



Immediate Release
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK ENGEL CENTER HONORS JOHN "JACK" FLANNERY

June 5, 2009, Cranford, NJ- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, Engel Center Adult Day Care of Cranford, NJ honored Jack Flannery on June 2, 2009 with a dedication ceremony of a plaque in memory of his generosity of spirit. The family of Jack Flannery and the Catholic Charities' Staff attended the unveiling of the plaque. Dr. Phillip Frese, President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, LaGretta Stephens, Program Director of the Engel Center and others spoke at the dedication about the giving heart and kind spirit of Jack Flannery. Reverend James Tortora, Ph.D., Chaplain of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark gave the benediction and the blessing.

John J. Flannery also known as Jack died on June 25, 2008. He was a native of Elizabeth, NJ and lived in Fanwood for 34 years before moving to Warren in 1988. Jack with his wife, Mary, helped with their financial support and time to open the Engel Center 27 years ago. Jack served on the Board of Trustees for Catholic Community Services and supported and encouraged many other endeavors of the Archdiocese of Newark. He was knighted three times by the Catholic Church.

The Center started when Mary Flannery approached Catholic Charities for the care of her parents, Frank and Anna Engel, who did not need nursing care but basically some supervision and stimulation during the day. No such services existed at the time in Eastern Union County, and there were only 20 social senior day care centers in the country. With the collaboration of Jack and Mary Flannery, Catholic Charities, and the Union County Division on Aging, a program was opened called the "Older American Kinship Center (OAK)" later renamed in honor of the Engel family. After the death of Jack and Mary's parents, the Flannerys continued to support the "Engel Center" helping other families. The Flannerys provided financial support to the Center for 15 years. Since those early days in 1982, Engel Center has served 7,020 clients over 210,600 days of care. The Center offers innovative programs in its bright facility and its friendly staff. We continue to maintain and uphold the Engel family's wish to serve the older adult community in a professional home away from home.

Mr. Flannery is survived by his wife, Mary Engel Flannery of 63 years and seven daughters, Barbara Perchaluk, Marita Delmonico, Gail Bronski, Pamela Wentzheimer, Jacqueline Sullivan, Kathleen Schwarz and Beth K. Flannery. The family had requested that memorial donations be made to Catholic Charities for the benefit of Engel Center. The Flannery family still donates their time to the Engel Center and encourages others to give. We continue to receive donations in honor of Jack Flannery. Catholic Charities and the Engel Center are forever grateful for the kindness of Jack Flannery and his loving family.

Catholic Charities is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit social service Agency of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's oldest and largest social service agencies, Catholic Charities aids approximately 69,000 individuals and families each year to gain assistance and a greater sense of self-worth and dignity. Our mission is pursued through a network of caring, effective, and well-managed social service programs within the four counties served by the Archdiocese: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union. Catholic Charities focuses on strengthening and preserving family life while restoring the dignity of each individual. Catholic Charities is a Ministry of the Church, a real expression of the Church's commitment to ease suffering, bring social justice and hope to all, without regard to religion, race, or culture.

For more information about the Engel Center of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark please visit us at 505 South Avenue East Cranford, New Jersey 07016 or call 908-497-3945 or visit the website at www.ccannj.org.



Left to Right (Hazel Garlic, Allen Daul, Mary Engel Flannery, Dr. Phillip Frese, Rev. James Tortora, Ph.D.)