



## HomeCare lauds doc for making house calls

God bless **Donald Rumbaugh!**

People throughout North Jersey say he's "a blessing."

Not only because of his expertise in medicine, but because he practices old-fashioned kindness.

What makes the physician different from most of his medical colleagues?

He makes house calls.

Not only by car, but also by bike.

When the Passaic River floods, the dedicated doc can be seen toting his medical bag up or down stream in a fast moving kayak.

The youthful-looking doctor doesn't mind being called "old-fashioned."

He actually promotes it.

All of his business cards are printed with his home and office phone numbers and the slogan "Bringing back the good 'ol days of healthcaring."

Suburbanites aren't the only people who have benefited from his medical care. (see page 2)

The family physician has treat-



**Rosalie Longo**

provements in the child's condition and development are evident."

The boy's grandmother says she cannot thank White enough for her concern and compassion.

"Joanne is great and she doesn't miss a thing," she says. "She comes through in snow, rain and every kind of weather to help us. She's a blessing."

Associated with HomeCare Options since 1996, White worked as a volunteer office worker before becoming a home health aide.

The agency also presented Abe S. Berliner Awards to **the Rev. Michael Burke** and **Zoe Diaz** of Catholic Family and Community Services in Paterson for making a substantial contribution to the quality of life of those in need in Passaic County.

Burke serves as director of special programs and Diaz tackles duties as citizenship clerk. Both have helped HomeCare Options' aides overcome the complex hurdles to becoming a U.S. citizen.

"Through the work of Father Burke and Zoe Diaz, 13 of our people have been able to reap the benefits of citizenship," Wessel says. "Catholic Charities does the



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Special to the Herald News

Dr. Donald Rumbaugh, whose house-call practice has grown to nearly 250 patients, mostly seniors, in the past two years, usually rides his bike to patients nearby. At top, he says goodbye to patient Stefonya Kwasniewska, 80, after a house call.

can help out more in the organization's Legal Services Department.

The family physician is treated needy and homeless people in Passaic County while serving as chairman of the board of TEAM (Teams for Evangelism and Medicine) Health Care Ministries and founding medical director and pastor of a homeless shelter.

The physician has also reached out to people in developing countries.

While serving as a member of Teams for Medical Missions, he has traveled to Honduras, Ecuador, Peru and Jamaica to treat those lacking access to medical care.

Rumbaugh's work has not gone unnoticed.

HomeCare Options, a non-profit home health care agency based in Paterson, recently presented him with its Caring Award.

According to **Ken Wessel**, executive director of the organization, the award is presented to an individual who has selflessly and compassionately given of himself or herself to improve the lives of others in Passaic County.



**Joann White**

to saluting Rumbaugh, HomeCare Options paid tribute to **Joanne White**, certified home health aide with the agency.

Because she has made such a dynamic impact on clients and health care, the Paterson mother of two was named HomeCare Options' Homemaker of the Year.

"Joanne has showed great perseverance and compassion over the years, and is often asked to work on the most difficult cases," Wessel says. "She exemplifies the very best qualities one expects of a home health aide — patience, caring, love and dedication."

White's supervisor, **Marge Pacheco**, echoes his sentiments.

According to Pacheco, White has been a godsend to a young blind and developmentally delayed boy who lives with his grandmother and other family members in a cramped Paterson apartment.

"Although the family is very loving and caring, they are unable to provide the special care this child needs," she explains. "Joanne has been able to provide that 'something extra' which has enabled the child to grow and reach certain milestones, such as walking. Each year, small im-

benefits of citizenship," Wessel says. "Catholic Charities does the legal work at no cost and HomeCare Options pays the processing fee."

Recipient of a law degree from Seton Hall University, Burke has served as a priest in the Paterson Diocese since 1976.

In 2003, then-**Bishop Frank J. Rodimer** elevated him from advocate to judge in The Tribunal.

Diaz, a former Cliftonite, has worked for Catholic Family and Community Services five years.

The Paterson mother of two is currently working to become an accredited representative so she

zation's Legal Services Department.

**Kimberly Navarro**, 19, of Clifton, was named winner of the agency's Miriam A. Forbes Scholarship, which is given each year to a child or grandchild of an employee.

The William Paterson University student, daughter of veteran home health aide **Gloria Navarro**, plans to pursue a career in nursing. She will receive \$2,500 toward her education.

"Kimberly is a well-deserving recipient," Wessel says. "We are pleased too recognize her for her record of outstanding academic achievement."



Photos special to the Herald News

Rumbaugh, who practices in Pequannock, accepts a Caring Award from Meredith Olarte, director of communications for HomeCare Options in Paterson, for outstanding contributions to health care.

Below, Ken Wessel, second from right, executive director of HomeCare Options, poses with area residents who received awards for their outstanding contributions to health. From left, Rumbaugh; Zoe Diaz of Paterson and the Rev. Michael Burke, representatives of Catholic Family and Community Services in Paterson; and Kimberly Navarro of Clifton, winner of a Miriam A. Forbes Award.

