

# Briefs

## Sisters help Providence St. Peter Hospital bless Critical Care Unit

**A** bevy of Sisters of Providence traveled from St. Joseph Residence in Seattle to Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Wash., for the blessing and open house of its new Critical Care Unit on October 12. In attendance were (from left) Sisters Margaret Mary Wilson, Rita Ferschweiler, Julie Ziocchi, Barbara Schamber, Jacqueline Fernandes, Rebecca Berghoff, Lina Afinidad and Claire Gagnon. ▶



▲ The tour also included an exhibit prepared by Providence Archivist Loretta Greene (left) and Associate Archivist Emily Hughes Dominick.

▶ Sister Rita served on both the hospital's foundation and community boards and has been honored with "emeritus" status. She unveils a plaque naming one of the suites in the unit in her honor.



◀ Sister Claire was the administrator who established the hospital's first community board and directed the construction of the facility on Lilly Road that was completed in 1971. She stands in front of a picture of her younger self with David Brooks, chief executive of Providence Health & Services, Western Washington Region – Northwest, and hospital administrator Medrice Coluccio.

## Sojourner Place celebrates 25 years with ice cream social

**F**riends, family, residents, volunteers, staff, Sisters of Providence and Providence board members turned out to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sojourner Place on September 22.

Events began with a program at nearby Blessed Sacrament Parish recalling the beginnings of the Sisters of Providence ministry that empowers homeless women to rise above their challenges.

The program was followed by fun for kids, including hula hooping, face painting, henna tattoos, ladder ball, sidewalk chalk and, of course, ice cream, at University Park playground.

Over the past 25 years, Sojourner Place has housed more than 1,000 women, been a place of birth for 25



*Hula hooping was a hit at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.*

children, and helped more than 500 residents return to school. A recent survey of alumni indicated that more than 83 percent of the former residents have maintained independent housing.

To learn more about Sojourner Place, check out its website at [www.sojournerplace.org](http://www.sojournerplace.org). ●



*Joining in the festivities were (from left) Provincial Superior Karin Dufault, Sojourner Place Director KC Young, OP, and staffer Meghan Christenson.*

## Mary Tyllia, PA, receives Sister Peter Claver Award nomination

**M**ary Tyllia, PA, of Spokane, was one of six nominees for this year's Sister Peter Claver Humanitarian Award presented by Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital. Mary is a Providence employee as an instructor in the School of Laboratory Technology and is a community volunteer.



The award honors individuals who reflect the compassion and humanitarian leadership of the beloved former hospital administrator and community leader. The award recipient was Ed McCarron, director of the House of Charity. Congratulations to Ed and to all the nominees. ●



## Sister Ana Dolores earns her GED

**C**ongratulations to Sr. Ana Dolores Orellana-Gamero, who received her GED certificate in September! God bless you for achieving this milestone. ●



## Transito Ruano Castro, PA, receives WOLA Award

Providence Associate Transito Ruano Castro, of El Salvador, was presented with an international human rights award from the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) on September 19 at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C.

The theme for this year's awards was "Overcoming Violence: The New Human Rights Agenda." The awardees were "brave individuals and organizations that are working on the frontlines – often at great risk – to prevent violence, expose corruption, and build effective police forces and systems of justice."

Transito heads PASSOS Education and Training Center, which does outreach to at-risk youth to prevent violence in the most marginalized communities of San Salvador. Other awardees were Helen Mack, an activist for 20-plus years who is working to improve the professionalism of the police and the judicial system in Guatemala; and El Faro, whose investigative journalism raises awareness of corruption and organized crime.

"Violence will diminish if youth, families and communities are given an opportunity to participate actively in society," Transito said in her acceptance speech. "In cases in which children and adolescents have been taken into account in the design of projects and initiatives that work toward harm reduction, prevention and rehabilitation, these processes have had much better results." ●



Transito, pictured at right with her husband Anibal, also a Providence Associate, were joined at the awards ceremony by Provincial Superior Karin Dufault (left) and Sister Fran Stacey, who served 16 years on mission in El Salvador.



Sister Dolores Ellwart greets a young girl from the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe at the Mass celebrated in honor of the Virgin Mary on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. Sister Dolores was born in DeSmet, Idaho, in 1929 and has served in ministry there since 1965.

