

Caritas

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Sisters of Providence invite lay people to join them in **MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP**



As of January, Providence Health & Services will be sponsored by Providence Ministries, made up of (L-R) Barbara Chamber, SP; Johnny Cox; Anita Butler, SP; Barbara Savage, PA; and Charles (Chuck) Hawley.

Sponsorship is a formal relationship within the ministry of the Catholic Church. Currently, the sponsors of Providence Health & Services are the Provincial Superior and the Provincial Council. The new sponsors will form Providence Ministries, a church corporation entrusted with the responsibility for ministries of the church.

The first sponsors are:

- **Anita Butler, SP** – provincial treasurer of Mother Joseph Province;
 - **Johnny Cox** – a pioneer in ethics in theology and health care;
 - **Charles (Chuck) Hawley** – vice president for public affairs for Providence Health & Services;
 - **Barbara Savage** – a Providence Associate and vice president of mission leadership for Providence Health Care; and
 - **Barbara Chamber, SP** – the first provincial superior of Mother Joseph Province (2000 through 2004) and a Sisters of Providence historian.
- (See related mini bios of the new sponsors in this issue of *Caritas*).

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wo Sisters of Providence and three Catholic lay persons will become sponsors of Providence Health & Services as of January 1, 2010, Provincial Superior/Leadership Team Coordinator Margaret Botch announced in May. The Sisters of Providence requested Vatican approval of the change to an alternative method of sponsorship last fall. Now, approval has been granted.

By taking this action, the sisters are ensuring the continuation of these Catholic health care, education and social service ministries into the future in a manner consistent with their charism, mission and values. “We have come full circle, taking ministries that began with our foundress Blessed Emilie Gamelin and other laity in Montreal, and then were entrusted into the hands of the religious community, and now are becoming a new partnership of sisters and the laity,” Sister Margaret said.

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Current and future sponsors of Providence Health & Services are pictured here (L-R): Kaye Belcher, SP; Barbara Schamber, SP; Annette Seubert, SP; Johnny Cox; Anita Butler, SP; Charles (Chuck) Hawley; Margaret Botch, SP; Barbara Savage, PA; and Charlotte Van Dyke, SP.



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The sponsors were selected by the Provincial Superior and Council. “We considered the responsibilities of sponsorship and then looked for a balanced group of individuals who would share our values, complement each other and carry these ministries into the future,” Sister Margaret explained. “The sponsors will go through an extensive period of formation. We hope to mission these leaders during a liturgy to be held at Providence Mount St. Vincent in the fall.”

Since Providence employees cannot be sponsors, both Charles Hawley and Barbara Savage will leave their employment with Providence before the change in sponsorship takes effect.

Creation of Providence Ministries will in no way change the mission of Providence Health & Services to serve the poor and vulnerable. In fact, it will assure the continuance of that mission. Sister Margaret assured that the sisters remain committed to and involved in these ministries and that sisters will continue to be influential in activities and decisions in Providence ministries. They may be employed by Providence ministries and serve on their boards, as they do now, although a sister or layperson who is a sponsor will not be an employee of PH&S nor serve on a community board.

This change will have very little impact on the day to day operation of Providence Health & Services and its

facilities. Employees and the people served by Providence will not notice any difference in operations. The new sponsors will focus on mission and values oversight for all of the current works of Providence Health & Services, including health care, education and social services. The board of directors of Providence Health & Services will continue to be charged with governance. The Little Company of Mary health care ministries in Southern California will join the Providence hospitals in Burbank, Mission Hills and Tarzana in becoming part of Providence Ministries. Their day to day operations and civil structure will not change.

The Sisters of Providence will continue to sponsor the Providence Pariseau Corporation ministries like Providence Hospitality House and Sojourner Place, which offer transitional housing for women in Seattle, and intercommunity ministries like Transitions in Spokane.

