CHS Operation
Fresh Start for Vets

In honor of Veteran’s Day this year, Catholic Health Services supported Mission United, teamed up with media partner NewsRadio950/WIOD and organized a donation drive for basic household necessities for homeless veterans and their families who are transitioning to a home. Together we collected household items like towels, bedding, pots and pans, cleaning supplies and toiletries and asked the community to help by dropping off their goods at the Harbor Shops in Ft Lauderdale.

CHS volunteers working with Mission United, sorted and packaged the donated household items into bags that will be given to the vets as they move into their new homes before the end of the year. “Catholic Health Services is committed to the principle that all people should live with dignity and is proud to partner with Mission United to assist our local Vets find a new start and fresh hope,” shared Linda Lammers, director of internal communications, Catholic Health Services. “It takes more than a roof to make a house a home.”

Veteran’s Day honors living veterans as well as those who have given their lives serving in the Armed Forces. Anyone who has served in a veteran and deserves recognition on November 11, which is designated as Veteran’s Day in the United States. November 11th is the day on which World War I ended in 1918. What day could be more perfect to recognize all of those who have served.

A Brief History of Veteran’s Day
Silver Sneakers Exercise Program at St. Andrew Towers

Lose weight. Increase your energy. Improve your overall well being. All of this is possible with Silver Sneakers, this best-in-class program for healthy aging. Silver Sneakers reduces the barriers to exercise, promotes social interaction and encourages healthy lifestyle activities while empowering older adults to take control of their health.

“The Silver Sneakers Exercise Program is geared for our residents to get them up and going” states Tracy Amsonia, social worker at St. Andrew Towers. “The class is held three times per week. So far we have had an excellent response.”
Celebrating the Fall Harvest

The 4th Annual Coconut Grove Pumpkin Patch Festival was located at Peacock Park in the heart of downtown Coconut Grove. The 2-day festival featured a true pumpkin patch with over 5,000 pumpkins, unlimited kiddie carnival rides, a hay maze, hay rides, on-going shows on the main stage and a petting zoo! Catholic Health Services and Centro Mater sponsored the dress-your-own scarecrow village which was a huge success.

Everyone loved decorating the pumpkins they picked from the pumpkin patch. There was also a Cooking Demo tent with fun fall recipes, savory and sweet delights in the Pumpkin Food Court! Too much fun and a great way to feature the important services provided by Centro Mater and continue to raise awareness of the Centro Mater Foundation. The Foundation raises funds to assist low income families with tuition, books, computers, materials, and meals throughout the year.

CHS Executive Directors honored in their fields

Carol Hylton, executive director of CHS Home & Community Based Services and Bonnie Alkema, executive director of Catholic Hospice were both nominated for outstanding contributions in their particular areas as health care leaders in our community.

Carol was nominated for the prestigious Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Healthcare Award as part of the Perspectives on Florida’s Health care forum presented by Sunshine Health.

Bonnie was a finalist in Outstanding Nonprofit Leader All-Star category of Switchboard’s Fourth Annual All-Star Non-Profit Awards Luncheon sponsored by Katz Barron Squitiro Faust.
A Brief History of Veterans Day

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson designated November 11 as "Veterans Day" to commemorate the end of World War I.

- In 1918, World War I officially ended on November 11.
- In 1919, the first Veterans Day was observed.
- In 1954, Veterans Day was established as a legal holiday.
- In 1981, the day was renamed as Veterans Day.

Vets, families, and corporations have celebrated this holiday in various ways since its inception.

On November 11, Americans honor those who have served our country.

Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices of our military heroes.
Recognizing World Stroke Day
Celebrating New Certifications

What is World Stroke Day?

World Stroke Day is marked by the World Stroke Organization on 29th of October to raise awareness and highlight the effects of stroke on communities around the world.

The day aims to promote education and awareness of stroke prevention and treatment, as well as to encourage people to seek medical advice if they experience any stroke symptoms.

Four Early Signs of Stroke

1. Trouble Speaking: If you or someone you know has difficulty speaking or understanding speech, it could be a sign of a stroke. Letting the person know what is happening can help prevent complications.

2. Trouble Seeing: If you or someone you know experiences sudden vision problems, such as seeing double or having blurred vision, it could be a sign of a stroke. Immediate medical attention is crucial.

3. Trouble Walking: If you or someone you know has difficulty walking or clumsiness, it could be a sign of a stroke. It's important to get medical help immediately.

4. Trouble Understanding: If you or someone you know has difficulty understanding speech or writing, it could be a sign of a stroke. Medical attention is essential.

The World Stroke Day campaign helps to raise awareness and encourage people to take action if they experience any of these symptoms. Early detection and treatment can significantly improve outcomes and save lives.

Celebrating New Certifications

The World Stroke Organization has recently announced a series of new certifications for healthcare professionals. These certifications are designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare providers in the care and treatment of stroke patients.

The new certifications cover a range of topics, including stroke prevention, diagnosis, and management. The certifications are available at different levels, depending on the professional's experience and expertise.

This initiative aims to improve the quality of care for stroke patients worldwide and ensure that healthcare professionals have the necessary tools to provide the best possible treatment.
Let’s Celebrate!!!
Merry Christmas

January is...

Blood Donor Month
Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months, especially January, due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. A reduction in donor turnout can put our nation’s blood inventory at a critical low.

Glaucoma Awareness Month
Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible blindness in the United States. It has no noticeable symptoms at its early stages and vision loss progresses at such a gradual rate that people are often unaware of it until their sight has been compromised. The best defense against developing glaucoma-related blindness is having routine, comprehensive eye exams.

February is...

American Heart Month
During American Heart Month, the American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women movement and its Hispanic movement, Go Red Por Tu Corazon, work to save women’s lives and heart disease, the number one killer of women. Each year, cardiovascular diseases claim the lives of nearly half a million women—almost one per minute. Show your support for the women in your life by wearing red on National Wear Red Day – Feb 7th.

Recreational Therapy Month
The purpose of National Recreational Therapy Month is to enhance public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and therapy services, promote inclusive recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities and recognize certified therapeutic recreation therapists as qualified providers.

Feb 11th - World day of the Sick

Happy New Year 2016

Update on CHCTS

Since April 2013, when Catholic Health Care Transitions Services was approved by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation as a provider for the Community-based Care Transitions Program, the CHCTS team has provided interventions over 10,000 high risk Medicare patients. Exceeding expectations, they have achieved a readmission rate of 14.1 for one targeted population reflecting a 49.66 percentage of improvement from baseline, and a 11.5 rate with a 59.0 percentage of improvement from baseline from another.

CHCTS was approved for an initial period of 2 years. Based on their outstanding performance, the organization has been granted a 1 year extension. Additionally, the monthly enrollment target was also increased from 233 Medicare beneficiaries per month to 450 per month.

Catholic Health Care Transitions Services has a staff of 36 employees with 31 Care Transitions Nurses providing services. They are 1 of only 36 remaining Coalitions from the original 102 that were initially approved by CMS.

The readmission rates presented here are calculated using raw, unadjusted Medicare claims for the specified periods of time. They do not indicate impact or take trends into consideration. These metrics are provided by CMS for performance monitoring purposes only and while they inform evaluative results, they do not constitute the entirety of the program evaluation.