

## The Road to Recovery

As many of you are well aware, United Methodist Homes continues to invest extraordinary efforts and resources to prevent COVID-19 from entering or spreading throughout our facilities. The safety of our residents and staff remains paramount. Despite diligent adherence to all infection control protocols and precautionary measures to prevent it, unfortunately, our organization has been impacted, experiencing outbreaks in some of our facilities. We remain dedicated to fighting and winning this battle against COVID-19. Most COVID positive residents have won their battle, and sharing their recovery stories gives us hope.



Jim Ardoline affectionately referred to as the “Wesley Village Mayor.” Jim tested positive for COVID and struggled most with exhaustion during his illness. “I felt very loved during my time having COVID.

Staff members were always checking in to make sure I felt okay and getting anything I needed. Friends and family called daily to keep my spirits bright. A staff member made me homemade meatballs and ravioli, and celebrated the holidays with me because I wasn’t well enough to leave the facility. I had a real nice time!” recalls Mr. Ardoline. He felt there were definitely benefits to being at Wesley while having COVID, one of which was always having someone around that could assist when he felt too fatigued. Because of the excellent care and assistance, he was able to focus on his recovery. Now that he’s better, Jim feels great and ready to resume his honorary title of “Mayor Jim”! He would like to thank everyone who aided in his recovery and kept him in their thoughts!

*Continued on page 3*



Maria Dorton, Wesley Village



Danielle Janeski, Wesley Village



Brad Bowers, Elizabeth Church



Kate Conant, Hilltop

COVID -19 Vaccine Clinics Are Underway!

# Hope, Strength, and Recovery



I hope that you and your families had a safe and happy holiday season. Our friends and supporters like you are critical to the work we do every day. It certainly has been a challenging, emotional, and trying year for everyone. The field of senior living continues to face COVID-19 head-on. We have endured such highs and lows and tremendous loss in our organization. My sincere thoughts have and continue to be with you, our residents, and families who have experienced the loss of loved ones.

While we weren't able to celebrate with our traditional parties and festivities, we were able to remain "merry and bright" in many varied ways - beautiful indoor and outdoor decorations, special gifts, and sweet treats delivered to each resident - making them feel special in their own way. Our organization truly is one large family, a family that stands strong and together, sharing in successes and times of joy to the most difficult and challenging times like we have faced together this year.

I remain so impressed with our staff and the strength and resilience they have shown throughout this pandemic. During this time, let us reflect upon all that we have and continue to be blessed with - we remain a strong organization with a fantastic staff ready to continue to take on whatever comes our way. Through all of this, we continue to receive overwhelming support, understanding, and praise from our residents, families, and Board of Directors.

We begin 2021 with renewed hope that this year will be one of strength and recovery. It's with great pleasure I share that UMH has begun administering the COVID-19 vaccine to our residents and staff in December 2020. Within our organization, our nursing home facilities have been prioritized to be among the first to receive the initial distribution. Walgreens is the partnering pharmacy that determines all vaccine clinic dates and locations. Our organization's first vaccine clinic was a huge success occurring on December 28th at our James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home (JGJ). To date, we have vaccinated 585 staff members and 570 residents in our organization, with many more to come as other clinics roll-off. We experienced minimal or minor symptoms among our residents and staff. These are very encouraging and reassuring numbers and hopefully will serve to build everyone's confidence. The next level of care to receive the vaccine will be our staff and residents of the adult care and personal care levels. These clinics have been long-awaited and are providing the hope that we all need at this time.

Let us continue to stand strong and stand together and be UMH Strong.

