Meanwhile, the diocese has scheduled a March 31 workshop to help pastors, business managers and supervisors determine appropriate salary levels for their employees. The workshop, scheduled to run from 1 to 3:30 p.m., will be held at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

In comments to the *Catholic Courier* regarding the compensation package, Father John M. Mulligan, vicar general and Pastoral Office moderator, noted that the difference in raises between parish and Pastoral Center employees is due to a projected shortfall in the 1992-93 Thanksgiving Appeal.

"It appears we are struggling with the TGA," Father Mulligan acknowledged about the diocese's chief source of income.

In light of the possibility that this year's appeal will fall short of its \$4.145 million goal, Pastoral Center employees will receive smaller in-

creases, Father Mulligan said.

The decision to provide smaller increases for Pastoral Center employees was made in part to prevent a recurrence from last year. The 1992/93 compensation package called for a 5 percent increase for all diocesan employees, but — in light of the shortfall in last year's TGA — that increase was reduced to 3 percent, he said.

The vicar general noted that he did not foresee a similar problem this year. At the same time, he added, the diocese wanted to give the maximum raises possible to parish staff members.

"If you have people who are com-

petent — and we're pretty proud of the people belonging to our parish staffs — we want to retain them," Father Mulligan said. He also praised Pastoral Center staff, adding, "We wanted to signal the Pastoral Office employees that we want to do the best for them."

As part of its efforts to improve benefits for employees, the diocese now offers a dental insurance plan covering basic examinations and a portion of the cost for such services as extractions and fillings.

The compensation package also includes a flexible spending account

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Catholic Family Center facilitates effort to resettle 10 Iraqi refugees

ROCHESTER — The Catholic Family Center, in conjunction with two Rochester Islamic groups, is cosponsoring the resettlement of 10 Iraqi refugees.

The 10 men arrived here March 3, when they were taken in by representatives of the Islamic Center of Rochester and the Ahmadiyya Movement, a separate Islamic group active in the area.

The effort was organized through James Delaney, resettlement program manager for the Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St.

According to Delaney, the refugees had been staying in camps in Saudi Arabia after they deserted from the Iraqi army during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. After the U.S. government granted the men refugee status, various agencies sponsoring refugees were contacted, including the United States Catholic Conference, Delaney explained.

The USCC called the Catholic Fa-

mily Center to see if any arrangements could be made in the Rochester area for some of the refugees.

Delaney subsequently sought assistance from the Islamic Center and the Ahmadiyya Movement to help settle the refugees. Both groups readily agreed to join the effort.

"The Moslems and the Catholics are working together with no problem at all to help these people," Delaney said.

He added that the possibility exists for more Iraqi refugees being resettled in the Rochester diocese.

In addition, Delaney said, the CrC office might be asked to help resettle Islamic refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Among this group might be some of the women raped by Serbian forces, and some of the women's children — including children born as a result of the rapes, Delaney reported.

— Lee Strong

Auburn parishes slate benefit pasta dinner

AUBURN — The Social Ministry Committee of Sacred Heart/St. Ann Churches has scheduled a pasta dinner for March 24. The dinner benefiting the Auburn-area chapter of Habitat for Humanity is set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the parish center, 90 Melrose St.

The menu will feature pasta and sauce, salad, bread, coffee, tea and orange drink. Cost for the dinner is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 5-12, and \$6 for families. Children under age 5 can eat for free.

In order to keep expenses down, the committee is asking for donations of canned whole tomatoes, tomato paste, canned black olives and grated cheese. Donations may be dropped off in the church vestibule by March 7.

Dinner proceeds will be used to help Habitat for Humanity in its efforts to build affordable housing.

Budget briefings in Tier

Briefings on New York state budget issues are set for two Southern Tier locations on Wednesday, March 10.

The first session will be held from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Church hall, 251 W. Clinton St., Elmira. Also, a luncheon briefing will be offered in DeSales Hall at the St. James School of Nursing located on Monroe Avenue in Hornell.

Mark Dunlea, executive director of the Albany-based Hunger Action Network of New York State, will present information concerning Governor Mario Cuomo's proposed 1993-94 budget at both gatherings.

The briefings are open to the public.