



UNITED METHODIST HOMES

Seasons

A NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS OF UNITED METHODIST HOMES

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It Takes a Village to Run an Organization Staff in behind-the-scenes roles crucial

*W*e've all wondered – from time to time and in various contexts – if we're relevant. *How is my job important? All I do is (fill in the blank).*

However, the old saying about it taking all kinds of people to make the world go 'round really is true. What if everyone wanted to be a mailman or a surgeon or a teacher? Who would do the other jobs? We're all uniquely suited to something, and we all fill important roles, even though it may not always feel that way.

Health care – whether a primary care office, a hospital or a nursing home – has a wide array of staff in front-line roles, interacting with patients or residents, family members, visitors and others. But an equal number of staff work entirely behind the scenes, in some cases never directly interacting with patients or residents, but crucial to their care all the same. Affirmed United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick, "Every job is relevant. The work each staff member does reaches our residents, even if it's in an indirect way."

Most residents and their loved ones are familiar with the roles played by activities staff, chaplains, the dietary department, drivers, human resources, nursing staff, social workers, therapists and wellness employees. But what about the staff most people don't see? What do they do? *Seasons* took a trip behind the scenes to find out.

Who: Accounting and Finance Staff

What they do: Accounting and finance staff manage the organization's banking, from deposits to paying bills to ensuring that the Homes' bond rating remains high. They also make sure that donations are applied as specified by donors, manage personal accounts for residents who have requested this service, and track the depreciation of existing capital assets and the requisition of new.

How it impacts resident care: Accounting and finance staff ensure vendors are paid to make certain that necessary services such as heat, food and medical supplies are available for our residents.

Who: Administrative Staff

What they do: Administrators are responsible for the overall day-to-day administrative management and operation of each campus. This includes approving the admission of new residents; overseeing staff, financial matters and medical care and supplies; responding to resident and family questions or concerns; ensuring that policies and procedures are reviewed and updated; preparing an annual budget; and participating in strategic planning to determine future services and programs.

How it impacts resident care: By keeping each campus in good running order, administrators ensure that residents live in the safest and most positive environments possible.

Who: Clerical Staff

What they do: Clerical staff carry out a wide range of tasks, including typing, filing, sorting and distributing mail, preparing mailings, ordering supplies, making copies, taking meeting minutes, processing bills and more.

How it impacts resident care: Clerical staff provide crucial support to a wide range of other staff, keeping necessary paperwork processed and organized, all of which keeps campuses running smoothly.

Who: Courier

What they do: The Homes has one courier who manages intercampus mail runs in Broome County and also makes a daily bank trip to deposit checks and cash. When necessary, she will also meet a staff member from one of the Pennsylvania campuses at a halfway point (usually the Harford, PA, exit) with payroll checks.

Administrative Editorial

Keith D. Chadwick, President & CEO



Change is an inevitability. From the day we are born, we each begin to grow and change in a process that continues

throughout our lives. And as we experience personal changes – physically, mentally, emotionally, educationally, situationally – the world around us changes at the very same time: two separate yet co-existing crucibles, transforming simultaneously.

Change happens to an organization, too. An across-the-board change has been ongoing for a few years with the implementation of the COMET software,

which involves transitioning all of our resident record-keeping from paper to electronic. This has been a major shift, but with enthusiastic participation and leadership at all levels (from administration to super-users among direct-care staff), it has been – and will continue to be – successful.

There are many ways to face change, at work or in your personal life: Fear, enthusiasm, avoidance, practicality or bravado are just a few. For my part, and especially in my role as CEO of a thriving not-for-profit organization, I prefer to look at change as an opportunity for improvement. Whether we're talking about COMET, implementing new ideas for activities, welcoming new leaders or

“When you are through changing, you are through.”

~Bruce Barton

following new paths for the organization's strategic direction, there's always something each of us can do to make an existing process better or to innovate a new way of doing things.

People who acknowledge change, accept it, and incorporate it into their worldview are inherently successful. We are fortunate to have many such people on the United Methodist Homes team.

