

New Kiwanis club at Wesley Village

Residents and staff have formed a brand-new Kiwanis club at Wesley Village. Monthly meetings are held in the Irene Raeder Community Center at Brooks Estates. Officers include Lindsey Henzlmeir, president; Amber Black, secretary; and Kyle Harchar, treasurer. All three are UMH employees. The group has 17 members, and they follow the 3-2-1 model that's common for new Kiwanis clubs: three hours of service, two hours of social activity, and a one-hour meeting each month. Kiwanis has clubs in 80 nations and focuses on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time. The Wesley Village club has held a Halloween party on campus and organized a local food drive for Feed-A-Friend. The club's next scheduled activity is a coat drive. Residents interested in learning more may contact Lindsey at 655.2891 ext.230.

Our full continuum of care can help you rehab, recover, recharge

Sometimes an event that is beyond your control—a fall, a heart attack or stroke, joint replacement, a serious illness or even a motor-vehicle accident—can land you in the hospital. For most of us, being discharged is just the start of the healing process.

The smart way to ensure that your recovery is everything you want it to be is to choose the right place to rehabilitate, recover, and recharge. That place is at our Hilltop Campus in Johnson City. It's where the expertise of the short-term rehabilitation and wellness team at United Methodist Homes can make all the difference for you, your family, and your future.

Our brand-new, 20-bed short-term rehabilitation unit has been created with your needs in mind. From the home-like environment to our caring, professional staff, "This is a place that feels different from anywhere else," says Ron Patti, administrator. "Here you'll experience our exceptional care, and you'll know

that your well-being is the most important thing to us."

In addition to beautifully appointed private and shared-private rooms—each with its own bathroom, shower, television and telephone—you'll enjoy the comfort and convenience of a private dining room, outstanding meals, and a cozy library with a computer and high-speed internet service. The unit also has five semi-private rooms.

You'll have access to our full range of rehab services—guided by a comprehensive care plan—that can get you back up to speed again. These

services can include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and more. In addition, our wellness services are integrated into your rehab program, just like they are at every other level of care at Hilltop (see story).

When it's time to restore your body—and your spirit—call our admissions office at 607.729.2305 to find out how we can help you.



Hilltop rehab department



Hilltop rehab private room

Mission, vision and values are our guideposts



The mission, vision and values of United Methodist Homes have been our most important guiding principles for nearly six decades. These three fundamental elements, coupled with the dedicated leadership of our board of directors, serve as the foundation that drive our efforts both now and into the future.

That future is being reshaped today by a comprehensive strategic planning process that is seeking innovative, enriching and cost-effective ways to better meet the needs of our current residents and those generations that will follow them. This vital renewal process began six months ago and will continue over the next six months. When the process is completed, we'll have a blueprint that will help us focus on the diverse challenges of the future.

Those challenges will include the need to reposition our organization in order to better meet the evolving expectations of today's consumers, particularly the baby-boomer generation—a segment of the U.S. population that desires more information, more communication, more involvement, and more of the active, live-better lifestyle. Regardless where that path to the future may take us, we will continue to maintain the highest standards for quality of care, a United Methodist Homes hallmark since our founding.

The need for large-scale improvements in our infrastructure has been one of the most important challenges we've faced in recent memory, and we've met that need head on with a \$40 million four-campus renovation project that is nearly complete. Work at our Elizabeth Church, Hilltop and Tunkhannock campuses concluded in 2015, and residents are excited by the many enhancements we've made. Work at Wesley Village will wrap up in mid-2016. These projects would not have been possible without the patience and understanding of our residents, their families and our staff, and the generosity of some very special donors.

Residents and their families also have my sincere gratitude for participating in our recent satisfaction survey, which was conducted by Holleran. Although the response rate was lower than anticipated, our leadership team is evaluating results and developing an action plan. Please watch for more information as we move forward. These efforts will enable us to continue to fulfill our commitment to you, in the spirit of caring, connecting, and community.



Brian Picchini
President and CEO



UMH decorated a holiday tree at Roberson in Binghamton. Helpers included staff members Faye Clark and Mary Claire Truman, and residents Ken Davis and Marilyn Craver.



UMH board members Blenda Smith and Betty Stanton with Rev. Marcia Focht at the Broome County Council of Churches "Dining for Dollars" event.

Wellness services complement rehab

UMH's Hilltop Campus delivers the full continuum of care—from totally independent living at The Highlands to skilled nursing at the James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home—and wellness services play an important role all along the way. "Wellness allows us to really focus on healthy lifestyles for our

residents. They're part of our program even if they're in our highest level of care," Ron Patti says.

Wellness director Vinni Wingell adds, "We provide wellness information even to those who come to us just for short-term rehab." Vinni has been in the job for nearly 15 years and initially worked only with independent

residents, but she expanded her program to include everyone at Hilltop. Her staff includes Robin Chodkowski and Christa McEwan; all three are certified personal trainers.

"I feel very good about what we do here. We have programs in place to support and encourage fullness of life for all of our residents, and staff too," Vinni says. "I don't know of any other facility in the area that offers personal training in a formal setting for every level of care."



Hilltop short-term rehab unit library



Hilltop rehab private dining room



Hilltop rehab shared-private room

Wesley Village will have new rehab unit

Wesley Village will have its own 24-bed short-term rehab unit opening in June. It will include 12 beds of new construction and 12 existing beds that will be updated in the final phase of the renovation project. Extensive upgrades will match other new construction on campus. The unit will have a separate entrance, circular driveway, and a bay for transport vehicles, along with its own spa, dining area, activities area, laundry and therapeutic courtyard.



