Catholic Health Services proudly participated in a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill to address *How to Improve Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in Early Care and Education*. Mr. Angel Alvarez, program director for Centro Mater Child Care Services, advocated in promoting wellness and nutrition in children. Some of the programs in which Centro Mater is participating include: gardening, health fairs, nutrition education for families and staff, physical education and healthy menu changes. This briefing was an opportunity to demonstrate that creating healthier environments in the early childhood education setting can be challenging, but possible, if there is support from the provider and parent.

With the assistance and commitment of Ana Cleves, MPH, RD, LDN, dietitian for Centro Mater Child Care Services, the center received a grant from the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative. Ana led an initiative in Centro Mater to make healthy menu changes and certify the center as a breastfeeding friendly facility. This is being accomplished through the “Taking Steps to Healthy Success” grant with the help of Early Learning Coalition. “I felt honored to discuss all the hard work that the Centro Mater team has accomplished over the past few years. Through our teachers, food service team and dietitian we are helping families lead healthier lives” states Mr. Alvarez.
The Hypoglycemia Support Foundation proudly honored Joe Catania, CEO of Catholic Health Services, for his vast contributions to the health care community in south Florida, at their Gala on October 18th. The HSF was founded 34 years ago by Roberta Ruggiero. The HSF is world renowned for providing support, advocacy and information about the causes, prevention and management of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Through the foundation, hope and encouragement is offered to those suffering from hypoglycemia – a confusing, complicated and too often misunderstood condition.
Brian Schultz - Catholic Health Service announced that Brian Schultz was appointed to Director of Materials Management effective October 1, 2014. Schultz has significant career history with CHS, having first been with Healthcare Services Group as contractor in 2000 - 2005 and returned as Director for the CHS North Campus in 2008. One year later he was promoted to CHS corporate director of environmental services. He has since earned numerous credentials including CPSM (Certified Professional Supply Manager-ISM) and CMRP (Certified Material Resource Professional- ASA). Additionally, Schultz is a member of and sits on the board of several professional associations.

Nathaniel Johnson - Effective October 1, 2014, was promoted to Administrator of St. John’s Nursing Center, a 181-bed 5 Star CMS rated skilled nursing and long term care facility in Lauderdale Lakes, managed by Catholic Health Services. Johnson began his career at CHS in 2007 as director of special projects, where he coordinated numerous construction and organizational projects system wide. He was promoted to administrator of Villa Maria Skilled Nursing Facility in 2009 where through his excellent leadership and motivational skills he attained a 96% staff satisfaction and five star ratings. St. John’s Nursing Center was recently selected to participate in a national demonstration project to assure quality and improve performance in nursing homes through the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) project.

Ricardo Pol – Catholic Hospice names Ricardo Pol, RN, MSN, MBA, HCM, Director of Professional Services. Pol has over 30 years of healthcare and hospice experience, and was previously a Senior Director of Professional Services for Heartland Hospice. “I am pleased to welcome Mr. Pol to the Catholic Hospice team. Mr. Ricardo Pol’s experience, compassion and knowledge of hospice will support the Catholic Hospice mission of serving the needs of patients, families and the South Florida community,” said Bonnie Alkema, Executive Director.
At this time of year we give thanks for our many blessings. Special thanks goes out to the members of the Catholic Health Services Star & Cross Club. CHS employees join this club by contributing to a fund designated for helping other CHS employees who are faced with unavoidable emergency situations and have no other place to turn. Qualifying emergency needs might be for housing, utilities, food, clothing, catastrophic automobile repairs, illness, injury, homelessness, or a death in the family.

Between January 1, 2014 and October 30, 2014 Star and Cross has provided $25,495.00 to employees who have applied to the Star and Cross Club for a grant. For their role in living the CHS Mission and helping colleagues in times of hardship and need, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Star & Cross Club.

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Catholic Cemeteries would like to congratulate John P. Kissel, Development Director, on reaching this significant milestone in his career. His effort and dedication plays a tremendous part in our success. Congratulations on 30 years and counting....

