A family of ministries providing help, offering hope, restoring health to those in need

SISTERS *of* CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

JANUARY 2025, ISSUE 13

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

President and CEO, Sisters of Charity Health System

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that the Christmas and New Year's break afforded you time to rest and relax with your loved ones. In addition to spending special time with my family, I reflected on our collective accomplishments in 2024 and considered what we, as a health system, hope to achieve in 2025. I am very optimistic about our future.

My optimism stems from the road map we have developed to guide us in the coming year. We are ever-mindful of working to reduce our costs while looking to other sources to increase our revenue. To achieve this goal, a management plan for 2025 will address four areas and key objectives:

Revenue Generation

- Increase net development funding from individual donors and foundations.
- Increase general operating funding from government sources.
- Explore new public/private funding mechanisms, especially to support Rosary Hall.

Programmatic Actions

- Exit programs that are unstainable, where feasible.
- Execute Central Neighborhood initiatives.
- Execute access to quality care initiatives.

Operational/Administrative Cost Effectiveness

- Increase cost effectiveness of operations/administrative services through improved business processes and systems.
- Dedicated staff support and accountability mechanisms to ensure targets are met.
- Increase volunteer services.

Strategic Marketing – Brand Positioning/Brand Narrative

- Refresh the SCHS brand and website.
- Develop a comprehensive earned media plan for the year, shining a light on the impact we have on those whom we serve.

My optimism is also underpinned by the quality and commitment of you and your fellow employees. This was clearly on display to me at the Employee Service Awards Celebration, held December 13. Northeast Ohio employees gathered that day to recognize our employees who have served in five-year increments from five years to 50 years. Our South Carolina employees, although not present, were also recognized at the event. Also, I was delighted to participate in the employee recognition event at Regina Health Center, honoring employees who have served from five to 30 years; and recognizing the 12 "Employees of the Month" and the "Employee of the Year." I am humbled by the number of people who have served the health system for such a long time, which speaks volumes about our mission and the dedication of our staff.

Hat's off and thank you to the SCHS employee service awards committee members, **Jen Arbogast, Nancy Arcipowski, Judy Barnes, Kelly Konicek,** and **Deb Miller,** for the outstanding event that they orchestrated.

Service—especially over many years—ties into our

impact as an organization. Did you know that each year as a health system over a million people benefit from our range of services and our grantmaking? We make a difference daily in the lives of so many, from those experiencing homelessness, to dads who need direction, to children who are assisted by the removal of health barriers, to the elderly in need of superior care. Please never doubt that you and the work that you do matters. Together, as our vision states, we are serving as a beacon of hope devoted to healing and addressing the unmet needs of individuals, families and communities through a network of innovative services.

Finally, please join me and your colleagues on Zoom for a brief time of prayer and reflection on the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at noon, Monday, January 20.

Click here for ZOOM LINK.

Sincerely,

Michael

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRIES

Cleveland News

✦ **SISTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM**

The Twentieth Annual Employee Service Awards Celebration was a joyful event, recognizing the service of all SCHS employees and determining who sported the best "ugly sweater" at the December event. **Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA**, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, and **Michael Goar**, President and CEO of SCHS, congratulated the honored employees; and **Miguel Chavez**, SCHS SVP of Mission & Ministry, and his twin brother, **PJ Chavez**, provided spirited entertainment for the large crowd.

5 years

10 years

15 years

20 years

25 years

Those recognized for their service were: **Five-year honorees** **Kelley Moffett**, Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC); **Juanita Fout**, ECRC; **Nancy Arcipowski**, SCHS; **Colleen Corrigan-Day**, Regina Health Center; **Wayne Ardo**, St. Vincent Charity Community Health Center (SVCCHC); **Brad Rauh**, SVCCHC; and **Hardy Felder**, SVCCHC. Not pictured: **Emily Baughman**, ECRC; **George Brown**, SVCCHC; **Tabitha Peterson**, Joseph & Mary's Home; **Dawn Schilling**, ECRC; **Amy Splittgerber**, Healthy Learners; **Hiller Davenport**, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina (SOCF of SC); and **Scott Brabham**, SC Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF). **Ten-year honorees** **Tonya Williams**, SVCCHC; **Jean Mey**, SVCCHC; **Sr. Miriam Erb, CSA**, SVCCHC; **Dawn Glasco**, Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood; **Shannon Williams**, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton; and **Anna Hartzell**, SCHS. Not pictured: **Ricky Williams**, SVCCHC; and **Kiki Walton**, SCCFF. **Fifteen-year honorees** **Danielle Bunner**, ECRC; **Bryan Parker**, SVCCHC; **Laureen Moorer**, SVCCHC; **Danielle Triplett**, ECRC. Not pictured: **Desiree Darton**, SVCCHC; **Shannon Jerse**, SCHS; and **Merlethia Greene**, Healthy Learners-Pee Dee. **Twenty-year honoree** **Ronele Syme**, ECRC. Not pictured: **Debra Delic**, SVCCHC; **Michelle Hershbine**, SVCCHC; and **Kara Cumalander**, Healthy Learners-Midlands. **Twenty-five year honoree** **Deb Miller**, SCHS; **Mukul Pandit, MD** (not pictured), SVCCHC.

