

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XIII Fall, 2014

Executive Director Update



Imagine you have just returned home from visiting your dear friend's brand new home and look around to say, "we need to add some color, that old chair is really worn out, or those curtains need to be replaced". After visiting some of our neighbor comfort homes, I have experienced that same sentiment. This past winter was very difficult to keep areas in our home comfortable for the residents, families and volunteers. Plastic on doors, space heaters in rooms and limited space for family members and friends to visit were my main concerns.

A proposal was developed and presented to a donor for consideration. We were able to secure a very significant donation for the purpose of updating the resident rooms. Through the spring and summer months, Dave Knauss and I have consulted with RicThomann at Webster Interiors for a design plan. We are nearing the completion of the planning stage and will soon

be looking to schedule the work.

The "work" will include: replacing the exterior French doors with new more energy efficient French doors, redesigning the closet spaces to include built-in drawers and shelving, reupholster the high back chairs, replace the lift chairs, new paint (similar colors), install crown molding and new window treatments. To get this done will require us to be closed for a short time. The work schedule and timeline will be finalized when all the products are on-hand.

Please be assured that a project like this always includes volunteer hours and large donations of gifts-in-kind. Our building and grounds committee headed up by Dave Knauss has already received in-kind donations and have skills that will be put to work at the time of the shut-down. Also, thank you to RicThomann for providing services and products as part of his commitment to WCCH.

A Relative's Perspective



When Bill Mathews retired as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at SUNY Geneseo, he could not have foreseen the direction his life would take. Yet for the past several months his life has taken a new daily focus. Bill leaves his Brighton home each afternoon and travels to WCCH where his sister, Dot Blakley resides. He visits his sister to prepare her supper, and the two of them converse about the past and the daily headlines.

Until Dot needed 24 hour care Bill didn't know WCCH even existed. A Lifetime Care social worker said there was a bed available at our Home. After discussing the possibility with Dot and niece, Mary Margaret Moffett the decision was made for Dot to become a resident. Bill reports, "It has worked out very well. All three of us are so pleased by how welcoming this Home is. The Home is beautifully decorated, and everyone is so warm and helpful. There is such a homey atmosphere here. At one and the same time there is such an informal 'feel' about this place, but you also recognize that it is a very well-run business." He said further that the 80 volunteers and staff provide an important health care option for our community. Thank you, Bill,

for your perspective on our Home. You make us proud!

A New Lass Joins Our Team



When Colleen Cain retired last April she knew she wanted to continue to help others. For 33 years she had worked for the New York State Department of Disabilities where her responsibilities involved taking individuals to medical appointments and acting as a liaison among pharmacies and clinical teams. For the last 27 years she carried out those responsibilities at the Pierce St. Group Home right here in Webster. Colleen says “I loved that job.”

She lives here in Webster and saw the “Volunteers Needed” sign outside our Home. Until she completes her training in October, she has been shadowing veteran volunteers on a weekly basis. She reports, “Everyone is so nice here.”

In her spare time Colleen enjoys her 2 grown children and her very new rescue dog, Hank; a cockapoo about 2 years old. When asked if she had a bucket list, she did not hesitate to state her number one dream. Noting her first name you may guess what it is.... to travel to Ireland. Colleen, we hope your Ireland dream comes true. Meanwhile, welcome to our family!

Summer & The Livin’ is Busy

Summer is usually the time when teens take it easy... going to the beach, hanging out with friends, and reading Facebook. But one group of young people from Girl Scout Troop 293, led by Peggy Van Wie and Lynn Peterson, took another path. They organized a “Giving Campaign” to benefit WCCH.

They wrote letters to their families and friends, knocked on doors and placed flyers all over their neighborhoods. They raised \$325 in cash, dozens of boxes of tissues, toilet paper, soap, paper towels, dish detergent, and laundry soap! They also gave us gift cards for Walmart, Wegmans, and Target.



Thank you so much – (in the photo, l. to r.) Jordan Talbot, Megan Van Wie, Katherine Peterson, & Allie Beamish. What a wonderfully outer-directed activity you performed, and our Home is the lucky recipient!

Board Member Not Bored



When Don Young’s wife, Carole, began volunteering at Webster Comfort Care Home several years ago, his comment to her was, “Boy, honey. Better you than me!” Although resident care was not his forte, it was not too many years, at the recommendation of Dave Whitlock, before he also became an integral part of the WCCH family. In 2008 he became a member of the Board.

Don grew up in Eugene, Oregon, and Batavia, Illinois. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a major in Industrial Engineering, he came to Rochester to work for Kodak in several color film programs; finally becoming the quality director for motion picture films during his last 8 years with the company. Don recently took on the responsibility of being the financial secretary for the Home. Past board member Bob Anderson, who was the former financial secretary, has been a marvelous mentor for Don, teaching him the intricacies of the job.

When asked how he feels about his work at the Home, he states, “For the terminally ill, I believe there is no place in Monroe County better than Webster Comfort Care Home. Care given to residents and their families is wonderful! I feel very fortunate to be a part of the WCCH team.”

Thanks, Don, for your service. We’re so glad you’re “on board” and not bored!

