

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XIV Winter, 2015

Executive Director Update



As I write this message, 2015 has hardly begun. The time spent with residents and their families is a special privilege and especially during the holidays. As we look forward to the New Year, we know we will meet many courageous and grateful individuals and families who need our care. Our exceptional volunteers and staff will care for each resident with reverence and compassion, and our residents will make a lasting impression on all of us. Lasting impressions... we remember those who entertain us with their quick wit, funny stories or just their peaceful acceptance. We also remember those who tried to be strong, stubborn and determined while we wait at the door for permission to comfort them. This is not only true for our residents but also their families. E. Tolle (Power of Now) defines acceptance as a "this is it" response to anything that is occurring in life. Strength, peace and serenity are always available. Acceptance is a person's assent to the reality of

a situation, recognizing a process without attempting to change it. The concept is close to a Latin word 'acquiescence', "to find rest in".

Kuebler-Ross's five stages of grief are a wonderful guideline for us to remember; every resident and every family member is in their own process of letting go, saying goodbye, and dealing with the inevitable. It is our role to accept them in whatever state and hope our loving care and support will carry them to a place 'to find rest in'.

Resident's Wish Comes True



On Saturday, Jan. 24, a unique and lovely event took place at WCCH. Resident Sophie Adamski's daughter, Sue Thomas married Rick Jurjens. The 3:00 PM wedding ceremony began with Wagner's Bridal Chorus played by WCCH volunteer and violinist Michele Bello. First, Sophie was wheeled down the hall and into place. Next came Sue's

two daughters, Heather and Kristin, both dressed in black and carrying red roses. Finally, bride-to-be Sue, dressed in a floor length, champagne-colored gown was escorted to the fireplace/altar by her 10-year-old grandson, William. Waiting in front of the fireplace, dressed in a black tux was husband-to-be Rick with his attendants, son Kyle and son-in-law Bill. The wedding ceremony was conducted by Sandra Meyer-Clark, a VNS nurse and pastor. VNS chaplain, Bob Corsaro performed the blessing of the hands.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, approximately 25 family members and friends cheered and clapped for the newlyweds. A beautifully decorated cake added just the perfect celebrative finish to an already wonderful affair.

Asked what she thought of the nuptials, resident Sophie exclaimed, "Oh, I have waited so long for this. In the last days of my life, how was I so lucky to be here? It is a blessed time. I am so lucky!" Sophie, WCCH is blessed knowing you too!



Sandra Meyer-
Clark

Michele Bello

Downhill Racer Becomes Grandma



Thirty-seven years ago she traveled across the country in a VW van with two friends. They covered 18,000 miles in 3 ½ months! Five years ago she began racing with an adult downhill ski league at Bristol Mountain. In the years inbetween she graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Elmira, NY and met and married Ron Epner. Together they raised 4 children; Tim, 31 (wife Heather), Daniel, 29, Maggie, 27, and Kate, 20. Currently Bonnie works as an on-call nurse at our Home. Additionally, she works part time at Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services. She also is the bookkeeper for her husband's auto repair business. Wow! This is one busy lady!

About her 8 years at WCCH Bonnie says, "It is a privilege and an honor to care for residents and their families at such an emotional and intimate time. I liken hospice nursing to obstetrics; we help people transition. When working with the residents and their families, I am the one who gets blessed!" By far the best activity in Bonnie's current life is loving and cuddling her 4-month-old granddaughter, Paige Patricia Epner, the daughter of son, Tim

and his wife Heather. It is Bonnie and Ron's first grandchild. Bonnie proclaims Paige is "just precious." Congratulations, Grandma and Grandpa.

A Downstairs Lady



There is something a bit "Downtonesque" about WCCH. There are the upstairs people who do mostly resident care, and there are the downstairs people who take care of the business end of our Home. Volunteer, Kathy Walsh, is one of the latter. Every Wednesday and Thursday morning she comes to the Home, quietly goes downstairs, sits at the computer, and begins sharing her gift of helping to manage the donor database. Executive Director, Janet Jones-Brower says of Kathy, "She was instrumental in organizing this year's Annual Appeal mailing list and managing donations as we received them with thank you letters and entry into the database. She often was here in the house for more than 2 mornings per week 'just to get it done.' Her expertise in database management has been a blessing to me and our fundraising efforts."

And how did this perfect match take place? Kathy had recently retired from Ryco Management LLC. in Pittsford where she had been a

receptionist for 10 years. Driving by the Home one day she thought, "Maybe that's where I can share my talents." And she was right!

When asked what her hobbies are, she said, "Well, I like to walk, but I haven't been retired long enough to discover new hobbies." And we know why! When she is not at the Home, Kathy volunteers at Visiting Nurse/Meals on Wheels in the city. She also baby sits her two grandchildren each week. And, she does bookkeeping for her husband's machine tool business.

Like so many volunteers at the Home she is a busy person who finds time in her life to be outer-directed toward others. She is one special lady indeed!

Dates to Remember

April 12 at 4:30 PM – Remembrance Ceremony at Webster Presbyterian Church.

April 14 from 6-9 PM shop at Alex and Ani located at the Armory on Culver Rd. Their very popular jewelry makes wonderful birthday & Mother's Day gifts, and a percentage of the sales goes to the Home.

April 23 from 5-8 PM, enjoy the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at The Knights of Columbus at 70 Barretts Dr.

May 16, at 11:00 AM, the Spring Fashion Show will be held at the Midvale Country Club on Baird Rd. Two Pittsford clothing stores, Chandelier & All About Eve will highlight their fashions.