

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume II

Winter, 2011

Angels Among Us

This is a column dedicated to the people at our Home who, above and beyond their regular duties, recognize a need and quietly go about taking care of it. Here is just a partial list:

- Volunteer Barb Rindo (Wed. 3-7) and nurse Linda Weisbeck who, at different times, went out of their way to drive relatives, who could not drive themselves, to our Home so they could be with their loved ones.
- Volunteer Joan Rosette (Tues. 11-3) who made delicious 15-bean soup at home and then brought it to our Home for residents to enjoy. See recipe on page 2.
- New volunteer Tom Starsmore, even before he completed his WCCH training, saw a need he could fill. Over the Christmas holidays he and board member Kathy DiPaolo and volunteer Bill Galbraith painted walls and trim in several rooms.
- A special thanks to an Anonymous Donor who generously gave new hardwood flooring for the volunteer office and to John Watson who did such a professional job installing the flooring.

These volunteers, and others, many of whom we are currently unaware, make our Home a very special place indeed!



Our B & B Dynamic Duo



(Bobbie Partilla & Brenda Arnold)

When Bobbie Partilla (Fridays 7-11 PM) began volunteering 3 years ago at the Home she had no idea that gaining a new and good friend was one of the “perks.” A life-long Webster resident and wife of Stephen (Xerox) for 43 years, Bobbie learned about WCCH from her neighbor, Pat Edwards (Thurs. 7-11 PM).

Volunteer Brenda Arnold learned about the Home from Mary Alice Moore (Tues. 7-11 PM). Brenda, a recent widow, had come to Rochester from Nelson, PA in 2007. She bought a home in Webster about one mile from her daughter and family. After settling in she remembers thinking “Oh my gosh, what am I going to do with myself now?” Volunteer Mary Alice knew just the right answer. “We (the Home) have a need, and you need something to do.”

For almost 2 years now Bobbie & Brenda have been the Tuesday & Friday evening (7-11 PM) dynamic duo. Their good humor, out-going personalities, & compassionate care are a blessing to both residents and staff. They can talk easily about grandchildren (they both have 4), quilting (Brenda has finished a queen-sized bedspread), pets (Bobbie owns a 13 year-old cocker spaniel), reading (Brenda has a Kindle), and camping (Bobbie & Stephen have a

summer place at Henderson Harbor). In addition to her resident care Brenda also puts in extra hours assisting Kay Coleman with writing thank-you notes to people who have donated money to the Home.

The pleasure they share in keeping up with each other’s lives is more than matched by the good feeling they get from caring for the residents and their families. Brenda recalls, “Two of my family members died in a hospital. I know having them in a home environment would have been so much better.” Bobbie states, “Our Home is a refuge for families. It is a place where they can relax without a lot of responsibility and be at peace.” In caring for the residents Bobbie and Brenda feel they get back much more than they give.

Two good friends. Two fine volunteers. A pretty neat combination!

Farm Boy Becomes Director



How does a farm boy from Kansas end up as the Director of the Webster Comfort Care Home? By a bit of a circuitous route. Alan Jones grew up in Benton, KS, a town of about 600 people. His father was both a gentleman farmer (think cows, chickens, horses) and an aeronautical engineer.

When Alan was in 9th grade the family moved to Wichita, an easier commute for his dad. After graduating from high school Alan attended, and graduated from, Abilene Christian University where he majored in psychology and religion. His wanderlust resulted in his seeking a job in Colorado. But his brother, a recent employee at Lawyers Coop, urged him to come to Rochester for a visit. He came and liked what he saw.

His first post college job was as a counselor at Irondequoit High School. Within one year he had written such effective grants for the school district, that Monroe County asked him to come on board to write grants for the state. He became the Assistant Director of Mental Health for Monroe County. When he accepted the position the county was receiving \$986,000 in grants. When he left that job in 1992 his office was receiving 55 million dollars in grants!

In 1992 the Monroe County Sheriff's department saw a good thing, and stole him away to aid their grant program. In that role he was the contract manager for state and national monies going to not-for-profit agencies. He retired from that position in 2000.

In 2003 he remembers going door to door in Texas asking for help for his ailing mom. There was no such thing as hospice care in Savoy, Texas at the time. He became acutely aware of the needs of the elderly.

So when friend Kathy Fulton (one of the originators of the Home) in 2003 suggested to Alan that he become a board member, Alan readily accepted. Two years later, in 2005, Alan became the Director of the Home. Lucky for us he ended up in Webster and not in Colorado!

Joan's Market Soup Recipe

1 - 12 oz. pkg. dried bean soup mix
 9 cups water
 1 cup lean cooked ham, cubed
 ½ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. pepper
 1 - 16 oz. can whole tomatoes, undrained

¾ cup diced carrots
 1 ½ cup chopped onion
 ¾ cup chopped celery
 2 lg. cloves garlic, minced
 3 T. lemon juice
 1 tsp. hot sauce

Sort and wash bean soup mix. Place in dutch oven. Cover with water 2" above beans; soak 8 hours. Drain and return to pot. Add water, ham, salt, and pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 2 hours or until beans are tender. Chop tomatoes and add with juice and remaining ingredients to pot. Simmer 30 min., stirring occasionally. Serves 4.



When Christmas Came to the Home

The weather outside was dismal, wet, and gray. Inside, the Home hummed along with daily activities. Breakfasts were made. Baths were given. Meds were administered.

A knock at the front door heralded a stranger to the Home. The person wanted to give us a Christmas tree. It seems the giving family had cut down a tree that turned out to be too big for their home. They decided to donate it to us. When they realized we didn't have a stand for the tree, they provided it. When they discovered we had no decorations, no problem. They went out and bought 1,000 lights and dozens of gold and silver and red balls – and even remembered to buy hooks for the balls.

As the day went on volunteers and relatives alike decorated the tree. One relative said, "I'd love to help you decorate the tree. It probably will be the only tree we'll have this year."

The doorbell rang again. This time a pretty young lady with a beautiful smile brought 20 pounds of Joe Bean coffee for the residents and volunteers. Always, when you enter the Home, the delicious aroma of coffee greets you. Joe Bean comes each month. What a

savory treat for all of us.



Again, the doorbell rang. A really good baker we fondly call "the cookie lady" brought homemade triple chocolate chip cookies. Absolutely scrumptious! By the time the 7-11 PM volunteers arrived, only 2 cookies were left!

At about 6 PM another stranger to the Home rang our doorbell. She lives nearby and had been thinking about volunteering for some time. She handed us a filled-out volunteer application form. She brought needed supplies for the Home that she had learned about from a wish list booklet she'd picked up at Wegmans. She gave us gifts of toilet paper and bird seed and envelopes and computer paper – and a check for \$100! Truly, our cup runneth over!

Welcome New Volunteers!

Colleen Badger	Doreen Alvito
Richard King	Rosemary Shull

Looking Ahead

- Mark your calendars. **Masons' Spaghetti Dinner** with proceeds going to the Home is on March 4, 2011 from 5-7 PM. It will be held at 30 Orchard St., Webster. See you there.
- The **United Way Campaign** will soon be in full swing. You may specify that you would like all, or a portion, of your contribution to go to the Webster Comfort Care Home. **Our United Way designation number is 2396.** Be sure to include this number with your donation. Thank you!!
- Board member Chris Kotary shares that both the **May Fashion Show Committee** (our 5th), and the **October Wine Tasting Committee** (our 7th) are already busily planning for their respective events. A huge thank you to members of both committees who plan such successful fund raisers.