

Seasons

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

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United Methodist Homes Launches New Website

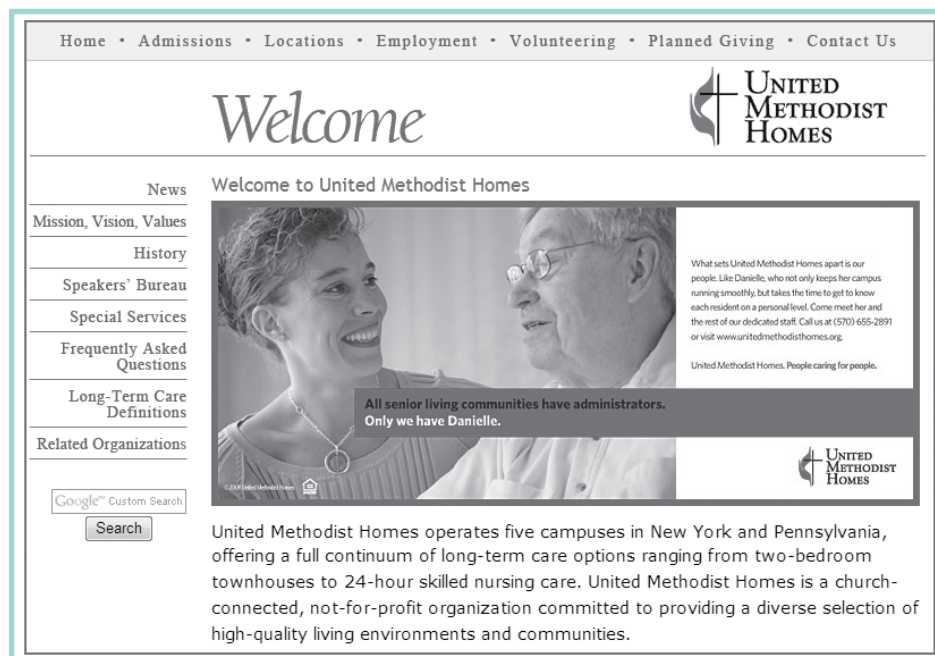
United Methodist Homes is pleased to announce the launch of its newly-redesigned website. Now available at www.unitedmethodisthomes.org, the site has undergone a wide array of changes and now offers new features for users. The site was designed and is hosted by CYBERCity in Binghamton, NY.

Said United Methodist Homes Marketing and Public Relations Director Sarah Soden, "Our goal is for the new site to be helpful to people who are visiting it for a variety of reasons – searching for retirement living options for themselves, researching long-term care for a loved one, looking for a new job, or just checking out our site to learn more about our organization. Site content writing has been in process for more than six months, and I'd like to thank the many Homes staff members who were involved in text development."

The following gives an overview of the new site's highlights:

- A new URL – the new URL, www.unitedmethodisthomes.org, is more intuitive and easier to remember.
- A new look – the site coordinates with the look of United Methodist Homes' new advertising campaign, with the current print advertisements rotating on the main page.
- HTML programming – the old website was rendered in a program called Flash, which did not allow users to copy and paste information such as addresses or phone numbers, and was difficult to edit when changes to the site were required. In addition, web users without Flash-capable browsers were unable to view the site. The new site is

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A screen shot of the main page of the redesigned website.

Administrative Editorial

Keith D. Chadwick, President & CEO



At various points in an American lifetime, discussions about change are perfectly acceptable. We talk openly

about the transition from high school to college, college to work, apartment to house, and job to job. But as a culture, we do a poor job discussing the transitions related to aging. For many families, this results in anguished decisions made after a critical, unexpected event such as a stroke or the death of one spouse in an elderly couple.

Every day at senior care communities across the country – and United Methodist Homes facilities are no exception – families are confronted with these uncomfortable and sometimes

guilt-ridden decisions about transitioning a loved one into a senior community or nursing home when staying at home is often no longer a safe, affordable or viable option. The majority of families we serve later say that the move was the right choice, enabling their loved one to receive high-quality care from a dedicated, compassionate staff. For many families, the transition would be easier if multiple scenarios had been discussed in advance by all involved – the elderly person, his or her family members, and representatives of potential senior living communities.

Everyone has a desire to stay home, where they are comfortable and most familiar, which is certainly understandable. But as needs and circumstances change, senior living communities like the United Methodist Homes can be a great choice.