35 years

45 years

50 years

Thirty-five year honoree **Michael Gray**, SVCCHC. Forty-five year honoree **Judy Barnes**, SCHS. Fifty-year honoree **Barb Craighead**, SVCCHC, received a warm hug from SCHS CIO **Robin Stursa** and congratulations for serving St. Vincent Charity for 50 years.

"Ugly sweaters" abounded as employees took their turns garnering audience approval. Pictured right: An "ugly sweater" sweep from the ECRC: **Randy Jellison** *(reindeer sweater),* **Jyesse Behling** *(elf on the shelf sweater), and* **Alexandra Neal** *(reindeer onesie) competed as finalists, as MC* **Miguel Chavez** *gauged enthusiasm from the crowd. Jyesse took 1st, Randy took 2nd, and Alexandra was 3rd in the fierce competition.*

Transitions: Senior Vice President of Fund Development **Mark Cotleur** has announced that three staff members have been promoted. Congratulations to **Nathan Munn**, now the Executive Director of Development Operations and Communications; **Colleen Corrigan-Day**, now Senior Director of Development for Joseph & Mary's Home and Central Promise; and **Mackenzie Phelps**, now Manager of Events and Donor Engagement. Nathan has been with the health system since 2012, most recently serving as Sr. Director of Philanthropy Services. Colleen has been the serving since 2019 as the Director of Mission Support and Donor Relations for Regina Health Center. Mackenzie joined the health system three years ago, serving as Donor and Event Services Coordinator. Mark said that he is excited to promote his talented staff members as well as expand his team to increase annual giving and secure grant support from private and public funding sources.

THOUSANDS OF ST. VINCENT CHARITY ITEMS FIND NEW LIFE, GIVEN TO SOME OF CLEVELAND'S NEEDIEST

The expression that when one door closes, another door opens is certainly applicable to the transformation that is taking place at the former St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. When the medical center closed its ministry in serving inpatients as an acute care hospital the hope was that the patient towers could be repurposed for other mission-critical services. After a significant process, it was found that prospective occupants decided not to proceed, leaving an empty building, and the needed dollars to

Deacon Lou Primozic, *founder of the non-profit I'm In Ministry, gathers items from the kitchen of the St. Vincent Charity Community Medical Center, where he has repurposed kitchen equipment as well as over 10,000 items throughout the former hospital.*

invest and maintain the empty buildings were cost prohibitive.

Now, the former hospital buildings are being methodically cleared to prepare for demolition this year, but the contents within it are being repurposed and given to organizations and individuals whose mission aligns with that of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and the Sisters of Charity Health System in serving God's people.

That task, which has been led by **Sr. Miriam Erb, CSA**, VP for Mission & Ministry, **Robin Stursa**, CIO, SCHS, other administrators and a team of employees, has been made easier by the generous donation of time and sweat equity from the non-profit, *I'm In Ministry* (IMIM), led by Cleveland Catholic Diocese **Deacon Lou Primozic**. Along with storing St. Vincent items in Sisters of Charity archives for future use on campus, they are packing and removing furniture, religious artifacts, and hospital supplies—repurposing over 10,000 items and delivering them to some of Northeast Ohio's neediest though IMIM's community partners and distribution network.

"We are grateful to I'm In Ministry and Deacon Lou for their commitment helping repurpose thousands large and small pieces by transporting them to programs, individuals, and non-profits who have tremendous need," said **Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA**, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. "Our mission has always been to extend the healing ministry of Jesus to God's people, and sharing these items does just that. It is exciting that so many items will take on a new life for people and organizations who will greatly benefit from the donations."