Sincerely,

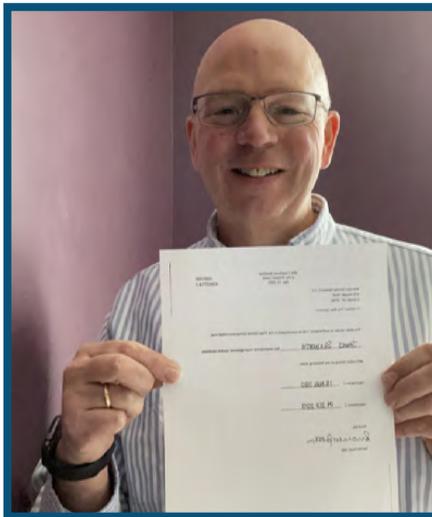
Brian Picchini, President & CEO

# Blazing the Trail in Trials

Jim Silkworth, VP of Human Resources, had the privilege of participating in a COVID-19 Vaccine Trial over the summer. With the trial complete and vaccines rolling out, Jim shares his experience.

“This past summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Trial through a company called Meridian Clinical Research. They have a relationship with our Family Medical Providers, which is how I found out about the trial. I jumped at the chance to play a small part in the fight against COVID.

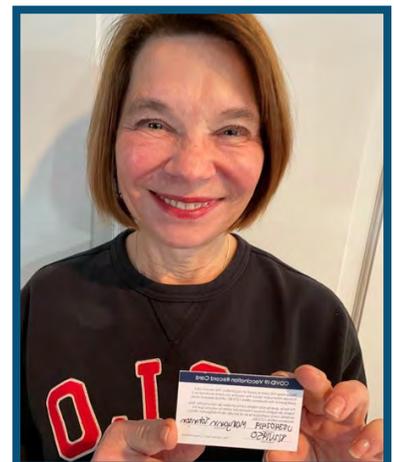
The first step was a brief phone call with Meridian, where they asked me for some medical history. After determining that I was a candidate, they said I would receive a scheduling call, which I got a few weeks later. My first visit on August 18th was a couple of hours long and involved a very lengthy health background and consent questionnaire, a blood draw, and placement of the shot. At that time, and until very recently, I did not know if they placed a placebo or if I received the actual vaccine since this was a blind study. I also learned about the phone app I still use weekly to report if I have any symptoms of COVID-19. Since the original appointment, I had another vaccine/placebo placement on September 9th, and additional blood draw later in the fall.



Pfizer is in the process now of “unblinding” the study, and I called to ask if they could let me know if I actually received the vaccine. On January 19th, I received the great news that I did, in fact, receive the vaccine!

I’m also happy to report that I had no side effects from either vaccine placement other than a sore arm for a day or two after the second shot. There have been no ill effects in the five months since I started this process. I continue to fill out my weekly report, which only takes a minute, and I will have another blood draw in March. I’m very happy to know that I have protection against COVID-19!”

UMH Board Member, Maryann Johnson, had the opportunity to participate in the Moderna trials. She learned on January 25th that she had, in fact, received the actual vaccine in the trial. Maryann said, “I was convinced that I had the placebo as I had absolutely no reaction to either the first or second shots. I was ecstatic and pleasantly surprised.”



# The Road to Recovery

## Continued from cover

Staff at Wesley Village have successfully kept COVID out of the Serenity Unit (memory care). Nancy Herman, the wife of resident Bob Herman, has been pleased with the care and communication regarding her husband during the pandemic. "I felt safe for Bob while on the Serenity Unit. The staff were available and called me with concerns. I was impressed by how well Wesley screened the residents and staff and followed all DOH and CMS guidelines to keep them safe. I was also happy to have the facility be on one floor so I could see my husband in the window. Serenity staff and Activities accommodated me, letting me bring him a coffee and visit during the day at the window. I appreciated calls to discuss his welfare by the nursing administration and social services. I actually had a more difficult time maybe than he did during the pandemic. Compassionate Care visits have "saved us" and allowed me to communicate more with the staff," reflects Mrs. Herman.

