



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

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short-term rehabilitation*

**United Methodist Homes Named  
Top Health Care Fundraising Team  
at Southern Tier Memory Walk 2010**

The United Methodist Homes Memory Walk team was once again the top fundraising team in the health care category at the Southern Tier Memory Walk!

The annual walk took place in Binghamton's Otsiningo Park on September 19. Staff and residents from United Methodist Homes' New York campuses raised funds for the event throughout the year, raising a total of \$13,133.

Said United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick, "I'm pleased that even in this tough economic climate, our team members were able to raise such a substantial amount to help the Alzheimer's Association fulfill its mission of service and research. Our staff members see firsthand how devastating Alzheimer's disease and dementia is for residents and their families, and anything we can do to further research for a cure is important to all of us."

Each campus approached fundraising in its own way: Staff at the Doris L. Patrick Campus put on a yard sale, a silent auction, a bake sale and a raffle to raise funds. The Elizabeth Church Campus hosted its annual yard sale, several fish fry events, basket raffles and more. The Hilltop Campus raised money through a spaghetti dinner and a combination yard sale/basket raffle/chicken barbecue. The "Our Mothers and Grandmothers" Team, made up of United Methodist Homes resident family members and friends, also asked to have its \$3,925 fundraising total credited to the United Methodist Homes' team.

Special thanks to Hilltop Campus Activity Director Faye Clark, who took on the role

of United Methodist Homes team captain mid-year, and to finance champion Betsy Kosick, Director of Revenue Receipts and Trust Accounting. Thanks also to campus captains, including Director of Activities and Volunteers Danielle Giordano and Receptionist Robin

*Continued on page 4*



President and CEO Keith Chadwick (far left) and Central New York Chapter Alzheimer's Association CEO Cathy James (far right) cut the ribbon with Hilltop residents Dorothy Niggli (center left) and Judy Casiuk (center right).



Hilltop Administrator Jerry Halbert (right) and Tom Metzgar getting ready to walk!

## EDITORIAL Reverend Janet Abel Elizabeth Church Campus Chaplain



As a chaplain for United Methodist Homes since 2003, I believe that campus chaplains are a large part of what makes United

Methodist Homes such a unique and special place to live. In conjunction with clinical and activity staff, pastoral care staff members complete the triad of nurturing the whole person – body, mind *and* spirit.

*What is spiritual care?* I define it as anything that feeds the spirit, which often extends beyond religious worship or study activities. Residents have a wide variety of opportunities to interact with each other and with staff, including worship services, Bible study, Rosary circles and prayer groups, as well as activities such as book clubs, baking and cooking, trips, lectures and more.

*What is pastoral care?* Pastoral care includes worship services for residents of various faiths, conducting holiday and memorial services, and performing weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Chaplains attend community events and make hospital visits. We're especially privileged to be able to interact with residents on a one-to-one basis, offering comfort and counseling as needed. Chaplains are also part of the palliative care team, which steps in when a resident reaches the end of his or her life and requests no further curative interventions. In this capacity, we visit the resident and family regularly and provide support to both groups. After the resident passes away, the chaplain follows up with family members for a year to help them as they move through the process of grieving.

So what does pastoral care have to do with you? This is the time of year when we ask for donations to the chaplains' appeal, which supplements the small budgets campus chaplains work with annually. Your contributions enable us to purchase hymnals, Bibles, and provide other items and services critical to residents' spiritual well-being. Donations to this fund help us to continue caring for the spirit, reminding residents that we are all connected, that every one of us has meaning and value, and that we are loved and cared for. This is a wonderful ministry and it is my privilege to serve.

*To make a donation to the Chaplains' Appeal, call Development Director Bonnie Slocum at (607) 774-6400, ext. 281.*

### Around *The* Block

A series featuring our amazing residents

The "Around the Block" series profiles United Methodist Homes residents, who explain what their lives have been like, what their big adventures have been, how they've made a difference, and how they want to be remembered.