And as 2010 continues to unfold, I encourage everyone – residents, staff and family members – to think positively about change, embrace it, and make it your own opportunity.

Remember – although you cannot change the wind, you can adjust your sails.

Grand Care Says Goodbye to Director

Grand Care Children's Center kids and staff said goodbye to Director Charlene Harvilla when she retired on February 5. With the Homes since 2000, Harvilla has shepherded hundreds of children through their early years. Said Hilltop Campus Administrator Jerry Halbert, “Charlene has proven to be a true expert in the field of child care, and has demonstrated her commitment to the success of our Grand Care program. She has been a wonderful leader, a compassionate educator, and a true friend to staff, children and families alike. We will certainly miss her, and wish her well in her retirement.”

Harvilla had the opportunity to be involved in interviews and selection of her replacement. New director Pamela Guth (see staff announcement on page 3) came on board after New Year's, enabling a three-week overlap period during which Harvilla offered Guth orientation and advice, creating a smooth transition for children and staff. Harvilla's last big event at the Center was “Superbowl Thursday,” during which kids and teachers enjoyed football-themed snacks and lessons in advance of Superbowl Sunday. Many children and staff wore football jerseys.

Harvilla plans to travel extensively during her retirement, and will stay in touch with the Center through postcards and photos. Teachers and children in the preschool and pre-K classes will track her travels on U.S. and world maps, offering an opportunity for geography, reading and other related lessons.

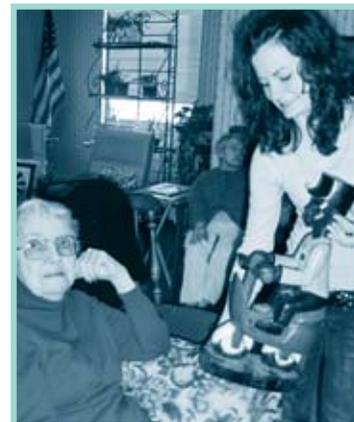
Harvilla's retirement was celebrated with a small (at her request) gathering after work on February 5. Thank you and bon voyage, Charlene!



Charlene Harvilla posed with members of the preschool and pre-K classes on her next-to-last day. Back row, left to right: Ashley Franta, Kendelle Carasea, Luke Hughston, Harvilla, Liam Hughston, Emma DeVita and Olivia Dellapenna. Front row, left to right: Keegan Lynch, Dominic Rose, Vanessa Payne and Takoda Sherman.

African Art Visits St. Louise

On February 4, St. Louise Manor residents welcomed Bundy Museum Director Michael Weinstein, who brought selections from the museum's African art collection, including bronze castings of animals, wooden and bronze masks, and a reproduction of the Picasso painting “Les Femmes d'Alger,” which features African masks as faces for some of the women. The Bundy Museum, located in Binghamton, houses one of the largest African art collections in the country, representing regions and people from the entire continent. Museum staffer Nicole Thomas (right) shows resident Gail Gilroy a sculpture representing a caricature of colonial Caucasians.



Staff Announcements



Pamela Guth

Pamela Guth has joined United Methodist Homes as the Director of the Grand Care Children's Center on the Hilltop Campus. She comes to the Homes from Broome-Tioga BOCES in Binghamton, where she was an adult education instructor in the Early Childhood Center for Excellence.

Guth earned her associate's degree in early childhood education from the State University of New York at Cobleskill, and her bachelor's degree in psychology/child life from Utica College in Utica, New York. She has 32 years' experience in early childhood and youth development, has previously taught early childhood education at the college level, and has presented on the state and national level on a variety of child development topics.

She is a member of several committees with the Broome County United Way, a former board member for the Binghamton Association for the Education of Young Children, and is involved in a wide variety of other early childhood education and youth-focused groups.

