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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Residents Enjoy Brandeis University's Companions to Elders Program

INTERGENERATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM POPULAR WITH RESIDENTS & STUDENTS ALIKE

WALTHAM, MA – (November 30, 2009) **Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**, a non-profit provider of rehabilitative services, short-term and long-term care located in Waltham Massachusetts, recently announced the continuation of the popular *Companions to Elders* program, which has been administered over the past several years in conjunction with a student program at **Brandeis University**.

The initiative is one of many sponsored by the university's **Waltham Group**, a volunteer community service organization through which hundreds of students participate in outreach programs on campus, in Waltham and throughout the greater Boston community. Participation is completely voluntary.

Students and residents are "matched" by Maristhill's Activity Department based on an assessment done at the outset of the program. Each participating students is matched with four Maristhill residents, after which the weekly visits are scheduled on a rotating basis.

"We try to create pairings based on areas of common interest," explained **Amy Walkins** of Maristhill's staff. "For example, we have a student this semester that enjoys both poetry and music, so we paired her with a resident who enjoys reading and writing poetry as well as playing the piano."

"This type of intergenerational program is both educational and socially stimulating," said **Bill Driscoll**, Maristhill's Activities Director. "Our Residents really enjoy sharing stories about their lives, and the students frequently tell us they enjoy learning about the past."

Originally founded in 1969 by the Marist Missionary Sisters, Maristhill is a licensed skilled-nursing and rehabilitation center with a highly-recognized performance record for clinical excellence and quality care. People of all faiths and denominations are welcomed at the 123-bed facility, which is a member of **Covenant Health Systems**, a Catholic health care system sponsoring hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living residences and other health and elder services throughout New England.

For additional information contact **Ms. Carolyn Fenn**, Administrator, at (781) 893-0240 or visit www.maristhill.org.