#### **Marianne Lissman Wallenberg** **St. Louise Manor, Elizabeth Church Campus**

Marianne Lissman Wallenberg received her first violin as a ninth birthday present, unaware that the instrument would largely come to define her life. She describes her initial reaction to the gift as "neither thrilled nor disappointed," and in fact had to wait six months after receiving it to begin lessons – she was too small to hold it properly! But just six years later, she had decided she wanted music to be her life's pursuit.

After completing high school, Marianne stayed in her home city of Munich, Germany, to study at the conservatory, graduating in 1933, about a month after Hitler came to power. At this time, she went to Paris to study violin at the Ecole Normale. When she returned to Munich she found that being Jewish, her membership in the musicians' union had been revoked, leaving her unable to work in her profession. She went to Italy as an au pair for a summer, and afterward settled in Milan. In 1938, Italy expelled all immigrant Jews, so she joined the rest of her family in London to wait for an immigration visa to the U.S. (Her entire family had left Germany by 1938, narrowly escaping the fate of the six million European Jews who died in concentration camps and ghettos.) She was unable to work as a musician in England, since the country granted no work permits to immigrant musicians in order to preserve jobs for British talent.

Marianne received her US visa in 1940 and sailed alone to New York, where she gave violin lessons and played pickup jobs to support herself. A year later, she gained membership in a musicians' union in New York City, which enabled her to work regularly. In 1942, she was one of

three women signed to play in a USO show, which toured Army and Navy camps on the east coast for nine months. In 1944, while playing in a string quartet in New York, she met cellist/conductor/engineer and fellow German expatriate Fritz Wallenberg, who would become her husband in 1947. "Our instruments went with us on our honeymoon to Connecticut, having their own honeymoon in the trunk," she says.

The couple moved to Binghamton the same year for Fritz's job with ANSCO. She explains that at this time, chamber music was practically unknown in Binghamton. Together with another couple, they formed the Wallenberg Quartet, giving three concerts per season for six years.



Marianne Wallenberg with her violin, c. 1930s.

## Staff Announcements



### Jennifer Balchikonis

Jennifer Balchikonis has accepted the position of Resident Financial

Services Director for United Methodist Homes. She joined the Homes in May as the Resident Accounts Specialist for the Elizabeth Church Campus.

Balchikonis earned her associate's degree in business administration from Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY. She comes to the Homes with several years of leadership experience. She has worked in the health care field for 12 years.



### Georgiana Johnson

Georgiana Johnson has joined the Wesley Village Campus as the Director

of Admissions. She comes to United Methodist Homes from Golden LivingCenters – East Mountain in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where she was the admissions coordinator.

Johnson attended Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, is currently completing coursework at the McCann School of Business and Technology in Dickson City, PA, with anticipated graduation in 2012. She has worked in the health care field for 15 years in a variety of long-term care and acute care settings.

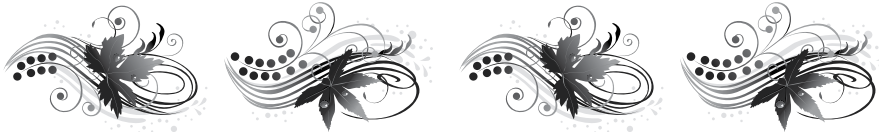


### Shana Tesluk

Shana Tesluk has accepted the position of Resident Accounts Specialist for the Elizabeth Church Campus. In her new role, she will manage the resident accounts receivable process for this campus,

including creating and mailing bills, submitting and resubmitting claims as necessary, reviewing and researching outstanding balances, processing refunds, assisting residents with the Medicaid application and recertification process and more. Tesluk has been with the Homes since 2007 as the Administrative Assistant on the Tunkhannock Campus.

Tesluk graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA, and also earned her associate's degree in fine arts from Keystone College in LaPlume, PA. Prior to her association with the Homes, she held positions with Geisinger Medical Group and Tyler Memorial Hospital, both in Tunkhannock, PA, and Marywood University in Scranton. She has had a varied career with experience in accounting, not-for-profit fund development, public relations and health care front office.



