

# Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XVIFall, 2015

## Executive Director Update



Recently, I have given a number of tours in the Home to potential donors, volunteers and friends. While viewing the first floor, comments are heard about how beautiful the house is, how warm and inviting it is, and sheer gratitude for the services we provide.

As part of the tour I include the basement. The basement is not as pretty or inviting as the first floor but I stress its importance. For the months from January through October, the basement is a gathering place for our event committees to plan and execute both the Fashion Show and the Wine and Beer Tasting. At any given time, you can find the conference room exploding with silent auction items, baskets, ribbon and wrapping. This year both events were more successful than any other year. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to that success.

Monthly, the basement is the place for Board, Finance, Volunteer Training and Nurses meetings; coordinating for the next few months, planning for the future.

Weekly, downstairs is the place volunteers work to create the cookie and soup mixes that are sold at the Webster Public market

and various craft fairs from Sept. – Dec.

Daily, administrative and support duties are also centralized in the basement. All our database functions, the financials tracking and monitoring, all communications and correspondence as well as inventory and storage of all supplies are all done from the basement.

During the tours, I often comment that our volunteers and staff are the heart and soul of our Home. Without you there would be no Home. The first floor is filled with compassion, love and grace.

The basement is the launch pad that ignites the spark; the nuts and bolts, the nitty gritty..... each floor has a role in making Webster Comfort Care Home the amazing place we are known to be. Thank you!

## Lindahl is a Windfall



It is always interesting to discover how our volunteers initially become involved with the Home. Sometimes our volunteers have had very personal experiences with hospice care when a loved one died. And that is the case with our

new board vice-chair, Ellen Lindahl. Both Ellen's

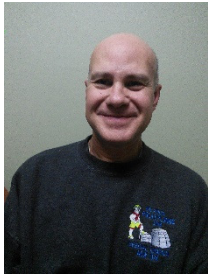
father and father-in-law died in hospice care.

Ellen's background is a perfect fit for the WCCH board. She has a BSN in nursing from Nazareth College and a master's degree in public administration from SUNY Brockport. Her current job is with Ignitehealth Wellness Management Services as the director of clinical operations.

When asked about a memorable experience in her life, she proudly responds, "I have been blessed with many wonderful events in my life; but being a mom to my two amazing daughters, Chelsea, 26 and Hayley, 23 is undoubtedly the best and most important experience of my life."

Currently she is vice-chair of the WCCH board. Asked what she thinks is the most challenging part of her new responsibility, she responds, "Fundraising! Asking people for money does not come easily for me – even for such an extraordinarily important cause." If you already know Ellen you know absolutely she'll be able to do fundraising with aplomb! Thanks so much, Ellen, for joining our "troops." Your energy invigorates us all!

## Who is This Man?



(See page 2)

If you don't immediately recognize this gentleman, it is likely that you only see him from a distance, often with a cap on. He is Kevin Spindler, and since last spring has come twice each week to mow our lawn. "I never operated a riding lawn mower before, but after one lesson from board member, Dave Knauss, I was up and running." Kevin is a particularly careful caretaker. Each time he brings his own lawn mower from home to "do the finishing touches" around the edges so no grass clippings end up in the flowers.

Kevin, the husband of Jean Spindler, a Saturday 7-11 AM volunteer, works at Gleason Works as a designer in the mechanical engineering dept. Thanks, Kevin, for all of your care of our grounds. You and Bob Nash (our gardener) make our property look pristine!

### More Peas in a Pod?



In the last issue of this newsletter we recognized our two Tuesday 7-11PM volunteers with the title, "Two Peas in a Pod." In this issue the same title is equally appropriate, for these two volunteers even look alike! Kathy Whitlock (left) and Mary Jean Smith (right) have been volunteering at the Home in the Friday 7-11 AM slot for 10 years.

They both have lived in the Rochester area all of their lives. Mary Jean is married to Jerry Smith, the founder (in 1966) of Gerard Smith Insurance Agency located at the corner of Rt. 250 and Main St. in the Village. Kathy is married to David Whitlock who is one of the founders of the Home, a former board member and current volunteer. Collectively the two families have 8 children, ranging in age from 43 to 62 and 22 grandchildren.

Music is a large part of Kathy's life. She is both a piano teacher and the organist & choir director at New Life United Methodist Church. Mary Jean enjoys reading, golf, walking, and yoga. And, of course, they both enjoy volunteering at our Home. Mary Jean shares, "I like meeting nice people and making our residents feel comfortable at the end of their lives." Kathy says, "It is a privilege to witness the strength and grace of our residents and their families."

Over the years Kathy and Mary Jean have, together, given approximately 4000 hrs. to the Home. Well done, ladies!



### Spirits Lifted!

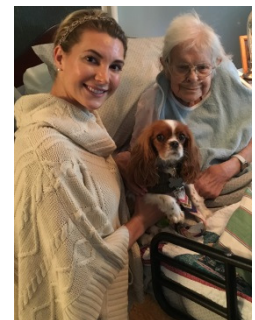
Picture an elegant ballroom set with tables for 8. Notice the crisp white table cloths, and the freshly carved pumpkin centerpieces brimming with autumn-colored mums. See the beautiful tall glass cylinders holding floating candles. Hear the mellow tunes being played by accomplished local musicians. Glance through the handsome program titled "Lift Your Spirits" listing over 50 local businesses who helped sponsor the event. Ponder over more than 100 auction items donated by a host of generous and creative people. Sip a new wine. Try an unfamiliar beer. Munch on appetizers and

dessert. Enjoy chatting with old friends and meeting new acquaintances.

The Wine and Beer Tasting Fund Raiser at Eagle Vale Golf Club on Friday, October 16, was a resounding success garnering more than \$21,000 for the WCCH. Bountiful thanks to co-chairs Ellen Lindahl and Bill Fulton, and committee members Amanda Adams, Kay Coleman, Julie DeMersman, Roberta DiLella, Bonnie Epner, Carolyn Johnson, Sue Jurjens, Richard Schaff, and Rebecca Sigl, whose hundreds of hours of organizational efforts made such a magical evening possible.

### A Special Moment

Every once in a while something happens at the Home which is absolutely serendipitous. Recently, Amanda Adams, a member of the fund-raising committee, came to the Home to drop off some materials. Accompanying her was her two-year old Cavalier Spring Charles Spaniel named Beeja (which means new beginning in Hindi). "I wonder if our resident would like to see Beeja," she asked. A quick check with our resident, Florence, resulted in an enthusiastic "Yes."



Beeja is being trained as a therapy dog. If her visit with Florence is any indication of her future with residents, she is going to be an award-winning therapy dog!

Thank you Amanda, both for your work on the fund-raising

team, and for sharing your wonderful dog with all of us.

*“The outstretched arm, the warm embrace, the freshly baked cookies, or the fragrant flowers do not replace a person’s life. But they do say you are loved. You are cherished.”KKT*