



The Torch

Volume 2 Number 10
December 2011

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

Our Mission at Catholic Health International is to ensure the presence of Catholic values in our corporations.



As Christmas draws near, the familiar music of the season fills our surroundings. The carols and hymns that we've grown up with get us tapping our toes and singing along, getting us in the spirit of the season. It is a time of family and community and feelings of happiness should abound. It is a time of preparedness as we move through the season of advent. Let us each take time from our busy days of preparing for Christmas to be reminded of the true nature and purpose of this time of preparedness. We are to prepare for the coming of Christ.

As we reflect on where we find Christ and serve his mission of healing, think about our own facilities. Each was founded by congregations of religious that reached out to care for the sick, the poor and the most vulnerable in society with little or no available resources. If we think about it, that hasn't changed much! Budgets are tight – there are no extra monies.

Yet each of you continue to inspire tremendous faith and compassion as you undertake these impressive outreach programs every year for your communities. Whether to feed or cloth or put a smile on the face of a child with a gift, you give unselfishly of your time and your resources to make a difference. That is truly service to those in need.

It is humbling to write this greeting, for so many things need our attention. As we gather to celebrate this Christmas, may our hearts and minds be reminded that we are a community that believes that God is in our midst. Our role as health care providers is to give witness to a God who cares, loves and supports our endeavors on behalf of our sick, elderly and underprivileged. We walk with Jesus in his ministry of healing.

May the Blessings of the season bring healing where there is hurt.
Bring peace to angered and hostile hearts where there is no harmony;
Bring consolation to individuals where suffering is present;
Bring love where it is unspoken and forgotten.

Merry Christmas from the Board and Staff of Catholic Health International

CHRISTMAS HOURS – CATHOLIC HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

Head Office in Miramichi and the Corporate Affairs office in Kingston will be Closed from Thursday December 22nd at 12:00 noon until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday January 4, 2012

During this time, in an emergency, please contact R. B. Stewart, at 506-623-0077 or via email at rstewart@chpci.com . This email address will be checked periodically during this period.

Have a very Holy and Happy Christmas and sincere best wishes for 2012





Barbara Young (right), Director of Community Relations, and Tracey Gates, assistant purchasing agent

Staff and volunteers at **Hotel Dieu Hospital** in Kingston ON are in the midst of their annual coat drive. The community is asked to donate new or gently worn coats for those in need of warm outerwear. This program has been running for over 20 years, and this year, volunteers have logged over 100 hours. 156 coats have been distributed to date, and that doesn't include the numerous hats, scarves and gloves! Donna MacNeil from the Pastoral Care department organized the drive this year.



Pilar Rosales helps a client try on a coat this year.

Employees from all 43 departments at Chicago's **St. Bernard Hospital** are in full Christmas holiday spirit as each department prepares to help the needy during its 19th annual Christmas basket giveaway program. After determining which families will receive gift baskets, each department selects and adopts a family, which range in size from three to eight members. Employees pool their resources and shop for their families. Children's toys, clothing for the entire family, and enough food to last for a month is all included. Emphasis is placed on providing a full Christmas dinner with turkey, stuffing, vegetables, and other treats. Because the employees know the ages and sizes of family members, they can select age appropriate toys and clothes.



Hotel Dieu Shaver, St. Catharines ON recently held their 6th annual coat and food drive for Community Care. Staff donated more than 100 coats and more than 300 pounds of food!



St. Joseph's Hospital, St. John NB recently held their annual Christmas party sponsored by their Foundation. The event was well attended by staff, volunteers and members of the advisory committee.

Employees decorate the hospital Christmas tree and the conference room where employees and families meet for the first time in fifteen minute intervals. The employees get really excited about meeting their adoptive families as they take such pride in shopping for them and making the gift baskets special, there's hardly a dry eye in the hospital during this time. In addition to the basket giveaways, employees contribute to a community coat drive spearheaded by 18 ministers in the surrounding community. Employees donate new or gently used coats and heavy jackets that the ministers give them to members of their respective congregations. Not to leave any segment of the community out, St. Bernard provides toys to children in 30 additional families through the Toys for Tots program. A number of senior citizens who live alone will also receive donations of food so that they can enjoy a hearty Christmas meal.

The annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and carol sing along at **Hotel Dieu Hospital** in Kingston ON. Pictured from the Left: Sister Kalchbrenner, Sister Cuddihy, Sister Larocque, Sister Gaffney, Sister Kugel, Dr. Pichora (CEO), Sister Shannon and Sister Valade.



Each year **Langlade Hospital** participates in the community of Antigo WI Christmas Parade. Staff work on their float in preparation for the parade and their children

ride the float as cast members. They chose the Nativity scene as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.



Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital Windsor, ON

Nicole Williams in the Administration office took on the task this year of collecting donated toys from staff throughout the hospital for Sparky's Toy Drive, the Salvation Army and the Teamsters Local 879. For a three week period in November the toys began to pile up in her office – games, stuffed animals, dolls – you name it. And yet every time you walked by, apparently she would say, "I don't have enough toys. I need more toys." It was obvious that she wasn't going to be satisfied until her office was literally overflowing. Well, it looks like she got her wish!