Continuing care retirement communities offer a full range of options, from independent living to skilled nursing, enabling a resident to age in a familiar environment, with minimal disruption.

My own parents live at Brooks Estates on United Methodist Homes' Wesley Village Campus, and regularly state that they should have moved there sooner. They have developed wonderful friendships with other residents and regularly take advantage of the on-site café and other campus amenities. If you, too, have family or friends who are aging, talk with them about their current living arrangements and help them explore options for the future. Life is comprised of a series of changes, and discussing them in advance can be enlightening, reassuring and productive for everyone involved.

August Employees of the Month Recognized Doris L. Patrick and Elizabeth Church Campuses Honor Staff



Rosalind Ryan

Health Information Manager Rosalind Ryan has been named the Doris L. Patrick Campus' August Employee of the Month. According to Director of Nursing Sonja Puffer, RN,

"Roz is a wealth of information. She not only orders supplies and equipment, she makes suggestions for improvements in resident care. She is always cost-conscious, and is a great example of a team player." Ryan has worked for the Homes for six years.



Ellie Johnson

Elizabeth Church Manor Activity Leader Ellie Johnson has been named the Elizabeth Church Campus' August Employee of the Month. Johnson has worked for United Methodist

Homes for four years, and has been recognized consistently through the Shining Star program. Some of her most recent nominations included comments such as: "Ellie has been making an obvious effort to engage my mother, a new resident, in church services and other activities. She obviously takes her role and service seriously," "I always knew my aunt was well cared for, but the special attention Ellie showed made me confident that she was loved as well," and "Ellie is a wonderful co-worker – I couldn't do my job without her. She is a breath of fresh air every day for this facility." Johnson was also noted for her devotion to fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk.

Wesley Village Honors Volunteers

At an August 8 luncheon, Wesley Village thanked more than 90 individuals who donate time to the campus' residents throughout the year. Volunteers include community members, Brooks Estates independent residents, members of the Friends of the United Methodist Homes of Pennsylvania, and the 26 individuals who serve as members of the Pittston Local Development Committee.

Said Tami Chesniak, Director of Activities/Volunteers, "Our volunteers are helpful in so many different ways. They volunteer in the gift shop or library, assist with activities, and visit residents who prefer not to come out of their rooms or who are too ill to come out. We truly value the service each of our volunteers provides."

Attendees were addressed by Ann Rappaport of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Administrator John Lopatka, and Chesniak. Each volunteer was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a pin representing their years of service. Frances Spinelli was presented with a flowering plant to recognize her 29 years of service. Harpist Sara Smith entertained the gathering.

*A Job
Well Done*

Staff Announcements



Laura Kostyshak, RN

Laura Kostyshak, RN, has been named James G. Johnston Nursing Facility

Unit II Manager on the Hilltop Campus. She was previously the 3-11 Nursing Supervisor.

Kostyshak earned her associate's degree in nursing from Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY, and her bachelor of science in nursing from the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica Rome. She has been with the Homes for eight years.



Joseph LaCaprara

Joseph LaCaprara has been named Human Resources Director for the Hilltop Campus. He comes to United Methodist

Homes from Sears Holdings Corporation in Johnson City, NY, where he was the Human Resources Manager. During his three-decade tenure with the company, he served for two years on Sears' National Trainer's Advisory council, developing and fine-tuning the new-hire orientation program.

LaCaprara earned his bachelor's degree from Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY.



ST. LOUISE MANOR SEEKS ARTWORK LOANS

SEEKING ARTWORK DONE BY RESIDENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS, STAFF OR FRIENDS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR DISPLAY IN THE ST. LOUISE MANOR DINING ROOM DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. ANY MEDIUM (PAINTING, NEEDLEWORK, SCULPTURE, PHOTOGRAPHY, ETC.) IS ACCEPTABLE; INSPIRATIONAL/UPLIFTING SUBJECT MATTER PREFERRED. ITEMS MAY BE LABELED FOR SALE IF DESIRED (SELLER MUST FACILITATE TRANSACTIONS).

PLEASE CALL KAREN OR MARTHA AT (607) 724-4000, EXT. 288 FOR A SUBMISSION FORM.