## CNAs Honored at Annual Luncheon

When Sharon Carlo asked, "Who opens the window?" nearly every hand in the room went up.

Carlo was the featured speaker at the fourth annual certified nursing assistants recognition luncheon, held at the Binghamton Regency Hotel on September 29. The focus of her remarks was the importance of the critical daily needs that certified nursing assistants (CNAs) meet for residents, as well as the special tasks they perform, such as opening the window to release the soul after someone's death. With a background in long-term care nursing and her current focus as the owner of The Reds Group, a consulting firm specializing in long-term care quality, survey management, clinical documentation and more, Carlo is uniquely positioned to reinforce the special value of the work CNAs carry out daily.

CNAs help residents with activities of daily living, including bathing, dressing, toileting, grooming and walking, all under nursing supervision. More than 75 CNAs from 18 nursing facilities in Broome, Chenango, Cortland and Tioga Counties were recognized by the Long Term Care Administrators of the Southern Tier, a professional organization that provides a forum for administrators to discuss issues facing long-term care, share survey and best practices information and more.

Each honoree received a personalized certificate and an etched glass plaque inscribed with the words "Presented in recognition of your exceptional commitment and dedication to our residents."

Congratulations to the following United Methodist Homes CNAs who were honored at the event: Jamie Anderson, Nicole Fellrath, Kellie Hall and Candy Kouse (Pearl and Everett Gilmour Health Care Facility on the Doris L. Patrick Campus in Norwich), Claire Borgella, Faith Brown, Andrea Butler, and Tammy Donholt (Elizabeth Church Manor Nursing Home on the Elizabeth Church Campus in Binghamton), Deyo Clark, Carla Husband, Kim Phebe, Renee Stanton and Clarrissa Terrell (James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home on the Hilltop Campus in Johnson City).

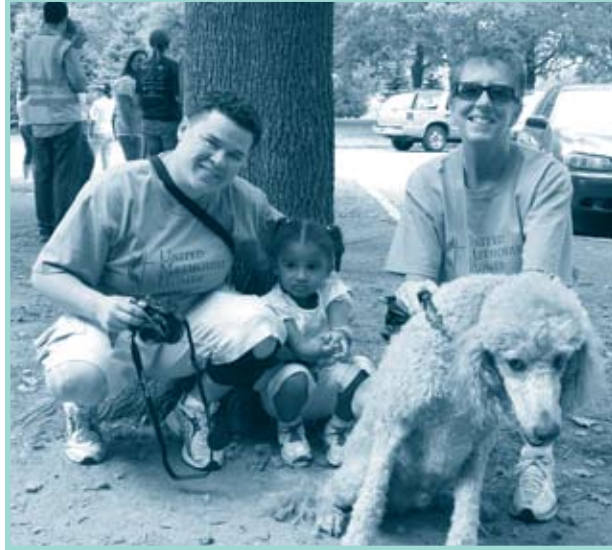


Elizabeth Church Manor CNA Claire Borgella was interviewed by FOX 40 News' Steven Perlin.

## Southern Tier Memory Walk *Continued from page 1*

McCarthy (Doris L. Patrick Campus), Activity Leader Ellie Johnson and Administrative Assistant Rosemarie VanKuren (Elizabeth Church Campus) and Broome County Independent Living Admissions Coordinator Teresa Felter and Broome County Adult Care and Assisted Living Admissions Coordinator Sharon Hauver (Hilltop Campus) for their hard work organizing activities and fundraising events.

For more information about how you can contribute to the 2011 Walk to End Alzheimer's (Memory Walk's new name) fundraising efforts in New York and Pennsylvania, stay tuned for details on each campus and to future issues of *Seasons*!



