

## **Leading Massachusetts' Senior Care and Wellness Community Joins Carmelite System**

*New member D'Youville Life & Wellness Community will be sponsored by The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, continuing a proud legacy of compassionate senior care in Lowell, MA*

Germantown, NY – The Carmelite System announced today that D'Youville Life & Wellness Community of Lowell, MA has become a member of the Catholic not-for-profit health network. As a member of the Carmelite System, D'Youville will continue to advance its mission of compassionate senior care while maintaining a strong local presence in Massachusetts.

D'Youville, which is a recognized leader in the field of senior care and state-of-the-art adult rehabilitation services, also will be sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

The Carmelite System-D'Youville agreement will enhance local coordination and collaboration in Greater Lowell, while ensuring ongoing response to community needs. Through the transition of sponsorship, D'Youville will move forward in maintaining a strong local identity in Lowell based on principles established and nurtured since the organization was founded in 1960 while keeping with the Carmelite Sisters' mission of Catholic elder care to seniors.

As a member of Carmelite System, D'Youville President and CEO Naomi Prendergast will retain her leadership role. D'Youville will also retain its existing level of services to residents and tenants, the organization's local governing board and its commitment to provide the highest standard of professional and compassionate care. The agreement follows a request by D'Youville's founder and Catholic current sponsor, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, that the community form a new association with another Catholic elder care entity because the Sisters were experiencing a decline of numbers over time.

"The Carmelite System's focus on close collaboration with our members like D'Youville Life & Wellness Community plays a central role in fostering our mission while continuously seeking to strengthen catholic sponsored senior care, and we are delighted to welcome the them into our organization," said Paul N. MacGiffert, CPA, President and CEO of the Carmelite System. "By aligning these ministries under the common sponsorship of the Carmelite Sisters, the shared organization can leverage their unique strengths to respond to the emerging needs of seniors in a time of increasing societal needs and transformation."

"The vision of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa has created a continuum of care which meets the varied needs of the elderly," said Mother Mark Louis Randall, O.

Carm., Prioress General of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. "A deep sense of spirit and vitality can be felt across the D'Youville campus, where residents are welcomed and loved and where the local community becomes family. The Carmelite Sisters are pleased to extend our presence into Lowell while providing dignified, compassionate and respectful care for residents that honors their individuality and the sanctity of their lives."

"The transition of sponsorship will bring about new and promising opportunities to enhance D'Youville's future level of services," said Naomi Prendergast, President and CEO of D'Youville Life & Wellness Community. "The Carmelite System is committed to supporting and advancing our future strategic initiatives, and our employees will have every opportunity to continue to make meaningful contributions in support of D'Youville's mission – if not more."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to become a member of the Carmelite System, which will ensure that D'Youville continues to provide exceptional elder care across our living environments and state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility," said Jerry Frechette, Chairman of D'Youville's Board of Directors. "With this transition of sponsorship, D'Youville Life & Wellness Community will remain fully aligned with a Catholic senior care organization capable of advancing our mission in Lowell while retaining our core identity and culture."

Notices about the transition of sponsorship will be filed with the Catholic Church and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification (DHCFLC). A three- to six-month approval process is anticipated.

### ***About D'Youville Life & Wellness Community***

D'Youville Life & Wellness Community is an integral part of the physical, cultural and health care landscape of Greater Lowell. established in 1960 by the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, D'Youville provides area seniors with a superior continuum of care/ Located on a 75 acre campus in the Pawtucketville section of Lowell, Massachusetts, D'Youville offers a full range of elder care housing and health care, including short-stay rehabilitation and transitional care; specialized long-term nursing care; Alzheimer's and other dementia-related care; Traditional assisted living and memory care assisted living; and a HUD 202 affordable housing community for independent living. Led by a team of dedicated professionals who share the vision of compassionate care instilled by the organization's founder and original sponsor, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, D'Youville cares for Greater Lowell's aging population with respect, dignity and compassion.

### ***About The Carmelite System***

The Carmelite System, a Catholic not-for-profit health system sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, consists of senior care facilities that provide services to the aged and infirm. The Carmelite System, headquartered in Germantown, New York, focuses on system-wide coordination and collaboration to foster mission, enhance quality and attain operational efficiencies. Services such as mission effectiveness, quality improvement, financial and business services, group purchasing, management of information services, strategic planning, public policy, and education are provided. Member facilities located in Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Dublin, Ireland provide senior care services, including skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living and post-acute care.

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