

## SPONSORED MINISTRIES:

# The Mission Multiplier Effect

By S. Judith Metz

**H**ow many thousands upon thousands of people, from students to orphans, from patients to employees, do you think have been influenced by Sister of Charity sponsored ministries? How many of these ministries have touched you, your relatives, or people you have known?

Since the founding of St. Joseph's Academy in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1810 to the initiation of DePaul Cristo Rey High School in 2009, the Sisters of Charity have sponsored educational, health care and social service ministries as a means of responding to those whose needs are unmet. The impact these ministries have had and are having on peoples' lives is unquestioned.

Many Sisters have or are now personally serving in one or another of our sponsored ministries, but there are many others who have participated in carrying out their missions. As the number of Sisters has decreased, and there are fewer present in direct ministry, the questions arise: Should the Sisters of Charity continue to sponsor these organizations? Can the Charity charism and mission continue to be carried into the future without the presence of Sisters of Charity? Are lay people willing to take up the responsibility of continuing these gospel-based works?

The answer to these questions seems to be a resounding 'yes.' For years many of our partners in ministry have been enthusiastically participating in these works, some devoting their whole lives.



Tim Moller, CFO of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Tim Moller, CFO of the Sisters of Charity, observed, "It is heartening to work with these fellow stewards of the mission. I often have the chance to see firsthand the caring reality beyond 'the numbers' during my visits to the sponsored ministries. My interaction with their servant leadership teams and the people they serve always inspires me and reinforces my own commitment as a servant leader."

An important way in which Sisters of Charity continue to participate in these sponsored ministries is through board membership and through the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries (CBSM).



Anthony Aretz, president of the College of Mount St. Joseph

"I think the Sisters of Charity that serve on our board fill a critical role for several reasons: they keep us formally connected to our sponsoring congregation; they help us enhance our mission and identity as a Catholic and Sister of Charity institution; they often provide a different perspective during discussions; and they serve as models for what we and our students strive to become – courageous servant leaders for others," Anthony Aretz, president of the College of Mount St. Joseph, commented.



S. Joan Carole Schaffner, CBSM board member

S. Joan Carole Schaffner, board member of St. Joseph Home, sees the Sisters of Charity "providing various levels of support for our sponsored ministries and assisting them in promoting and keeping alive the mission of the Sisters of Charity." Being on the board has, for S. Joan Carole, "been a wonderful personal gift, giving firsthand witness of the continuation of our mission shown through the great love of the caregivers for each of the residents."

The goals of the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries are:

- To nurture a reflective spirit among [sponsored ministries] board members by embracing the gospel message and the history/charism of the Sisters of Charity as it relates to the sponsored ministry;
- To enhance the relationship CBSM members have with the sponsored ministries, Leadership Council, members of the Congregation and with each other;
- To continue to enhance the nature of sponsorship and explore future directions.

In recent years the CBSM has been focusing a great deal of attention on providing mission resources for our sponsored ministries. For the most recent All-Boards Retreat the CBSM developed a DVD titled "Mission as a Sacred



College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio



St. Joseph Home, Cincinnati, Ohio



Light of Hearts Villa, Bedford, Ohio



Seton Family Center, Cincinnati, Ohio



Seton High School, Cincinnati, Ohio



Senior Care Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio



S. Ruth Kuhn, CBSM board member

Trust” that was the centerpiece for a discussion on mission. More recently we sponsored a prayer breakfast at which S. Regina Bechtle (SCNY) spoke on “Mission: To Be Continued.” At our next All-Boards Retreat, scheduled for October 2010, Vincentian Father Ed Udovic, senior vice president for university mission at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill., will speak on “Creating a Mission Culture.” CBSM members also are working on enhancing mission resources available on our SC Web site.



S. Mary Jo Gasdorf, CBSM board member

Members of CBSM feel their involvement on the boards of our sponsored ministries has indeed contributed to continuing and extending the Sister of Charity mission. S. Ruth Kuhn, who serves on the board of Bayley Place, sees her board membership as a ministry that “has provided [her] with many opportunities to voice the charism and mission of the Sisters of Charity – and hopefully reshape that small section of our world.”

S. Mary Jo Gasdorf concurs. “Serving on CBSM has confirmed for me that only by ministering with our dedicated lay companions can we impact our society today,” she said. “We have the privilege of seeing firsthand the work of the administrators, staff and boards as they address the challenges of living our mission. Someone once said, ‘surely, in these turbulent times our faith is being challenged, and that is good. We will live into the answers. Together we can reshape the world!’”

*The Sisters of Charity sponsor institutions to address education, health care and social service needs, with particular concern for direct service to the poor. The following organizations are sponsored by our Congregation:*

- College of Mount St. Joseph
- DePaul Cristo Rey High School
- Light of Hearts Villa
- Senior Care Corporation
- Seton Family Center
- Seton High School
- St. Joseph Home

To read more about the sponsored ministries, visit the Sisters of Charity Web site at <http://www.srcharitycinti.org/ministry/sponsored.htm>.