*Elizabeth Church Campus Assistant Director of Nursing Denise Johnson, RN, her daughter Alyse, Hilltop Campus Assistant Administrator Jackie Otremba, BS, RN, WCC, RAC-CT, and Farley the standard poodle paused for a photo before the walk.*

## Upstate Senior Living Leaders Meet

United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick hosted a Summit On Solutions (SOS) for upstate New York senior living leaders on September 27. Leaders from more than a dozen organizations locally and from points east (Albany), west (Rochester) and north (Syracuse) gathered at the Highlands Clubhouse on the Hilltop Campus to identify best practices for addressing the mutual concerns of upstate senior living not-for-profits, as well as opportunities for collaboration, resource-sharing and more.

Said Chadwick, "Senior living organizations in New York operate in a particularly challenging regulatory and financial climate. Although our membership associations provide seminars and conferences addressing these issues, I thought it would be beneficial to have a smaller venue to visit these topics in an in-depth manner. All of us are making critical decisions about the future of our organizations, and it's helpful to know we're not alone as we do so."

Dan Heim, Interim President and CEO of the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHS) began the day with a presentation on the organization's Vision 2020 initiative, which is establishing goals for the future of senior living in New York State. The rest of the day-long retreat focused on participants – each with a dedicated laptop computer – responding to questions about issues affecting the long-term care field. The session was guided by Collaborative Strategies, Inc. owner Mick Blasik and Dr. Teri Goodall-Komar, President of Teri Goodall & Associates, LLC, who used electronic polling software to pose questions and enable each participant to answer and comment on other answers as well.

*Weinberg Campus President and Chief Executive Officer David Dunkelmann (left) speaks with NYAHS Interim President and CEO Dan Heim (right) during a break.*



## Around the Block

*Continued from page 2*

"In addition to teaching, the greatest fulfillment in my musical life was with this group," she says. In 1955, the Wallenbergs co-founded what would become the Binghamton Symphony Orchestra, now known as the Binghamton Philharmonic, with Fritz as conductor and Marianne as the assistant concertmaster for the first 22 years. Fritz died in 2001 at age 100.

The Wallenbergs have two children, daughter Katherine, a psychotherapist in New York, and son Jim, a professional violinist with the Toronto Symphony. He and his wife Jacqueline presented Marianne with her first grandchildren when she was 94 -- twins, a boy and a girl. They are now two and a half, and Marianne jokes, "I've never seen them walk anywhere – they are always running!" She hopes they will carry on the family's musical tradition and play instruments someday.

Although Marianne no longer plays, her musical legacy lives on in her some 200 students, many of whom still play or teach and have learned to appreciate classical music. "Knowing this pleases me very much and makes me think that it was all worthwhile," she said.

To learn more, read Marianne Wallenberg's 2000 memoir, titled *Rewinding the Tape*. Although no longer in print, a few copies are available from the author. The book may also be borrowed from the Broome County Public Library.

*To make a suggestion for the Around the Block series, contact Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288. Residents are welcome to suggest themselves!*

## Doris L. Patrick Campus Employee of the Month



Gary Wannamaker,  
MSW

Social Services Director Gary Wannamaker, MSW, has been named the Doris L. Patrick Campus Employee of the Month for October. According to his nominator, Wannamaker is deserving of the honor for handling

all social services functions while Social Worker Liza Newman, BSW, has been on leave. "He has been doing an excellent job with a positive attitude," said his nominator.

Wannamaker has been with the Homes for two years. Congratulations, Gary!

## One Hundred and Counting!



On September 24, Wesley Village residents and staff gathered to honor the six individuals in residence who have celebrated or will celebrate a one-hundredth or more birthday in

2010. Congratulations and happy birthday to (from left) Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility residents Catherine Koslick, 102; Marian Morgan, 100; and E.R. Rogers, 100; Myers Manor resident Margaret Karassik, 100; and Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Caroline Mazon, 100. (Absent from photo: Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Frances Malyndziak, 101.)

## Shorts

On September 15, Director of Planned Giving Bonnie Slocum and Director of Marketing and Public Relations Sarah Soden both attended a half-day seminar at the Broome County Public Library in Binghamton, NY, on the use of social media in the not-for-profit sector.

