

ABHS fundraising initiatives support tsunami relief efforts

Since Father Stan Fernando began serving as a chaplain at Alexian Brothers Medical Center (ABMC) six years ago, he has built a reputation as a generous, caring priest who has helped countless patients, visitors and employees through difficult times.

"He is known by many people and is appreciated for the work that he does," says Beth Collier, Coordinator Chaplain for the Center for Spiritual Care at ABMC in Elk Grove Village, Ill.

The people of ABMC demonstrated their appreciation for Father Stan with an outpouring of support after the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami struck his family's native village of Idindakarai in India and swept his 56-year-old sister, Saroja Fernando, to her death in the Bay of Bengal. The Center for Spiritual Care and ABMC's Alexian Spirit Committee, an employee-led group, spearheaded a fund-raising drive at the medical center, generating a total of \$10,000 to help the people of India and Father Stan's family members in Idindakarai.

The amount included \$5,000 donated by ABMC's medical staff and \$500 raised by the Center for Spiritual Care for Father Stan's family. The remaining \$4,500, contributed by patients, visitors, employees and the medical center itself, was donated to the Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village, which planned to add money of its own and send the total to Rotary International to support rebuilding efforts in India. Many ABMC people also sent sympathy cards with donations directly to Father Stan, who pledged his next paycheck to support the relief efforts in Idindakarai.

The \$10,000 collected at ABMC was part of more than \$22,000 raised by

facilities across Alexian Brothers Health System (ABHS) for tsunami relief. Alexian Spirit Committees, which routinely help colleagues in need and the disadvantaged, played key roles in the fund-raising efforts.

staff members for Catholic Relief Services. The facilities used a variety of fund-raising techniques, including a "dress-down" day at PACE.

The ABHS corporate offices and Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health



Becky Wilson, Linda Amoroso and Mary Ann Palazzola (seated, left to right) and Catherine Allen and Jean Krampe (standing, left to right) gather to assess the progress of tsunami relief efforts at Alexian Brothers facilities in St. Louis. The women are Alexian Spirit Committee co-chairpersons at their facilities, with Wilson and Allen representing Alexian Brothers Lansdowne Village and Transitional Care Center, Amoroso and Palazzola representing Alexian Brothers Sherbrooke Village, and Krampe representing PACE. Brother Warren Longo (not pictured) is the other PACE co-chairperson.

Alexian Village of Milwaukee used a donation box and fliers to raise \$4,000 for the World Vision relief agency. The amount included \$2,000 donated by one woman. Alexian Village of Tennessee used closed-circuit TV announcements and notices to employees and residents to raise more than \$3,300 for charities such as Catholic Relief Services and the Salvation Army.

In St. Louis, the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) teamed with Alexian Brothers Lansdowne Village and Transitional Care Center and Alexian Brothers Sherbrooke Village to raise more than \$2,200 from

Hospital (ABBHH) in Hoffman Estates, Ill., also used dress-down initiatives to fuel fund-raising efforts, with the corporate offices generating more than \$1,600 for Catholic Relief Services and ABBHH contributing \$1,000 to Doctors Without Borders.

Jean Krampe, Quality Improvement Coordinator at PACE in St. Louis and Co-chairperson of the program's Alexian Spirit Committee, says the systemwide tsunami relief effort is a 21st-century manifestation of the Alexian Brothers' age-old healing ministry. "This is really exactly the type of thing that supports the Alexian values," she says.

Via
Values
in
Action

COMPASSION

DIGNITY OF
THE PERSON

CARE OF
THE POOR

HOLISM

PARTNERSHIP