



Your Gifts Help Us Make Memories

The purpose of the United Methodist Homes Foundation is to raise the funds needed to help our residents enjoy their lives to the fullest. Generous gifts to the United Methodist Homes Foundation have provided programs and equipment that have benefitted countless residents, and allowed for the continued growth and expansion of activities and events that make our facilities feel like home.

In the most recent newsletter, you may have read about the incredible work of the Memory Makers Project's Mobile Culture program. This year long program combines art and poetry to provide meaningful experiences to approximately 120 residents in the SUN and STAR units at Hilltop who

suffer with memory loss. With funds provided by the Foundation, our memory care residents are receiving a program to stimulate their minds and creativity while encouraging discussion, confidence and creating new memories. Without your generous support, interactive and meaningful programs like the Memory Makers Project would not be possible.



As a donor to the United Methodist Homes Foundation, you may never realize the impact you are having on the lives of those residing in our facilities. Whether it is the Resident Assistance Program or a gift for a specific campus, your donations help us provide the quality of care that gives families peace of mind.

A Renewed Commitment to our 5 Pillars of Excellence—Strategic Positioning



United Methodist Homes continues to focus on the five “Pillars of Excellence” as our organizational compass by which we operate in order to ensure continued success in fulfillment of our mission, vision, and values. Each of the five pillars—Engaged People, Strong Financial Position, Growth and Expansion, High Quality, and Engaged Seniors—are equally significant to the success of our organization. Furthermore, each pillar is interdependent, meaning the success of one impacts the success of another, therefore, much attention must be devoted to each. The pillars serve as the framework in the development of our annual strategic

plan to advance us as an organization guiding our daily operational decisions. I often use the phrase “living document” when referring to our strategic plan as we must commit to utilizing and implementing this action plan on our campuses. It is not a plan that simply sits on a shelf from year to year, but rather serves as our guide to actions in pursuit of excellence each and every day. We’ve celebrated accomplishments relative to each pillar and look forward to many new achievements in the year ahead.

Recently, each campus held their annual service recognition ceremonies in which employees were honored for their years of service celebrating 5 or more years with UMH. I am pleased to report as an organization,

we celebrated 101 employees ranging from 5 to 35 years of service with a grand total of all years equaling 1,420 years! Well over a millennium! This is the epitome of what it means to have “Engaged People.” The value of all of these years to an organization is truly priceless. Our employees are a very dedicated group and truly drive our mission each and every day. “To provide a wide range of senior living services with exceptional care and compassion.” Regardless of one’s position or title, each employee has made a commitment to our organization, our mission, and ultimately, our residents. In their everyday tasks, each have impacted and enriched the lives of our residents.

We remain immersed in activities related to our “Growth and Expansion” pillar with the Brooks independent living expansion project on the Wesley Village Campus. The momentum of this project continues and pre-sales have exceeded our expectations with more than half of the cottages reserved. We anticipate inquiries and reservations will only increase with nicer weather and the availability of a model. We are very excited to be able to accommodate those seniors who are seeking a quality continuing care retirement community that offers one the “live-better lifestyle” with peace of mind and maintenance-free living! This project is truly a response to the need in our community as evidenced by the high volume of inquiries and consistent high levels of occupancy in our current Brooks homes for residents and staff.

As we continue on in this ever changing journey in healthcare, there remains one constant—our commitment to our Pillars of Excellence and ultimately, our residents. However, we have not accomplished this alone. We are privileged to have the continued support of all of our staff, board of directors, volunteers, residents and families for whom we are so honored to care for. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.



UMH Celebrates Activity Staff

Earlier this year, the activity staff of United Methodist Homes were honored and celebrated for National Activity Professionals Week on each of the campuses throughout all levels of care. The activity staff are at the center of our “Live-Better Lifestyle.” It is because of their hard work and dedication that this lifestyle pursuit becomes reality for our residents. They truly enrich the lives of those we serve through a variety of programs that rejuvenate the soul and stimulate the mind.



Partridge-Tippett Activity Staff, left to right: Activity Leaders, Therese Dirisio; Gloria Loch, Activity Director, Tami Chesneak, Activity Leaders, Mauri Bohn, Mary Ruth Burke, Dolores Degerolamo, Randi Lightcap and Linda Schiefer.

needs as well as the need for autonomy and choice in their daily lives. From mind stimulating activity, to physical exercise, games, parties, and community excursions, there is surely something for everyone!

While our activity staff took some time to be honored celebrating their profession, they shortly thereafter were forward looking into how they



Anderson Personal Care (on the Wesley Village Campus) Left to Right: Rachel Loefflad, Rosarie Musto, Cathy Talarico.



