

TO

## The Franciscan Center

No matter how prosperous a community, how strong its schools, how vibrant its culture, and how advanced its institutions and services, somehow there will be those who are marginalized and in need. For these individuals, organizations like Baltimore's Franciscan Center are an invaluable lifeline—assurance that help and hope endure.

Founded in 1968 by the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore, an order that had been feeding the city's hungry since the 1890s, the Franciscan Center began as a place where the needy could obtain food and services. In the nearly 40 years since, the sisters have continued to expand the Franciscan Center's services in advancement of its mission: to assist the disadvantaged "in realizing their self-worth and dignity as people of God."

Today, the Franciscan Center operates a wide variety of programs designed to provide immediate relief and ongoing support to the homeless, to families who have lost their means of support, to those facing illness, and to those suffering from mental illness and addiction.

The Franciscan Center, a longtime partner of Loyola's Center for Community Service and Justice, is also developing programs designed to combat the circumstances that lead its clients to require assistance in the first place. Building on a network of other area organizations

providing adult education, job training and job placement, the Franciscan Center's Technology Resource Center will offer clients free Internet access as well as assistance with social skills, life skills, financial literacy and resume building.

For its compassionate support of thousands of men, women and children facing hunger and homelessness; for its tireless efforts to help its clients find and take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives; and for its determination to constantly assist others by recognizing their dignity as human beings, Loyola College in Maryland is proud to honor the Franciscan Center with The Milch Award.

*For nearly 40 years, the Franciscan Center has provided support and outreach services to disadvantaged people throughout the Baltimore area. Its programs include emergency assistance for eviction prevention, prescription co-pays, medical supplies, transportation and other needs; a food pantry serving more than 700 people each month; HIV/AIDS outreach; a weekday lunch program; and emergency clothing and personal hygiene items for men in need. A Loyola College in Maryland service-learning partner, the Franciscan Center also offers Loyola students opportunities to work in all areas of the Center, from packing and distributing emergency food bags to meeting with clients to assess their needs.*