



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franciscan Center to receive 2013 *William Donald Schaefer Helping People* award for Baltimore District

Baltimore, Maryland – Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot will present the Franciscan Center with the *Baltimore District 2013 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award* on **Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **Franciscan Center, 101 W. 23rd Street, Baltimore, MD 21218**. Mr. Franchot created the award, which is in its second year, to recognize individuals and organizations in each county and Baltimore City that exemplify Schaefer's lifelong commitment to helping people.

The Franciscan Center is honored to have been nominated and selected as the 2013 Baltimore recipient of this prestigious award.

The mission of the **Franciscan Center** is to provide emergency assistance and supportive outreach to persons who are economically disadvantaged in an effort to assist them in realizing their self-worth and dignity as people of God. The **Franciscan Center** serves hot, nutritious meals to as many as 600 men, women and children daily, five days a week throughout the year. The **Franciscan Center's** emergency food pantry provided more than 7,000 bags of groceries to needy families and individuals throughout 2012.

In addition to our food programs, the **Franciscan Center** offers a broad range of emergency assistance and supportive services designed to help our clients become self-sufficient, including financial assistance with energy bills, eviction prevention, medical prescriptions and transportation as well as help securing birth certificates and Maryland State identification cards, which is one of the greatest barriers keeping people homeless. In addition, our Technical Resource Center helps our clients gain basic computer skills, build resumes and apply for jobs and benefits.

Founded in 1968 as a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, the **Franciscan Center** was one of the first human services organizations in Baltimore. What began with the Sisters handing out sandwiches at the back door of the orphanage they operated in the Charles Village neighborhood has grown to serve every Baltimore zip code, offering a range of services that is unique in the City. In fact, the **Franciscan Center** is the #1 referred agency on the United Way's 211 emergency hotline.

A fact sheet is attached with information about the **Franciscan Center's** programs. For more information

about the *Fresh Harvest CSA Project* or other **Franciscan Center** programs, contact Meg Ducey by e-mail at: mducey@fcbmore.org, or by phone at: 410-467-5340 ext. 117 (office); 410-852-4540 (cell).

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