

# Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume X

Fall, 2013

## Thoughts From The Executive Director



On August 27<sup>th</sup>, I celebrated my 6 month anniversary as the Executive Director here at WCCH. As I meet friends and family, I continue to be asked “How’s the new job?” With glee, I answer “I love it, it is awesome!” And then I explain that it must sound strange to hear that I love a job where people are dying.

Upon arriving on my first day at work, I felt a wonderful calming spirit throughout the Home; a positive energy that was contagious, with welcoming smiles, words of encouragement, and warm handshakes. I was quickly impressed with the many dedicated volunteers. Everyone came to “work” with a song in their heart and a mission to make a difference that day in the lives of our residents and families.

As I sat listening to Kathy Fulton tell the story of the Home to a newspaper reporter, I was moved by the extraordinary generosity of Webster residents throughout our 10 years. The community’s continued support is nothing less than amazing!

My next impression was that of the staff. The evening of my first day, we lost one of our residents. When I arrived the next morning, Bonnie, the nurse on duty, was already making plans to meet a new resident, who arrived that afternoon. The nursing staff is highly respected and

extremely professional in their service. My last story for now is that one morning Maisy, Mary, and I were sharing coffee and touching base for the day. In our conversation we mentioned needing something for the Home. Without making the need known to anyone, that afternoon there was a knock on the door with a donation filling our need. I was awestruck! This is truly a spirit-led organization, and I am honored to have a small supporting role in the life of our Home. Thank you to the volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, and community for making this my dream job!

## Hot Dogs, Anyone? 5th in a Series About Board Members



If you know just one thing about board member, Jo Zimmerman, it’s that she gives 110% to every task she undertakes. She worked at the Fall Wine Tasting Gala; at the Spaghetti Dinner, she passed out food and collected dirty dishes. At the Spring Fashion Show she sold raffle

tickets and counted money. During the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, there was Jo, cooking hot dogs (see photo). Currently she is a member of both the Personnel Committee and the Fund Raising Committee. She states, “Both the most challenging and rewarding part of being on the board, for me, is to help figure out what we should do to keep the Home financially afloat.” Besides her board responsibilities, Jo is an active member of The United Methodist Church of Webster where she is currently a trustee.

Jo was born and raised in Ballston Spa, NY. She graduated from Parson’s College with a degree in history and political science. She came to Rochester to take on a job as a quality control auditor for the state of New York. She and her husband, Charles (now deceased), raised two children, Daniel and Catherine Nicol. She has two much-adored grandchildren, Abraham (6) and Andrew (6 months). In her spare time she enjoys reading, knitting, and playing Mahjongg. She also participates in Tai Chi classes.

Even though Jo has a very busy schedule she has found significant time for WCCH ever since 2008, and we are very grateful!

## English Gardner – Our Latest Treasure

When Kathy DiPaolo retired from her many years of wonderful garden tending, more than one person thought “Oh no. Now, surely the flowers will never look the same.”

But blessings have a way of continuing to rain down upon our Home. Board member David Knauss, in charge of buildings and grounds, knew he had big gardening shoes to fill when he began searching for Kathy's replacement. As luck would have it, just down from David's home on Severn Ridge he noticed a beautifully manicured lawn and garden. Thinking "nothing ventured, nothing gained", he asked the gardener, Bob Nash if he would be interested in doing a bit MORE gardening. He said yes.

British born and educated (PhD in physics), Bob and his wife, Ann, came to America after his college graduation. They planned on staying a year or two. After Bob spent time both at Amherst College and at Case Western doing research, he and Ann and their two young boys came to Rochester. For the next 40 years Bob worked at Xerox, the last three years in Japan.



Bob has nurtured our gardens now for about a year. Many a day you can see him planting and watering. He is already thinking about next year's plant sale. (This year's sale garnered more than \$500 for the Home.)

The grounds look absolutely beautiful. England's loss is definitely our gain. We continue to be a wonderful horticultural presence in the Webster community, thanks to Bob Nash!

### **Powers' Points**

(From the Board Chairman, Randy Powers)

These past months have been busy ones. A major job was completed to replace the parking lot lights and wiring due to an electrical failure. We have updated the computers, thanks to a number of

donations. What was a source of frustration to the staff is now gone. We are in the planning stages of creating a new sign on Holt Road – the old one is falling apart. We are now working on a new web site design and new database software.

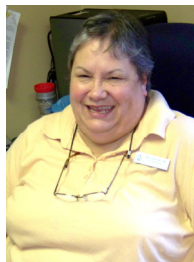
We celebrate two members of the board who have given us over 18 years of great and loyal service to the Home. Thank you Bob Anderson and Kay Coleman. While we lose them from the board, both of them will continue to do behind the scenes work at WCCH. A search committee has been formed to fill these vacancies on the board. Randy comments, "If you haven't been to the Home in a while, stop by anytime and have some coffee and a tour. As Mary Barnhart, the primary care nurse says, There is a lot of laughing and loving at the little house at the corner of Holt and Klem."

### **A Grateful Family Says Thanks**

"Words cannot express our appreciation for everyone at Webster Comfort Care Home. You provided our dad, Alex Morganti, as well as his family, more than we could have ever imagined – a warm and loving home, support, encouragement, laughter, and healthy tears.

Entering the door of WCCH on Thursday, June 22, was dad's first glimpse of heaven. Surely, angels reside in your Home. We truly lived the best days of our lives with dad in those 7 weeks, and you made it all possible."

### **"Life is a Treasure"**



It takes a very particular kind of person to decide that her nursing life will be dedicated to hospice care. When Primary Nurse, Mary Barnhart,

graduated from Alfred University she thought her life's work would be in obstetrics. Family events intervened. Both Mary's mother and father contracted cancer.

After caring for them until their deaths, she knew her life was meant to go on a different path.

Today, Mary oversees a group of 12 nurses and aides at our Home. In that role she leads monthly meetings, organizes training sessions for volunteers, interviews potential residents, and guides the daily care of the residents once they come to WCCH.

Anyone who knows Mary knows family is also a very important part of her life. She is the oldest of 9 siblings, and in that role helps to organize family reunions. She and her husband, Bob, who died in 2004, raised two daughters, Becky and Melissa. She is the proud grandmother of two granddaughters, Allison and Starr. She helps to care for her youngest nephew, Tyler, age 4, whose presence in our Home makes many a day a more exuberant experience.

In her spare time Mary enjoys knitting, reading, and travel. A recent trip to Alaska was especially enjoyable.

Just this month Mary has become a member of the Quality Assurance & Planning Community for VNS. "I'll be getting in on the ground floor of the new health care law, something I very much want to keep track of."

When Mary writes her weekly notes to the volunteers, so that they may understand the residents' current status, she signs off by writing "Treasure life."

Her calm, outer-directed, professional manner helps all of us do just that. Thank you, Mary.

### **Wine Tasting Gala**

Mark your calendars for the wine tasting gala – *Friday, Oct. 25, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Webster Golf Club, 440 Salt Road.* Tickets are \$40, and may be purchased by calling Barbara at 585-265-1088. This event usually sells out, so get your tickets soon.