

Webster Comfort Cares

Webster Comfort Care—built by a compassionate community

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Seven Years of Loving Care at WCCH

Six years ago, in February of 2003, a dream came true for many people when Webster Comfort Care Home opened. During these six years, WCCH has served 140 residents with over 80% of the residents or their family, being from the Webster area. The staff and volunteers have assisted these residents to live the remaining days of their lives in a comfortable and supportive environment with as little pain as possible, and have allowed the family members to be family and not caregivers.

For those of you who have been in the situation of caring for an ill family member, you know that care giving consumes all of your time. There is little time to sit, talk, to share time and memories with your family member. At Webster Comfort Care Home, volunteers and staff care for the residents, giving physical, psychological and supportive care. Every attempt is made to help the resident live the last of their days in peace and joy and in as pain-free condition as possible. Families are encouraged to take the time to be family, instead of caregivers. They are encouraged to be in the home as often and at whatever time they are able. We encourage the resident and their family to think of the home as theirs during their stay. This is precious time for families and for residents to relive their memories, make their peace and say their goodbyes.

Since the very initial phase of development, we have had tremendous support from the community. Many Webster businesses were instrumental in securing the property, building and furnishing the home; community residents began to volunteer immediately upon hearing of the home and all have continued to support WCCH. It is only through the generous giving and support of every volunteer and the Webster community that WCCH can provide this wonderful opportunity and care to persons in need.

The home is staffed with volunteers and staff seven days a week, 24 hours per day. There is no charge for any of the care given at WCCH.

However, like all non-profits, Webster Comfort Care Home has been hit with the realities of these economic times. Donations are down and many volunteers have had to curtail their time with us as they go back to work or increase their work hours to help their own families. This has meant that other volunteers have had to increase their volunteer hours at WCCH in order that we can remain open.

We have had some new volunteers join us recently, but are in need of more. If you know anyone who would, and could, volunteer at WCCH, please contact Annie Gilmore, Volunteer Coordinator, 872-5290. If they do not feel they want to do resident care, we need help with all aspects of running a home, or they can simply be companions and visit with or read to our residents.

As we enter our seventh year, it is our fervent hope and dream that we will be able to continue this mission for a long time to come. With the continued support of the greater Webster Community, this will be possible.

Have a Happy Spring

Kathy Fulton, Board Chair



Webster Comfort Care Home

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Point to Remember

- United Way ID Number **2396**
- Looking for a small party gift or favor? Why not give a WCC jar mix—Soups, Cookies
- Watch Channel 12 to hear about Webster Care
- Touch of Brass Concert to benefit WCC on May 9, 7:00 p.m. at Webster United Methodist Church
- Fashion Show (see inside)
- Wine Tasting (see inside)

Volunteer Coordinator's Corner

When I was a kid, I often thought about being a reporter when I grew up. After all, my mother had lovingly coined me "Gabby Annie" by the time I was two. Who would have thought I would at last have my big break in writing Annie's Corner!!



The Resource Corner

Recommended Reading Resources:

When you have time while volunteering at WCCH, read through one of these booklets. Each one is full of information and very supportive. You will find them in the volunteer room and/or in the resident's rooms.

"Journey's End" by Deborah Sigrist

"The Patient Visitor" by Theo Munson

It has been an honor and a privilege to become a part of this dynamic group of people. You have all welcomed me, and made me feel so at home in such a short amount of time. For that I thank you! I am not sure what format this column will take over the next few months, but for my first one, I would like to put a spotlight upon a few exceptional people.

First, I would like to pay a special tribute to our "seasoned, veteran, old-timer, volunteers. Without you, this home would have never made it from dream to reality. Nor, would it have continued to grow as it has. It is through you, and because of you that more than 140 families have had the opportunity to receive the love, care and respect that was needed at such a tender moment in their lives.

Second, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the ten new volunteers who have joined our home over the past few months. Some are friends of current volunteers, some had a personal connection to Webster Comfort Care Home, and some just knew this was a great way to become involved in a meaningful way. Please join me in welcoming them. I know they will rely heavily upon you veterans to help them along!

Finally, I could not miss the opportunity to say thank you to "The Baker Man".

"The baker man", as he is lovingly known here at WCCH, arrives every Thursday morning. Although it is his wish that his identity remain a mystery, the quality of his baking talent is no mystery or secret to anyone who has been fortunate enough to taste one of his goodies. It is no wonder the house seems to have more visitors on Thursday mornings. This is one mystery man we ladies look forward to seeing every week!

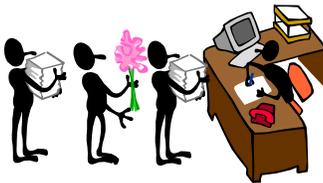
Keep a watch out for our upcoming volunteer recruitment drive! We will be hosting a new volunteer training class beginning on April 15th. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining us, please let me know. It would be my pleasure to meet them and get them started as a volunteer.