According to Deacon Lou, who founded the faith-based ministry in 2013, the value of the goods from Saint Vincent Charity is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The items are primarily furniture, especially desks, tables, chairs, dressers, lamps, beds; medical supplies; kitchen equipment and office supplies; but they have also facilitated delivering hospital equipment that are still usable. For example, the 50-plus stainless-steel medical racks with wheels, worth nearly $1,000 each, have gone to the Christ Child Society; St. Coleman Refugee Services and other organizations; while the physical therapy department's exercise equipment, including treadmills and ellipticals, has been taken to Regina Health Center, the Sisters of Notre Dame Campus in Chardon, Jennings nursing home, and Cleveland Central Catholic High School. Three of The Ed Keating Recovery Centers have received a significant number of items that benefit women and men in addiction recovery.

Deacon Lou added, "Recipients are thrilled, happy and appreciative." He said that another organization that has embraced the donations is Cleveland Mayor **Justin Bibb's** "A Home for Every Neighbor," a City of Cleveland initiative that pays the rent for 12 months for some individuals who are experiencing homelessness. *I'm In Ministry* has been the primary provider of furniture for the Mayor's initiative and half of the furnishings provided by IMIM for the A Home for Every Neighbor apartments come from the former inpatient St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. IMIM placed/delivered approximately 500 items from the hospital for Mayor Bibb's homeless initiative the past four months, Deacon Lou noted.

I'm In Ministry funded the initiative to salvage and repurpose the items from St. Vincent Charity. Deacon Lou added that they did not sell, trade or receive any form of compensation for the items removed. The work, carried out over several months, was primarily completed with staff and volunteers from IMIM.

The removal of items throughout the former hospital will make way for the planned demolition, anticipated to take place by the end of the first quarter of 2025. "The demolition marks a pivotal step toward developing a future vision of a Health and Healing Hub that will continue the cherished mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in Cleveland's Central Neighborhood," noted **Michael Goar**, President and CEO of the health system. Proceeding with demolition of the

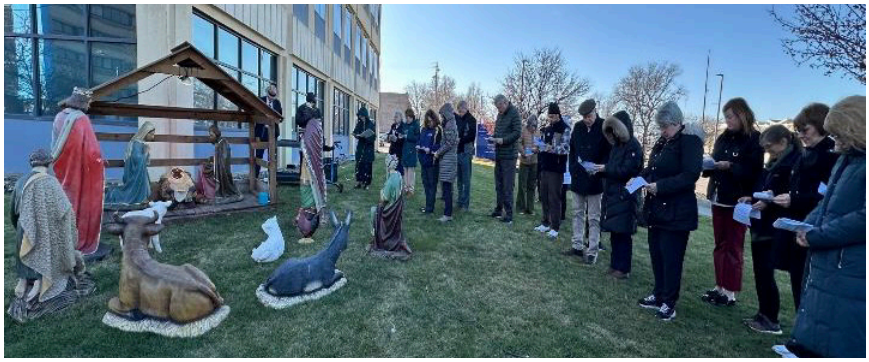
facilities comes after extensive evaluation. It was determined that, because of the high maintenance costs of the aging facilities, an adaptive reuse was not financially feasible or sustainable.

However, reuse of the items within the buildings, aided by I'm In Ministry, further demonstrates the Sisters' commitment to those in need. "We have served Clevelanders since 1851, and these donations, which will be repurposed, are another way that we continue our service to the community," added Sr. Judith Ann Karam.

- **SCHS MISSION & MINISTRY:** In closing out 2024, **Sr. Miriam Erb, CSA**, reflected, "We at St. Vincent Charity are so happy and grateful we were able to continue to serve the people in the Central neighborhood as usual and to be attentive to all the staff as well. December was busy beyond words." The activity began with the blessing of Behavioral Health and Rosary Hall. "The staff loves the new area as do the clients," she said.