Mary Claire Donnelly is very happy to be a personal care resident at United Methodist Homes Wesley Village Campus. Although she looks forward to a time when she can enjoy group activities and dine with her friends, she and her family feel grateful that she is here during the pandemic. As a retired RN, Mary Claire knows that UMH is doing what is best for the residents and that every precaution is being taken. Every Saturday, she visits with 16 family members via Zoom, and every six weeks, she Zooms with 8 of her classmates from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1958. Mary Claire also watches daily Mass on her TV and has taken up reading as a hobby. Since March, she has read 37 books; many of them are from the Partridge Tippet Nursing Home Library Book Exchange Program. Mary Claire says that staff from Nursing, Wellness, Activities, Housekeeping, and Dietary are very kind and helpful to her, and she appreciates the measures taken to ensure her safety.



Kathy Micha, Elizabeth Church



Jessica Perlin, Hilltop



Tammy Hadsel, Wesley Village



Joseph Lacaprara, Hilltop



COVID -19 Vaccine Clinics Are Underway!

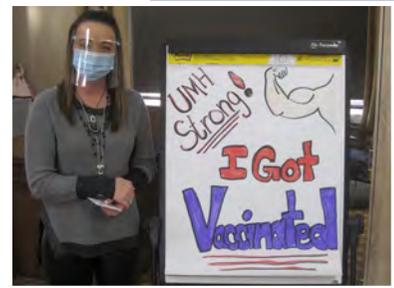
When Joan Halligan, resident at Elizabeth Church Campus, was diagnosed with COVID-19, she was very sick and weak but pushed through and made a full recovery. During her quarantine, she was able to keep in daily contact through FaceTime calls with her daughter, son, and granddaughter with the help of the Activities Staff. Her grandchildren, who are currently learning from home, were able to read to Joan each day and include her in their everyday learning. Joan's daughter and son were able to see the daily progress during her time of being sick. After her recovery, she even received a visit from ECM's new in-house therapy dog, Bodhi.

Joan's daughter Marguerite says, "When I was told that my mom had tested positive for COVID-19, I was so concerned about the suffering that she might go through and that it would take her life. I wanted to be with her, take care of her, and hold her hand. I knew that wasn't possible. I was contacted by a nurse every day to let me know how she was doing, and we were able to FaceTime almost daily. I will forever be grateful for the compassionate care that she was given and that she has recovered. I'm looking forward with much joy to when I'll be able to see her in person."

The staff all throughout UMH have worked tirelessly to keep residents safe and healthy. To date, Myers Manor, Anderson Personal Care, and Tunkhannock Manor have remained COVID-free among residents.



Patricia Comency, Hilltop



Selina Shotwell, Wesley Village



Ron Patti, Hilltop



Vicky Morabito, Elizabeth Church

COVID - 19 Vaccine Clinics Are Underway!

# Campus

**Tunkhannock** - In the days leading up to Christmas, Director of Activities Terry White made homemade cookies and delivered them door to door to each resident for a special nighttime treat. Resident Gerry Fassett enjoyed helping Terry prepare many varieties of cookies, including chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, and peanut butter blossoms. Terry even made unique orange cookies in honor of resident Hazel King, who helped for many years but recently passed. The recipe was a tradition in Mrs. King's family and meaningful to the residents.



*Gerry Fassett, Tunkhannock*

Dallas United Methodist Church congregation once again adopted our Tunkhannock Campus to make sure all residents received something on their 2020 Christmas "wish-list." While residents typically gather around the tree on Christmas morning to open their presents, Terry White made morning "door to door" deliveries this year. Dallas UMC has done this for six years, and members of the church say that they get as much out of it as the residents do. This program started as a mission project of the church's Sister Circle Women's group and now encompasses the entire congregation. UMH Board Member and Dallas UMC member Sharron Lewis said, "About September each year I am asked by church members if we will be doing it again and when will I have the "letters to Santa" so they can pick a person. They love being able to be a Santa and shop for their person to get them just what they asked Santa to bring them. This giving is from the heart, and Dallas UMC has a lot of heart for the residents of Tunkhannock Manor."