## Sister Dolores Ellwart attends Cataldo pilgrimage events



Father Bob Erickson (center), the new priest in DeSmet, led the celebration.

## Transitions marks 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary; presents Pizelo Award

Transitions, the intercommunity ministry sponsored by four congregations of women religious in Spokane, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 23 with a fundraising breakfast and luncheon at Red Lion Hotel at the Park. Formally known as Transitional Programs for Women, it is the umbrella organization for the Women's Hearth drop-in center, Miryam's House women's shelter, Transitional Living Center, EduCare child development program and New Leaf Bakery Café, a job training center.

People Who Care, as the fundraisers are known, was full of inspirational messages, including stories shared by two women whose lives have been changed by these programs. Last year, Transitions served 1,248 women and has helped more than 10,000 since its beginnings. Sister Cathy Beckley, SNJM, shared the history of how Transitions got its start when sisters representing the Sisters of Providence, the Sinsinawa Dominicans, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia dared to dream about what might be possible. One of those early sisters mentioned as

foundresses was the late Sister Dixie Mulvaney, SP, who was a staff member at Miryam's House from 1988 until 1995, working with women recovering from abuse and addictions.

This year's event marked the first presentation of the Pizelo Award, named after longtime Women's Hearth volunteer Marie Pizelo, who also was a Providence Associate. Marie, who died from cancer last year, also was a gifted photographer and artist. The Pizelo Award is a framed image of one of her pieces. The first recipient of the honor was Sister Cathy, who was a foundress of the Women's Hearth when it opened in the old Jefferson Hotel on First Avenue in 1991. Recipients of the honor, as identified by women at

Women's Hearth, must be "welcoming, creative, spiritual and compassionate," and must have given seven years of service to the ministry, as staff, a volunteer or both.

For more information on Transitions, go to the website [www.help4women.org](http://www.help4women.org). ●



Marie Pizelo



Pizelo Award



# Caritas

Sisters of Providence  
Provincial Administration, Mother Joseph Province  
1801 Lind Avenue SW, #9016  
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*“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

- Luke 12:34

**A**s another year draws to a close, hearts fill with love and compassion, and the impulse to do something to express those feelings leads to thoughts of giving back for our many blessings. It is eye-opening to realize that no matter what circumstances most of us find ourselves in, someone else would welcome being in our shoes. If we can offer a bit of hope to those others, we should count ourselves lucky, indeed.

The Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province, invite you to join them in sharing your gifts with others this Christmas season.

Following in the footsteps of our foundress, Blessed Emilie Gamelin, we hold the poor and the vulnerable in our hearts and we devote our lives to serving them through our ministries. Perhaps your heart lies with some of the work that we do and the needs that we serve.

If none of these quite captures what is in your heart, there always is the opportunity to make a contribution to the “area of greatest need” or to offer a gift in memory or in honor of someone you love and admire.

**Wherever your heart** lies this Christmas season, we pray that you will put some of your treasure there. The greatest gifts are the ones that we give in gratitude for all that we have received.

**Gratefully in Providence,**  
Judith Desmarais, SP, *Provincial Leader*

**Contributions to the Sisters of Providence may be sent to:**

Sisters of Providence,  
Development Office  
1801 Lind Ave SW, #9016,  
Renton WA 98057-9016



● We empower homeless women who are struggling to wade through life’s challenges by offering them shelter and life skills classes at Sojourner Place in Seattle. Through the Transitions intercommunity ministries in Spokane, we provide help and support to women trying to get back on their feet and to their children.



● In El Salvador, where education is out of reach for most young people, we provide scholarship assistance to help them attend junior high, high school and even the university. These students are living their dreams and improving the lives of their families and their community.



● New sisters entering the religious community bring their gifts and talents to the work of continuing the mission of Providence. They come from many countries and backgrounds, and first must face the challenges of learning

a new language and new customs, in addition to theology and the religious community’s history. The education and support this requires is extensive and expensive, but the benefits are incalculable.

● Today, the majority of the 140-some sisters in our province are in their 70s, 80s and 90s. These women have dedicated their lives to being a blessing to others. The best way to thank them is to care for them in their remaining years through support of the Sisters’ Retirement Fund.

