

**2008 Bulletin of Reports
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries celebrates our continuing partnership with the Delaware-Maryland Synod and its congregations, as we live out our mission, through Many Hands and One Heart, to demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service. Diakon maintains a 140-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2007, Diakon provided \$12.1 million in uncompensated care, including more than \$1.7 million within the Delaware-Maryland Synod.

Diakon continues to focus on Diakon Place at 1900 North Broadway in East Baltimore, including the acquisition of additional tenants that reflect our mission focus. The multimillion-dollar project involved the complete renovation of a vacant building - formerly an auto center and supermarket - to create a community service center and state-of-the-art daycare center. The expanded facilities have allowed Diakon KidzStuff to provide a warm, nurturing environment through day care, before- and after-school care, and summer programming for infants, toddlers, and elementary school-age children from this economically challenged area of the city.

As part of its focus on continuum-of-care senior living communities, key to future services for older adults, Diakon earlier commissioned market studies and developed local task groups to create master plans for each senior living campus, including Ravenwood Lutheran Village/The Village at Robinwood, Hagerstown. Diakon continues to work with the state of Maryland to gain necessary approvals to begin expansion within the Hagerstown area. During 2007, Ravenwood renovated its short-term rehabilitation services suite; community events, including farm day, brought 2,300 people to the two senior living campuses. Diakon also continues to operate Frostburg Heights, a rental-support senior housing community in Allegany County.

In other developments, Diakon Adoption Services served several hundred children and family members through a range of adoption-related services, placing 14 children with adoptive families within the synod. The program received state grants to provide adoption-related support groups and awareness events in ten Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore, again sponsored the Maryland Heart Gallery featuring children waiting for adoption, and provided child-specific adoption recruitment through Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption funding as part of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. Diakon Family Life Services - Delaware continued to provide the state-funded Brandywine Program, a crisis-intervention service for adolescents and their families, which grew in 2007, serving nearly 775 clients.

Diakon Adult Day Services at Ravenwood, Hagerstown, and Diakon Adult Day Services at Mountain Glade, Oakland, provided daytime care to older adults, allowing them to remain at home or with family members at other times. The two centers served more than 120 individuals.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to touch the lives of some 70,000 persons last year, including more than 2,200 within the Delaware-Maryland Synod.

The Rev. Daun E. McKee, president