*Betty Savickas, Tunkhannock*



*Delores Hallock, Tunkhannock*



*Alice Kishpaugh,  
Elizabeth Church*



*Isabella Ferenczi, Elizabeth Church*

**Elizabeth Church** - The campus continued their successful collaboration with Chenango Valley School District. For Christmas this year, all of their Port Dickinson Students made cards for the St. Louise Manor residents. Activities Staff passed them out to each resident, and they were very grateful for the handmade surprise.

Residents of St. Louise Manor participated in the "Reindeer Games." In small groups following all safety protocols, they split into two teams where they competed in Cookie Stacking, Candy Cane Toss, and Guess What's in Santa's Hat. The residents had a blast!

# Highlights

**Hilltop** - In recent years, the Activities Department at Hilltop has created a unique wall calendar featuring resident photos and campus events from the previous year. Proceeds from the calendar directly benefit the Hilltop Resident Gift Giving Program, which provides a special Christmas gift for Westside and Skilled Nursing residents based on their personal "wish list." **The 2021 Calendar is now available to purchase for just \$5. Contact Faye Clark at (607) 798-1002 x205 to buy your copy.**



Hilltop staff, in collaboration with the Corporate Office, adopted a community family this Christmas. With the generous donations from staff members, UMH provided presents, gift certificates, and cash to assist with many medical bills and essentials. We sincerely wish this mom and her two sons a very happy holiday!

**Wesley Village** - It was certainly difficult not to be able to have a traditional visit with family and friends this Christmas. However, Wesley Village residents took advantage of their new technology and recorded special messages to share with family. Families appreciated "seeing" their loved ones in action on video.



*Diane M., Wesley Village, recording a message to send to her family.*

Staff created a Winter Wonderland with extra outdoor decorations purchased through the Foundation Activities Initiative. The staff created beautiful vignettes around the campus for residents to enjoy.



# Message for the New Year

NY Chaplains Janet Abel and Lea Harding collaborated in a special Holiday message to UMH Staff. We share their words here for all to appreciate.

*"In a dark year, we come to the time of celebration. That celebration may be different and muted for us all. But we do celebrate. During the shortest days, we light candles on Advent wreaths, menorahs, or kinaras. We decorate trees and our rooms, apartments, or houses. We need that reassurance that the days will get brighter, warmer, and longer, and Covid will lessen, and life will get back to normal. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. I pray daily for all of you. The light shines in you as you do your sacred work. May your holidays be blessed, merry and full of light."* -Chaplain Janet Abel



St. Louise Manor Tree, Elizabeth Church



Karl Heinz,  
Tunkhannock



Present Delivery, Tunkhannock



Carmelia Davis,  
Hilltop

One of the many trees at Hilltop



Dottie Hayes, Tunkhannock



Elissa Galli, Wesley Village



Roger Currier,  
Tunkhannock

# From NY Chaplains



Katherine Jabornik, Hilltop

*"What a year this has been, unlike any other. It has been a year many of us would rather forget. There have been new words added to our vocabularies like social distancing and Covid-19. We have had to adjust to wearing a mask and a face shield. We have had to do our best to stay at least six feet apart from each other. And we have had to hear about the latest in numbers: the number of positive cases, the number of those who are currently ill, the number of hospitalizations, and the number of deaths. Yes, it has been a year of what many would rather forget. We now stand on the cusp of a new year. Do you look forward to it, or are you dreading it? It is my hope and prayer that you will look forward to it with rapt*

*anticipation. Even with all that is happening in the world, there is much to be grateful for. May you rejoice and sing on your birthday (whenever it comes in 2021)! May you give thanks for modern technology that has kept us in touch with loved ones both near and far. May you continue to bolster one another up with the words, "we are in this together." -Chaplain Lea Harding*