Elizabeth LaDue, RN

Elizabeth LaDue, RN, has been named the Registered Nurse Assessment Coordinator at

the Hilltop Campus' James G. Johnston Nursing Facility. In her new position, her primary responsibilities are coordinating the resident assessment process and overseeing residents covered by Medicare Part A and determining coverage. LaDue has been with the Homes for six years, most recently as Hilltop's STAR Unit Manager.

LaDue earned her nursing degree from Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY. She has been a nurse for 12 years, all in long-term care.



Randy Rudock, LPN

Randy Rudock, LPN, has been named the Adult Care Facility Dementia Unit Coordinator on the Hilltop Campus. He

comes to the position from the James G. Johnston Nursing Facility, where he was a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the STAR and Rehabilitation Units. He has also served as a substitute supervisor at James G. Johnston Nursing Facility.

Rudock earned his LPN certification from BOCES (Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services). He has been with the Homes for four years.



Brenda Thall

Brenda Thall has joined United Methodist Homes' Doris L. Patrick Campus as the Director of Human

Resources. She comes to the Homes from Preferred Mutual Insurance Company in New Berlin, NY, where she was a Critical Support Supervisor.

Thall earned her associate's degree in business administration from the State University of New York at Morrisville. She holds a supervisory management designation from the Insurance Institute of America.



Cindy Winckler, RN

Cindy Winckler, RN, has been named the Hilltop Campus' 11-7 Campus-Wide Nursing Supervisor. She was previously the Registered Nurse

Assessment Coordinator at the Hilltop Campus' James G. Johnston Nursing Facility.

Winckler earned her associate's degree in nursing from Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, NY. She has been with the Homes since 2002.



Rosalind Wright, RN

Rosalind Wright, RN, has been named the STAR Unit Manager on the Hilltop Campus. She comes to the organization from

Susquehanna Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Johnson City, NY, where she was the Nursing Clinical Coordinator.

Wright earned her nursing diploma from the Crouse Irving School of Nursing in Syracuse, NY. She has been in the nursing field for almost two decades.

United Methodist Homes Launches New Website *Continued from page 1*

programmed in HTML, which addresses all of the concerns related to Flash.

- Increased depth – the site now has additional layers, which offer users more information about everything from admissions to volunteering to planned giving.
- News tool – a custom-designed news page enables users to search for United Methodist Homes news by campus, topic or date. *Seasons* is also available on the website.
- Enhanced employment section – job seekers can learn about benefits, search open positions, email Human Resources staff on each campus, and download the employment application.
- Contact Us – in case a question isn't addressed by available content, the Contact Us section enables users to direct a specific question to the Homes.
- Frequently Asked Questions – this portion of the site answers questions ranging from admissions topics to preparing for a move to a retirement community.
- Site search – the site offers a search function for users seeking specific content.
- Admissions – this section offers an overview of the admissions process, and makes residency applications available online.
- Clickable map of Homes facilities – this map shows Homes facilities in relation to each other geographically, especially useful for out-of-town family members helping make residency decisions.

Rehabilitation Graduates Reunite at Wesley Village



On July 18, the Wesley Village Campus hosted its annual reunion for short-term rehabilitation program graduates. Participants enjoyed a dinner with their therapists, residential services staff, and other staff members at Wesley Village's Irene Raeder Community Center. Marilyn Johnson, who attended the event with her father, Robert Binker, said, "My father looks forward to this celebration each year." Pictured at the event are (front row, left to right) graduates Carmella Caprio, Mary Dirhan, Dorothy Turner, Robert Binker, Regina Battaglino, Joseph Popovitch, Lillian Lastowski, (middle row, left to right) Margaret Fieseler, Gloria Harrison, Dorothy Garinger, Gladys Parente-Kaufman, Rehabilitation Director Leslie Hawkins, COTA Lynn Colarusso, graduate Mike Milunich, Physical Therapists Jill Brogan and Maureen Givinin-Haas, graduate Ed Augustine, Occupational Therapist Sylvia Shemelewski, (back row, left to right) Occupational Therapist Lori Radzinski and Physical Therapy Assistant Dan Monick.

Second Generation at Grand Care

When Jessica Hall started going to Grand Care Children's Center in 1987 as a two-year-old, no one had any idea that one day she would be a teacher there – or that her child would also be a



Jessica and Molly Hall.

Grand Care kid. But the center, which opened in 1986, is indeed seeing the beginnings of its second generation.

Hall has a degree in early

childhood education from Broome Community College in Binghamton, and she began working at Grand Care in 2004 as a substitute, becoming full-time in 2007. Daughter Molly was born in March 2008, and when Hall's maternity leave ended, Molly was enrolled at Grand Care.

Said Hall, "I remember Grand Care as being fun and exciting and full of new learning experiences. I'm so happy Molly can take part in that now, too. I never thought I would end up working at the place I went to day care, or that my daughter would end up coming here, but I think it's the coolest thing in the world!"

Hall currently teaches in the toddler room, and as Molly grows, Hall will shift through classrooms so they aren't together, a standard practice in child care facilities. Said Grand Care Director Charlene Harvilla, "To have the child of one of our 'old' kids is a real treat for us. To have that former Grand Care kid as one of our teachers is very special. We feel blessed twice --once with a second generation family and then again with a great teacher!"

For more information about enrolling a child at Grand Care, call (607) 798-9352.

Wesley Village Campus: Serenity Courtyard Receives Facelift



The Serenity Courtyard on the Wesley Village Campus recently underwent a makeover with the addition of mulch, a brick sidewalk, benches, lampposts, a fountain, and flowering plants.

Located in the center of the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility's Serenity dementia unit, this secure outdoor space is utilized by residents for gardening, cookouts, picnics and other activities. "Prior to this work, the area was grass with just a few trees. Now it's an inviting retreat for residents," said Wesley Village Activity Director/Volunteer Coordinator Tami Chesniak. Pausing for a photo at the completion of the job are (left to right) Plant Operations staff members Joseph Lopatka, Bernard Lombardo, Jerome Sulkoski and Joseph J. Maslar.

Salsa and Dip Contest

On July 11, the Resident/Employee Volunteer Committee held a Salsa/Dip Contest as a fundraiser. Participants made their favorite salsa or dip and paid \$5 to enter the contest; staff and visitors made a donation of a dollar to judge. The winner was Anderson Personal Care Administrator Janie



Schneider, with her Crispy Bacon and Bleu Cheese Dip. She won a gift card but donated the money back to the fund. Over \$130 was raised for the committee, which puts on various events throughout the year, including a Halloween party, Easter egg hunt

and other activities. Contest participants were (left to right) Residential Services Director Jo O'Mara, Schneider, Brooks Estates Director Jill Sherinsky, Anderson Food Services Director Anita Rinaldi, Partridge-Tippett Administrative Assistant Donna Casey, Human Resources Director Barbara Perlock, and Wesley Village Administrator John Lopatka.

Fiftieth Anniversary Event

On August 2, the Wesley Village Campus celebrated United Methodist Homes' fiftieth anniversary (and the campus' thirtieth) with an afternoon event that included a "healthy cooking for seniors" demonstration, an art show, campus tours, door prizes, live entertainment by Wildfire, refreshments and more. Board Member George Kramer, President and CEO Keith Chadwick, Wesley Village Administrator John Lopatka and Resident Council President Minnie Demech are shown cutting an anniversary cake.



Tunkhannock Campus Resident Volunteers

Tunkhannock Campus resident Kathryn Wilkenson is celebrating two dozen years of volunteering! In 1984, she was part of a group from Elk Lake Methodist Church that began crafting sleeping bags for the homeless, work Wilkenson continues. She is always on the lookout for materials – not long ago, a bag of drapes headed for discard were made into more sleeping bags! Wilkenson also puts her talent to use for the Tunkhannock Campus, recently making fire drill ribbons that signify a room is empty. Wilkenson is shown with one of her sleeping bags, topped by hats and mittens she knitted and which are distributed with the sleeping bags.



Local Antiques Expert Clocks in at St. Louise Coffee Hour

St. Louise Manor welcomed local antiques expert Bob Connelly during the facility's August 1 coffee hour. Connelly passed around an all-wooden clock mechanism for attendees to examine while he gave an overview of the history of clocks and clockmaking, with a focus on American clock manufacturing and its historical highlights. He then examined four antique clocks brought in by staff members, presenting their characteristics to the group and providing valuations. As a special highlight, Connelly provided information about the handmade grandfather clock in the second floor hallway at St. Louise Manor. Donated by the Wentz family in the 1960s, Connelly revealed that the clock was homemade from a Jenny Lind-style hired hand's bed and an IBM master clock. Connelly, who has been active in his field for more than 30 years, is shown chatting with resident Frank Boyd at the end of the event.



Shorts

The Hilltop Campus bids farewell to Adult Care Facility Dementia Unit Manager Maureen Tanner, who recently retired after 20 years of service.

The Hilltop Campus welcomes Rev. Diane Prentice as a part-time chaplain. She also serves the Kirkwood United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Homes was named the winner in the Retirement/Nursing Home category in the 2008 *Press & Sun-Bulletin's* Readers' Choice Awards.

Print advertisements from the new United Methodist Homes advertising campaign are now also appearing in the *Norwich Evening Sun* – look for them there in addition to previously announced publications.

The Hilltop Campus' STAR Unit hosted a family picnic on July 17. The SUN Unit celebrated a Carnival Week from August 18-23, with a family picnic on August 21.

The Hilltop Campus hosted a wide variety of special events in August, including a three-month birthday party on August 7, hosted by Calvary United Methodist Church; an intergenerational picnic on August 14, an August 19 bonfire with music by the Maine Community Band, an August 29 trip to Tioga Downs, as well as many picnics in Otsiningo Park.

St. Louise Manor Activities staff recently released five painted lady butterflies into the facility's garden. The project started with caterpillars, and staff and residents were able to watch the entire development process, which took about three weeks.

Mark your calendar!

Fourth Annual Hilltop Health, Safety and Wellness Fair

10 AM – 2 PM, Thursday, September 18

Join the Hilltop Wellness Department for an event including mini-massages, reiki, Wii demonstrations, food tastings, giveaways, health screenings (some require pre-registration – call 607-798-1002, ext. 296 for more information) and more!

Tunkhannock Employee Appreciation Picnic

Tunkhannock Campus staff were treated to an employee appreciation picnic on July 10. Enjoying the festivities are (clockwise from lower left) Housekeeper Joanne Doty, Doty's husband John, Housekeeper Dixie Warner, Lead Personal Care Assistant Theressama Stuble, Dietary Aide Marcia Hadsall, Doty's daughter Jessica, and Housekeeper Barbara Soltishick.



Grand Care Celebrates Sports Day

The Grand Care Children's Center celebrated Sports Day on July 24. Each class made team shirts and spent the morning outside participating in a variety of sports activities, including hockey, bean bag toss, volleyball, an obstacle course and water balloon toss. Administrator Charlene Harvilla served as the referee.

Congratulations to all participants for their good sportsmanship! Teams included the Purple Poopers (infants), the Bouncin' Blueberries (one-year-olds), the Red Firecrackers (two-year-olds), the Green Goblins (three-year-olds) and the Orange Tornadoes (four-year-olds). Everyone enjoyed Gatorade and PowerBars as the special snack that day.

Grand Care Children's Center, a day care center owned and operated by United Methodist Homes and located on the Homes' Hilltop Campus in Johnson City, offers a cooperative and nurturing learning environment for children ages six weeks to five years. The day care program offers services from 6:30 AM through 5:30 PM Monday through Friday, blending fun and educational experiences. Many activities are intergenerational, offered in conjunction with residents of the Hilltop Campus. For more information about enrolling a child at the center, call (607) 798-9352.



Playing hockey for the Orange Tornadoes are (from left) Sophie Budine, Aidan Brunetti, Taylor Franta and Olivia Acly.



The one-year-olds' Bouncin' Blueberry Team paused for a photo at the conclusion of events. Shown are (clockwise from lower left) Liam Hughston, Colin He, Teacher Jessica Hall, Addison Cokely, Teacher Vicki Karderinis, Teacher Christina Priebe, A.J. Mancini, and Kaiden Aton.

Letters of Appreciation

To the Hilltop Campus from a resident

Thanks to Faye and the Activities Department – Hilltop looks so beautiful thanks to your hard work and the energy it takes to do all that you do. Thank you for everything – the trips and luncheons, movies here and at the theater, and so much more. I so appreciate all you do for me and our whole facility.

