



MEDIA RELEASE

1654 WEST ONONDAGA STREET ♦ SYRACUSE, NY 13204 ♦
www.ccoc.us

Date: December 25, 2009

For Immediate Use

Contact: Nancy B. Eron

Phone: (315) 362-7527

Fax: (315) 424-8274

Email: neron@ccoc.us

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County Receives Grant from Universal American

*Monies Will Be Used to Identify and Educate Seniors Who
Qualify for Assistance with Medicare Costs*

SYRACUSE, NY– Catholic Charities of Onondaga County (CCOC) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$40,000 grant from Universal American and its family of companies offering Medicare Advantage health plans and Medicare prescription drug plans. Universal American’s *Collaborating for Good Health* Giving Back Program will allow CCOC to expand its Elderly Services Programs, which provide a continuum of comprehensive services that help older individuals remain safe and independent in the community.

“We are delighted that Universal American has selected our organization for this generous grant,” said Michael Melara, executive director of Catholic Charities of Onondaga County. “We recognize that the health and well-being of our low-income seniors is dependent upon support from generous community partners like Universal American.”

The grant from Universal American will fund an initiative which will identify people in Onondaga County who are eligible for Medicare Savings Programs and the Low Income Subsidy (“Extra Help”) and assist them with the application process. CCOC will partner with churches and congregations as well as with subsidized senior housing to identify people who may qualify. CCOC Elderly Services currently works with more than 3,000 older adults every year. This grant will ensure that 750 older Onondaga County residents will get the assistance they need to apply for programs that will save money with their Medicare costs.

According to Mary Lee Campbell-Wisley, vice president and general manager of New York for Universal American, “Our Healthy CollaborationSM model demonstrates our approach to health care and that the key to a healthy community is through the support of programs that assist underserved populations such as low-income people with Medicare. It is an honor to support organizations like Catholic Charities of Onondaga County that share this same commitment to embracing older adults.”

Universal American, through its family of healthcare companies, is focused on providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare for people with Medicare. Universal American's plans are based on A Healthy CollaborationSM, which is a dedication to working collaboratively with its members and their healthcare professionals in order to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

About Catholic Charities of Onondaga

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County is one of the area's leading not-for-profit human service agencies providing compassionate care and advocacy for all people in need, regardless of faith or ethnicity. Incorporated in 1923, Catholic Charities today improves the lives of more than 30,000 individuals in Onondaga County each year. Programs and services focus on children and families, at-risk youth, people who are older as well as disadvantaged, addicted and/or developmentally disabled individuals. One of the top 50 employers in Syracuse, Catholic Charities has more than 300 dedicated employees, who are supported by scores of volunteers.

www.ccoc.us

About Universal American

Universal American, through its family of healthcare companies, offers benefit plans designed to promote collaboration among our members and their healthcare professionals. This Healthy CollaborationSM improves the health and well being of more than two million people with Medicare every day. For more information on Universal American and its Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans, which include: Today's Options[®] PPO and PFFS. Community CCRxSM PDP and PrescribaRxSM PDP, offered in the Syracuse area, visit www.UniversalAmerican.com.

About Universal American's *Collaborating for Good Health Giving Back Program*

Through its Giving Back Campaign, Universal American supports local organizations that are dedicated to helping older adults and people with Medicare maximize access to services and increase their quality of life.