Marcella Monico, Hilltop



Activities Elves, Wesley Village



Main Lobby, Hilltop

## *A Prayer*

*Almighty God, this year has been difficult. We pray for those most directly impacted by this virus. We pray for an effective vaccine. We pray for the residents, families and staff of Hilltop and Elizabeth Church Manor. We pray that you will go with us into next year.*

*Strengthen us to face each day, come what may.*

*Surround us with Your love and grace.*

*In peace we pray,*

*Amen*

# The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music

Is there a song that takes you back to a specific moment in your life? Have you bonded with someone over a shared love of a band? Does listening to music increase your attention or focus when you're doing something else? Music is powerful, and for many of us, we can answer yes to some or all of those questions.

Research has shown there are many benefits to including music in our lives. For seniors especially, pleasing melodies can deliver even more benefits for physical and mental health, memory, and critical social connections. For those in Assisted Living, music may provide lessening of pain and discomfort without the use of medicines, improved ability to remember recent events, positive changes in mood, and an increased sense of self-sufficiency.



*Michael S., Elizabeth Church*

Recently, Elizabeth Church Campus has welcomed a new staff member specifically focused on increasing music into activities for our residents. Kathy Micha, Activities Director, is thrilled to have a team member who's focused on music therapy working with her and our seniors. Here's a little highlight of what she's been working on with the residents.



*Eva C., Elizabeth Church*



*Janet K., Elizabeth Church*

Tori Gac - Since starting as an Activity Leader in September, Tori has been eager to make music more accessible for residents during this difficult time. At Elizabeth Church Manor, she provides music by visiting residents individually from room to room. On the units where small groups are allowed, she facilitates instrumental music and music listening activities for the residents. During this time, where it is difficult to find connection due to the current restrictions that are in place to prevent the virus, safely implemented live music is even more meaningful and vital for the residents.

At St. Louise Manor, Tori recently began leading music appreciation groups, such as "Composer of the Week," where they learn about a composer's life and listen to their well-known musical works. Residents are able to connect, socialize and reminisce while listening to their favorite music. According to Anna F., resident and participant, "Composer of the Week is one of the most enjoyable activities I have been to recently. It is for anyone who likes music. One of the musicians we listen to is bound to be your favorite!" Even during a pandemic, these instrumental and music listening activities can be safely implemented with precautions and social distancing in place.

## A Snowman is Love and Laughter all Rolled Up into One.



Residents at Tunkhannock Manor were treated to a well-needed wonderful surprise. A local family stopped by the campus to play in the yard and build double-sided snowmen. Residents happily watched the construction from the comfort of the sunroom. These unique snowmen can be enjoyed by travelers on Rt. 6 as well as our UMH family at Tunkhannock. Terry White, Activities Director, said, "I don't know if they got more joy from creating the snow people or if we did watching from the warmth of our home and reminiscing about building a snowman!"



## “Meet the Foundation” Virtually

Do you have questions about how the Foundation supports United Methodist Homes? Would you like more information on how you can support our residents? Do you have ideas you'd like to share about how we can improve our outreach? Let's talk! Schedule a virtual "Meet the Foundation" meeting with Heather Murphy via phone or video call. **Contact Heather at [hmurphy@umhwc.org](mailto:hmurphy@umhwc.org) or (570) 536-4353 for more information.**



# COVID

## Reflections

Denise Reilly, Activities Director at James G. Johnston (JGJ) Skilled Nursing at Hilltop, shares what the pandemic has been like for her and her team.

*Richard C. & Denise R., Hilltop*

"This has been the longest and craziest year in history in so many ways. Where to begin? Well, I'll jump right in. I work in JGJ, which is the nursing home on the Hilltop campus. In March and April of 2020, we were trying to get things in place, figure out the COVID-19 virus, and how to best protect the residents and staff. It was scary for all of us not knowing what was going to happen and how it would affect us, not only at work but also in the community and at home.