World Religions Lecture Series: Buddhism

As part of its world religions lecture series, St. Louise Manor hosted Buddhist nun Kelsang Lhadron on February 5. After commending the residents on their interest in other faiths and cultures, she gave a brief overview of the history of Buddhism (she is part of the New Kadampa Buddhist tradition, which was founded in the west by Geshe Kelsang Gyatso of Tibet). She then led a short, guided meditation session for the audience, centered around a calming technique called "black and white breathing," which asks participants to imagine breathing out their negativity as dark smoke and breathing in positive, healing energy as white light.

At the end of her presentation, audience members jumped at the chance to ask questions about the similarities between the teachings of Jesus and Buddha, the shape of a Buddhist nun's typical day, and how Buddhist monks and nuns simultaneously

live as ordained people while still maintaining jobs and other pursuits in the secular world. Lhadron (right) is shown chatting with St. Louise residents Gail Gilroy (left) and Catherine Haller (center) during the reception after her talk. Lhadron is based at the Kadampa Meditation Center in Glen Spey, New York, and teaches a weekly session on Buddhism and meditation at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Binghamton. For more information, visit www.kadampanewyork.org.



They've Got it All Sewn Up at St. Louise Manor

It was a first for St. Louise Manor's third annual quilt show – all the quilts on display in the main dining room were loaned by one person! Nancy Konta, daughter of St. Louise resident Janet Frey, loaned 10 quilts for the show, nine of which she created herself. One of the pieces was originally a small cross-stitched tablecloth made by Frey which Konta turned into a small quilt. Frey (left) and Konta (right) pose with the "Skyward Nines" quilt, a machine-pieced, hand-quilted nine-patch design in which the



squares appear to float upward. The quilts remain on display through the first week of March – visitors are welcome to stop by the dining room to check them out.

Staff Spotlight: Wesley Village Activity Staff Member Shines

Although she has been with the Homes for just a few months, Wesley Village Activity Aide Maryann Battista has proven to be a dynamo when it comes to planning new and different activities for residents.

At Christmastime, Battista planned a special card-making activity that enabled any resident or staff member to make and send a greeting to an active-duty servicemember. She regularly leads homemade candy- and cookie-making activities, and donates special bingo prizes, many of which she assembles herself. Said Wesley Village Activity Director Tami Chesniak, "Her Valentine bingo prizes were candy dishes and baskets filled with crossword puzzles, jewelry and candy!"

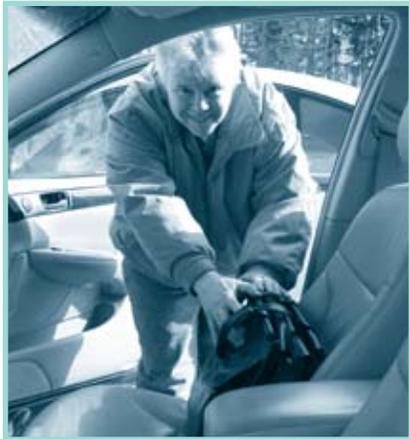
Adds Chesniak, "Although she has only been with us since the end of September, Maryann has touched the lives of so many residents and staff. She is so modest and never expects praise or anything in return. We truly appreciate having her on staff and are happy she works at Wesley Village!"



Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Antoinette Denisco (rear) looks on as Activity Aide Maryann Battista (center) works on a craft with resident Doris Mammarella.

It Takes a Village to Run an Organization *Continued from page 1*

How it impacts resident care: Timely transport of mail and bank paperwork means that each campus is able to pay bills and purchase the supplies necessary for resident care.



Courier Pat Harmalik loads up her car for her daily trip to the bank.

Who: Fundraising Staff

What they do: United Methodist Homes has one staff member who manages organizational fundraising. She works with donors to coordinate estate planning and promote deferred giving. In addition, she organizes the chaplains' appeal and the annual appeal, and tracks donations (memorial and otherwise) received throughout the year. She also seeks out opportunities to apply for grants.

How it impacts resident care: Each dollar received through fundraising assists the organization in carrying out its mission and ministry of providing quality programs and services residents.

