

# Comforting News...

... told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XI

Winter, 2014

## A Day in the Life of the Executive Director

“The Sights and Sounds from the Basement”



I usually arrive sometime between 8-8:30 AM to a warm greeting from the two morning volunteers scheduled for that day. I ask about our residents, how their nights were, as well as what has been happening this morning. Many times I will be welcomed by one of our residents having their breakfast at the dining room table or a volunteer preparing breakfast for one of our residents. I grab a cup of fresh brewed coffee (thank you, Joe Bean Coffee) and sit down to visit with whoever is in the kitchen. Mary and Maisy join in the conversation, so my day begins hearing about family and friends and the entertaining lives of our staff and volunteers away from the Home; often times with much laughter and joy.

I then excuse myself to move to the basement to begin my office work. On the way down the stairs I am thanking God for our outstanding staff and dedicated volunteers. My day includes: the day-to-day operational duties (writing and signing thank you letters, doing the banking, supporting Mary and Maisy with their daily duties) as well as planning for the longer range needs of the Home

(fund raising strategies, promotional activities, and networking possibilities in the community.)

Soon after my departure to the basement, the house comes alive. Residents are awake, getting fed, washed and ready to begin their day. It is a treat to have them come out of their rooms to be included in the comings and goings of the Home. I begin hearing additional people upstairs and look at the clock...it's 10:45...another shift of volunteers is coming in. At about 11:30 I venture up the stairs to say hello to our new crew and check on the afternoon schedule with Mary and Maisy. Today is Wacky Wednesday (hint: every Wednesday is Wacky Wednesday). The 11:00 volunteers, Marion and Becky, bring lunch for the Home. Anyone in the Home or visiting the Home is invited to lunch around the dining room table, and sometimes we have so many we spill over to the breakfast bar. On occasion, our visiting gourmet chef (Randy Powers, Board Chair) will appear with a delicious soup to add to the day's menu. Residents, families, visitors, staff, and volunteers enjoy a wonderful time for sharing and connections.

It's 1:00 and time to get back to work back down the stairs – I'm so glad I joined the gym. The stairs are getting easier every day. A meeting about an upcoming fund raiser, budget planning, or meeting a new volunteer is on the afternoon agenda. For those of you wondering about my basement office, it is perfect. I get exercise every couple of hours, and I have a quiet space to be able to focus on my work with a beautiful nature scene outside the back door to view.

About mid-afternoon there is another flurry of noise above my head, and I realize it's time to take another break to welcome our 3:00 shift of volunteers and check the mail. Every day we receive some kind of monetary support in the mail, and again I am so grateful for the generosity of our community and friends of WCCH. By late afternoon we also welcome family and friends of our residents, so this is a great time to meet the families and ask how they are doing. Is there anything we can do for them?

Quitting time...sometime around 5-5:30. Now the Home is quiet, staff has gone, residents are resting, and often I will find family members preparing dinner. As I make my departure, I say good night to the residents, their families, and our wonderful volunteers, wishing them a peaceful and comfortable night.

I leave feeling an overwhelming sense of gratitude and peace, another amazing day at WCCH!

## Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow



Talk about ingenuity! On Sunday,

December 8, at WCCH, a temporary salon was set up in the conference room. Hair stylist Mary Kay Feathers cut off 25 inches of resident care volunteer Donna Froelicher's hair! Prior to that day Donna had asked people to pledge whatever amount of money they wished, per inch of hair. The wonderful result was that \$3067 was contributed to the Home. What a creative and generous idea. Thanks, Donna!

## Our Giving Community

In the winter of 2010, Robert Scott was a resident at our Home. When he passed away, two of his friends who had enjoyed him as a neighbor wanted to honor him in some way. The couple, who wish to remain anonymous, set up with their bank a monthly donation to WCCH. The bank has been sending the Home a monthly payment for the past three years. The couple comment, "Robert was a wonderful person. He was so helpful and nice to everyone. We are glad to give to the Home. It is a good cause." What a fine tribute to Mr. Scott, and what a wonderful, continuing legacy for our Home.

## One Excalibur Group



As part of its December agenda, the Board, at a reception, recognized six volunteers who have been instrumental to the Home's success.

First row – l. to r.

Bob Nash – Bob worked his magic around the yard creating some new flower beds and adding to the existing ones to create a beautiful place to enjoy during the warm summer days

Don and Joann Fisher – Don, along with his wife, Joann, (sitting on his left), have led the jar mixes fund project for 8 years.

Joann has a small group of dedicated volunteers who come to the Home weekly to assemble the mixes and prepare for the next event. When the person who had made all the jams and jellies retired last year, Don stepped in and created 4-5 new flavors this season Standing, l. to r.

Sue Ford – Sue is at the Home every Wednesday cleaning from mid-morning til evening making our Home sparkle and shine.

Carolyn Johnson – Carolyn has 8 businesses in the village that provide space on their counters for a decorated coffee can where people can deposit their loose change. Since the opening of the Home she has collected over \$14,000.

Dan Gillan (not pictured) – Dan donated his time and the expense of gas each week to make sure our lawn was cut and trimmed for everyone to enjoy.

## Giving Begins at a Young Age



The children of Klem South School do more than just learn their core subjects. With the help of the Student Council, and their advisor, Doreen LiPari, they were made aware of the Home's need for cookie jar ingredients.

With gusto they began to inform the full student body of the need. They made announcements over their PA system. They sent home flyers. They made posters. Their efforts paid off. In December two large boxes of cookie ingredients were donated to the Home. One student council member said, "It feels good when we are helping others, especially people in our own community." Nice going Klem South!

## Powers' Points

(From our Board Chairman, Randy Powers)



The big news is that we have added 3 new board members: Elizabeth Hill, Bill Fulton, and Ellen Lindahl. You will see their pictures and bios in future newsletters. Wilber "Deke" Beh, a board member for almost 9 years, and currently treasurer, has decided to resign a few months early. Our bylaws indicate that board members must retire after 9 years of service. Deke has done many jobs for WCCH in his 8+ years, and we all owe him a big thank you.

The annual appeal is underway. I am pleased to say that all of the board members and staff have donated money as well as helped in the stuffing and sealing of envelopes. A special thanks to Bob Anderson for all his work in this major fund drive.

As WCCH goes into its 11<sup>th</sup> year, one of the items we are addressing is looking at major maintenance items that will need attention in the future; for example, new beds in the resident rooms. If you have some ideas, we would love to hear them.

So, a big thank you to all our supporters who help make WCCH the wonderful place it is!

## Important Dates!

Save the dates - Wed., April 30. Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Also, the Fashion Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 at the Penfield Country Club.