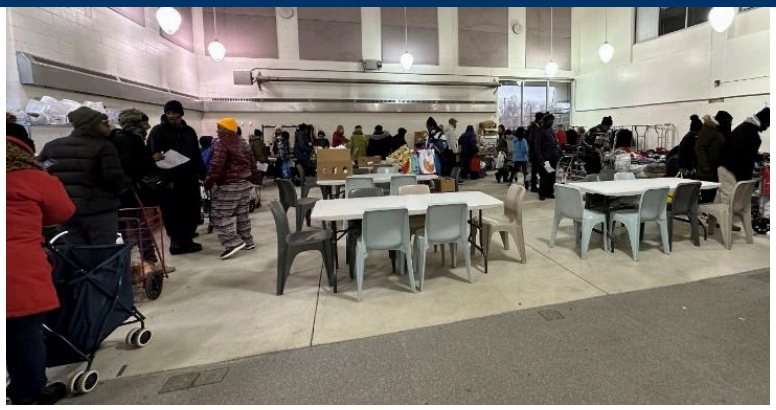
  Sister Miriam added, "We had a challenging year and many blessings. The greatest blessings are our staff, who are so faithful. Thank you. May God be with you and bless you abundantly in 2025."

  Mission & Ministry oversaw the **NO TEARS FOR CHRISTMAS** project, getting names of students from William Patrick Day and Bingham pre-schools. With names, clothes sizes, favorite toys and colors, the employees from the entire Sisters of Charity Health System, St. Vincent Charity, Centering Space, Regina Health Center, Light of Hearts Villa, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton and others provided bags full of gifts for 189 children. "It was overwhelming to see the beautifully wrapped packages," Sr. Miriam said. "When the packages were delivered to the school for the parents to pick up and take home, Santa talked to each child and took pictures with them. What a delightful day. More importantly on Christmas morning the children had presents from their parents and maybe even Santa."



Sr. Miriam underscored that that the most important event in December was the blessing of the Christmas crib. On December 17th, the employees from the SCHS building came outside to the crib. **Brad Rauh**, VP of Capital Management, welcomed all and explained the change in venue from the former St. Vincent Charity Medical Center to the corner of East 22nd and Community College Avenue. **Sr. Judith Ann**, after her remarks of thanksgiving and blessing, provided the opening prayer, followed by a reading and then petitions for all our ministries, offered by **Miguel Chavez** and **Sister Miriam**. Miguel blessed the crib and after the closing song, hot chocolate and donuts were shared inside. On Christmas morning, a SCHS security guard gently placed Jesus in the crib for all to see.

As usual, Mission & Ministry participated in feeding the homeless at the Men's Shelter and feeding the people of Central at Mission Kitchen—providing food to the largest number of neighbors ever served. On Dec. 19 the main Mission Kitchen was very special. Two hundred hams were donated by a supporting agency, who wished to remain



The December 19 Mission Kitchen at **William Patrick Day** *pre-school—providing Christmas dinners for Central residents--served 157 families, 64 new families, and 315 meals. Hams were distributed to 155 guests; the remaining 45 hams were given to the school and the volunteers*

anonymous. The team of volunteers distributed the hams, fresh produce from the Cleveland Food Bank, along with canned goods for a Christmas dinner to take home. The Central neighbors could also get clothing and odds and ends from the Jesus Room. Finally, the people received boxes with a hot lunch of shepherd's pie and as they were ready to leave each adult was given a $25 gift certificate for Dave's Supermarket from Ward 5 Cleveland Councilman Richard Starr for completing a survey regarding income, helping him assess the needs of the Central Neighborhood. Renovare — Music for the Whole played Christmas music throughout the mealtime which added beauty to the afternoon. "It was delightful and soothing," remarked Sr. Miriam. "This was overwhelming and I hope the response continues," she said.

On the evening of Mission Kitchen, **Sr. Miriam**, Mission & Ministry's **Jenifer Arbogast** and **Miguel Chavez**, and SVP of Fund Development **Mark Cotleur** joined the Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood in their yearly Christmas party, "Snow Days." Given for the children of Central, the party provided a fun, activity-filled evening, a dance by the Toy Soldier, gifts for the children and a wonderful homemade hot meal. It was also a time of learning for the parents who had access to different organizations that could help them.

- **JOSEPH & MARY'S HOME:** Volunteers from the 40th Tour of Good Cheer gathered and sang carols at Joseph & Mary's Home days before Christmas. The tour is a project by **Dick Clough**, former board chair of Joseph's Home. Thirty-five volunteers participated, bringing hats, scarves, gloves, other items, and a $10 Target gift card. Everyone joined in singing and, **Sister Miriam** reported, loved it and was the joyful focal point of the evening. She welcomed the group and thanked them for making it a special Christmas for the JMH residents. **Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA**, joined also.