Tunkhannock Activity Director Terri Tyler attended the Pennsylvania Activity Professionals Association's conference in State College, PA, October 19 and 20.

The St. Louise Manor Resident Council raised \$130 through a bake sale and pizza sale and donated the funds to Catholic Charities.

## An Exceptional Experience With Wesley Village Rehabilitation

When Brooks Estates resident Ruth Gardner needed rehabilitation after breaking her hip in a fall in May, there was no question in her mind where she would go for her care. "I live on the Wesley Village Campus, so I wanted to have my short-term rehabilitation at Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility," she said. Gardner was a short-term rehabilitation resident from May 18 through July 31, and explained that she couldn't have had better treatment anywhere. "I can't say enough about it – the therapists were just wonderful. They always explained why we were doing the exercises we were doing, and what effect it would have – if something was going to hurt, they knew, and they would tell you in advance!" she said.

She highlighted the high staff-to-resident ratio in the rehabilitation program as a big factor in her decision: "With one therapist to just two residents, we got such personal attention. At some places, you have one therapist working with half a dozen people, and you do a lot of sitting and waiting, which I didn't want to do."

Gardner also had high praise for the nursing staff and other Wesley employees she encountered during her stay. "I had a wound when I was admitted, and the nursing staff immediately provided the care needed to heal me quickly. The nurse aides treated me like family throughout my stay. I couldn't have had better care," she said.

Said Gardner's son Gary, who is the Director of Finance for United Methodist Homes, "Although I'm an employee, the staff didn't know that for most of the time they were caring for my mom, so it's not like she got special treatment because of me – she got it because they treat everyone that way. I was very moved when I went to pick her up on her discharge day – staff who weren't even on duty came to say goodbye, and were clearly emotional about it. It's a real testament to the outstanding care we offer."

For more information about short-term rehabilitation at United Methodist Homes, visit [www.unitedmethodisthomes.org](http://www.unitedmethodisthomes.org) and click on Special Services.

## To benefit the Alzheimer's Association

# The Pampered Chef® Bingo

2:30 PM, Sunday, November 7

Town of Chenango Building,  
1250 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY

Cost is \$25, which includes 20 games and entrance in a 50/50 raffle. Over \$1,000 in Pampered Chef prizes will be awarded! Light refreshments will be available.

Tickets are available in advance at the Elizabeth Church Campus or at the door.

For more information call  
(607) 722-3463, ext. 230 or 233.

## What's With All the Questions?

If you're a resident family member or a resident and it seems as though suddenly you are or your loved one is being asked much more frequently for opinions about care and treatment, it's not your imagination. *Seasons* caught up with Kate McHugh, RN, RAC-CT, United Methodist Homes' Director of Quality Management and Clinical Services, to find out about the increase.

### Why all the questions?

There are three primary reasons residents are being asked more questions – implementation of the MDS 3.0 on October 1, introduction of the state and federal Quality Indicator Survey, and the addition of Abaqis (pronounced “abacus”). MDS 3.0, the documentation required by the federal government for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, is based largely on resident self-report as opposed to the staff observation used in previous assessments. The Quality Indicator Survey (which is being implemented nationally by state groupings) will become a key factor in federal long-term care surveyors' facility reviews. And Abaqis has been implemented by the Homes as a quarterly in-house quality assurance tool that drives the quality assurance program by asking residents questions about their preferences, the facility and the care they receive. All three of these require asking residents more questions.

### What was wrong with the old system?

Older means of assessment relied heavily on staff observation, rather than asking residents what they preferred and what was important to them. Having those receiving the care making determinations about their needs and expressing their feelings about care quality makes a lot of sense.

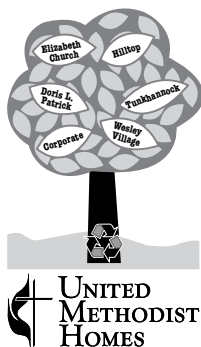
### What if my loved one is confused and can't answer the questions?

