



## NEWS RELEASE

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Western Pennsylvania Region

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### **“HEARTS AND HANDS GALA” TO BENEFIT CHANGE A HEART: FRANCISCAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Pittsburgh, PA, August 30, 2010 – Samplings of savory foods from local restaurants paired with complimentary wines served by celebrity guests will be the venue **Saturday, November 6 at Scotus Hall on the campus of the Sisters of St. Francis, 146 Hawthorne Road in Millvale, during the Hearts and Hands Gala to benefit the Change a Heart: Franciscan Volunteer Program.** The event begins at **6 p.m.** and will also feature a **silent auction, and chances to win prizes from the lock-box.**

Celebrity wine servers include Gene Collier of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Demetrius Ivory of WTAE-TV, Doug Oster of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and KDKA and Scott Stiller of WTAE-TV. Tickets are \$40 per person in advance, or \$45 at the door and may be purchased by calling **412.821.0861, or sending an e-mail to [volunteers@sosf.org](mailto:volunteers@sosf.org).** The event is open to adults who are 21 years of age or older.

The Change a Heart: Franciscan Volunteer Program was created by the Sisters of St. Francis in 1999 to mentor young adults into leadership roles, and to challenge them to support the efforts of low-income persons to gain social and economic empowerment. The program seeks to recruit, train and empower young adult program members who commit to “a year of service” through the shared core values of community, simple lifestyle, spirituality and service to others.

Each program member completes more than 1,700 hours of service working directly with the poor and/or disadvantaged of all ages, including, but not limited to, homeless individuals, at risk youth, struggling families, drug/alcohol addicted individuals, mentally ill individuals, low income individuals, and individuals in need of medical care.

Since its inception in 1999, 47 program participants have entered the Change a Heart: Franciscan Volunteer Program, ministering to the needs of more than 29,800 poor individuals in three different cities and at 23 different social service agencies. This year, five program participants are serving in Pittsburgh.

Proceeds from this event make it possible for increased services to the poor as more young adults are empowered to work to alleviate suffering and eliminate the root causes of poverty. For more information, visit: [www.changeaheartvolunteers.org](http://www.changeaheartvolunteers.org).