Hilltop Campus Activity Staff, back row left to right: Sherry Truesdell, Pamela Gaskill, Faye Clark, Amy Morrison, Molly Ashworth, Denise Reilly. Front row, left to right: Kaitlin McFadden, Tara Scales, Caitlin Holmes.



Elizabeth Church Campus Activity Staff: Melanie Riese, Kathy Micha, Connie Bennett and Maureen Gilbert.

Our campuses offer activities designed to meet the diverse needs of our residents addressing social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual

could enhance their programs for the residents. Recently, all the Activity Directors participated in an organization-wide Activity Summit meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to offer a forum

whereby the directors can unite sharing best practices and ideas to improve their programs together.

UMH activity staff not present in photos: Terry White, Lindsay Maslar, Kelli Rockwood, Mary Ann Battista, Brenda Crohn, Carol Noonan, Ellie Johnson, Karen Mayer, Lu Ann Snover and Delaney Johnson.



Pictured Left to Right: Brian Picchini, UMH President & CEO; Carol Coleman, UMH board & LDC; Danielle Janeski, UMH Executive Director; Rev. Harriet Santos, LDC; Calli Berg, UMH Board Chair and LDC; Pastor Eugene Sperazza, Campus Chaplain; Sharron Lewis, UMH board and LDC; Rev. Deb Rose, Susquehanna Conference representative of the District Superintendent; Jan McCabe, UMH board and LDC; Rev. James Wert, Honorary board member & LDC.

United Methodist Homes Wesley Village Campus Welcomes New Chaplain

Recently, the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life Committee of the Local Development Committee (LDC) welcomed Pastor Eugene Sperazza as the new Chaplain for the Wesley Village Campus.

Pastor Gene's office will be located within the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility on the campus. He will be providing spiritual guidance and counseling to residents, staff, and families as well as enhancing the chaplaincy program and services on the campus. United Methodist Homes is very grateful to have Pastor Gene join their team committed to providing and caring for the whole person including physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

“Positive Thinking” at the Hilltop Campus

About 10 years ago, Denise Reilly attended a Social Work & Activities Conference with then UMH Social Worker, Aaron Ampulla. After attending a seminar that focused on coping skills for people



transitioning into long or short term care, the two decided that they were going to create some type of program at the Hilltop Campus that addressed this very common issue. The “Positive Thinking” group started at James G. Johnston (JGJ) and since has been expanded to all of Hilltop under the direction of Faye Clark, Activities Director.

The goal of the Positive Thinking group is not only to keep residents in high spirits and focusing on the joys of life, but also to make sure that residents have a safe space to open up and express how they’re feeling. “I feel like the residents attending the group now are getting a lot out of it.

They’re forming relationships and spending time together outside of the group meetings. I can’t begin to imagine how difficult it must be for people to go from living in their own home to living in a nursing home with strangers, so we do everything we can to make it easier for them,” said Denise.

“I want the residents to feel comfortable enough to be able to speak freely and know that I really care about them and what they have to say.”

Both groups meet regularly to complete a variety of activities that keep them focused on having a positive attitude about aging and their day-to-day lives. Some of the group favorites have been planting spider plants for residents to talk to and care for, learning about and practicing

breathing and mindfulness exercises, reading inspiring stories, and having guest speakers attend the class. Denise and Faye both strive to keep things fresh for the groups. “I try to keep it real and very honest. I want the residents to feel comfortable enough to be able to speak freely and know that I really care about them and what they have to say,” Denise explained.

At every group meeting, they share their daily gratitudes, big and small, as well as watch videos about how positive thinking and showing gratitude can have an impact on our lives. Gale, a current group member, has been working hard on trying to be more positive and acceptant in her daily life. She said that the



"The Positive Thinking program has truly been a huge success"

group really helps her stay focused on that personal goal of hers. She admitted that some days are harder than others to get herself thinking positively, but when she goes to the group, it helps her mind get back on the right track. Gale explained that she's always been a worrier, but she knows that the old saying is true... "Worrying is like a rocking chair—you can move all day but you don't get anywhere."

// Worrying is like a rocking chair—you can move all day but you don't get anywhere. //



The group of residents realized that they're not alone in the daily battle to stay positive. They discussed the fact that caregivers and other employees at UMH are taking care of residents, helping them, and solving

their problems all day on top of what might be going on in their personal lives. The group decided that they needed to do something about it, which is why they're now making an effort to spread the good vibes throughout the campus. The residents started writing "Thank You" notes and making bulletin board posts with positive quotes for anyone to



take who may be in need of a little "pick-me-up." The most recent project that the group is working on is creating t-shirts to help spread good vibes and smiles around the campus.

The Positive Thinking program has truly been a huge success and continues to gain velocity with residents and staff as far as involvement and participation. The group continues to grow, successfully helping to promote positive thinking, positive action, and an overall positive environment. Anyone interested in learning more about the program or how they can assist with the program may contact Faye Clark.

