

AIDS Services gets housing grant

ROCHESTER — Diocesan AIDS Services has received approval from the N.Y. State Department of Social Services to administer federally funded emergency housing subsidies to low-income people who have AIDS or who are HIV-infected.

The federal grant was made available through Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS — or HOPWA — a program sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A ministry of Diocesan Catholic Charities & Residential Services, AIDS Services will have responsibility for a \$45,000 block of federal monies that can be used to cover such short-term housing needs as rent, mortgage, security deposit, and utility payments.

People who have acquired immune de-

ficiency syndrome or who are infected with the virus that causes AIDS can find themselves in situations where they need such assistance if their health deteriorates and they are no longer able to continue working, explained Sharon Nyquist, diocesan director of AIDS Services. Huge medical costs, or a disability, can also take their toll on the incomes of those infected with HIV or AIDS, she noted.

Quite often, even if AIDS patients are eligible for such government programs as Social Security, it takes several months for them to receive such assistance, and the months of waiting can be plagued by a lack of needed income, she said.

Using the federal monies, AIDS Services will be able to issue checks made out to the creditors of a person with HIV-AIDS, Nyquist said.

"It's specifically geared to bail people out of situations," said Nyquist. "It's to stabilize them so that they don't wind up homeless on the street."

Nyquist's agency already provides federally funded permanent housing and transportation subsidies to clients. At an early August meeting of Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, a coalition of AIDS organizations, Nyquist plans to inform RAFTA members of the new block grant.

She will also discuss plans for reaching clients served by RAFTA members because they may be eligible for HOPWA funds as well, she said.

Nyquist added that her agency will inform its 123 current clients of the program, and she predicted that AIDS Services will serve several additional clients once word spreads of the availability of the monies.

Nyquist noted that last year's closing of Mary's House, a diocesan residence for HIV-positive women and their children, served as an impetus for AIDS Services to pursue the HOPWA grant. Nyquist served as the director of Mary's House, which opened in 1990 and closed last August, due to a lack of funding.

"We said, 'If we can't have Mary's House, then how can we do this?'" she said of helping HIV-positive people in need.

Despite her gratitude for the block grant, Nyquist cautioned that federal funds specifically target certain needs, and often only minimally cover administrative or fundraising expenses for agencies like AIDS Services. The HOPWA grant includes only \$5,000 to cover administrative expenses, she explained. Yet, she continued, private donors can sometimes think a federal grant means an agency's financial needs have been met, which is far from the truth.

"These aren't the warm, fuzzy things that people want to donate to," she said of administrative expenses.

Nyquist concluded that she hoped such private donors as diocesan parishes and Catholics would continue their support of AIDS Services.

"It makes you feel so great that someone else is walking down the road with you and that you're not alone," Nyquist commented.

EDITORS' NOTE: To learn more about AIDS Services, call 716/328-3210, ext. 307. — Rob Cullivan

Miss America set to appear in Rochester

ROCHESTER — The American Dream is often a myth for many of this country's residents.

And although Kimberly Aiken has come as close as one could imagine to attaining this ideal, she has not forgotten those who are still dreaming — or may have stopped dreaming.

Aiken, the reigning Miss America, will visit Rochester on Wednesday, Aug. 17, in an effort to draw attention to the plight of homeless women. Her appearance is being made in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of Women's Place, a Rochester shelter for homeless women and their children operated by the Catholic Family Center.

Aiken is scheduled to tour Women's Place and then attend a luncheon beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St. Following lunch, Aiken will deliver a speech.

The 19-year-old Aiken is currently on a national speaking tour, "Families First: Addressing America's Homeless Crisis." In her platform statement, Aiken notes that homelessness is now transcending generations of families.

"This is no longer an issue of shelter alone. Rather, it has become an issue of parents, passing their homelessness to their children," she acknowledged. "We must break the cycle of homelessness that exists in this country by combining long-term housing solutions with education/job training, health care and support services for all homeless families and their children. As Miss America, I choose to focus my attention on these serious issues."

Mary McGuire, who serves as the Catholic Family Center's Department of Homeless and Housing Services director, noted that Aiken's efforts go far beyond those of a "politically correct" celebrity.

"She's truly committed to her platform of helping homeless families," McGuire said. "She just feels very strongly about it."

EDITORS' NOTE: Tickets are still available, at \$25 each, for the Kimberly Aiken luncheon on Aug. 17. To make reservations, call the Catholic Family Center at 716/546-7220.

— Mike Latona

Marching for unity



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

The St. Andrew's Area Neighborhood Group in Rochester organized a Candlelight March for Community Unity July 19 to assert its presence in the neighborhood. Since forming in 1993, the group has met with community leaders and organized a neighborhood watch program. Members are working closely with police to eliminate drugs and violence throughout the inner-city neighborhood.

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be greatly appreciated.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS
WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

SUGGESTED PRAYERS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRIESTS

V. Lord, open our lips.
R. And we shall praise Your name.
V. O God, come to our aid.
R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Scripture Reading:
One of the following may be used:
Matt. 9:35-38 Mark 10:28-30
Luke 5:1-11 Luke 14:25-33
Jn. 1:35-52 Jn. 15:9-17
2 Cor. 5:14-20 Heb. 5:1-10
Gen. 12:14 Exod. 3:1-6:9-12
1 Sam. 3:1-10 Jer. 1:6-8.

A Litany of Saints:
St. Michael and St. Vincent de Paul
St. Raphael St. John Eudes
St. Joseph St. Margaret Clitherow
St. Peter and St. Paul St. John Vianney
St. Patrick St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Francis St. Maximilian Kolbe
St. Dominic St. Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila
St. Catherine of Sienna R. Pray for our bishops and priests

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priest

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Deacons will gather in Buffalo this weekend

BUFFALO — The Diocese of Buffalo is hosting a convocation for all New York state permanent deacons and their wives this weekend.

Titled "Service, Word, Liturgy — The Heart of the Diaconate," the convocation will take place July 29-31 at Daemen College, 4380 Main St., Amherst.

About 150 permanent deacons and their wives from the state's eight dioceses and from two dioceses in Ontario are expected to attend the gathering. Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, and Sister Nancy E. Westmeyer, OSF, will lead the convocation.

Bishop Ottenweller, who retired in 1992, served at one time as chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Laity. He became bishop of Steubenville in 1977.