Studies have shown that more residents are able to be interviewed than we might think. For example, even most residents who have problems with memory and decision-making are capable of expressing their activity preferences and whether or not they have pain.

## Eco Tip: Buy Used

If you need something, think about whether you must buy it new or if something used will work just as well. If so, cruise garage sales, online sale sites, or swap items with friends. You're keeping the used item you buy out of the waste stream and saving money and packaging associated with something new.

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



## The Big 100!



St. Louise Manor resident Vera Pierson celebrated her 100th birthday on September 13. Fellow residents and staff had to wait to celebrate with her – on September

12, her church threw a card shower. On her actual birthday, friend Gail Kennedy picked Pierson up in a limousine to take her out to a lobster lunch in style! The following weekend, Pierson's family gathered from all over the country to celebrate at St. Louise Manor. Pierson is shown receiving a birthday hug from St. Louise Licensed Agency Director Malene Fralick, RN, during the party St. Louise residents and staff hosted on September 14.

## Six-Day Short-Term Rehab Available

The short-term rehabilitation programs at the Elizabeth Church, Hilltop and Wesley Village Campuses are now offering six-day rehabilitation services. Rehabilitation staff are on-site Monday through Saturday, providing Saturday services to residents for whom a sixth day of therapy is appropriate related to treatment goals, medical condition and ability to participate.

Short-term rehabilitation is a specialized therapy program for individuals who need help recovering after surgery or illness such as a stroke, heart attack or pneumonia. Individualized therapy plans are tailored to participants' needs, designed to help them achieve the highest level of functional ability in order to promote a safe and independent return home or to a lower level of care. Therapy staff offer physical, occupational and speech therapy services.

Depending on the participant's goals, the program of physical and occupational therapy may include assisted walking, riding an exercise bike, walking on a treadmill, use of free weights or machine weights, games and tasks to refine small motor skills and a wide variety of other services. Needed speech and swallowing therapy is delivered by a licensed speech-language pathologist. No matter what services are required, they are provided at need- and ability-appropriate levels. Careful coordination with social services and nursing staff, along with a pre-discharge home visit and consultation with family members and primary care providers, ensures that participants are adequately prepared for their return home or to a lower level of care.

For more information about short-term rehabilitation, visit United Methodist Homes' website at [www.unitedmethodisthomes.org](http://www.unitedmethodisthomes.org) or call each campus directly (phone numbers on front cover).

## Letters of Appreciation

### To the Tunkhannock Campus

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the outstanding care my mother and father received at Tunkhannock Manor. Many of the people who provided services for them have become like family to us and we greatly appreciate the time and love they put into their care. They were the special friends my parents interacted with consistently and who became a second family for them. Their love for my parents was so obvious and special. My mom continues to pray for them daily, thanking God for the role they played in her life. I would like to specifically thank Sheila, who was like a daughter to them and who woke them in the morning with more love than one can imagine. I would like to say a great thank you to Janice because we all believe my mom is alive today because of Janice's diligence and care for my mother's pain. The young folks like Becky and Ashley treated them like their own grandparents and my parents knew they were loved. Jane's love for my parents was so obviously linked with her faith. Pastor Lori became such a support to my parents and my siblings – we will forever be grateful for her contribution to their care. Our family learned that when folks perform their responsibilities linked with their faith, they reach out further and deeper than one could think possible. We feel as if we are part of the United Methodist Homes family.

### To the Wesley Village Campus

Thank you all for your kindness and love to my sister. Your facility is top quality and you've all been so friendly!

### To the Hilltop Campus

Thank you to the staff of James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home Unit 2. Our thanks seems so small compared to all you've done for our father, but it comes from our hearts.

### To the Tunkhannock Campus

Thank you all so much for the wonderful care you all gave to my mom during her short stay. It was truly a pleasure meeting you all.

### To the Doris L. Patrick Campus

The Gilmour facility is impressive in every aspect. You should all be proud. Thank you to all involved in my rehab.