In May and June, the United Methodist Homes Foundation helped the Activities Department get many of the items and supplies needed to make video chats more available for residents to see and communicate with their loved ones. The Foundation also helped us get CD players for residents to use in their rooms, whiteboards to play socially distanced games, fun costumes for the staff to wear to bring smiles to all, and many other items to make life on campus for the residents a little better during the pandemic.

July and August, who would have thought we would still be in this fight against COVID? At this point, many of the residents needed a manicure and haircut, but most importantly, they needed to see their loved ones. Some were able to have window visits. I remember the first window I witnessed, seeing the resident looking through the glass at their family, holding their hands up to the window, and the tears. There have been so many tears. It still makes many of the staff members tear up. Who would have ever thought that in 2020 this would ever happen?

September and October lead us to over six months of living with COVID. That continues to affect our campus, community, and way of life. We were able to do visitation with many guidelines from CMS and the Department of Health. Seeing the residents' faces light up when they saw their loved ones makes the last six months worth it all.

With November and December, the holidays were fast approaching, and the staff was trying to figure out how we were going to make the holidays memorable in a pandemic.

Each resident received a special gift for Christmas made possible through fundraising and many activities we planned to help spread cheer through the holiday season.

Now, here we are in January of 2021, and we are still in the fight against COVID. The staff at UMH are strong. We continue to fight every day for the residents and our fellow staff members to make our campus great and to win the fight against COVID-19."

Denise's reflection and inside look at campus life month to month throughout the pandemic describes very much what it has been like for all of our campuses. The staff on every campus had to swiftly adapt and change their "normal" way of operating to ensure resident care and safety. It has been a modified way of living and carrying out everyday duties from the administration to nursing to social services, dietary, environmental services, admissions, and activities. Every individual was called upon to change and adapt to ensure that the delivery of care, programs, and services continued in a modified manner in compliance with our governing agencies' ever-evolving guidance and regulations. Our organization can be proud of the performance and tireless efforts leading to successful infection control surveys.



## *There's No Place Like Home* *Annual Appeal Update*

We are beyond grateful for the generosity of our donors in support of the 2020 Annual Appeal. This year has been one of struggle and sacrifice for many, so every gift was truly appreciated. The campaign began with the goal of raising \$35,000. We're pleased to announce that we closed out 2020 with over \$58,000 in support. Donations are always accepted. Your generosity directly supports the many needs of our residents. From our family to yours; thank you!

## Donor Satisfaction Survey

Whether you've given once or for twenty years, the support of friends like you is critical to our work. At the Foundation, we're committed to creating meaningful donor relationships and gaining a true understanding of our supporters. Keep an eye on your mailbox for our 2021 Donor Satisfaction Survey. Once received, please take a moment to respond to the letter by completing the short survey. There will also be an online option to complete your survey. Your insight will offer valuable feedback to help us improve our message and mission. **If you don't receive your survey or have further feedback, please reach out to our Director of Development, Heather Murphy, at [hmurphy@umhwc.org](mailto:hmurphy@umhwc.org) or (570) 536-4313.**

# Play is Serious Business - Recreational Therapy at Wesley Village

Necessity is the mother of invention. In this time of continued COVID restrictions, the activities department at Myers Manor and Anderson Personal Care got creative in an effort to bring residents "together" for one of their favorite activities.

Through the Foundation Activities Initiative, additional iPads and tablets were purchased to increase and improve family communication.

Recreation Coordinator Rachel Loefflad and her staff could use the iPads to do a COVID version of BINGO. According to Rachel, "We've been having great success by incorporating the iPads we received along with HDMI cables and adapters to do physically distant yet socially together programming. Our Recreation Therapy Intern, Danielle Green, has been working on this as her semester project, and it's been very successful. So far, we've brought together over 30 residents for a Bingo game via Google Duo. They enjoy seeing each other in their Google Duo boxes. This activity now takes place every Wednesday at 10:00 am, and the Residents look forward to it. We are also working on using this technology for trivia and music programs." There have also been some significant benefits to this format. Residents now have the ability to see friends from other floors, and some residents are coming out for the first time in a while. A few are even playing BINGO for the first time because it's a new group activity.