The request to create a new sponsorship model was the result of a recommendation from a special committee charged by the sisters with finding a sustainable model of sponsorship “that will give life to the spirit of our foundresses into the future.” It is

an action taken in light of current realities, Sister Margaret explained, including the desire to ensure the continuance of Catholic health care, education and social service ministries, to support the call of lay persons to collaborate in ministry sponsorship, to adjust to the changing environment in health care, and to acknowledge the declining number of sisters available to serve in sponsorship roles.

Sister Margaret visited last fall with each of the archbishops and bishops of the dioceses in which Providence Health & Services serves, requesting their support of this change to Providence Ministries. She also personally informed them when approval was received from the Vatican.

In recent years, a number of religious institutes in many parts of the world have been faced with similar issues and have been looking at different forms of sponsorship, involving various types of collaboration. To date, some twenty religious institutes have availed themselves of this new possibility in order to provide for the continuation of works previously entrusted to religious congregations. ●

Providence Ministries



Anita Butler, SP, has been a Sister of Providence for 54 years and currently is the provincial treasurer of Mother Joseph Province. Her ministries include 23 years in teaching and in administration, and

a total of 13 years as provincial treasurer. She also has been regional director of long-term care for Providence in Oregon, superior and administrator at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle, and for 23 years has been chair of the trustees of the Providence Health & Services Cash Balance Retirement Plan. Sister Anita also has extensive board and committee service, including the Archdiocese of Portland Catholic Charities, where she was treasurer, Providence Health Plan in Oregon, the Providence Health System Governing Board and Board of Directors; the Providence Portland Medical Center Foundation, and the Providence Health & Services Investment Committee. In addition, she is chair of the Providence Health & Services Retirement Investment Subcommittee and a corporate member of Providence Health & Services. Her educational background includes a B.S. degree in elementary education from the University of Great Falls (MT), an M.Ed. in secondary administration from Loyola University of Los Angeles, and studies at the Graduate School of Finance at the University of Notre Dame. ●



Johnny Cox was hired by Gonzaga University in 1972 as the first person to teach ethics as a theological discipline. Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, hired him as the first ethicist employed

full time in a community hospital in North America, and he later was appointed as the first vice president of mission for Providence Services. St. Joseph Health System recruited him to lead implementation of its "Next Generation Ethics" program, integrating clinical ethics with quality management and patient safety. He also served on the St. Joseph Health System Executive Management Team and participated in design of the Ministry Leadership Center, serving on its board until he retired in 2007. He also was appointed by Bishop William L. Skylstad to the board of the Washington State Catholic Conference. He has a B.S. degree in nursing from Seattle University, an M.A. degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in Christian social ethics from the Claremont Graduate University. ●



Charles (Chuck) Hawley

has spent most of his professional life in service to non-profit health care. After graduating from Seattle Pacific College with majors in biblical literature and political science, he

formed a non-profit, volunteer ministry that established local church outreach ministries to nearby nursing homes. That ministry continues today, with more than 2,000 "SonShine classes" led by lay women and men across Canada and the United States. Next Chuck was called to serve as executive director of the statewide association advocating on behalf of Washington's non-profit nursing and retirement homes and he became acquainted with the ministries of the Sisters of Providence. He established a close working relationship with the Washington State Catholic Conference and spent nearly 11 years in advocacy at the state and federal levels. In 1987 he was chosen to become Providence's director of long-term care services. Under his leadership, many new ministries were established including skilled nursing, home health and hospice, assisted living, low-income housing and innovative approaches combining the financing and delivery of services. He became vice president for public affairs for PH&S in 2006. Chuck also has served as an adjunct faculty member at City University and for more than a decade he taught the long-term care course in the graduate program for health administration at the University of Washington. He also has been appointed to several task forces and committees to address health care issues at the state and national levels. Chuck has an M.A. degree in public administration and has completed pre-doctoral studies in political science at the University of Washington. He currently is enrolled in Seattle University's Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, seeking a master's degree in pastoral studies. ●



Barbara Savage, a

Providence Associate, attended Carroll College School of Nursing and was a bedside nurse for 12 years, caring for the mentally ill, the acutely ill in the ICU, and

patients facing terminal illness. She accepted the call to leadership to make an impact on decisions facing patient care. Her first management experience was overseeing staff and community health education at Holy Family Hospital, Spokane, where she initiated programs in