### To the Wesley Village Campus

I consider it a miracle that my mother was accepted at Wesley Village on such short notice. I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am for the tender loving care she received during the last weeks of her life. The nurses, therapists and all staff were wonderful.

## Hotel Discounts!

Residents, resident family members and staff can receive special hotel rates at the following locations...mention United Methodist Homes when making reservations or at check-in:

- Best Western, Johnson City, (607) 729-9194, \$79
- Hampton Inn, Johnson City, (607) 729-9125, \$129 (May 1 - Oct. 31) and \$119 (Nov 1- April 30)
- LaQuinta, Johnson City, (607) 770-9333, \$84

## The St. Louise Players Present...

On September 14, members of the St. Louise Players presented *Flywheel*, *Shyster*, and *Flywheel: The Kidnapping*, a *Marx Brothers* comedy. This is the second dramatic reading that Fayetteville, NY, drama coach David Vaughn has directed for the St. Louise Players. The program, which features the misadventures of a small law firm, was originally broadcast by radio in the early 1930s. Modeling their Groucho glasses are (back row, left to right) residents Art Dewing, Pauline Major and Margaret Wagner, director David Vaughn, residents Tracy Gage, Gail Gilroy; (front row, left to right) Joan Bomboy, Gussie DeBuzna and Ralph Efthimiou.



## Wesley Village Car Show

Wesley Village hosted its 13th annual car show on September 12. Despite on and off rain, four members of the Wyoming Area High School Key Club arrived to volunteer, helping staff get residents out to



see the cars. Key Club members Josh Granteed and Rachael Stark assisted residents Bob and Betty Davis around to vote for their favorite cars. The event raised \$2,900 for the Friends of the United Methodist Homes of Pennsylvania; the group uses the funds for various projects that benefit residents at the Tunkhannock and Wesley Village Campuses.

is published monthly for the staff, residents, family members, friends and campus neighbors of United Methodist Homes. Please direct all inquiries about *Seasons* to Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 10 Acre Place, Binghamton, NY 13904. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please call Sarah at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288. If you are receiving duplicate copies of the newsletter, please let us know so we can amend the mailing list.

Visit our website at [www.unitedmethodisthomes.org](http://www.unitedmethodisthomes.org) to view contact information for each campus, as well as monthly activity calendars, news releases, or to view back issues of the newsletter electronically.

Visit our Facebook Page for updates, event info and photos. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for United Methodist Homes.

**Corporate Office**

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## Iron Chef: Secret Ingredient *Pumpkin!*

On October 7, three teams participated in the Hilltop Campus' very own Iron Chef competition. Pumpkin was revealed as the secret ingredient just 24 hours before, requiring some fast kitchen brainstorming. On cookoff day, the teams had just one hour to create a main dish and a dessert, each showcasing the secret ingredient. Teams cooked in three locations – the main kitchen, the wellness kitchen and the Hilltop Auditorium, where spectators gathered to watch, sample and cheer on their favorite dishes. In-house judges included Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator Vicky Benarick, President and CEO Keith Chadwick, Human Resources Director Joe LaCaprara, James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home Director of Nursing Tami Patak, RN, and Wellness Director Vinni Wingell. Dietary Director Ed Glavich's team placed first with pumpkin ravioli and sauteed pork and a pumpkin mousse served in tortilla shells. Hilltop resident Dorothy Niggli, Activity Leader Christa McEwan and Glavich are pictured celebrating their team's win (team member Jack Bates, Risk Manager, is not pictured)! Thanks to the members of the other two teams, including Golden Oldies Café Coordinator Vicki Considine and her team members Skilled Maintenance Technician Brian Percival, Housekeeper Maggie Singer-O'Dell and Hilltop resident Gail Ness, and Administrator Jerry Halbert and his team members Activity Leader Adrienne Bateman, Hilltop resident Anna Hrywnak and Assistant Administrator Jackie Otreмба, BS, RN, WCC, RAC-CT. Way to cook, everyone!