*Simone M. & Danielle Green, Wesley Village*

Recreational Therapy is an essential service needed in senior living residences. Danielle explains, "In general, seniors need activities to keep their brain active. Recreational Therapy is more fun than traditional therapies. We make the most of their leisure time and make them feel special and have a purpose. With not being able to go anywhere right now, many would really decline. So I work with them one-on-one on very personal things - we tailor the activities to the person through their interests and goals. Ultimately, they will be able to do this independently, but I help to modify or make it easier to accomplish."

One benefit of recreational therapy during COVID is more one on one time. Danielle states that traditionally, these therapies would take place in small groups. Since that's not an option during COVID, she has met individually with residents and learned about them and their interests.

Before October 1st, Rachel and Rosarie Musto, Activities Leader, had been coordinating one on one and small group activities daily in addition to virtual and in-person family visits. With Danielle's arrival and the hiring of additional Activities Leader Judy Mulder, the activities team has been able to add even more aspects to their ongoing program and make it possible to engage even more residents daily. Danielle said the residents could see how hard the staff are trying and genuinely appreciate it. They are starting to come out more for small group activities. Danielle is in her senior year of college for Recreational Therapy and has observed that many of her classmates have struggled to find internship opportunities during COVID. She notes, "I am so grateful for the opportunity to intern at Wesley Village. Rachel is so amazing, and I'm lucky to work with her and spend time with her. I love it here."

## Unbe-leaf-able Generosity

Monica Monzie, of Monzie's Floral Design in Tunkhannock, coordinated a bouquet giveaway through social media. Monica and her team wanted to support the residents and let them know people were thinking of them. "It was an idea we dreamt up over breakfast, and it just took off, bringing in donations from the local area," she said. Our Tunkhannock residents were thrilled to receive the beautiful arrangements.

*Jerry F., Tunkhannock*



*Patti G., Tunkhannock*



*Antoinette R., Tunkhannock*



*Janet W., Tunkhannock*



*Ruth E., Tunkhannock*

### Love Good News? - Sign up to Recieve Our New Monthly Bulletins!

Do you want to know what's happening between newsletters? Of course! Send an email to [giving@umhwc.org](mailto:giving@umhwc.org) with the subject "Sign me up" to start receiving the NEW monthly Good News Bulletins. We'll be sharing inspiring stories about our residents, staff, and donations at work.

# Leading Age Award



Hilltop Campus was awarded the LeadingAge Innovation of the Year Award for their Memory Maker Project. This award is presented annually to recognize programs that demonstrate vision and creativity, thereby promoting quality care and services to the elderly. This project exemplified what LeadingAge New York looks for in choosing award winners. Ron Patti, Hilltop Executive Director; Faye Clark, Hilltop Campus Life Director; and Christina Muscatello, Memory Maker Co-Founder, graciously accepted the award virtually via pre-recorded videos on December 2, 2020.

The Memory Maker Project is a team of highly trained Creative Aging specialists that uses Montessori educational theory and neuroscience to develop an interactive curriculum so people living with memory loss can succeed and thrive. While we've shared many Memory Maker successes in previous newsletters, we'd like to take this opportunity to share some touching stories that make this project truly worthy of the Innovation of the Year Award.

Faye Clark shared two of her favorite stories: "I was sitting with Jeanne as she painted violets. She could vividly remember the violets on her Mom's kitchen table. She described them while painting, making comments such as "Wait, I need more green. Mom's always had so much green all around them." and "More purple has to go here because Mom's were always so purple." When I told this story to her daughter, the daughter said, "Oh my God, I forgot about those violets. Grandma always had violets". The other story I would like to share is about Marie. After she finished her blue sky painting with a bright orange moon, she stated, "Life would be really dull without color." and broke into a song, singing "Moon Over Miami." Finishing her song, she stated, "I never knew I was an artist."



