

NYCPM Serves Homeless Residents in Transitional Housing

One year ago, relates **Anthony R. Iorio, DPM, MPH**, NYCPM was approached by Dr. Mitch Rubin, medical consultant to the Center for the Homeless, to provide podiatric services to the residents of CFH's transitional supportive housing. CFH is one of several organizations funded to serve underserved and uninsured homeless populations. The residents receive complete medical workups from psychiatry to podiatry according to Dr. Iorio. We work with Regina Olsin, MD, who is the medical director for both shelters. The residents are hit harder by diabetes than the general population; a lot of the patients don't even know they have diabetes or are newly diagnosed.

Since CFH works with the Health & Hospitals Corporation (HHC), NYCPM can continue to see the patients at our hospitals or at FCNY and the patients can receive the ongoing care they need. (The residents' stay in the shelters is temporary.) "We treat and educate," says Dr. Iorio, "we're healers in more ways than one." We work at Franklin House in the Bronx, a 200-bed shelter for women, and at the men's shelter on Ward's Island. Dr. Iorio oversees the work of alumni Stephanie Maurais, DPM in the women's shelter and Karim Badawy, DPM in the men's shelter. Two students are also assigned; Dr. Iorio says that "working at the shelters helps the students understand how health disparities within a community need to be addressed."