**Broadway House Volunteer Group Wins State Award**

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 (Newark NJ) “Jane and Friends,” a Westfield NJ-based volunteer group from Faith Lutheran Church, have been selected as the **Volunteer Group of the Year by the Health Care Association of New Jersey** (HCANJ), the state chapter of the national American Health Care Association. The award was announced and presented at HCANJ’s annual conference in Atlantic City.

Founded and led by Pastor Jane McCready, “Jane and Friends” are an asset to the specialized care program for people living with HIV/AIDS at Broadway House for Continuing Care. Broadway House is the only facility providing this type of care in NJ. The group helps residents reach their potential by providing them with spiritual support in a fun and dynamic way.

For over a decade, “Jane and Friends” has contributed many hours of volunteer services, finding creative ways to engage residents in socialization and in activities that provide purpose and meaning to their lives. As parishioners of Faith Lutheran Church, they take a spiritual approach in engaging residents without promoting Christianity, but rather, the value of life. The special projects they introduce during their visits include crafts, painting, seasonal activities or providing lessons with messages of hope and encouragement.

“Broadway House residents welcome the warm embraces of “Jane and Friends,” said President/CEO James Gonzalez, MPH, FACHE, LNHA. “The group makes our residents feel loved and appreciated, meaningful and needed especially those who have been alienated by their families for a variety of reasons. Due to the group’s encouragement and determination, there has been increased participation in worship and activities with a brighter outlook in living with HIV/AIDS.”

Jane and Friends members include: Pastor Jane McCready, Carol Suiter, Pastor Mac MacPherson, Carol MacPherson, Larry Holt, Karin Miller, Ed Johnson and Nancy Coleman. They all reside in the Westfield area.

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