Providence Ministries...

wellness, prevention and in disease management. When the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) assumed management of Holy Family, Barbara attended its Health Education Center in Nashville, and then conducted leadership conferences for HCA hospital management staff. She was invited by Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska to launch HealthPlus, a health maintenance organization in Eastern Washington, became its executive director, and then took the role of vice president of Eastern Washington operations. She also served as interim CEO of HealthPlus before being invited to return to Holy Family as assistant administrator for the Dominican Network in 1990. A variety of management and leadership roles followed in clinical, performance improvement, planning and marketing, community health improvement and mission leadership. The latter role began in 1994 with the Dominican Network and continues today with Providence Health Care. Barbara was one of the founders of Hospice of Spokane in the 1970s and was a longtime board member and volunteer. She also has been a volunteer with the American Cancer Society, the Transitional Living Center for homeless women and children, Spokane Health Improvement Partnership (including as its first executive director), and the board of directors of the Catholic Foundation. ●



Barbara Schamber, SP,

entered the Sisters of Providence in 1961. Her ministries in the religious community began with teaching and administration in Providence schools in Seattle and Vancouver, Wash., Portland, Ore., and

Burbank, Calif. She was provincial superior from 1985 to 1991 and also chair of the board of directors of Providence Health Corporations. She was called to serve as the first provincial superior of Mother Joseph Province in 2000 and continued in that role through 2004 while also serving as presiding member of Providence Health System. Sister Barbara's service experience includes membership in the Washington State Catholic Conference, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the Western Catholic Education Association. She also has been a member of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles School Evaluation Committee and of the Catholic Health Association Sponsorship Committee. In addition, she has been a trustee of the board of directors of Catholic Community Services Western Washington/Archdiocesan Housing Authority and is co-chair of the Sisters of Providence Sponsorship Planning Committee. Her personal experience includes working to improve the living conditions of the poor in other countries, including the Philippines, El Salvador, Haiti, Uganda and Cameroon. She graduated from Providence High School in Burbank, Calif., and was educated in the College of Sister Formation of Seattle University, where she received a B.A. degree in social sciences. She also has a master of educational administration degree from Central Washington University and certificates of elementary and secondary teaching and administration for the states of Washington and Oregon. Sister Barbara is completing a book on the 150-year history of the Sisters of Providence in the West. ●

Sister Lucille Dean named new chair for Providence Health & Services board

Sister Lucille Dean, SP, is the new chair-elect of the board of directors for Providence Health & Services and will take office on January 1, 2010. She was appointed in March to replace current chair Kay Stepp, who is retiring at the end of 2009 after seven years in the position.

Sister Lucille has been a Sister of Providence for 54 years. Her ministries have been chiefly in education, and she served as principal of Providence High School in Burbank, Calif., from 1986 until she retired in 2005. She also was provincial superior of the former Sacred Heart Province from 1979 to 1985.



"The Providence Health & Services Board is in a uniquely positive position," Sister Lucille says. "It has enjoyed the benefits of masterful and informed leadership. It enjoys the richness of strong

and capable membership and the committees of the board are established and working well."

Sister Lucille says there is a positive relationship among the sponsors, the board and the management, and that the organization is strong and proactive in its manner of functioning. "I want to assure the continuation of all of these components," she says. "I believe that there will be strong challenges for Providence to face, and I would want to be able to contribute to our being able to meet and resolve them for the benefit of those we are called to serve, as well as for the Providence people who deal with the realities on a daily basis."

Sister Lucille has a master of arts degree in administration/curriculum and instruction from the University of Oregon and a bachelor of science degree in history from the College of Great Falls (MT). She was a member of the Providence Health System board for five years and served on the Audit & Integrity Committee. She also is a trustee of the Sisters of Providence Retirement Trust and serves on the Board of Regents of Providence High School. She currently is a member of the Providence Health & Services Human Resources and Retirement Plans committees of the board. ●