- **LIGHT OF HEARTS VILLA:** The Villa celebrated the season with good food, great company, and plenty of holiday cheer during the Staff Christmas Appreciation Lunch. The festive event, catered by the exceptional in-house team from Metz, featured a delicious menu including herb-roasted prime rib, bourbon salmon, and decadent desserts—each bite more amazing than the last. The Villa is especially grateful to the Metz team for going above and beyond to ensure every shift could join in the celebration. From daytime meals to evening and late-night service, their dedication to providing fresh, delicious plates made the occasion truly special. Check out the Villa's **Facebook page** to see more photos capturing the fun and smiles from these memorable moments.

Marie Usko *and* **Rob Walker** *savor their delicious meals during the Light of Hearts Villa staff appreciation lunch, catered by Metz.*

The Villa's very own version of colorful Christmas lights, featuring the red and green on the chapel.

Spreading Christmas Cheer at the Villa: December brought the holiday spirit to life at Light of Hearts Villa, illuminating the season both inside and out. Stunning indoor displays were beautifully decorated, while the building's exterior lights shone brightly as "a colorful Christmas display," delighting the Bedford community. Bedford Mayor **Stan Koci** expressed his appreciation, thanking the Villa for "contributing to the festive spirit in our city." Known for its extravagant light displays, Bedford's downtown square draws visitors from across Greater Cleveland, making the mayor's compliment particularly meaningful.

Some of the Light of Hearts Villa Wellness Team pose for a photo with special visitor, the Grinch.

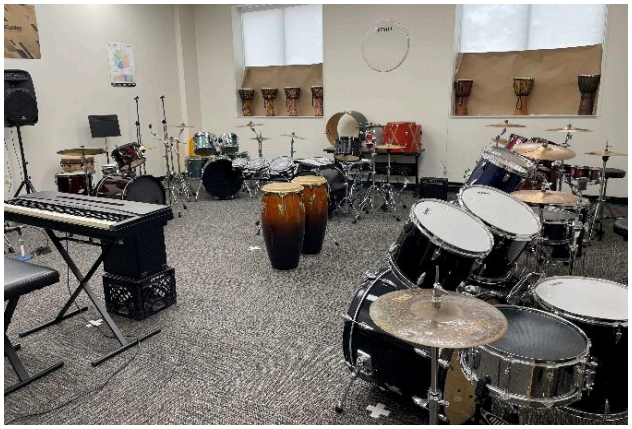
Santa vs. The Grinch: A Joyful Christmas Celebration at the Villa: The Light of Hearts Villa Christmas Party was a joyful celebration filled with laughter and the true spirit of the season. Residents delighted in delicious treats, festive outfits, and special visits from Santa and the Grinch. Above all, the gathering honored the greatest gift of all—Jesus' birth. The staff wished all, "May His light and joy continue to guide the Villa and us all throughout the season and beyond."

✦ **REGINA HEALTH CENTER:** Regina Health Center's Topgolf event, the "warm-up" for their annual Holy-In-One Fundraiser, will be held 2-4 p.m., Sunday, February 23rd. Tickets are $75, which includes golfing for two hours and a buffet-style lunch. All proceeds benefit RHC.

Anyone interested in buying tickets, please contact **Mackenzie Phelps**, mphelps@sistersofcharityhealth.org or 216.875.4639.

✦ **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CONNECTION**: CCC has extended invitations to young adult professionals from the CCC — affiliated partner organizations to be an extension of the CCC Member Association/Board sub-committee for 2025, who will be planning an event in collaboration with John Carroll University and Ursuline College. The goal is to hold a fun, informative program to introduce college students to Catholic organizations and their services they provide for the NE Ohio community.

Canton News



✦ **SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CANTON:** A newly polished gem in Downtown Canton, the new home of **EN-RICH-MENT**, hosted the November board of directors meeting for the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. The Foundation has been a long-time supporter of the after-school, weekend, and summer-focused nonprofit. EN-RICH-MENT offers a variety of arts experiences for students in grades kindergarten through twelfth including dance, music lessons for several instruments, a locally famous drumline and color guard, dance line and poms, art classes, gardening, media, theater, and cooking.

The organization's new home has opened amazing opportunities for the nonprofit, including its state-of-the-art commercial kitchen space, supported in part by the Sisters of Charity Foundation. The kitchen gives the ability to serve dinner after school, which includes a full course meal with fruit and vegetables, and healthy snacks to take home and share with families. The Foundation is proud to support EN-RICH-MENT and its heartfelt mission to encourage, inspire, and support the needs of children in Stark County and beyond.