Who: Informatics Staff

What they do: Clinical informatics staff provide systems analysis and ongoing support and training related to the electronic medical records and billing system known as COMET. They also research problems, plan solutions and assist in software development and implementation. A systems analyst works closely with the finance and accounting departments and functions as a liaison among users, the Information Technology department, software vendors and the clinical informaticists.

How it impacts resident care: The health information technology tools used by informatics staff ensure resident safety and improved quality of care by improving efficiency and accuracy and reducing errors.

Who: Information Technology Staff

What they do: Information technology staff are responsible for the organization's computer systems and communication lines (fiber optic and telephonic) that enable software applications throughout the corporation to function. Staff are based in the Corporate Office and travel to the campuses as needed to install, maintain and repair operating system software, hardware and communication lines, as well as hand-held devices, BlackBerries, time clocks and more.

How it impacts resident care: Information technology staff provide the tools that allow staff to provide exceptional resident care.



Network Administrator Sue Morrow (foreground) and Technical Support Specialist Louise Monico (rear) work on hardware and software issues.

Who: Maintenance Staff

What they do: Maintenance staff perform routine preventative maintenance and manage work-order requests to address emergent issues such as a leaking pipe or a broken vent. As new residents move in, maintenance staff prep rooms, suites and apartments with fresh paint, new appliances and new flooring. They are also responsible for landscaping and lawn mowing in the summer, leaf management in the fall and snow removal and salting in the winter. These staff also have the expertise to provide most skilled trade work on each campus, including electrical, plumbing and carpentry work.

How it impacts resident care: Effective management of each campus' physical plant ensures that residents remain comfortable on a day-to-day basis, and in case of an emergency such as a power outage.

Who: Marketing/Public Relations Staff

What they do: United Methodist Homes has one staff member who manages marketing and public relations. She writes, produces and manages distribution of *Seasons* each month. She also manages the external website, the organization's Facebook Page, creates collateral material such as brochures and annual reports, sends news releases to regional media and responds to media inquiries. She also works with the Homes' advertising agency to manage print and broadcast advertising.

How it impacts resident care: The newsletter, website, social media presence and advertising all impact public perception of the organization. When the time comes for an individual or a family to consider retirement needs or long-term care, the goal is for all those factors to place United Methodist Homes in a "top-of-mind" position.

Who: Payroll Staff

What they do: Payroll staff, some part of Human Resources and others involved in finance and accounting, ensure that employee work hours and time off are appropriately documented, and that taxes, retirement funds, health insurance and other benefits are deducted and accounted for. They ensure that funds are direct-deposited and that pay stubs and paychecks are delivered on pay days.

How it impacts resident care: Staff who are paid on time and paid correctly make for happy caregivers for residents.

Who: Purchasing Staff

What they do: Purchasing staff identify what items, both routine and special-order, are required for resident care and other uses on each campus. They search for the best pricing,



Systems Analyst Patty Juriga (left) and Clinical Informaticist Heather Morgan (right) confer on how best to solve a COMET problem.

quality, service and delivery through prudent purchasing practices, looking for savings opportunities, especially related to group purchasing.

How it impacts resident care: Purchasing staff ensure that the items needed as part of resident care, from food to medical supplies, are on hand when needed.

Who: Reception Staff

What they do: Reception staff answer the phone and greet people at the front desk at each facility.

How it impacts resident care: Reception staff are often the first Homes representative a visitor, family member or potential resident encounters. Their cheerful attitudes and helpfulness go a long way – as they say, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Who: Resident Accounts Staff

What they do: Resident accounts staff generate bills and receipts related to all levels of resident housing and care. Their focus is keeping accurate billing and collection records

for the Homes, helping residents and family members with billing questions, coordinating resident billing with insurance companies and reconciling Medicare/Medicaid accounts. They also carry out collection activities as needed.

How it impacts resident care: Processing bills enables receipt of funds to pay for ongoing care services.

Who: Residential Services

What they do: Residential services staff respond to inquiries from potential residents/resident family members about the services and levels of care provided at various United Methodist Homes facilities. They mail prospective residents printed materials, offer tours, process applications and attend public events to represent the Homes.

