

Run for Gold

Marathoner raises \$26,000 for Incarnation Children's Center

By VINCENT F. IUSUE

Residents at Incarnation Children's Center (ICC) in Washington Heights, a non-profit organization that cares for children with AIDS or who are HIV positive, were jumping around as if it were Christmas morning. That's because the center received an early present this year.

New York City Marathon runner, Michael P. Davidson, a commercial property manager at Hines Interests Limited Partnership in Manhattan, was honored at the center Dec. 3 for \$26,000 he raised in the annual race a month ago. The first-time marathoner posted a time of 4:25:22.

When he arrived, he was greeted by the children who were holding paper torches and performing the song from the Oscar-winning movie "Chariots of Fire." Sister Bridget Kiniry, O.P., director of the Friends of ICC, which raises funds for the center, said she thought of the "Chariots of Fire" theme to go along with the way Davidson raised the money. The center also held a luncheon in his honor.

Sister Bridget said that she thought it was important to bring Davidson to the kids, so he could see how his donation will benefit.

"It is something that will always be with him," she said.

Davidson told CNY that the idea to raise money for a charity came to him when he



Maria R. Bastone

WARM MOMENT—Michael P. Davidson gets a hug from two young residents and their furry friend at Incarnation Children's Center.

sprained his left knee while training for the race and went to physical therapy.

"I looked around me and thought, 'Wow, I don't have it that bad. People have it a lot worse than me and I want to help them,'" he said.

He told CNY that he researched and interviewed some 20 charities before he decided on the center.

"It was a humble facility," he said. "It was small enough that my contribution could make an impact there."

Sister Bridget said the

funds would be used to continue to develop the center's programs.

Davidson, a 1994 graduate of Fordham University in the Bronx, sent out 150 letters and contribution forms to "everyone I knew" and received some 90 sponsors totaling \$26,000. He said he received tremendous help from his office staffers, Fran Fasano and Linda Califano at Hines.

Donations ranged from \$5 to \$5,500 from the Torch Foundation, a group of real

estate professionals—of which he is a member—that raised money for children in need.

Davidson, who was born and reared in St. Anne's parish in Nyack, did his training on the weekends, running from 10 to 20 miles near his Bay Ridge home in Brooklyn. During the week, he would run for 6 miles in Central Park after work. He only began running in March.

"The most difficult part was persisting with the training," he said.