



Tunkhannock Manor Expands its Programming Again!

Tunkhannock Manor has been attentively listening and responding to the needs of its small-town community. Earlier this year, an independent living option was launched to meet the needs of seniors who desired to downsize from their larger home to accommodations in a community where they didn't have to worry about the burdens of home maintenance, all while benefiting from the access to services and amenities. The community has welcomed individuals seeking access to amenities, socialization, and camaraderie. The independent living with a la carte services option has been well received.

Independent living is a need the organization was able to respond to relatively swiftly, developing a program and obtaining permission and approvals from the Department of Health. "However, we found that there remained an unmet need in the community that we wanted to address," stated Betsy Vannatta, VP of Sales & Marketing. Thorough market analysis and research conducted locally and within the region revealed that there was a growing need for secured memory care services at the personal care level. Discussions with other providers who offered the service throughout the Scranton/Wilkes Barre market corroborated this need, speaking to growing waiting lists for this type of care and full occupancies. "There are needs right here in Tunkhannock, and presently, they do not have access to this type of specialized care. We are pleased that we will soon be able to offer families and seniors of Wyoming County this option. Very often, we have witnessed caregiver burnout among families who have had to take on the role of caregiving for a loved one with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia. It is emotionally and physically challenging, especially as the disease progresses, requiring round-the-clock care and monitoring to ensure safety and well-being. Seniors and their families need more options.", Vannatta further states.

Photo Above: Chelsea Newhart, Administrator with Chris Bohinski from PA Live.

Summer/Fall 2023 Issue





Stronger Together

UNITED METHODIST HOMES

A New Path: A Time to Renew & Rebuild



Today, we are on a new path adjusting to the changes in our industry. In the last issue, I spoke of transformation of our New York Campuses entailing a major renovation and construction project and realignment of services on the Hilltop Campus. While the project is still a priority and we look forward to enhancing the campus when the time is right, circumstances surrounding the project led to the decision that pausing the construction project would be in the best interest of the organization. Timing and delays in launching the project alongside the current economic climate for projects of this magnitude were not ideal. With escalating construction costs and financial considerations including the current lending environment, high interest rates, as well as extensive regulatory challenges, the decision to pause was prudent.

The upside to this change in course with a project pause is it will enable us to renew and rebuild our census on the campus as we begin welcoming those who need our care. For those who were not aware, one of the regulatory requirements to pursue the renovation was that we implement a closure plan of our Hilltop Manor West assisted living. While we were able to continue to care for the residents currently residing here, the closure plan meant that we could not admit any new residents to this level of care. Combined with overall delays, this not only impacted the vitality of operations, but in the process, also created burden and inconveniences for those who needed these services.

In September, we withdrew the closure plan and were approved to begin admitting residents to Hilltop Manor West assisted living once again. We are grateful we are able to begin accommodating both our own residents and those from our community who need our services. At this time, we will continue to focus on quality and enhancing operational efficiencies throughout all of our facilities to ensure that we remain a strong organization committed to our mission of providing a wide range of senior living services with exceptional care and compassion.

As always, I remain grateful to the unwavering support of our Board of Directors, residents, staff and families. We are honored to serve and make a difference in the lives of our residents and grateful for their loyalty to UMH.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Picchini".

Brian Picchini, President & CEO



Tunkhannock Manor Expands its Programming Again!

Over the last several months, administration and executive leaders have worked diligently to add a secured dementia and memory care program to Tunkhannock Manor. Working closely with local officials, including the Department of Health Services (DHS), they have been developing the program and instituting operational environmental changes to expand the care continuum. The application was filed with DHS earlier this summer. "We are very excited and confident that we will be able to open our doors to those needing advanced memory care by the end of this year. We are also exploring expanding this service on our Wesley Campus. Currently, our memory care services at the personal care level are limited to those who can safely take care of using the wander guard system. This is a viable option for someone in the earlier phases of the disease or those who are not exit-seeking. But, for those with advanced stages of the disease who remain mobile, a secured, locked environment is the only option. Our Tunkhannock Campus offers an ideal environment as while it will be a locked facility, there are numerous areas for residents to wander about freely, including an outdoor courtyard, which is required for approval of this type of care. It's a small campus and very home-like which is what attracts many residents to us. We plan to continue to offer straight personal care services and the independent living option.", states Danielle Janeski, Executive Director. Current residents and families have been informed of the added service option, and we have begun marketing and communicating to educate the community, including an upcoming segment to air on WBRE's PA Live.