How it impacts resident care: Interacting with potential residents and families ensures that United Methodist Homes has adequate occupancy, which provides income for the organization and maintains the vibrant resident community for which the Homes is known.

Doris L. Patrick Campus Recognizes Employee of the Month



Dan Ohl, RN

Treatment and Assessment Nurse Dan Ohl, RN, was named February Employee of the Month on the Doris L. Patrick Campus. He has been with the Homes for almost a year.

According to his nominator, “Dan completes assessments for all newly-admitted residents and is a vital part of our skin team. He also distributes medication and fills in for the unit manager. He has done an excellent job in all roles he has been asked to fill, and has used each one as a learning opportunity. Dan is a valuable member of the Gilmour nursing team. The residents, especially the ladies, love him! He has a long and fulfilling career ahead of him as a nurse in long-term care.”

Congratulations, Dan!

Shorts

On February 15, Pittston Area High School students put on a Valentine’s Day Bingo Ball for residents of Anderson Personal Care Facility and Myers Manor on the Wesley Village Campus.

Congratulations to Lana Banner, RN, who has accepted the position as Unit 2 Manager at the James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home on the Hilltop Campus. She has been with the Homes for three years, most recently as a nursing supervisor in the nursing home.

Thank you to the Friends of United Methodist Homes of Pennsylvania for donating pizza for the Wesley Village Campus’ Lenten pizza social, and valentines for all Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility residents.

Elizabeth Church Campus Assistant Director of Nursing Donna Bendzel, RN, BSN, was recently promoted to Director of Nursing. She has been with United Methodist Homes for a year.

Staff on the Wesley Village Campus raised money for the Red Cross with

a Groundhog Day Dress-Down. By donating a dollar on February 1, staff could wear jeans and a bright shirt – hoping for spring! – for the day. The \$111 collected will benefit victims of the Haitian earthquake.

On February 6, the Hilltop Campus welcomed members of the Southern Tier Young Professionals for the annual Sweetheart Social. Members of the group led songs and games and brought Valentine treats for the residents.

Thank you to the Nanticoke Polka Friends for donating prizes for the Wesley Village Campus’ Valentine bingo event.

On February 11, residents and staff at St. Louise Manor hosted a bake sale and raffle to benefit an 11-year-old boy with a rare form of cancer.

Members of Wesley Village’s activity staff were presented with water bottles in honor of National Activity Professionals Week, which was celebrated January 17-22.

Eco Tip: Drive Less, Drive Smart, Share a Ride

- Gang your errands together into a single trip, and plan your drive in the most efficient order.
- Be sure your car is operating efficiently. Keeping your tires properly inflated can improve your gas mileage by more than 3 percent.
- When practical, walk or ride your bike for short trips. Both are great exercise, too!
- Carpool whenever possible. To find carpool matches in your area, visit www.erideshare.com. Other carpool sites are available by searching online.



This tip brought to you by the United Methodist Homes Green Team.

Nursing Staff Learn How to Fit Test

Nursing homes in New York State are required to have a respiratory protection plan in place to shield employees from infectious airborne diseases. To ensure that appropriately-fitting masks are worn for this purpose, several employees at each facility must learn how to perform respiratory mask fit testing.

In January, several members of United Methodist Homes' nursing staff learned how to fit test during an educational session at Good Shepherd Fairview Home in Binghamton. A representative from the Occupational Health Clinical Center in Syracuse trained more than 60 staff members from half a dozen long-term care facilities in the area.



Doris L. Patrick Campus Staff Development Coordinator Tabitha Turner, RN, under the testing hood during the fit test training session.

Fit testing, which refers to the size and shape of an appropriately-fitting mask, involves donning an N95 mask (the filtration-type mask that covers mouth and nose) and then exposing the wearer to sweet or bitter smells under a large hood. The wearer then talks, reads, exercises and performs other tasks. If at any time the wearer can detect the sweet or bitter smell being infused into the hood, then the mask is not the correct size or shape. Different masks are tried until the wearer passes the fit test.

