

# BUILDING A DREAM

Assisting the homeless is an honor for Jean Francois Roy.

BY ZACHARY JORDANIA

**A**ltruistic developer Jean Francois Roy addressed an audience at the Broward Outreach Center recently, saying he wanted to share his success with the homeless families served by centers in Hollywood and Pompano Beach. "It's an honor and numbing moment when you're recognized for caring about the community," Roy said while accepting the Dream Builders award for his cash donation. "The Broward Outreach Center, through its lifesaving services to homeless men, women and children, is worthy of your support — and mine."

The Broward Outreach Center provides assistance — including housing, food and referrals to the homeless — at three facilities in Broward County. The first two facilities are the 90-bed Broward Outreach Center and the 50-bed Broward Outreach Center for Women and Children. There's also the 200-bed Broward Outreach Center Pompano Beach.

For over 10 years, Roy has worked in our area with his company, Ocean Land Investments (OLI). OLI has developed more than 2,000 residential units in South Florida, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in sales from its headquarters in Boca Raton.

As the name implies, OLI specializes in oceanfront land, a commodity as pricey as it is scarce. Founded in 1995 by Canadian natives Jean Francois Roy and Pierre Martin, OLI is one of South Florida's leading investment and development groups purchasing oceanfront property along the east coast of Florida.

Since inception, the firm has established multiple partnerships with investors and developers nationally and internationally. Among his many successful projects are Aquazul, located in Lauderdale-By-the-Sea; Hollywood's oceanfront Holiday Inn; Ramada on the Ocean in Pompano Beach; and other oceanfront properties from Singer Island to Fort Lauderdale.

Roy's favorite project to date, however, is the Residences at Mercy Hospital, in Miami. Once a parking lot, this 6.6-acre oceanfront property is adjacent to Mercy Hospital and was

originally appraised at \$7.7 million and zoned at \$27 million. Roy made an offer of \$96 million, thereby contributing a considerable sum that will greatly benefit the hospital. The Related Group of Florida is developing the property, which will be designed by Arquitectonica in a unique partnership that will provide the hospital funds needed for expansion.

Mercy Hospital, a recipient of the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™, as well as the J.D. Power and Associates award for Distinguished Hospital for Service Excellence in 2003 and 2004, is a comprehensive medical center. Part of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest healthcare systems, Mercy is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The 483-bed hospital currently has more than 900 physicians on staff representing 28 medical specialties. Its Centers of Excellence include The Heart Center, the Miami Cancer Center and The Orthopaedic Institute.

The patient care projects Mercy will develop in the next five years include an emergency department (ED) expansion. This will nearly triple the size of the current ED, while upgrading all patient care units with new technology and clinical programs. "I believe that a guy who dies rich really dies poor. Therefore, in everything that we do, a good portion goes to charity," Roy said. "In this case, this money will be used as a life-saving source for Mercy."

Roy has walked his talk. Besides Mercy Hospital and the Broward Outreach Center, he has also lent his aid and expertise to the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood's education programs, and the Marti Huizenga Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood. **VIP**

*Ocean Land Investments is headquartered at One South Ocean Boulevard, Suite 204, in Boca Raton. For more information, call 561-416-2099. Mercy Hospital is located at 3663 S. Miami Avenue, Miami. The Broward Outreach Center and Broward Outreach Center for Women and Children are found at 2056 Scott Street in Hollywood. The Broward Outreach Center Pompano Beach is located at 1700 Blount Road.*