UMH Launches a New Electronic Health Record System

In line with a commitment to high quality and focus on continual improvement, UMH is pleased to announce that they have launched PointClickCare (PCC) on September 1st as their new electronic healthcare record platform (EHR). Transitioning from MyUnity to PCC was a logical and strategic decision. "Not only is it widely used in our industry, but the features and benefits of the system will enhance our ability to provide high quality care and services more efficiently allowing us more time for hands-on resident care. It will also increase our use of technology offering enhanced communication with residents, family members, physicians, and staff." states Martha Wright, VP of Clinical Services.

PointClickCare is considered the gold standard of EHRs in the senior living environment and a "go-to" for many other providers. As a result, many of the nursing and administrative staff have had prior experience with the program and believe it will be an improvement over the current system. Over the last several months, staff had been preparing for implementation by attending meetings and numerous training sessions. Staff members most enthusiastic about the change had volunteered to become "Super Users" for the program. The SuperUsers were brought into the fold early on for intensive training sessions in order to later serve as liaisons to assist, provide support, and answer questions from staff before, during and following launch. PCC is being implemented in phases by campus and will be fully launched throughout all of UMH by November 1st.



2023 UMH Foundation Annual Golf Tournament

The sun was shining, and the golfers were giddy at the 6th Annual United Methodist Homes Foundation Golf Tournament on September 21 at Conklin Players Club. Thank you to all the sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who made the day such a success! A big thank you to our Ace Sponsor - Lockton and our Eagle Sponsor - Pharmerica. We're pleased to announce that the tournament raised \$35,276! All proceeds from the tournament directly benefit our Foundation and the Resident Assistance Program— our benevolent care program.



Photo 1 - L to R: Bold Gold Team - Michael Stanton, Tim Seechock, Ahmad Latif, Chris Claus. Photo 2 - L to R: Jess Perlin, Gina Weisberg. Photo 3 - L to R: Danielle Janeski, Selina Zemantauski, Cassandra Angello. Photo 4 - L to R: Brian Palma, Robert Palma, Bernie Lombardo, Eric Yashinski. Photo 5 - L to R: Dave Washabaugh (Intellitec), Kelly Sevachko (United Medical Supply), Ron Patti, Kyle Martin (Intellitec).

2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's

UMH was proud to be the "Check-In" Sponsor of the 2023 Southern Tier Walk to End Alzheimer's! Members of our team participated in the walk and helped run the registration table for the event at Hickories Park in Owego, NY. Thank you to everyone who supported the event!



Photo 1 - Debbie Fiume at the Check-In table. Photo 2 - L to R: Faye Clark, Sharon Hauver. Photo 3 - L to R: Abbie Evans, Vicky Morabito and her granddaughter.

Campus Highlights

Tunkhannock - On Sunday, September 10, the Tunkhannock Campus held its annual Grandparents Day Family Fun Festival. The event is open to the local community. They had a variety of activities and attractions like live music, face painting, local artisan booths, a magician, balloon animals, games, a bake sale, ice cream, popcorn, cotton candy, and much more!



Photo 1 - L to R: Helen B., Dot B., Marge G. Photo 2 - Eva S., Photo 3 - L to R: Kendra S. and Hunter G., helping scoop Mannings ice cream at the Mayflower Florist & Farmers Market booth.

Wesley Village Campus - In September, residents at Brooks Estates held a Bake Sale to benefit the Resident Association, which is used for social gatherings and memorial donations for deceased residents.

L to R: Brooks Estates Residents Judy S, Theresa B, Janet Z, Andrea P, Mary Beth D, and Mary Ann W.



Campus Highlights

Hilltop - JGJ celebrated the end of summer with "The Dog Days of Summer." Employees brought in their pets for a parade. Residents and staff made dog treats to sell on campus. They finished the day with a party on the patio with music by Burt Rathbone, and sipped on pink poodle mocktails. JGJ and Hilltop also collected items to donate to the local shelter.