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Appreciation



To all of the dedicated volunteers who share their time, talents, and care to Webster Comfort Care Home, our residents, their families and the staff. All that we are we could not be with out your service and team work,. Love shows in so many ways in our care giving, our facilities



The Webster Comfort Care Annual Appeal provides funding critical to keep Webster Comfort Care Home able to service our residents and families. A special dedicated group of Webster businessmen, who have donated their time and talents to put the annual campaign and mailing, are Tom Smith, Kevin Smith, Fred Suter and Pat Lydon. We greatly appreciate the service they continue to provide .

Webster Comfort Care Home is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

We, the staff of Webster Comfort Care Home, want to take this opportunity to thank the Webster Community, both individuals and businesses for their continuing and recent support. Our Annual Appeal is now in its second mailing and the response, so far, has been

positive given the state of the economy. We also want to thank all the individuals who make our jobs here at WCCH possible, by supporting us both monetarily and with advice and handiwork and volunteering hours of service. Without your dedication, this wonderful service to Webster residents could not be sustained. A

reminder, the United Way campaign will begin soon and Webster Comfort Care Home is a donor option member. Our number is **2396**.

Alan Jones

News From Our Nurse

They say you are never too old to learn. That certainly is true at WCCH! The nurses recently learned that we couldn't trust the concentrators to turn themselves back on. Last month the power went off and so did the concentrator, but unlike the power, it never came back on! It seems they are not programmed to turn themselves back on when they lose power. We are now suggesting that volunteers and nurses check them twice a shift especially during bad weather. To do this the white button must be pushed then turn on the machine and press the on/off switch. Lesson learned!

We currently have 8 per diem nurses and sometimes that doesn't seem like enough. When vacation time comes along, as it does all year long, we can find ourselves a little short of nurses. So, I remain open to adding new per diem nurses at any time. If anyone knows of a nurse who might be interested in per diem work, please let him or her know we are looking.

I took on the Primary Nurse position this fall after Suzanne Crough R.N. sadly left. She was a great teacher and a good friend. When I started at WCCH, I felt proud to work with so many excellent caring and giving staff and volunteers. That feeling continues to grow as I work here. I consider myself lucky to be among them. Thank you for your dedication and caring.

Linda Weisbeck , Primary Nurse

Fashion Show at Cherry Ridge

Every woman gets the urge to look at the new fashions for spring and dream of a new wardrobe! What better way to see them than at a fashion show over lunch and a glass of wine! Come to our Spring Fling fashion show at Cherry Ridge on May 16, 2009 and enjoy watching the models show off the newest fashions. The fashion show this year is being sponsored by "The Dress Barn" and features the right look for 2009! Watch for advertisements of the event starting the middle of April and get your tickets early. There is limited seating capacity. Please come and join us for the fun.

Board Building Opportunity

Are you experienced with fundraising, finance, public relations or community representation? We are looking to add members to our Board of Directors with these strengths. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Alan Jones, Exec. Director at 872-5290, or Kathy Fulton, Board Chair at 671-5344.



Save the Date!!
WCCH Annual Wine Tasting

- ◆ This year's Wine Tasting will be
- ◆ October 23 from 6:30 until 9:30
- ◆ p.m. at the Webster Golf Club.
- ◆ The Wine Tasting is a major
- ◆ fund raising event for Webster
- ◆ Comfort Care Home. Mark your
- ◆ calendars!
- ◆ This event is lots of fun. Plan to
- ◆ bring friends and neighbors to

Abbreviation Knowledge

Do you know what these abbreviations stand for? You will see them in use in the resident records.

Abd- abdomen

Amt – amount

MOM – Milk of
Magnesia

OOB – out of bed

PRN – as needed



A Spring Fashion Show is a fun way to begin a new season. Come have fun and support WCCH.

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Webster Comfort Care Home Mission : It is our desire to allow our residents to live in a warm, loving, home-like atmosphere of support and encouragement during their final months of life. We believe in the Hospice philosophy of care: all persons have the right to die with dignity, to have an enhanced quality of life for the remainder of their days, and to be as comfortable and pain free as possible.



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community**

We're on the Web

www.webstercomfortcare.org

Board Members:

Kathy Fulton, Chair
Ruth Fischer, Vice Chair
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Chris Kotary
Jim Reed
Bob Anderson
Sal Simonetti
Kathy DiPaolo
Gene Clifford

Staff:

Alan Jones, Exec. Dir.
Linda Weisbeck, Primary
Nurse
Annie Gilmore, Volunteer
Coordinator

The House of Love

By Lori Naczynski

*People drive by this home totally unaware,
What this place really is "Webster Comfort Care"
It's filled with lots of people just like you and me,
People who volunteer much of their time so unselfishly.*

*You see they take in strangers- people they have never met,
And provide them with services they would otherwise not get.
They do so many different things too numerous to mention, I
feel this place really need to get a lot more attention.*

*This is a home driven by true compassion and love,
They care for your family member until they go to God above.
I know this through personal experience
Because my mother received their care,
Her name was Janet Fischer who had a short stay there.
They not only care for the patient; they care for family too,
For the workers of Webster Comfort Care"
that is just what they do.*

*I want to thank all of you for taking care of my mother,
Along with myself, my sister and brothers.
May God bless everyone of you and your families too,
For all the love and care you provided and for all that you do!*