Third Annual UMH Foundation Golf Tournament

The UMH Foundation Third Annual Golf Tournament will be Thursday, June 27, 2019 at Conklin Players Club. Join your friends and colleagues and experience a great course with many new and exciting games and events. This year will feature activities for non-golfers, and will also include new games for the players as well! Funds raised through the golf tournament will benefit the Resident Assistance Program, and the continued growth of this program is vital to meet the needs of our residents who have exhausted their financial



resources but wish to remain with their UMH family. The families of these residents also have the peace of mind knowing that their loved one will continue to receive the care they need.

For more information about the tournament, please call 607.775.6400, x1281 or visit www.unitedmethodisthomes.org.

If you're not able to join us for golf but would like to donate to the Resident Assistance Program,

please use the attached envelope to mail in your donation.

UMH—Continued Commitment to Quality

United Methodist Homes is proud of its many achievements from resident engagement and satisfaction to quality of care provided. All of our retirement communities continue to maintain a 5 star rating as it relates to quality measures.

This accomplishment, however, takes a continued commitment and concerted effort as an organization to devote the necessary resources and staff training. As a non-profit organization, UMH continues to commit financial resources toward staffing at a higher level than the average facility. In addition to higher staff to resident ratios, we have programs in place such as QAPI 2.0 (Quality Assurance Performance Improvement) which is devoted to on-going and continual monitoring of the quality of our care and program improvements. In an effort to drive our quality and assurance programs, we have also added a Director of Quality Management (DQM) position to each

As a non-profit organization, UMH continues to devote financial resources toward staffing at a higher level than the average facility.

of our campuses. We believe that this will be an added proactive measure to ensuring and maintaining stellar quality care. Martha Wright, VP of Clinical Services explains, "The DQM is tasked with identifying ways to improve our processes and outcomes taking a preventative approach to addressing

issues before they develop into problems. They assist the administration and department directors in the implementation and monitoring of any new initiatives. Their job is to continue asking "why?" until they get to the root of the problem, then assist the staff with implementing plans

and programs to ensure we maintain satisfaction with our services and quality care." In accordance with our mission to deliver exceptional care and compassion, as well as our vision to be the provider of choice in lifestyle options for seniors, we will invariably remain committed to ensuring quality and best possible outcomes for those we care for.

UMH Celebrates Longevity with their Service Award Ceremonies

Over the last couple of months, there has been much to celebrate for United Methodist Homes as they honored employee years of service. "Employee Years of Service Award" ceremonies were conducted on each of the campuses in which employees with work anniversaries ranging from 5 to 35 years of service were honored and acknowledged for their tremendous contribution to the organization. UMH is grateful to their employees for all of their hard work and continued commitment to our Mission, the organization, and residents.

Thank you for your service and dedication which has made a difference in the lives of those we serve.

CORPORATE

Deborah Fiume 5 Years
Louise Monico 10 Years
Heather Morgan 15 Years
Dianne Paige 20 Years
Martha Wright 20 Years
Patricia Juriga 30 Years

ELIZABETH CHURCH

Billie Jo Harding 5 Years
Emily Colvin 5 Years
Karline Palacios 5 Years
Trenese Johnson 5 Years
Samantha Docalavich 5 Years
Pamela Kettle 10 Years
Amy Horton 15 Years
Burnette Fralick 15 Years
Janet Abel 15 Years
Nicole Graby 15 Years
Rosemarie Patrick 15 Years
Theresa Inniss 20 Years
Doreen MacDonald 25 Years

TUNKHANNOCK

Helen Paxton 5 Years
Jessica Lord 5 Years
Joyce Borden 10 Years



Left to right, front row: Calli Berg (Board Chair), Jessica Lord, Helen Paxton, Joyce Borden. Back row: Annette Chickey (Administrator), Danielle Janeski (PA Executive Director), Brian Picchini (CEO).



Left to right: Brian Picchini (CEO), Vicky Morabito (Executive Director, ECM), Doreen MacDonald, Malene Fralick, Rev. Janet Abel, Rose Marie Patrick, Samantha Docalavich, Ann Sullivan, Calli Berg (Board Chair)

HILLTOP

Alexandra Elliott 5 Years
Daniel Pamphil 5 Years
David Benjamin 5 Years
Jacob Atkinson 5 Years
Michelle Reyes 5 Years
Patricia Walberg 5 Years
Raymond Bottino 5 Years
Tia Jean Ballard 5 Years
Tiarra Foffs 5 Years
Tina Seedborg 5 Years
Zachery Elmore 5 Years
Catherine Slocum 10 Years
Christa McEwan 10 Years
Christopher Gow 10 Years
Elaine VanGorden 10 Years
Joseph LaCapara 10 Years
Patricia Palombo 10 Years
Patricia Szelega 10 Years
Rebecca Colona 10 Years
Richard Weyant 10 Years
Soni Munoz 10 Years
Stacy Elliott 10 Years
Susan Buckingham 10 Years
Cheryl Ross 15 Years
Nicholas Sees 15 Years