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Photo 1 - L to R: Jackie Otremba, Ashley Shea, Jennine Best-Baker, Kate McHugh, and Jenna Iadanza. Photo 2 - L to R: Gina Giordani and Madison Baker. Photo 3: Bob M.

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Elizabeth Church - Saint Louise Manor Residents closed the summer with a picnic at Otsiningo Park. The day was filled with sunny weather, dancing, and the delicious smells and tastes of grilled classics!

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Photo 1 - L to R: Elsa C. and Marie F. Photo 2 - L to R: Jackie S. and Marie F. Photo 3 - L to R: Elsa C. and Gale O.

Resident Spotlights

Esther Wilcox - Elizabeth Church Campus

Esther Wilcox grew up on Prospect Street, living with her mother, father, foster grandparents, two younger brothers, and sister. It was a 10-room house built in 1890 full of antiques. Esther says, "I grew up in a historic house full of antiques in a musical and religious (Methodist) environment, with visits to biological relatives in PA."

Upon graduation from high school, Esther attended Mansfield College to become a registered nurse. She worked for Robert Packer Hospital, then a small hospital in Waverly. Shortly after, she decided to return to school, attending Ithaca College to pursue a Music Degree while working as the Evening Nursing Supervisor at a small nursing home in Ithaca.

"I planned on a double career. A nurse during the week and a church organist on Sunday mornings. I wanted to be a nurse as far back as I can remember. My mother took care of us at home. We were all born at home, and I cared for my younger brothers and sister. Like many little girls, I had dolls that I cared for because they were constantly sick. I also took piano lessons as a child. One year, when I was ten years old, our recital was held at a church. The organist, afterward, took us into the sanctuary, where she played the organ for us. An actual manual pipe organ, I was hooked."



After graduating from Ithaca with her music degree, Esther left nursing to become a technician at the Cornell Veterinary School. She became involved in the music at a church in Cortland and decided to settle in Dryden permanently. Esther was very involved in her church. She played the pipe organ and was part of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). Each year in June, she played the organ as part of the AGO Annual Members Recital. In 1989, she was the organist director of the Chenango St. United Methodist Church in Binghamton. They had two 3-manual pipe organs and four choirs.

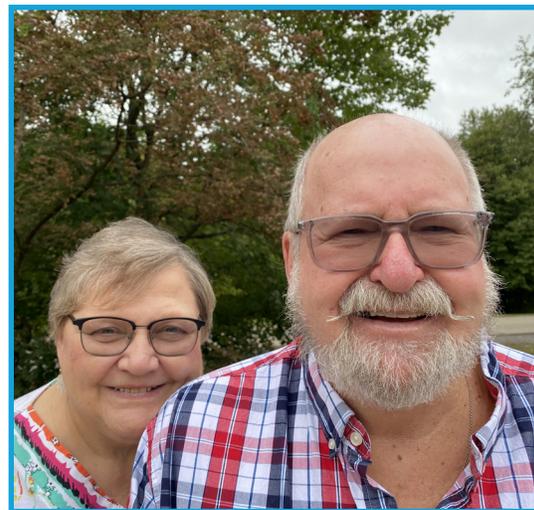


Resident Spotlights

Ron & Maurita Bartnikowski - Wesley Village Campus

Ron and Maurita Bartnikowski met in September 1987 through a dating business called Matchmaker and married the following year in November. They have been married for 35 years and have maintained their active lifestyles, even after retirement. They share six wonderful nieces and nephews and eight great-nieces and nephews.

Maurita was raised in Wilkes-Barre with two sisters, Maurita being the eldest. She graduated from St. Mary's High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from King's College and her Master's Degree in Classroom Technology from Wilkes University. Maurita taught in the Diocese of Scranton for 25 years and retired from Pittston Area Middle School after 15 additional years of service. After retirement, Maurita continued to teach part-time for King's College for a few years. Ron was raised in Duryea as an only child. He graduated from Pittston Area High School in 1970. Ron played the guitar and drums and played in quite a few garage bands. Ron worked for 32 years in road construction for Kaminski Brothers, Incorporated. After retirement, Ron took a part-time job transporting patients to and from outpatient therapy for John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation for a few years.



