

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 – (December 30, 2008) **Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**, a non-profit provider of rehabilitative services, short-term and long-term care located in Waltham Massachusetts, recently announced that students from **Brandeis University** in Waltham have been involved in an on-site volunteer *Companions to Elders* program.

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. Co-coordinators at Brandeis **Liz Shetyn** and **Audrey Lamb** begin the process by interviewing applicants to determine whether or not they are right for the program. Once accepted, the students visit their assigned facility every week during the school year. Staff members at each nursing home or assisted living center pair each student with a specific resident. The consistency of the ensuing one-on-one visits promotes rapport and relationship-building, and tends to bring about a high level of comfort for the residents.

"Our Residents really look forward to the weekly visits," said **Bill Driscoll**, Maristhill's Activities Director. "It's admirable and heartwarming to see younger people that are so willing to donate their time to enhance the lives of others."

"This is my second year in the program," Ms. Lamb said. "I became involved after visiting my grandmother many times at a nursing home and noticing that some of the residents seemed lonely. I enjoy meeting and getting to know people of past generations and learning the many interesting aspects of their lives."

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. ###