

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume I

Fall, 2010

Our New Board Chairman

After board chairman Gene Clifford's brother Jim passed away at the Home in 2006 Gene told director Alan Jones, "Let me know if I can ever do anything to help the Home." Gene had already experienced his fair share of end-of-life matters. His mother had passed away in a nursing home, with hospice care assistance. His sister had home hospice care when she was dying from cancer. His brother Jim's death was Gene's first experience with an actual hospice home. "Nothing compared to the dedicated and sensitive care Jim received at this Home in his final 6 weeks of life," remembers Gene. "I could not get over how dedicated the staff and volunteers were. I wanted other families to be able to experience what our family did at Webster Comfort Care Home when their loved one was dying."



Gene grew up in Rochester, graduated from Aquinas, then Boston College and Boston Law School. He and his wife, Joyce, a nurse for Lifetime Care, are the parents of 2 sons and a daughter and 4 grandchildren ranging in age from age 3 to 20. When Gene is not practicing law at Davidson Fink, LLP, where he recently moved from Partner to an "Of Counsel" position and cut his work-week back to four days a week, he and his wife enjoy both travel and

reading. They are members of a couples' book club where they enjoy discussing favorite authors such as Pat Conroy and Margaret Atwood. Gene also enjoys photography, especially with its digital possibilities.

When asked what propels him to do what he does at the Home, he says, "It is payback time. Payback for the Home, which took such good care of my brother, Jim, and payback for that same brother who paid with his own income for much of my education."

Thank you, Gene, for being a member of the WCCH board and taking on the responsibility of board chairman. It is a demanding task. Your brother Jim would be mighty proud!

The Numbers Game

See how you do answering these ? about the Home all of which involve a number:

1. In what month and year did the Home open?
2. How much money needed to be raised before the Home could start construction?
3. As of 10/1/10 how many residents have been cared for at the Home?

(Answers on the 2nd page)



Welcome, Maisy!

When Maisy (Mary Elizabeth) Buckley was first approached about taking on the job of our new volunteer coordinator, she was quite certain she couldn't do it. She had been a volunteer at the Home for only 5 months. She had three elementary-age children at home. She is married to very talented (and tall - 6'7") Sean who is a busy project manager at Xerox, and plays piano in a band in his free time.



She is a member of a platform tennis team at Shadow Lake. She makes outrageously complicated birthday cakes for their children's birthdays (think cakes shaped like Hannah Montana's guitar and Pokemon and Legos and "Fancy Nancy"). She stays up late reading Alex Cross (James Patterson) mysteries. No. No. She was quite certain she couldn't do the job.

Three people changed her mind. On her first day as a volunteer Maisy shadowed Bobbie Partillia. That turned out to be a very positive experience. (Thank you, Bobbie!) It made Maisy realize she had found the right place to volunteer. When another volunteer, Bill Galbraith, learned she had been approached about the job, he said, "Maisy, you can do this!" And the

(over)

Welcome, Maisy (cont.)

clinch was Alan Jones upbeat attitude. Maisy said, "When he told me I could work from 9 until 3 and still be home when our kids got off the school bus everything began to fall into place." Maisy, Sean, and Lily, age 10 in 4th grade, Sean, Jr., age 8 in 3rd grade, and Maryclare, 5 years old in kindergarten (all at Klem South School) live just three minutes away from the Home on Cloverwood Dr.

When people ask her why she chose to work at the Home, she replies, "It's not what you think. It's a happy place. When people come to our Home they know they are going to die soon. We help make their last days comfortable, manageable, and happy."

Welcome, Maisy. You are in exactly the right place.

Young Energy



On a recent fall morning 40 young men from the Schroeder High School JV & Varsity soccer teams arrived at the Home. Under the expert direction of Building & Grounds Committee members Kathy DiPaolo, Bill Galbraith, and John Watson, the students literally "dug in." They edged out new gardens next to the driveway. They dug 30 holes for the planting of daisies. They mowed the lawn, cleaned out the garage, and cleared the woods further back behind the Home.

This is the third year these capable young men, assisted by several parents, have helped to make the Home the attractive place it is. As this newsletter goes to press the JV soccer team at Webster Thomas & the United Methodist Church of Webster are also scheduled to garden this fall at our Home. Quite a nice contribution, don't you think?

Our Very Own Energizer Bunny

Have you ever been standing at the counter of a local Webster business and noticed a decorated coffee can with the words "Make A Change Fund"? It is the brainchild of volunteer Carolyn Johnson (Thursday mornings, 7-11 AM). She had the idea that Webster residents might be willing to donate their change to a good cause. She was right. Over the past 6 ½ years Carolyn has collected \$11,555 from seven different Webster establishments. Additionally, she regularly collects all the recyclable cans and bottles at the Home and turns them into more money for the Home. And (are you tired yet) she doesn't stop there. She is a member of the team that puts together our Wine Tasting Gala each fall. She is the chairperson of the Silent Auction for that event. Does the term "Energizer Bunny" come to mind?

Carolyn grew up in



Farmingdale, N.Y. Her husband, Gordon's job with Xerox brought them to Rochester. They are parents of three children and 5 grandchildren. She is a registered nurse, and in her spare time enjoys tennis, bridge, herb gardening, and singing.

"When I first began volunteering at the Home my husband would say 'Oh – you're going off to work.' I always said, 'It's not work.'" Thank you, Carolyn. For your creative ideas. For your stamina. For your attention to detail. Your model of caring inspires all of us, and we are grateful.

Fascinating Facts

Our WCCH family is quite an awesome group. Here is just a hint of their uniqueness.

- Nurse Eleanor Scott just returned from Kenya where she & 11 other people from Webster Presbyterian Church worked at a school and a clinic in Kenya. One of her most notable deeds – attending to a man who had been attacked by a lion! (More news about her adventure in the Winter Newsletter.)
- Nurse Laurie Ehms on Sept. 12 ran her 16th marathon, in Erie, PA. She finished the race... all 26.2 miles of it. You go, girl!!
- One of our volunteers (Tuesday, 3-7 PM) and former board member and a founder of the Home was recently given the title, "Mr. Webster." Dave Whitlock, besides participating in all of the above, has also served as a Webster Village Trustee and now drives once a month for Angel Food Ministries. In addition, he teaches a weekly bible study group at the United Methodist Church in Webster and sings tenor in their choir. Are we proud of him or what!!

The Numbers Game Answers

1. February, 2003
2. \$4000. Most of that money was used to run a water line across Holt Road. All the rest of the construction costs numbering over \$200,000 were donated by Gerber Homes & a wide variety of sub-contractors.
3. 175



Note: A special thank you to Linda Weisbeck and Kathy Whitlock for suggesting the title of our Newsletter.

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