

Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans

The Daughters of Charity tradition of service dates to the early 1800s with its sponsorship of Charity Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital. Through the years, the Daughters of Charity also sponsored social services, education, and religious programs in New Orleans. After the Hotel Dieu was transferred to the state of Louisiana, the organization reexamined its mission.

In 1997, the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO) was incorporated with the mission of improving access to primary preventive health care services for low income and uninsured persons. DCSNO is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church and a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic health system.

DCSNO and its community partners have served the poor of New Orleans through the Daughters of Charity Health Center at Carrollton, Health Professions Education Partnership, Neighborhood Health Partnership, Marillac Center for Community Health, and the Seton Resource Center for Child Development. Before the hurricane, DCSNO provided health services in 20 schools, five shelters for homeless persons, and 11 neighborhood centers. In 2005, 124 medical, pharmacy, nursing, social work, exercise physiology and other health-science students were trained at DCSNO sites.

Many of DCSNO's clinical sites, including the Daughters of Charity Health Center at Carrollton, suffered significant flood damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Clinical services have been relocated to the Jefferson Parish Health Unit in Metairie, but DCSNO intends to move the operations back to the Carrollton neighborhood. DCSNO recently partnered with Catholic Charities and fellow non-profit health organization EXCELth Inc., to open a health clinic at St. Cecilia's, a renovated and deconsecrated church in the Bywater.

Through the St. Cecilia Health Center, DCSNO offers pharmacy, podiatry, dentistry, optometry, obstetrics and behavioral health care services to the hard-hit 9th Ward and Bywater areas. St. Cecilia's is also home to PACE, an Adult Day Health Care program with a "safe and welcoming environment" for impaired or disabled adults.