Maurita and Ron moved to Brooks Estates in February 2020. They chose the campus for the maintenance services. They were both looking to relax a little more and have fewer worries about owning a home. They moved in at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic but still established many connections, meeting neighbors outside. They both agree they enjoy living in the community for neighbors, friends, socialization, and connection to the Wesley Village Campus. Ron began riding his bike when he moved to Brooks Estates and was encouraged by his friend, Ruth Major (and neighbor), to ride for contributions for St. Joseph's Center. Ron and Maurita raised \$3582 also receiving an anonymous matching donation totaling \$7164 for the cause which attracted WNEP to share their story this past summer. In addition to bike riding, Ron is a Yankees fan, enjoys fishing, music, and sports books, and maintaining his mustache, even though he insists it only takes a minute a day! Ron has served as an eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Eucharist Parish, where they're both members. They continue to sing in the choir and are song leaders for worship services.

Maurita is passionate about crafts, crocheting, playing Rummikub, and creating gifts for her loved ones. Maurita recently made a 3D Dimensional Book-Folding Mermaid. Maurita volunteers throughout the Wesley Village campus, including at the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Center Gift Shop. She also prepared and led worship services during the transitional period until the new Chaplain arrived.

Presently, she volunteers in the Brooks Estates Community Center by assisting with folding flyers, leading crafts, assisting in the management of the library in the center, participating in the Book Club, initiating the Caring Crafter's Club, and serving as the Vice President of the Resident Association and Secretary of the Brooks Estates Traveler's Committee. Previously, she organized a collection of items for Ukraine for St. Michael's Archangel Church.

Ron and Maurita remain active and committed to their community after retirement, and we are grateful they reside with us at Brooks Estates. When they are not busy on campus, they enjoy traveling. Their favorite places they have visited are Nova Scotia and Halifax on a Canadian Cruise. They loved the quaintness of the communities and learning about their history. Maurita is looking forward to a planned trip to the Great Lakes.



Welcome to our New PA Chaplain



Rev. Nathan King grew up in Northern Pennsylvania and upstate New York. He resides with his wife in Forty Fort, PA, and they have three adult children. Nathan enjoys many hobbies, including fishing, golf, thrifting, and music. He and his wife attend Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Nathan graduated from Crown College and pastored four churches from 1986-2016. After completing a Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Geisinger in Danville in 2017, Nathan was a hospital and hospice chaplain until coming to United Methodist Homes in September 2023.

Nathan is acclimating to his role and hopes to provide spiritual care for both residents and employees. He has started conducting and coordinating services and bible studies at Tunkhannock and Wesley Village. He's also been filling his days with visiting residents and providing spiritual care and bereavement support. Nathan looks forward to reconnecting with area Churches and building up the volunteer base impacted by the pandemic.

LeadingAge PA Ageless Art & Timeless Treasures Exhibition & Gala

The LeadingAge PA Ageless Art & Timeless Treasures Exhibition & Gala is a traveling exhibit of artwork. This year, they featured 49 selected pieces submitted by over 100 artists residing at LeadingAge PA member communities across the state. Two residents from Wesley Village Campus had pieces showcased at the event.

Robert Springer, a Brooks Estates resident, submitted a butterfly carving. "I acquired this pattern from a friend who passed away. I enjoy working with wood and decided to continue to make the butterflies to honor my friend and ensure that it would not become a lost art." Robert explained that he's always working on projects for family members and even makes little race cars for his grandchildren.

Grace Hosier, a Brooks Estates resident, submitted a rock candy table topper for the Fabric Quilting part of the exhibit. "Sewing is my happy place. As a young girl born and raised in the small borough of West Pittston, I developed a love for fabric and sewing." Over the years, Grace taught herself how to sew different things like blankets for her dolls and clothing for herself.

Through the help of friends and YouTube, she learned how to quilt. "I am always learning! I continue to learn about color and techniques with each project. I think that the constant learning is the drive that keeps me interested and my mind working. That's why I call my sewing room "My Happy Place". I lose myself in the touch of fabrics, colors, techniques, creativity, the soothing hum of the machine, and the satisfaction of the finished product."

Photo 1 - L to R: Tammy Hadsel (daughter), Robert Springer, Barbara Springer, Crystal Salsman (daughter). Photo 2 - L to R: Barry & Grace Hosier.

