

Neighborhood Health Advocate West Hill

News of the Neighborhood Health Advocate Program

Volume I, Issue I

A Joint Program of Albany Guardian Society and The Community Foundation for the Capital Region

September 2003

Supporting Organizations

Koinonia Health Care
The Elder Network of the
Capital Region
University at Albany
The Sage Graduate School
NYS Office for the Aging

In Cooperation with

The West Hill Ministers
Fellowship



In the next newsletter

Where to get a free flu shot
Training for lay advocates



Robert Paeglow, MD
"Dr. Bob"

New Program for West Hill

Dear Neighbor,

An exciting program has started in the West Hill Community. It is a program for seniors and caregivers called the **Neighborhood Health Advocate Program**. It is designed to help seniors access needed health and social services in order to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.

Working as a community coalition, churches including Center City Catholic Community, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Grace and Holy Innocents, Star of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

Church have identified two lay advocates. These advocates will link West Hill's elderly with needed social and health services. The lay advocates will not only serve the people from their churches, they will also be available to seniors in the whole West Hill neighborhood. The lay advocates are supported by the coalition of churches, Koinonia Health Care and a team made up of a professional social worker, social work student, registered nurses and a nursing student.

Through the wonderful support and efforts of Robert Paeglow, M.D., of Koinonia Health Care, and Pastor Stephen

Lalor of the Capital District Prayer and Healing Center, office space is being donated to operate the Neighborhood Health Advocate Program at 553 Clinton Avenue.

Since this is a program to serve **you**, you are invited to call or e-mail us with your questions or suggestions. You can call (518) 465-2703 or e-mail us at: advocateforseniors@yahoo.com

We look forward to serving our West Hill neighbors through the Neighborhood Health Advocate Program. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers and thank you for your warm welcome and support.

About this Program...

The Neighborhood Health Advocate Program was developed after Dr. Robert Paeglow approached Richard Iannello at Albany Guardian Society about the possibility of establishing a faith-based initiative in the West Hill

Neighborhood. Albany Guardian Society operated in the neighborhood for over 130 years and was excited about the possibility of such a program. When Jackie Mahoney of The Community Foundation for the Capital Region expressed support for

this initiative, the concept was explored further. This past summer, The Community Foundation, Albany Guardian Society and the supporting organizations listed above worked to refine our approach and the program began in September 2003.

**NEWS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH
ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

*A Joint Program of Albany Guardian Society and
The Community Foundation for the Capital Region*

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*Back row: Leane Paeglow, Melissa Moseley
Front row: Tanya Zelman, Kathy Johnson
Missing from photo: Karen Lalor*

Meet the West Hill Staff

The Neighborhood Health Advocate Program in the West Hill community is pleased to introduce the following staff:

Tanya Zelman, C.S.W., is a certified social worker and a graduate of the University at Albany School of Social Welfare. She has focused her career in the family social service field.

Karen Lalor, R.N., is a registered nurse at Koinonia Health Care and previously worked at St. Catherine's Center for Children and St. Peter's Hospice. She has a strong commitment to the people of the West Hill community.

Leane Paeglow, R.N., is a registered nurse at Koinonia Health Care with over 20 years experience in labor and delivery and primary care. She has been married to Dr. Bob Paeglow for 29 years and is a resident of West Hill.

Kathy Johnson, R.N., is a graduate student at The Sage Colleges and has experience in health care screening and education.

Melissa Moseley, B.A., is a graduate student at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare. She has a keen interest in the field of aging and advocacy.

Introducing the Lay Advocates

Over the past several months, the Neighborhood Health Advocate Program has worked closely with the clergy from the faith-based community of West Hill to identify lay advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to their community by helping those in need.

We are pleased to introduce our lay advocates.

Jean Marks is a lay advocate from the Center City Catholic Community.



Jean Marks

Lillian Samuels is a lay advocate from the Star of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church.

The Neighborhood Health Advocate Program is fortunate to have these energetic, kind-hearted individuals as part of the team. They have a long history of providing assistance to their neighbors in West Hill. While currently active in their own churches, they have agreed to serve as lay advocates in the



Lillian Samuels

Neighborhood Health Advocate Program in an effort to continue and expand their service to their neighbors.

We are grateful for their commitment to the West Hill community and look forward to their contribution to the success of the Neighborhood Health Advocate Program.

If you are interested in learning more about the lay advocate program, or perhaps becoming a lay advocate, please contact Tanya Zelman at (518) 465-2703.