Participating United Methodist Homes staff included Director of Quality Management and Clinical

Services Kate McHugh, RN, RAC-CT, and Purchasing Director Dianne Paige (Corporate Office), Director of Nursing Donna Bendzel, RN, and Evening Supervisor/Infection Control Nurse Monica Cej, RN (Elizabeth Church Manor Nursing Home), Infection Control Nurse/Continuous Quality Improvement Coordinator Ashley Bezek, RN; Staff Development/Employee Health Nurse Denise Johnson, RN; and Director of Nursing Tammy Patak, RN (James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home, Hilltop Campus), and Assistant Director of Nursing Joel Cummings, RN, and Staff Development Coordinator Tabitha Turner, RN (Pearl and Everett Gilmour Nursing Facility, Doris L. Patrick Campus).

The Family That Plays Together...

St. Louise Manor residents enjoyed a special concert on the afternoon of New Year's Eve. The grandchildren of resident Ralph Efthimiou performed a variety of classical music and Christmas carols, including the St. Louise resident harmonica choir in the show! Thank you to (standing, left to right) Erika Pinkerton, Nathaniel Efthimiou, Thomas Efthimiou (Ralph's brother), Rebekah Efthimiou, Esther Efthimiou and (seated left to right) Jacob Efthimiou, St. Louise Manor resident Ralph Efthimiou and Klara Pinkerton.



Tea Time at Tunkhannock



In celebration of National Activity Professionals Week, residents of the Tunkhannock Campus were treated to a tea party on January 12. Residents enjoyed a variety of hot flavored teas and homemade cookies that they baked themselves during a scheduled activity earlier in the day. Activity Director Terri Tyler displayed antique teapots from her personal collection, leading an educational discussion about the history of both tea and teapots. National Activity Professionals Week recognizes all activity professionals who provide services to adults in many settings, including retirement communities, nursing facilities, assisted-living facilities and senior centers. Shown at the event are (from left to right) resident Richard Kelly, Tyler, and residents Madaline Keeble, Fern Ball and Pauline Pherreigo.

Happy One-Hundred and First!

If a one-hundredth birthday is a big deal, 101 is better yet! Pearl and Everett Gilmour Health Care Facility resident Louise Hoegger celebrated her 101st birthday on February 3 with a special party planned by her nephews, her niece and their families. All Gilmour residents were invited to the event, featuring a huge birthday cake (which included the facility's other February birthday celebrants in the icing text), ice cream, happy birthday plates, and – of course – a tiara and wand for the birthday girl! Hoegger (right) is pictured at the party with fellow resident Nick D'Agostino, who celebrated his century-plus-one milestone on December 8, 2009.



Letters of Appreciation

To St. Louise Manor

Thank you to Karen Mayer in activities for organizing yesterday's luncheon outing. When we chatted last night, Dad was the most animated and lively he's been in a long time, and one of the major highlights was lunch out. I think it's felt like a long, cold winter since New Year's and he was thrilled to have been able to get out. We really appreciate all you do there!

To the Hilltop Campus from a resident

Thanks so much to Chris in the Activities Department for my door wreath – it just makes me so happy!

To the Tunkhannock Campus

The Manor Christmas party was, as always, delightful and very much appreciated by the residents and their families. You and your staff go "all out" every year to ensure that this holiday celebration is bright and cheerful for all of us.

To the Elizabeth Church Campus

Please accept this donation in memory of my sister. I am hoping it can be used for a bench and plants that would brighten the days of residents. Your garden was very special, as it provided a wonderful place for our family to visit with my sister. Having such a space embodies the thoughtful care you give to all your residents. Thank you.

To the Doris L. Patrick Campus

Thank you for the kindness and fine care you gave to our friend. Please accept this donation in her memory.

To the Wesley Village Campus

Thanks to Jo O'Mara. "Thanks" is just a small word but I hope it carries as large a meaning for you as it does for me. There are actually no words to convey my gratitude for your assistance in giving my mom the opportunity to get help so quickly. I know she'll get the best care possible at your facility. I'm looking forward to working with you and the staff as we determine Mom's future needs.

