

Wayne deacon, head of Hope House receive HomeCare Options awards

PATERSON — A Wayne deacon and the executive director of Hope House, a diocesan Catholic Charities agency in Dover, were honored with awards by HomeCare Options, a non-profit home care agency here, as it marked its 53rd year of serving the families in northern New Jersey. The awards were presented April 18 at the organization's annual awards dinner at the Brownstone House here.

At Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Wayne, Deacon Vincent Cocilovo helps with the sacraments, assists at Mass, preaches the Word of God, and provides outreach to people in need. For his outreach, the 51-year-old Paterson native is being recognized as this year's recipient of the fourth annual Caring Award.

The Caring Award is given annually to the individual who "through his or her job or in community or volunteer service has selflessly and compassionately given of himself or herself to improve the lives of others in Passaic County."

"In addition to presenting the Caring Award, our annual dinner gives us the opportunity to thank and honor those people who help us throughout the year, including our staff of nurses, home health care work-

ers and operational and support staff," said Ken Wessel, executive director of HomeCare Options.

Also presented was the Abe Berliner Award, named after a former president of the Visiting Homemakers Service (as HomeCare Options was once known), and awarded to a community leader who has made a substantial contribution to the quality of life for those in need in Passaic County.

This year's recipient was Diane Silbernagel of Hope House. Silbernagel, who started her career as a hospital staff nurse and is responsible for the administrative oversight of a social service agency with programs directed at vulnerable populations, including seniors, families at risk, behavioral health and HIV/AIDS clients.

"We were especially pleased give the Caring Award to Deacon Cocilovo, who has long advocated for people in need, whether it involves conducting clothes or Thanksgiving food drives, visiting nursing home pa-



Diane Silbernagel



Vincent Cocilovo

tients, or helping people who are down on their luck," said Wessel. "He has been involved in projects ranging from the Passaic County Interfaith Hospitality Network that helps the temporarily homeless find shelter to an outreach ministry to support the families and friends

of gays and lesbians.

Deacon Cocilovo, an employee of PNC Bank in Wayne, most recently demonstrated his caring for people by helping a one-time PNC employee who was suffering from the devastating effects of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

HomeCare Options created the Caring Award in 2004 as a way to recognize and honor people who have led a life of caring

for others, those who are both well known to the public and unsung. The amount of interest the award received from the community — with residents of Passaic County given the opportunity to nominate worthy candidates — convinced the agency to make this an annual event several years ago, with the winner introduced at its annual dinner. The 2006 Caring Award recipient was Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth Diane Dillon, who founded the Homebound Program at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson more than 25 years ago

Three women, the wives of Paterson doctors, founded HomeCare Options in 1954. When it started, the agency had eight homemakers on staff and was operated by a group of volunteers. Today, HomeCare Options has more than 400 caregivers on staff and provides more than 500,000 hours of home care services to thousands of people annually.

Assumption Parish donates \$10K for Habitat for Humanity project

MORRISTOWN — Assumption Parish here has donated \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity's Interfaith Building Program in which 17 congregations in Morris County, mostly in Morristown, will cooperate in the project to build a two-family home at the corner of George and Rowe streets in Morristown. An old structure presently on the site will be knocked down and the new housing built on an expanded foundation.

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ment campaign. The other \$5,000, he said, came through the generosity of some Assumption parishioners who wanted to participate in this ecumenical effort.

Dave Fadden, Assumption's Habitat for Humanity coordinator, has requested volunteers for skilled work as well as general laborers and those willing to assist with providing food and miscellaneous services needed as part of the project. Work will begin on May 17 with a "Blitz Build" for four



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