*Continued on next page.*

## Activities Professionals Week



Tara S. & Nour H., Hilltop Activities



Misty H. & Denise R., Hilltop Activities



Kathy M., Tori G., Melanie R., Lauren T., and Connie B., Elizabeth Church Activities Team



Karen, a resident's daughter, shares her perspective on her father. "What I admired most about my dad was that he was a beautiful painter! After dad was diagnosed with dementia, my brother Randy and I encouraged dad to pick up a paintbrush again, always to no avail. He would verbalize the best he could that it was too overwhelming to "get all the paints out and set everything up." Even if Randy set it all up for dad, he would say he just wanted to watch Randy paint. It had been about three years of "getting nowhere" in regards to him even picking up a paintbrush! That's when staff at UMH informed my Mom and me about the "Memory Maker Project".

We all hoped THIS could be the impetus for dad to want to express his God-given talent again! It worked! In a much simpler way than his previous artwork, but still beautiful because HE painted again! The "Memory Maker Project" helped dad find his creativity again! Our family hopes this can continue not only for dad but for all of the other people with memory loss that have such difficulty expressing their feelings and emotions."

## 2020 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S



Walk to End Alzheimer's - The annual Walk to End Alzheimer's was held virtually on September 26, 2020. After the event, United Methodist Homes was recognized as the Top Returning Team for the Binghamton Walk with a total of \$3,810. Hilltop Campus was pleased to host the Promise Garden, typically on display at Binghamton University, so community members could still do a "drive-by" to see it. Our UMH sponsor sign and a mini Promise Garden were set up outside by the front lobby so residents could easily visit and take pictures as well.



Hank Cordy from Wesley Village receiving his first vaccine one week before his 101st birthday.



THANK YOU  
TO EACH  
AND EVERY  
ONE OF OUR  
INCREIBLE  
EMPLOYEES  
FOR ALL THAT  
YOU DO!

*Don Gloves*  
*By Stacy Elliott*  
*Hilltop Campus, SMN Unit*

**Thank you doesn't cover enough  
For what we endured was rough  
Donning goggles, gowns and N95 masks  
Was no small task  
Together we accomplished great things  
It's amazing what positivity and unity brings  
We cried together, laughed together, maybe even yelled some  
But we got the job done!  
Persevered through the tears  
Healed those old in years  
Strengthened our bond  
With a wave of the COVID wand  
40 days we traveled  
Without becoming unraveled  
Thank you doesn't cover enough,  
For a team like us!**

**\*Written in late May 2020**



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## News & Announcements

### Staff Updates

**Wesley Village:** Melanie Duggan is the new Anderson Myers Personal Care Administrator. Danielle Green was promoted from Recreation Therapy Intern to Partridge-Tippett Activities Director. Aubrey French is the new Recruiter for PA Campuses. Pastor Eugene Sperazza has retired. We wish him well in his retirement & thank him for his compassionate service to UMH residents.

**Elizabeth Church:** Kody Doubrava is the new Dining Services Director.

**Hilltop:** Dawn Chase is the new RN Unit Manager at JGJ. Sarah Richer is the new Social Worker at JGJ.

Congratulations to Kate McHugh, Administrator at Hilltop, on graduating from the IGNITE Leadership Academy. The Academy facilitates the development and growth of senior living leaders in New York State. The focus is on internal and external relationship building, sharing best practices, and continued learning passion.

"I am grateful to the organization for allowing me an opportunity to attend the Academy. It forced me to look at my leadership style, to reflect, strategize, change, and grow...all things that have been extremely useful during this pandemic year. It also provided the opportunity to meet, learn from and network with senior leaders throughout NYS," says Kate.

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