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER:** This year, the Early Childhood Resource Center team is among the Health System ministries celebrating a major milestone—the organization's 25th anniversary. The ECRC was established in Canton in 2000 in an effort to increase the amount of high-quality early childhood education and care available in Stark County. The Center was initially created to serve early childhood professionals by providing training, accreditation classes, technical assistance, and mentoring support. Over the last two and a half decades, services offered by the Center have expanded to include preparing children for kindergarten, providing free parent education, supporting foster and adoptive families, and much more. While the organization has grown significantly since its humble beginnings, the mission remains the same: to promote the healthy development of young children by strengthening families, improving the quality of early learning experiences, increasing school and community readiness, and informing public policy. Stay tuned for information highlighting celebratory events and inspiring impact stories, as the ECRC team reflects on achievements and looks toward the future.

South Carolina News

- **SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA:** This December, the Foundation provided recovery funding for areas impacted by the October 2024 storm, Hurricane Helene, which caused damage across states in the Southeast, including South Carolina. Fifteen organizations that are 2024 Immediate Needs grantees from the most impacted areas were given a $3,000 love offering to offset their general operating expenses. One of the partners who received the support shared, "This unexpected gift comes at a time when our clinic is still navigating the repair challenges brought by the Hurricane Helene flooding, as well as to our commitment to serving our community with compassion and care… Please know that the kindness of the Sisters of Charity Foundation has lifted our spirits as we move into this holiday season." **Donna Waites**, President of the foundation, added, "We are grateful for the many partners across South Carolina who continue to serve and support their communities during this time of rebuilding."

- **HEALTHY LEARNERS:**
  Recently, Healthy Learners' friends at the Junior League of Columbia packed over 200 goodie bags for Healthy Learners students. Each bag, filled with thoughtful gifts, reminds students that they are seen, cared for, and loved—a gesture that builds confidence and brightens their day. But the story doesn't end there. Healthy Learners' incredible AmeriCorps Members and Student Service Coordinators personally delivered these goodie bags to school nurses, ensuring students receive care and encouragement where it matters most.

Baxter Easley, Era Ianham *(School Nurse)*, **Hester Davies**, *and* **Holland Anderson**

Christina Markle *and* **Megan Hahn**, *Junior League of Columbia volunteers*

- **SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES** held its annual Holiday Fatherhood Awards Luncheon on Friday, December 13, bringing together the entire fatherhood team from around the state, along with agency partners, friends, and donors. More than 120 gathered at the DoubleTree Columbia for fellowship, feasting, and fun. Three annual awards were given to two SCCFF five fatherhood partner organizations for their exemplary accomplishments in

reaching more dads better during the year. **Dr. Joel Philp**, Director of Evaluation and Quality Improvement, served as emcee (and comic relief!). **Michael Leach**, the outgoing director of the center's largest funder, the SC Department of Social Services, which awards SCCFF $14.2 million to conduct fatherhood programs and services in all 46 counties of the state, received our Fatherhood Champion award (what the center likes to call the "Fatherhood Heisman Trophy"). Mr. Leach shared with the audience his own fatherhood story and how he is transitioning to a role in the private sector in order to spend more time with his 13-year-old son. Very moving. The SCCFF has heard stories like Mike's nearly every day around the state from the more than 3,000 dads served in 2024. And, after setting strategic goals last month, SCCFF is scaling its work to serve at least 5,000 fathers and families in the coming twelve months. They were grateful for an opportunity to pray for God's blessings on the 100+ field staff and the families they serve every day.

SCCFF's Executive Director **Karriem Edwards** *presents* **Michael Leach** *the "Fatherhood Heisman Trophy" (aka the Fatherhood Champion award) from the Center.*

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA, **Sr. Carol Kandiko, CSA**, **Barb Green Craighead**, **Sr. Nancy Hendershot, CSA**, gather at the Sisters of Charity Health System Christmas party. Not only was Barb was recognized for her 50 years of service to St. Vincent Charity, she enjoyed a reunion with a group of CSAs who were significant during her years as a student at St. Augustine Academy. At that time, Sr. Joan was the St. Augustine Academy principal; Sr. Nancy was Guidance Director, and served as Barb's school counselor; and Sr. Carol Kandiko taught Barb.

Any comments about or corrections to the newsletter should be directed to Mary Rose Sullivan, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications, SCHS, msullivan@sistersofcharityhealth.org. Thank you.