Congratulations to both Ofelia Spardy, Cemetery Manager & Family Service Sales Manager, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Cemetery and Glassford Hamilton, Property Maintenance Supervisor for the Broward Crew, in appreciation of 25 years of dedicated service to Catholic Cemeteries. What a milestone!

Wrapping up the year with some important reminders!

... about Catholic Health Care in the US

Catholic health care systems and facilities are present in all 50 states providing everything from acute care, skilled nursing, hospice, home healthcare, assisted living and senior housing.

Nearly 20 million ER visits per year
Over 103 million outpatient visits per year
Over 5.4 million patients are admitted to Catholic Hospitals in one year
Over half a million full-time Catholic Hospital employees
Over a quarter million part-time Catholic Hospital workers

*Source Catholic Health Association
Catholic Cemeteries honor veterans

Catholic Cemeteries honors the members of the U.S. Armed Forces by providing a beautiful Honorary Veterans Medallion for their Crypt or Niche...

For more information contact:
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven
  (954) 972-1234
- Our Lady of Mercy
  (305) 592-0521

New in the neighborhood, TJ Maxx partners with Villa

“Caring for others is an important part of the culture for the TJX Foundation. The primary mission of The TJX Foundation is to support programs that provide basic-need services to disadvantaged children, women and families in communities where we do business”. When the new T.J. Maxx store opened in North Miami Beach, they wanted to give a charitable donation to a supporting 501(c)(3) charity that conforms to their giving guidelines. Villa Maria Nursing Center was a perfect fit!

The General Manager of the new store had a relative who was living at Villa Maria and she felt that her relative received excellent care and was very impressed with their level of service. After filling out an application, Villa Maria was chosen and awarded a check for $5000.

Jim Reiss, Executive Director, Villa Maria Nursing Center was a participant at the ribbon cutting for the Grand Opening of the T.J. Maxx store on 125th and Biscayne, North Miami. “We are fortunate and blessed that the TJX Foundation chose us and we will use the check to enhance our recreational program for our patients”.

TJ Maxx
There is hardly a more meaningful way of celebrating the CHS Mission than to volunteer to help those in need. The management staff at St. Anne’s Nursing Center and Residence did just that. For a full week directors and managers spent over 7 hours each day prepping, cooking, serving food and cleaning up at the local Homestead Soup Kitchen.

“We are so grateful for the opportunity to provide a comforting and nutritious meal to the needy in our neighborhood. It is our pleasure to serve,” says Rosemarie Bailey, executive director of CHS South Campus.

The mission of the Homestead Soup Kitchen is to serve those members of their community in need of a hot meal, regardless of circumstances. By having a “no questions asked” policy, the Soup Kitchen provided more than 700 meals weekly to individuals and families of the Greater Homestead/Florida City area and beyond. “One reason the Soup Kitchen is successful in feeding so many with so little, is because of the many dedicated volunteers. These volunteers help cook, prepare and serve the food and include local churches, civic organizations, as well as individuals,” shared a spokesperson at the soup kitchen.
Catholic Hospice opens new inpatient unit at St. Anne’s

The brand new inpatient care unit at St. Anne's Nursing Center in south Miami-Dade includes eight private rooms for terminally ill patients, as well as cozy family gathering spaces. The IPU wing which was custom designed to provide every comfort to the patient and the family started taking patients on Sunday, September 28, 2014.

Catholic Hospice has been serving the South Florida Community for over 25 years. In recent years, Catholic Hospice opened inpatient care units at St. Catherine’s West and at Holy Cross Hospital. "It has long been the goal of Catholic Hospice to provide a dedicated Inpatient Unit to the South Miami-Dade Community. The new St. Anne’s unit will serve the community with dedicated hospice staff to provide compassionate, quality care to those whose needs at the end of life cannot be met at home" said Bonnie Alkema, Executive Director of Catholic Hospice.
Let’s Celebrate!!!

November is...

Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month

Diabetes Month

Family Caregivers Month

Home Care & Hospice Month

May You and Your Family Have a Blessed Christmas Season!

Catholic Health Services
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Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319 • 954-484-1515

A Ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami