

# Seasons

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

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## Honoring Volunteer Service: What's in Your Heart?

National Volunteer Week was celebrated from April 19 to 25 this year, and some United Methodist Homes campuses recognized their volunteers with special events, certificates, gifts and in other ways (other campuses have events planned for later in the year). On May 8, United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick was the keynote speaker at the Broome County Council of Churches' 2009 Lives of Commitment breakfast, which recognizes volunteers who serve the Council's Faith in Action program. This article is excerpted from his speech.

I would like to begin by asking a question: How many of you have heard the Capital One ad which asks, "What's in your wallet?" I think we all have. I would like to ask a similar question: "What's in your heart?" As we mature and age, I believe our hearts open more fully. As we begin to see the big picture, we more freely and frequently offer our time, talent and funds to assist others.

Compassion helps us to identify ourselves with those who suffer, to connect, to listen and to feel with those who are hurting. Compassion can be cultivated. It grows out of an attitude of thankfulness for the blessings that have been bestowed upon

and immediately, you roll into action. A family's house needs rebuilding after a fire and you hop into your car to drop off clothing or a check; a person at your church requires surgery and you offer to donate blood; an elderly woman needs a new refrigerator and you give her the extra one in your garage. Once the light of compassion is in your heart, it feeds on itself. Equally important, it's contagious! Your children model it, your friends share in it, and even strangers can catch the spirit. Before long, you may discover that an initial, simple act of compassion and caring has snowballed into a network of assistance that transforms you, your family and the community. So, the

question becomes, "How can you help? What's in your heart?"

Time is always a factor, but we all work from the same clock. We all have the same 24 hours. When someone asks you to volunteer or get involved, most of us say "I'm too busy." But it's not that we don't have enough time. We do – we just aren't making the request a priority. So you must examine your priorities. Work and family are important, but so is giving something back to the community. We are all interconnected. If you do something good for someone else,

it will come back to you.

Many of us genuinely want to reach out to others, to go the extra mile for someone else, but something often holds us back. Maybe you're waiting to be asked to



Tunkhannock volunteers Sherri Rail (left) and Brenda Hunting (right) enjoyed their April 28 recognition lunch with Board member Jan McCabe.

us. It thrives through awareness that our material resources, however modest, cannot be taken for granted.

Often, the process begins this way: You learn about a need, your heart stirs,

## Administrative Editorial

**Janine Savage, RN, RAC-CT, Vice President of Clinical Operations and Corporate Compliance Officer**



In 2006, United Methodist Homes charged a multi-disciplinary committee with developing a vision for health

information technology and selecting a vendor partner who could help us achieve that vision. After an extensive search, clinical and financial software vendor LINTECH was selected as our partner, and in January 2008 we began the process of configuring and testing the software, called COMET. In July 2008, Phase I began when we launched COMET at Hilltop; this phase will be complete when Wesley Village comes online this July 1.

Although we're still in the first phase of implementation, we have already identified positive outcomes: improvement in our interdisciplinary team assessment and care planning

process, earlier Medicare billing, and a sense of empowerment among users (many of whom never used computers before). Subsequent phases will enable us to achieve an electronic ("paperless") medical record, and begin exchanging health information with other providers. I believe that careful workflow analysis and redesign – not simply converting paper processes into an electronic format – has been key to our success. It will continue to be a focus of system configuration as we go forward.

It is important to me that we do not lose sight of the reason we exist as an organization: to provide outstanding care and services to our residents. Health information technology is helping us further improve the care we provide, by enabling translation of raw data into meaningful information about a change in a resident's condition, the success of treatments and other details – all of which

can improve care and quality of life. While this data has always been available to us in resident records, manual human intervention to review and analyze it was required. Electronic access to data for a single resident or a group of residents now enables efficient and accurate analysis and decision-making by professional staff related to resident care and interventions.

The last two years have been the most challenging and rewarding of my entire career. I am energized by the success we have achieved and truly excited about the potential I see for our future. As we continue to implement leading-edge health information technology solutions, I believe we will achieve improved resident and staff satisfaction, which will help the Homes maintain its position as the provider and employer of choice in the increasingly competitive long-term care arena.

## Elizabeth Church Campus Staff Honored for Service

Elizabeth Church Campus staff members were honored for their service at an April 22 dinner in the St. Louise Dining Room. President and CEO Keith Chadwick, Board Member Art Gordon and Administrator Vicky Morabito each spoke. Said Morabito, "We're pleased to honor the staff members who have given so many years of their lives to our organization and the care of our residents. We are here to celebrate their dedication."

Special thanks to the dietary staff for their hard work in preparing such a fabulous meal for the event.

Congratulations to the following staff members for their service:

**25 Years:** Dietary Assistant Wendy Doolittle and Donna Morton, CNA. **20 Years:** Driver Specialist Rolland Stout. **15 Years:** Home Health Aide Gloria Benedetto, Receptionist Manilva Hover, Doreen MacDonald, LPN; Maureen Page, LPN; Human Resources Assistant Laura Volk. **10 Years:** Theresa Inniss, RN; Home Health Aide Susan Scalia, Scheduler/ Payroll Coordinator Lisa Marie Williams. **5 Years:** Chaplain Janet Abel, Housekeeper Margaret Bernstein, Nicole Crumb, CNA; Licensed Agency Director Malene Fralick, Amy Horton, CNA; Theodore Lamoree, RN; Case Manager Angela Nunez, Administrative Assistant Rosemarie VanKuren, Margaret Whittemore, LPN.



*Honorees (seated, left to right) Donna Morton, Margaret Bernstein, Janet Abel, Wendy Doolittle, (standing, left to right) Manilva Hover, Rosemarie VanKuren, Lisa Marie Williams, Maureen Page, Malene Fralick, Gloria Benedetto, Laura Volk, Angela Nunez, Rolland Stout and Susan Scalia.*

## Staff Announcements



### Joel Cummings, RN

Joel Cummings, RN, has been named Assistant Director of

Nursing Services at the Pearl and Everett Gilmour Health Care Facility on the Doris L. Patrick Campus. He moves into this position from within the organization – he was previously the Employee Health/Staff Development Coordinator on the campus.

Cummings earned his nursing degree from the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi.



### Mary Lou Faust, LNHA

Mary Lou Faust, LNHA, has joined United Methodist Homes as the Vice-President/

Administrator of the Doris L. Patrick Campus in Norwich. Faust was employed with the Homes for 22 years prior to her 2006 retirement from the post of Elizabeth Church Campus administrator.

Faust earned her bachelor's degree in sociology at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, and is a licensed nursing home administrator. She is a trustee of the Decker Foundation in Binghamton, NY, a member of the Nursing Advisory Council for Binghamton University's Decker School of Nursing, chairperson of the Broome County Council of Churches' Faith in Action Advisory Committee, and chairperson-elect of the Southern Tier End of Life Coalition.



### Michele Garey

Michele Garey, Director of Nursing and Assistant Administrator of the Tunkhannock Campus, recently earned her personal care home

administrator's license, and will assume responsibilities as Co-Administrator of the Tunkhannock Campus. Garey joined the Homes in 1995 as a personal care aide. Through the Homes' tuition assistance program, she was able to earn her licensed practical nursing degree through Career Technology in Scranton, PA. She became Director of Nursing in 2000 and Assistant Administrator in 2005. She is currently pursuing her registered nursing degree online through Excelsior College in Albany, NY.

While Tunkhannock Administrator Joe Corey will remain an integral part of the management team on the campus, Garey will take on additional administrative responsibilities, enabling Corey to focus on his role as Vice-President of Human Resources for United Methodist Homes.

## Health Information Technology Students Learn at Elizabeth Church Campus

Two seniors in the Broome Community College (BCC) health information technology program recently completed separate two-week clinical externships with Elizabeth Church Campus Health Information Management Coordinator Patricia Griffin, RHIT. From April 20 to May 1, Donna Wright was on campus for six and a half hours daily, and from May 4 to May 15 Elizabeth Marino did the same.

The students' placements culminated in individual research projects, with their statistical findings presented at a morning staff meeting. During her time on campus, each student was evaluated for her comprehension of theory and practical aspects of the required skills, quality of work, dependability, initiative, presentation skills, and the ability to make sound judgments without detailed instructions. Said Wright, "The practical experience helps you to better understand what you've learned in the classroom. It all comes together."

Griffin, herself a graduate of the BCC Health Information Technology program, has been precepting student interns for two years. She credits the emphasis Administrator Vicky Morabito and Director of Nursing Diane Husar, RN, place on allied health education for making the program possible. Griffin is enthusiastic about the benefits the program has for the Homes, the college and the students: "Health information is an issue that's prominent in current consciousness, and United Methodist Homes staff members are pleased to be on the forefront of educating new health information professionals. It's rewarding to partner with our neighbor BCC, and to offer students practical experience in their intended career. It integrates our campus with the community."



Elizabeth Church Campus Health Information Management Coordinator Patricia Griffin, RHIT, (left) and Broome Community College health information technology student Donna Wright go over a resident's electronic record.

## Honoring Volunteer Service

*Continued from page 1*

lend a helping hand. If so, you're in good company: 70% of Americans who volunteer say they got involved *simply because someone asked them*. So consider yourself asked. I am inviting you to take the next step. You have talent. You can support a service program in this community. Every not-for-profit organization I know has a need for volunteers. Every not-for-profit organization will find something in your comfort zone you can do for them,



Hilltop volunteers Shirley Maxon (left) and Gail Ness (right) showed off their certificates at the Hilltop volunteer event on April 23. The 122 volunteers who attended were entertained by flute players from Union-Endicott High School, and guest speaker Dick Dodge of the Endicott Auxiliary Police.

much shall be required: to whom much is entrusted, much shall be demanded." When we volunteer and meet the needs of others, we are giving them hope. Hope is a good thing – it may be the best of all things.

To learn more about being a United Methodist Homes volunteer, visit our website at [www.unitedmethodisthomes.org/volunteer](http://www.unitedmethodisthomes.org/volunteer).

and in the end, I promise, you will be amazed at what can be achieved, and how good you will feel from the experience.

We are so rich. We've been given so much insight, so much knowledge, and so many blessings. As it states in Luke, Chapter 12, verse 48: "To whom much is given,

## Tunkhannock Campus Receives New Wheels



Residents at the Tunkhannock Campus celebrated the delivery of a new bus in late April. The 2009 14-passenger (12 seats and space for two wheelchairs) accessible bus, purchased from Matthews Buses in Ballston Spa, NY, has a Ford chassis and a passenger section by Elkhart Coach. The bus' maiden voyage was a trip to lunch off campus. Posing with their new ride are (from left) residents Jean Dendler, Fern Ball, Pauline Davis, Marion DeGraw, Geraldine Mattocks, Lillian Davis, Pauline Williams, and Activity Assistant Laurel Matson Bonner and Activities Director Terri Tyler.

## Alzheimer's/Dementia Family Support Group

7 PM, second Wednesday of every month

Myers Manor Living Room, Wesley Village Campus  
Wesley Village Chaplain Nancy Pitely and Social Services Coordinator Ellen Machovec lead the group. For more information, call Machovec at (570) 655-2891, ext. 402.

## Wesley Village Celebrates Service Anniversaries

An April 16 dinner at the East Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre, PA, honored more than two dozen Wesley Village staff members for between five and 30 years of service to the organization. President & CEO Keith Chadwick and Board Chairman Warren Watkins each made remarks, and Chadwick, Dietary Services Director Kelli Kowalczyk, Wesley Village Administrator John Lopatka, Environmental Services Director Nancy Rothenbecker, Anderson Personal Care Administrator Janie Schneider, Plant Operations Director Jerry Sulkoski and Director of Nursing Patt Vitale each addressed the attendees.

Said Lopatka, "We are grateful for the decades of service we have received from the staff celebrating these service milestones, and happy that our residents benefit from care provided by dedicated, long-term staff."

Congratulations to the following staff members for their service:

**30 Years:** Plant Operations Director Jerry Sulkoski. **25 Years:** Environmental Services Director Nancy Rothenbecker. **20 Years:** Mary Ann Avery, CNA; Ann Marie Chiogna, RN; Mary Alice Drahus, LPN; Ann Hopkins, Restorative Nursing; Brian Markert, Plant Operations; Linda Pierce, CNA; Nancy Timlin; Physical Therapy Aide; Kathy Webb, CNA. **15 Years:** Jean Caruso, PCA; Laura Godlewski, Activities; Barbara Kitchen, LPN; Sandy Sherrick, CNA; Diana Strunk, Environmental Services. **10 Years:** Jennie Burakiewicz, Laundry; Carol Grabosky, PCA; Ann Marie Horoszko, LPN; Irene Kosek, Receptionist; Sue Lazevnick, PCA; John Lopatka, Administrator; John Morrison, RN; Ed Peplinski, Dietary; Barbara Slivinski, PCA; Patt Vitale, Director of Nursing; Martha Wright, Dietary. **5 Years:** Vince Albertelli, Dietary; Doreen Berger, LPN; Cassandra Casey, Dietary; Tammy Chesniak, Activities; Theresa Collins, CNA; Kansas Cwalina, CNA; Mary Alice DeAlba, RN; Christine Lockavich, LPN; Margo Magda, RNAC; Joelle Rubino, Dietary; Scott Ryan, Plant Operations; Janet Silver, CNA; Dorothea Volpe, Dietary; Bridget Whitesell, CNA; Debbie Wilcox, CNA; Amy Williams, LPN; Sue Williamson, Dietary; Debbie Wruble, RN; Dale Zielinski, Restorative Nursing.



This year's longest-serving honorees were Plant Operations Director Jerry Sulkoski (standing, 30 years) and Environmental Services Director Nancy Rothenbecker (seated, 25 years).

## Shorts

On May 7, Wesley Village hosted a blood drive. The Wyoming Valley chapter of the Red Cross brought their BloodMobile to campus to collect. Thanks to everyone who donated!

On May 10, Doris L. Patrick Campus residents and their families enjoyed live harp music in honor of mother's day.

As another method to prevent the spread of illness, the Grand Care Children's Center on the Hilltop Campus recently installed a hand sanitizer dispenser at its main entrance. All parents and visitors are encouraged to use it when entering the building.

St. Louise Manor residents enjoyed a Mother's Day tea and hat show on May 6.

United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Faith in Action Lives of Commitment breakfast fundraiser on May 8 at the Binghamton Regency Hotel. Chadwick also served on the fundraising committee for the event, and Marketing and Public Relations Director Sarah Soden and Doris L. Patrick Campus Administrator Mary Lou Faust served on the public relations committee.

## 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.**

## Campuses Name Employee of the Month



Theresa Inniss, RN

Theresa Inniss, RN, has been named May Employee of the Month on the Elizabeth Church Campus. Inniss has worked for United Methodist Homes for 11 years. Recent Shining Star recognition quotes about her include, "Theresa works at different times on all the floors, but I have been amazed when I've followed her on a succeeding shift to see how she, in the short hours she is here, completely understands and takes charge of the care of the residents she is assigned to. She is amazing!" and "Theresa jumped right in and answered bells. She was wonderful to me and the residents and made the night safer and easier."



Debbie Andrews, CNA

Debra Andrews, CNA, has been named May Employee of the Month on the Doris L. Patrick Campus. According to her nominator, "Debbie is a dedicated and caring individual who always puts residents first. She consistently goes above and beyond her duties and is willing to help wherever needed. She is part of several facility CQI teams. Her quiet demeanor is comforting to the residents, and she does everything she can to ensure each resident gets the best care possible."

## Understanding Paid Time Off

### A QUICK REFERENCE FOR EMPLOYEES

Most businesses and organizations now offer their employees a benefit called paid time off (PTO) rather than the traditional combination of holidays and vacation, sick and personal days.

Seasons recently spoke with Vice-President of Human Resources and Tunkhannock Campus Administrator Joe Corey for a quick PTO refresher course to help employees better understand this benefit – read on to learn more.

### What is PTO?

PTO removes traditional classifications such as holidays and vacation, sick and personal time and combines them into one bank of hours from which an employee can draw. Each employee begins to accrue PTO on the first day of work, and can access his or her PTO bank after the 90-day introductory period. Length of service to the organization increases the amount of PTO an employee accrues; part-time employees accrue PTO at a pro-rated amount.

### Why does the Homes offer PTO instead of vacation days, sick days, holidays, etc.?

Enabling employees to manage their own time off – whether for fun, illness or other reasons – increases personal accountability, decreases unscheduled absences and gives staff more flexibility in meshing their work and home lives. In a field that requires staff to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, PTO is a more practical and equitable system than the traditional set-up.

### Why do I have to use my PTO time for a holiday? Shouldn't the organization "give" me those days?

Holidays are built into each employee's PTO accrual. The organization provides each employee with time off for seven holidays each year.

### How do I decide how much PTO to reserve in case I'm sick?

It's best not to drain your PTO bank for vacation just in case you become ill later in the year. It's a good rule of thumb to reserve a week in your bank.

### What if I'm sick for an extended period of time? Do I have to use all my PTO?

No. Your extended illness bank (EIB) provides a safety net in case of emergency. The EIB can be accessed if you will be required to miss a period of time over seven days due to illness, family emergency, etc.

*More detailed information about PTO is available in your employee handbook or as a handout in the Human Resources office on each campus.*

## Month of the Young Child Guest Readers at Grand Care



To celebrate Month of the Young Child during April 2009, the Grand Care Children's Center on the Hilltop Campus hosted guest readers throughout the month, including family members of Grand Care kids, members of the Johnson City Fire Department, a New York State trooper, a librarian, Grand Care Director Charlene Harvilla's husband Jim "Harvey" Harvilla, and Hilltop staff Risk Manager Jack Bates, Administrator Jerry Halbert, Chaplain Lea Harding, Grand Care Director Charlene Harvilla, Senior Assistant Administrator Colleen Marascia, Grand Care Teacher Sarah Wenzinger, and Wellness Center Director Vinni Wingell. On April 15, Johnson City Primary School Principal Gail Holleran was the Center's guest reader. Many of the four-year-olds currently enrolled in Grand Care will matriculate to the primary school in the fall. Said Grand Care Director Charlene Harvilla, "We felt this would be a great opportunity to create a bridge between their current environment and the place they'll head off to for the new school year." Holleran is shown reading "Tom Goes to Kindergarten" to Grand Care's pre-K class. News Channel 34 covered the event.

## Pizza-Making at Hilltop

On April 29, Hilltop residents learned how to hand-toss pizza dough! Hilltop Campus Chef Nick Finlayson led the event, demonstrating how to toss and prepare a pizza. After clean-up of the flour cloud, participants enjoyed soda and pizzas donated by Nirchi's Pizza in Johnson City. Shown hard at work are (clockwise from left) residents Winifred Gabrielson, Dorothy Niggli and Eleanor Dopf.



## Spring Brunch at Wesley Village



Wesley Village hosted its annual spring brunch on April 26, welcoming a record 500 guests. Proceeds from the event benefit the Friends of the United Methodist Homes of Pennsylvania, which uses the funds to provide special-request items to the Tunkhannock and Wesley Village Campuses. In addition to Wesley Village staff, several Tunkhannock

employees made the trip down to assist. Residential Services and administrative staff provided tours for half a dozen families interested in the campus' services. Shown hard at work at the waffle station during the event are Dining Services Director Kelli Kowalczyk (left) and Dietary Supervisor Mary Krutulis.

## Family Councils Provide Information, Feedback

The Hilltop and Doris L. Patrick Campuses both recently formed family councils to give family members an opportunity to learn about long-term care issues and a forum to discuss concerns. Meetings on both campuses include a presentation on a long-term topic followed by an open discussion. Presentation topics have included dining services, case conferences, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' star rating system and more.

On the Hilltop Campus, the family council was formed in the summer of 2008. Meetings are held monthly, and alternate between an afternoon time and an evening time to accommodate family members' schedules. Social Services Director Aaron Ampula, MSW, serves as the facility representative, and Hilltop family member Sue Brown is the council chairperson. Minutes are available in hard copy or via email for family members who are unable to attend. The mission of the James G. Johnston Family Council is to work with administration towards improving the quality of life and well-being of the nursing home residents, and act as a positive force in seeking improvements and changes in the nursing home environment.

The Doris L. Patrick Campus started its family council in November 2008. The council meets at 7 PM on the first Wednesday of every other month. Social Work Director Gary Wannamaker, MSW, and Social Worker Liza Newman facilitate meetings. Said Wannamaker, "The feedback we've received has been very positive. Family members seem to like that they have a place to voice their concerns and feel like their concerns are taken seriously." Minutes are produced and distributed at the next meeting, along with a summary of how any concerns were resolved.

Both campuses have an average of 15 attendees per month. The Wesley Village Campus has also had a family council since 2001.

## Letters of Appreciation

### To the Hilltop Campus

Thank you to the staff of the STAR unit. We cannot begin to thank you for the care you gave to our mom. I would like to share with you the words of my mother's eulogy, so perfectly written by my sister: "To our friends at Hilltop, we struggle for words. When we could not be there, you were. You held her hand, calmed her fears and gave her peace. Although she may not have remembered your names, these gifts were far more important than a name." For me personally, you are truly exceptional people. You held me up when I needed it, answered my many questions and allowed me to fulfill my promise to my dad that Mom would be okay. I couldn't have done it without you. May the blessings you bestowed on mom and our family come back multifold to all of you. Continue what you do and how you do it. Those placed in your care need you and their time in your care will be enriched because of you. You will always be with me. God bless you.

### To St. Louise Manor

Special thanks to Activity Leader Karen Mayer for sending me the photo of my mom from a recent event at the facility. It is such a wonderful photo! Thank you so much for all you do. I am so grateful for everything you are all doing for my mom!

### To Hilltop Campus Dietary Staff from a resident

Congratulations – you win the gold star! "Breakfast for dinner" was excellent and the table looked lovely. The food was so good, especially the pineapple. Please feel free to repeat! Thank you so much for all your efforts to keep us well-fed!

### To the Doris L. Patrick Campus

Our entire family would like to extend our thanks for the care that you gave our loved one. You deserve more thanks than money can buy. These last three-plus years were difficult for her, and the staff continued to show her love and kindness. You all work with your hearts, not just for the paycheck. The only place our loved one wanted to spend her last days was at United Methodist Homes. Your staff made those days the best they could be, and for this we give our heartfelt thanks.

### To the Elizabeth Church Campus from residents

Thank you to Diana, Ellie, Pam and all others who worked for the Sweetheart Luncheon. It was very special. My husband and I enjoyed it so much. That was the first time I have ever seen him go back for seconds! Everything was delicious. We felt like we were in an exclusive restaurant. The tables were so pretty and you all were so nice to take care of all of us. I'm sure everyone enjoyed it. It was the best meal we've had in a long time! Our love to all of you.

### To the Wesley Village Campus

I thank God for the blessing of wonderful people like you. God was very good to me to bless me with all you wonderful, loving people. Please never, ever change – you made my husband and me feel as if we were family.

### To Grace View Manor from residents

Thanks to manager Pat White – we enjoyed our recent coffee conversation event!

## United Methodist Homes Partners With Binghamton University Students

At the beginning of the spring 2009 semester, students from Binghamton University School of Management Professor Manoj Agarwal's marketing research class put out a call to area businesses, offering to provide a professional-quality market research analysis. Interested organizations, including United Methodist Homes, submitted proposals for consideration.

The Homes' proposal was selected by a group of seniors including Kallie Campbell, Kristine Kubat, Andrew Lizotte, Grace Petrisin and Lauren VanPamelen. The students analyzed the results of an online survey the Homes made available to the public in April, and also conducted one-on-one interviews about retirement living information, preferences and expectations at two Broome County senior centers. Via both avenues, the Homes was interested in determining community perceptions about the organization, especially since the launch of its new advertising campaign last summer. Said Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick, "We wanted to know how people in the community view us, and the opportunity to partner with Binghamton University students at the same time was a bonus. The final report and analysis were well-done."

The students' analysis of the survey results revealed that respondents largely understand that the Homes is a not-for-profit organization open to residents of all faiths. More than half can correctly identify all the levels of care the Homes offers, and most respondents know which facilities belong to the Homes and which are operated by competitors. The survey revealed that *Seasons* readers are more familiar with the Homes and its services, and believe that the Homes is affordable for them.

The students reported that completing research analysis for a real organization gave their studies more meaning. Said Marketing and Public Relations Director Sarah Soden, "The information the students presented to us through an in-person PowerPoint presentation and more detailed printed leave-behind materials was on par with similar materials and data we've received from professionals. We were impressed with the caliber of the students' work."

Special thanks to the students for their hard work in evaluating the data, and happy graduation!

## Elizabeth Church Campus Prayer Society Expands

Since its formation in 2006, members of the Anna Simeon Prayer Society at Elizabeth Church Manor have been praying for congregants of First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City. The campus and the church are connected through Reverend Robert Peak of First Presbyterian, who leads a monthly prayer service for residents. Church members also pray for Anna Simeon members and anyone else they request.

During Lent this year, membership in the Anna Simeon Society was expanded to include St. Louise Manor residents. According to Elizabeth Church Campus Chaplain Janet Abel, "Prayer is something you can do at any age. Our goal is for residents to feel as though they make a difference for each other and the community through prayer."

The Anna Simeon Prayer Society is named for these two older, devout Biblical figures, who were present in the temple when Jesus' parents presented him for his dedication a month after his birth. Anna and Simeon had both prayed to see the Messiah before their deaths.

For more information about the prayer society, contact Abel at (607) 722-3463, ext. 263.

## Grand Care Kids Visit Barnes & Noble



During national "Turn Off the TV Week" (April 20-26), kids from the Grand Care Children's Center on the Hilltop Campus took a field trip to Barnes & Noble in Vestal for an event promoting the importance of physical activity. Said Center Director Charlene Harvilla, "According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 9 million children ages six to 19 are overweight or obese. That's why it's so important we reach preschoolers with the message about exercise." The kids visited with Binghamton Mets mascot Buddy the Bee, listened to a B-Mets player read a book, and got to meet Mason Mastroianni, grandson of "B.C." and "Wizard of Id" cartoonist Johnny Hart and current cartoonist of both strips. Overweight as a child, Mastroianni is now bringing weight loss and exercise tips to Broome County students with his "Mason on the Move" program, offered in conjunction with United Health Services. Mastroianni (lower left) is shown with the kids as they color pictures of "Rex," a "B.C."-inspired character designed for the program.



## Cactus Garden

### START-UP

St. Louise Manor is starting a small indoor cactus garden. Donations of shallow clay pots, cactus cuttings or whole plants are being accepted. Please direct all donations to Karen Mayer in Activities.



## Get ready to walk!

Staff, residents, family members and friends of the organization are invited to join United Methodist Homes' 2009 Southern Tier Memory Walk team. Walk day is Sunday, September 20, but personal fundraising can begin anytime! Contact Jill Murray in the Corporate Office at (607) 775-6400, ext. 308 for more information or to sign up.

## Yard Sale!

The Elizabeth Church Campus will host its annual yard sale from 9 AM to 4 PM on Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6 (rain date: Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13). All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association - stop by and shop for a good cause!



## Aloha, Spring Fling at St. Louise Manor!

7-9 PM, Thursday, June 18

St. Louise residents welcome friends and family to the annual event, this year with a Hawaiian theme. Enjoy food and entertainment, including Cobblestone Crossing, and hula dancing by Patti Jenkins. Please RSVP to (607) 724-4000 by June 12.

## Secure Website Launched for Board Members

In early May, United Methodist Homes launched a secure website for its Board members. This site enables Board members to access the information they need – such as agendas, meeting minutes and other documents – without requiring the organization to print and mail materials. Board members receive an email notification when new materials are posted, and enter the site using a special login and password. Associate Development Director and site administrator Bonnie Slocum also has the capacity to add special content, such as announcements, reports or other documents as needed. Board members can also review bylaws, Board member responsibilities and descriptions of each Board committee.

A highlight of the site is a directory of all Board members, including photos and contact information. Said Slocum, “We have a 40-member Board, and many of the members see each other just a few times a year when the Board meets as a whole. Hopefully the online directory will help Board members be better able to match names to faces.” Slocum is also excited about the potential savings: “Eliminating the vast majority of mailings to the full Board and to subcommittees will help the organization drastically reduce its paper and mailing costs.”

Binghamton-based CyberCITY, designer and host of United Methodist Homes’ public website, also created the special Board site.

## Drumming at Hilltop

Staff from The Drumzzzone in Endicott, NY, brought a vanload of African djembe (pronounced jem´ bay) drums and other percussion instruments to the Hilltop Campus on February 12. Residents enjoyed the opportunity to jam with African drum instructor, performer and Drumzzzone co-owner Elizabeth Orleski. The Hilltop



Auditorium was standing-room only – according to Activity Director Faye Clark, the residents had a great time. Participants are shown getting into a groove!

### Summer Volunteer Opportunities for Teens

Looking to make a difference during your summer break from high school or college? United Methodist Homes’ Hilltop Campus in Johnson City and the Doris L. Patrick Campus in Norwich are seeking volunteers. Call Volunteer Coordinator Vicky Benarick at (607) 798-7818, ext. 252 (Hilltop) or Danielle Giordano (607) 336-3915, ext. 101 for more information about opportunities and application requirements.

### 2nd Annual United Methodist Night at the Ballpark

7 PM, Thursday, June 25  
NYSEG Stadium in Binghamton

Tickets are \$9 each, and a portion of ticket proceeds will benefit the Society of St. Andrew, the Upper Room Prayer Ministry and Volunteers in Mission.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call Ken Summers at (607) 770-7314 or email him at [theosum@webtv.net](mailto:theosum@webtv.net).

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men

## Nursing Award Presented at Wesley Village

At the May 7 Wesley Village nursing dinner, CNA Jill Tigue was named the 2009 recipient of the Wilbur A. Myers Certified Nurse Aide Award. Tigue joined United Methodist Homes in early 2007, when she was hired to work in the Wesley Village Dietary Department. She took advantage of the certified nurse aide training course offered on campus, graduating from the program in June 2007.

This award has been presented annually since 1993, when Wilbur Myers, a prominent Wilkes-Barre businessman, established a trust for the benefit of Wesley Village’s skilled nursing employees. Myers’ wife was a Wesley Village resident, and he believed she received exceptional care at Wesley. He wished to offer ongoing recognition for staff by creating the trust that funds the award. The winner of the award is selected by peer vote. Congratulations, Jill!

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 Memorial Nursing Home, Johnson City, NY
- SLM – St. Louise Manor, Binghamton, NY
- UMH – United Methodist Homes
- WV – Wesley Village Campus, Pittston, PA

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## “Oh, I could write a sonnet/ about your Easter bonnet...”

Wesley Village residents and staff enjoyed their annual Easter bonnet parade on April 9. In line to show off their hats are (seated, left to right) Partridge-Tippett residents Catherine Gregory, Antoinette Denisco and Wanda Godumski, with staff members (standing left to right) South Unit Nurse Manager Liz Corradino, RN; Staff Development Nurse Jane Corcoran, LPN; and Environmental Services Director Nancy Rothenbecker.



## Bird Program at Tunkhannock Campus



On April 1, Tunkhannock Campus residents were treated to an educational program about bird eggs presented by Francis Slocum State Park Environmental Educator/Park Naturalist Kathy Kelchner. She showed different wild bird eggs and explained the birds' nesting habits. Kelchner (center) is shown with residents Hazelle Brooks (left) and Lillian Davis (right) after the presentation.