To the Elizabeth Church Campus

I just want to thank all the members of the physical therapy staff for your support and encouragement of my mother following her hip replacement. Mom had decided that surgery was better than her constant arthritis pain... until she had the surgery! Our family had some stressful moments, but whenever we had any contact with your department, our confidence was bolstered. To think that our 91-year-old mother is set to go home after just four weeks is pretty remarkable. From the day after the surgery, physical therapists did not take "no" for an answer, and pushed Mom to do the exercises she needed to get where she is today. And you all made her want to do them! We made a good decision to come to Elizabeth Church Manor, and we are so grateful to all of you.

To the Wesley Village Campus

My aunt was a resident of Wesley Village from May of this year until her death in late July. I cannot say enough how pleased I am and the rest of my family is for the high-quality care my aunt received. Cheryl Lyback was very helpful, professional and attentive in caring for my aunt. There were many occasions when I communicated with Cheryl concerning my aunt's condition, and Cheryl was always patient with me, explaining everything, and always consistent in calling me back and keeping me informed. Nurses Anne Marie and Lucy are also outstanding and dedicated. Jessica Balkan in social services is highly effective in her job. She also communicated well with me and helped on many occasions. I have been a hospice volunteer in my home area for the past two years, and am familiar with the nursing homes in my region. I can honestly say that Wesley Village is by far the best nursing home I have seen. It is an excellent facility, from its professional staff, cleanliness, programs, clean exterior grounds to the excellent communication skills of the staff I interacted with. Thank you very much for the care you gave my aunt.

To the Hilltop Campus

Thanks to Rev. Lea Harding. It was so comforting to have met you during my mother's recent illness. Thank you for being so supportive of her and of us. She loved singing at Vespers and we appreciated you sitting with her. We can't thank you enough for all you did.

To the Tunkhannock Campus

We can never begin to thank all of you for all your love and support. You helped make our father's stay at the Manor a pleasant one. He was always treated with respect and dignity.

To the Hilltop Campus

Please thank the employees of the James G. Johnston Nursing Facility Unit 2 for the excellent care you gave my mom. All the years she was there, I felt confident she was well cared for. This was important to me as I live on the West Coast. You not only cared for her as a resident, but also as an individual. Thank you.

DONATING TO THE HOMES

If you would like to make a donation or consider a planned gift to United Methodist Homes, please call the Corporate Office at (607) 775-6400, ext. 280. Checks may also be mailed to 10 Acre Place, Binghamton, NY 13904.

Three Generations Make Holupki at St. Louise Manor

On August 7, the St. Louise Manor Activities Department hosted a holupki-making afternoon led by St. Louise resident Caroline DiStephano (seated), her daughter, Mary Rose Cross (standing), and Cross' grandson, Peter Ryan. Participating residents made a full batch of the treats to be served as hors d'oeuvres before dinner that evening. The project stirred much discussion about the "correct" way to make the stuffing and sauce.



START YOUR ENGINES!

11th Annual Wesley Village Car Show

Noon – 3 PM, Sunday, September 7

Event includes a 10:30 AM worship service, a classic car display, craft fair, food and more.

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

Abbreviations

- DLP – Doris L. Patrick Campus, Norwich, NY
- ECC – Elizabeth Church Campus, Binghamton, NY
- JGJ – James G. Johnston Skilled Nursing Facility, Johnson City, NY
- SLM – St. Louise Manor, Binghamton, NY
- UMH – United Methodist Homes
- WV – Wesley Village Campus, Pittston, PA

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Wesley Village Residents Attend Baseball Game

On July 22, residents of United Methodist Homes' Wesley Village Campus enjoyed a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees game at PNC Field. "The residents had a wonderful time and the staff members at PNC Field were so helpful to us and the residents," said Activity Aide Lisa Saunders. Shown enjoying the game are Partridge-Tippett Nursing Home residents Susan and Daniel Cardoni.



Christmas in July at Hilltop!



The Hilltop Campus celebrated Christmas in July! The July 24 event included a tree decorated in red, white and blue, visits with Santa (Hilltop Campus Bus Driver Hank Harris), cake and cookies, entertainment by Rick Pedro, and gifts for everyone. Thanks to Arrowhead Christian Store, Bon-Ton, CVS, Macy's, the Oakdale Mall, Our Country Hearts, Price Chopper, the Quilting Club, Wal-Mart and Wegmans for their generous donations of gifts and party items. Shown enjoying the event are Hilltop resident Naoma Leathers and her daughter Rhonda Emmons.