

# Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2013

## **Christian Health Care Center Recognizes National Library Week All Year Round**

As we recognize National Library Week, April 14 to 20, at Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff, there are a number of ongoing activities that promote reading and education all year round. One example is “Bertha’s Book Club,” a monthly activity for residents at Heritage Manor Nursing Home. Bertha Stronach, a Heritage Manor resident, started the club in 2011. Several employees, as well as residents, are Book Club members.

In addition, Irene Browne and Cecilia Duggan, residents at Evergreen Court supportive-senior housing, and Jim Dwyer, a resident of Hillcrest Residence, regularly volunteer to read to the kindergarten class at Sicomac School in Wyckoff, helping to promote literacy and multi-generational interaction. The seniors enjoy the experience as much as the children and their teacher, Jayne Mazie.

“I find reading to the kindergarteners absolutely rewarding,” said Mrs. Duggan.

“The kids are not to be believed. They say the cutest, funniest things. I adore them all. They are so responsive, and I’m happy to be included in this community outreach.”

Mrs. Browne echoed her sentiments. “I love to read, and always look forward to the times we see the youngsters each month. For me, it is a two-sided coin. I so enjoy what I’m doing, and hopefully I bring the same sense to them, listening.”

MORE

## National Library Week ... Page 2

Mr. Dwyer also volunteers regularly to read to children at the Child Day Care Center, located in the lower level of CHCC's The Longview Assisted Living Residence, creating an intergenerational connection.

In addition, Wyckoff resident Diane Ulrich has been volunteering to deliver large-print books from the Wyckoff Library to Heritage Manor Nursing Home residents for more than 20 years. Last year, the Wyckoff Library joined CHCC in honoring her for 20 years of dedicated service.

The Longview Assisted Living Residence has its own resident librarian, Frank Pellechia. He received his undergraduate degree in literature at St. Peter's College in Jersey City and earned a masters degree in library science from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and worked in the Paterson Free Library, Kennedy High School Library in Paterson, the North Bergen Library, and the Musuem of the City of New York in its theater section. He worked as a librarian for 31 years. He is very interested in the fine arts and music and reads poetry every day.

"Embracing and participating in community activities are an integral part of Christian Health Care Center's mission," said Julie K. Lee, Senior Vice President of Community Development and Marketing Services. "Our intergenerational and literacy programs not only encourage reading, but also volunteerism, socialization and camaraderie."

Christian Health Care Center provides a broad continuum of high-quality, compassionate care, offering superior mental-health, elder-care, residential living and rehabilitation services. As a non-profit organization, we deliver care to our community based upon the Christian principles on which we were founded more than a century ago.

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Bertha Stronach, a resident of Heritage Manor Nursing Home and founder of “Bertha’s Book Club”



Jim Dwyer with children from the Child Day Care Center



Cecelia Dugan reading to children at Sicomac School