Scott Smith 15 Years
Connie Brown 20 Years
Denise Reilly 20 Years
Mary Freeman 20 Years
Mary Ann Brigham 20 Years
Shelby Zollbrecht 20 Years
Vincenz Wingell 20 Years
Frances Richards 25 Years
Laura Monk 25 Years
Leann Baker 25 Years
Faye Clark 30 Years
Victoria Considine 30 Years
Christine Kapinus 35 Years
Suzanne Donovan 35 Years

WESLEY VILLAGE

Amber Shaffer 5 Years
Brenda Shedlock 5 Years
Courtney Sczyrek 5 Years
Dorothy Bennick 5 Years
Jessica Balkan 5 Years
John Calnan, Jr. 5 Years
Patricia Wiatrowski 5 Years
Rosarie Musto 5 Years
Tiffany Musick 5 Years
Wendy Dzanis 5 Years
Bernard Lombardo 10 Years

Dawn Smith 10 Years
Emma Beck 10 Years
Geraldine McDonald 10 Years
Michelle Lavelle 10 Years
Monica Ortiz 10 Years
Susan Cawley 10 Years
Tiffany Schuckers 10 Years
Amy Williams 15 Years
Bridget Whitesell 15 Years
Christine Lockavich 15 Years
Deborah Wilcox 15 Years
Deborah Wruble 15 Years
Tamara Chesneak 15 Years
Theresa Collins 15 Years
Edward Peplinski 20 Years
Jennie Burakiewicz 20 Years
Susan Lazevnick 20 Years
Diana Strunk 25 Years
Laura Godlewski 25 Years
Ann Hopkins 30 Years
Brian Markert 30 Years
Mary Ann Avery 30 Years
Mary Alice Drahus 30 Years
Nancy Timlin 30 Years
Susan Williamson 30 Years
Nancy Rothenbecker 35 Years

Thank you to all of our employees in celebrating these great milestones. Your continued hard work, dedication, and commitment to our residents and mission are invaluable.

-Brian Picchini, President and CEO



Caring. Connecting. *Community.*

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News & Events

EVENTS

Elizabeth Church Campus: Dine & Discover

Join residents & staff on July 10, 11:30am–1:30pm, for lunch and discover the Live-Better Lifestyle at UMH. Learn about Assisted Living and Independent Living at our Elizabeth Church Campus. Reserve your seat today, call 607.729.2305 x313! Program begins at 11:30am.

Hilltop: Dine & Discover Join residents & staff on April 25 & May 3, 11:30am–1:30pm, for lunch and discover the Live-Better Lifestyle at UMH. Learn about Assisted Living and Independent Living at our Hilltop Campus. Reserve your seat today, call 607.729.2305 x313! Program begins at 11:30am.

Tunkhannock Campus: Dine & Discover Join residents & staff on May 1, 12pm–2pm, for lunch and discover the Live-Better Lifestyle at UMH. Learn about Personal Care at our Tunkhannock Campus. Reserve your seat today, call 570.836.2983! Program begins at 12pm.

Wesley Village Campus: Spring Brunch & Open House Join friends of UMH of PA on April 28. 10am–2pm,

for brunch and explore what Wesley Village has to offer. Tickets are available at the door. Adults \$13 and children 12 and under \$6.

UMH is a Proud Sponsor: Annual Wine & Food Fest at Roberson Museum on April 25th, 5:30pm–8:30pm. **Walk to End Alzheimer's at Binghamton University**, West Gym April 27th, Registration at 8:45am, Walk at 10:30am. **Senior Picnic & Fun Fest at SUNY Broome** June 19th, 10am–2pm.

NEWS

New Hires:

Wesley Village: Kylah Heenan was hired as our new RN Staff Development Coordinator. **Eugene Sperazza** was hired as our new Chaplain.

Elizabeth Church: Suzanne Welsh-Munroe was hired as our new Administrator at St. Louise Manor, Elizabeth Church Campus.

Corporate: Melissa Turlip was hired as our new Director of Development and Public Relations.

Connections is published three times per year. It is designed for easier readability. Contact Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org or 607.775.6400 x246. Like us on Facebook at UnitedMH and visit our website at unitedmethodisthomes.org

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Elizabeth Church Campus

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607.722.3463

Hilltop Campus

Johnson City, NY
607.798.7818

Tunkhannock Campus

Tunkhannock, PA
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Wesley Village Campus

Pittston, PA
570.655.2891