



Mobile Unit Brings Health Care to Homeless Families in Albany



The mobile health unit provides medical care to homeless families in Albany. Photo: Kathleen Lamanna/The Evangelist.

A new partnership between St. Catherine's Center for Children in Albany and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center is bringing health care right where it's most needed, using a kind of doctor's office on wheels.

The health center's mobile health unit is now parking on the third Tuesday of each month outside Albany's Marillac Center, an emergency shelter specifically for homeless families that is the only shelter of its kind in Albany County.

The Marillac Center serves 400-500 people every year, housing up to two dozen families

at a time. Families dealing with homelessness usually don't have the ability to get established with a doctor.

The new, two-year partnership is "getting people to think more about prevention," said Louisa Marra, director of homeless services for St. Catherine's Center. "One of the things we know about when people become homeless [is that] there is a disconnect with health care."

Excerpted with permission from The Evangelist, newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, NY. To read more, visit www.evangelist.org.