Kristen Myers and Natalie Keefer

Hilltop employee wins statewide award

Natalie Keefer, a certified home health aide at our Hilltop Campus for the past 20 years, was presented with the Employee of Distinction Award for 2015 from LeadingAge New York in a ceremony at the Johnson City site. The award recognizes extraordinary dedication and service of front-line staff. Nominations came from co-workers, residents and their families. "This is my second life, after my family," Natalie says. "I love to come to work, I love the residents, and I do whatever I can to make their day better."

Kristen Myers, vice president at LeadingAge NY, presented the award. LeadingAge represents more than 600 not-for-profit continuing care provider organizations in the state. Natalie also was given a formal proclamation from the office of 123rd District Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo.

Construction project is nearing completion

The \$40 million four-campus renovation project that United Methodist Homes kicked off more than two years ago is expected to be completed by the end of next summer, according to Chet Lowrie, vice president of building management. Work on UMH's two campuses in New York concluded in late 2014 and early 2015, while renovations in Tunkhannock wrapped up last summer. Construction work at our Wesley Village Campus in Pittston is ongoing but in the final phase; it should be wrapped up by August. Work on Myers Manor is virtually complete; the only exception is the wellness center, which is expected to be finished in mid-January.

The new in-house pharmacy at Wesley Village is slated to open in the Spring. This partnership with

Trinity Pharmacy Services will serve residents and staff. The new café has been finished and is waiting to open; UMH has the certificate of occupancy from the town, and the required inspection by the Department of Agriculture is scheduled. Work on the Anderson Personal Care Facility has largely wrapped up, with the exception of the first floor area, which will be finished in early February.

At the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility, the renovation of all large common areas has been completed. The refurbishing of resident rooms and the common areas in each wing continue to make good progress and are roughly two-thirds complete. Wesley Village's renovation project is being handled by Sordoni Construction Services.

New services enrich our quality of care

Assisted living and adult care residents at our Hilltop Campus now have access to on-site geriatric-based primary care. Thanks to a new partnership between United Methodist Homes and Lourdes Hospital, Dr. Jerome Miklouchich and Cathy Slocum, family nurse practitioner, are available several days per week to provide in-room services

to residents who choose them as primary care providers.

Residents at our Elizabeth Church Campus also can take advantage of a new partnership, this one with Trinity Pharmacy Services. Trinity offers direct billing to a resident's insurance group, timely delivery of medications—including 24-hour emergency

service—and an improved linkage with medical records through HealthMEDX, our electronic medical records system. Trinity's services will be available to residents at our Hilltop Campus as of January 1, 2016. An on-site pharmacy, operated by Trinity, is under construction at our Wesley Village Campus and is scheduled to open in Spring 2016.

Board adopts new recognition policy for directors

The United Methodist Homes board of directors approved a policy that enables board members who meet certain standards to be honored for their years of service. Directors who have retired and no longer serve on the UMH board will be eligible for consideration for Director Emeritus status. Among the requirements for earning this honor, UMH board policy stipulates that "The candidate's service shall have been active, exemplary and extraordinary, with distinction and excellence... The candidate shall have contributed generously to the

mission of the organization..." Candidates must have served on the board for at least 15 years. Each will receive an engraved plaque.

The directors committee of the board nominated,



and the full board approved, the appointment of three candidates for status as Directors Emeriti this year: Art Gordon, Jim Proof and Carl Ernstrom (posthumously). Board member Warren Watkins, who worked closely with directors committee chair Bob Montgomery, had the lead role in developing this new designation. Past, present and future chairpersons of the board also will be recognized by having their names engraved on a "perpetual plaque" that will be placed at the Corporate Office in Binghamton.



Brian Picchini, UMH president and CEO, with Darlene Leonard, executive director of the Johnson City Senior Center, where a team from UMH tackled a painting project during the United Way's "Day of Caring."



Caring. Connecting. *Community.*

10 Acre Place
Binghamton, NY 13904

unitedmethodisthomes.org

News & Notes

The **UMH Foundation's** Annual Appeal is under way. To all of our caring friends, please know that your gift will make a difference. Call our development office at 607.775.6400 ext.281 for information...

Citizens Bank awarded a \$5,000 grant for our Resident Support Program...

Staff updates: **Ann Lomonaco** is our new director of development. She most recently served as director of volunteer services at Lourdes Hospital. "We're pleased that Ann has joined the United Methodist Homes family. There will be many opportunities for her to put her development skills to work as we move forward in the coming year," says Kristen Oleary, vice president of sales and marketing...

David Cawley is our new recruiter in the human resources department. He has five years of healthcare recruiting experience...

Denise Johnson is now director of staff development for UMH's two New York campuses. She recently earned her B.S. in Nursing from South University in Georgia, where she made the president's list with a 3.9 GPA. Denise replaces **Melissa Stark**, who is now assistant director of nursing at the James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home at UMH's Hilltop Campus.

Jackie Otremba is director of nursing at JGJ.

Marcia Richards is director of quality management at UMH's Elizabeth Church Campus...

Shane McGuire, vice president of finance, is a member of the Broome Leadership Institute's class of 2016...

Jerry Sulkoski, plant operations director, retired after 37 years at Wesley Village. **Brad Picchini** has been chosen to replace him.

Connections is published quarterly. It is designed for easier readability. Contact Paul Golaszewski at pgolaszewski@umhwc.org or 607.775.6400 x288. Like us on Facebook at UnitedMH and visit our website at unitedmethodisthomes.org

Corporate Office

Binghamton, NY
607.775.6400

Elizabeth Church Campus

Binghamton, NY
607.722.3463

Hilltop Campus

Johnson City, NY
607.798.7818

Tunkhannock Campus

Tunkhannock, PA
570.836.2983

Wesley Village Campus

Pittston, PA
570.655.2891