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For Immediate Release

Council on Aging names Catholic Charities Volunteer 2009 Outstanding Senior Citizen

CINCINNATI- Patricia Chaney, a volunteer in the Caregiver's Assistance Network (CAN), has been named the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award by the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA).

Chaney is the parish nurse at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Bridgetown. The 81 year-old volunteer received her award at the COA's Annual Dinner & Meeting held on March 17, 2009 at the Manor House Banquet & Conference Center in Mason, Ohio. The award is given annually by the COA to a senior citizen in the region for significant contributions made to the senior adults in the Greater Cincinnati community.

The Caregivers Assistance Network, or CAN, offers support and other resources for family and volunteer caregivers through support groups, education, and other related services. Chaney was nominated for the award by Rod Huber, Director of Family Services for Catholic Charities, Margaret Iannaci, Coordinator of the CAN program and Gene McClory, Assistant Coordinator for CAN. McClory won the very same award in 2008.

"During the past 10 years, Pat has been an inspiration to her community in a variety of ways," said Huber. "In addition to her recruiting retired nurses to volunteer their services to seniors and caregivers in her community, she has been personally involved in providing these services. Those who know her best emphasize the very generous spirit that characterizes her work and inspires her colleagues as well as those she serves."

Chaney has been a volunteer with the agency for 10 years, assisting caregivers with the challenges they face and also providing nursing services such as blood pressure screenings, assistance with medications and transportation for medical appointments to seniors in her westside community. A retired nurse with a background in nursing and education, Chaney was very humbled to receive such a prestigious honor.

"We at St. Aloysius Parish are grateful to Catholic Charities for giving us the opportunity to reach out to the elderly in our community through programs such as the Caregiver Assistance Network and the comprehensive services that the Council on Aging offers the elderly in our community," Chaney said.

For more information about the event, contact Chris Gramke, Director of Marketing and Development, at (513) 241-7745 (w), (513) 378-4747 (cell) or via email at cgramke@catholiccharitiesswo.org.