To the Hilltop Campus

I was about to fill out a nomination form for outstanding employees, but thought it couldn't adequately express all our feelings for the staff of the STAR Unit. My husband would like to thank them for the excellent care and treasured friendship they all shared with our uncle. Their love and patience made the last two years of his life the best they could be. We are so grateful for their professional and compassionate care. The staff of the STAR Unit is to be commended and applauded in every way. We are particularly grateful to Chuck for his personal interest and constant concern for our loved one and us. Roz saw us through treatment changes and more than one crisis. We also appreciate the compassionate support Audrey and Amber provided on the day of our uncle's passing. All the many nurses, aides and custodial staff are the most amazing team we could ever have been fortunate enough to have known. Our loved one was always in capable, caring hands. We were able to be more peaceful, knowing that he was among skilled and loving people in the STAR Unit. We are also grateful to Administrator Jerry Halbert for his kindness and reassurance. We ask God to continue to bless all of you in your work and your lives.

Become a fan on 

Hilltop Dining Room Redecorated

In January, the main dining room on the Hilltop Campus was redecorated. During the week the work took place, maintenance staff set up a temporary dining room in the Auditorium. Said Assistant Administrator Colleen Marascia, "We also took the opportunity to do a thorough, top-down cleaning while all the furniture was removed."

The major change in the redecorating was the switch from rectangular tables to round, as well as new chairs. Said Marascia, "The round tables really enable more conversation – residents are able to interact with everyone at their table, not just those sitting right next to them."

Resident response has been positive, and the Resident Council commended the maintenance staff for their efficient work and temporary dining room set-up.

To the Hilltop Campus from the Resident Council

Thank you to the maintenance department. Those of us who have our meals served in the main dining room would like to thank you for the great job you did in making the changes that have taken place! It was an enormous job! We can't imagine how it was all done so efficiently, and the final result is beautiful. We appreciate the hours of planning and hard work that were necessary, including the temporary set-up in the auditorium. You can be proud of the final result. Again, a big thank you from all of us who are enjoying it!



The new chairs and new round tables in the main Hilltop dining room.

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Visit our Facebook Page for updates, event info and photos. Go to www.facebook.com and search for United Methodist Homes.

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“SOMEWHERE, OVER THE RAINBOW...”

In the late fall, Fayetteville, NY, drama coach David Vaughn approached St. Louise Manor Activity Director Karen Mayer about staging a dramatic reading with residents. Vaughn, who has experience working with seniors and special-needs children, proposed “The Wizard of Oz.” He came in twice a month for three months to rehearse with the group, bringing extra microphones and speakers so all participants had access to microphones when reading. On January 19, the cast gave its hour-long dramatic reading in front of an audience of fellow residents, guests and staff. Said Mayer, “David is very enthusiastic and goes the extra mile. He involved everyone

who wanted to participate, and was respectful of everyone’s abilities. He has a great sense of humor and made this such a fun experience that everyone wants to do it again!” Shown after their performance are



(standing, left to right) Art Dewing, Gail Gilroy, Arlene Elliot, Irene Matson, Marge Kozik, (seated, left to right) Gussie DeBuzna, David Vaughn, Ruth O’Donnell, Ralph Efthimiou and Joan Bomboy. Absent from photo: Tracy Gage and Jean Worhach.

Tiny Touchdowns at Grand Care

On February 4, kids in all classes at Grand Care Children’s Center on the Hilltop Campus enjoyed “Superbowl Thursday” with football-themed snacks (root beer, and pretzels with cheese) and lessons in advance



of Superbowl Sunday. Many children and staff wore football jerseys, and children in the older



classes had the option to wear eye-black for the day. The preschool class perfected their linebacker growls and touchdown symbols as well! Even the infant room got in on the action, with an “astroturf” playmat brought in for the event. Shown with their starter footballs are nine-month-old Lydia Coppola (left) and 11-month-old Carson Durkot (right).