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Welcome to our New Vice President of Development

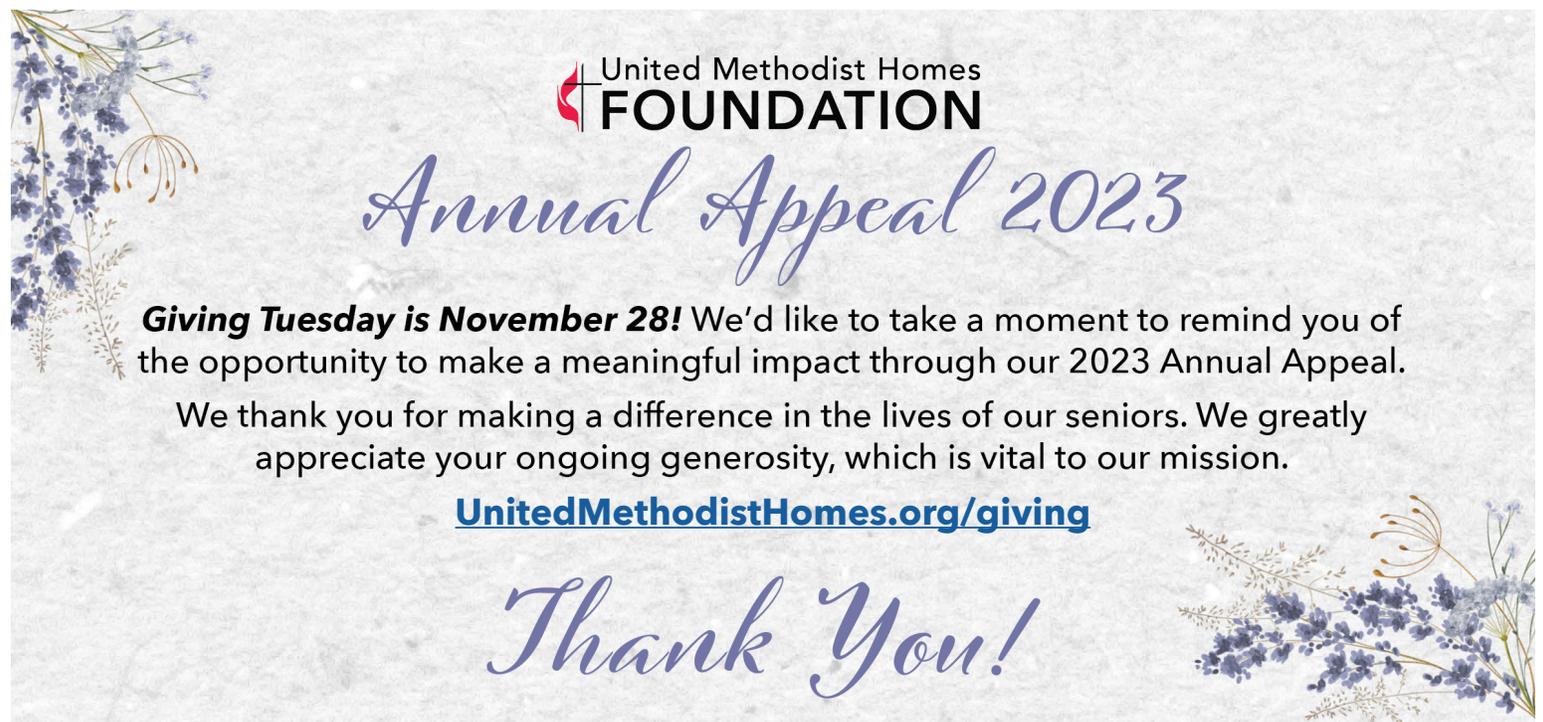
Catherine Young is our new Vice President of Development. She spent the last nearly decade of her career expanding a major gift program at Mass General Brigham in Boston, raising over \$25 million to catalyze and sustain programs across multiple disease areas (most recently in the realm of Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis).

Catherine has specialized in serving as a philanthropic advisor, and developing meaningful relationships with donors and their families, while partnering with faculty to create tangible goals, bold visions and case statements. She brings with her a wealth of experience and track record in collaboration to generate impactful philanthropic support.



Catherine attended Fairfield University for undergrad, and moved to Boston in 2011 to obtain her Master's in Public Health at Boston University; she began her career in development at Harvard Medical School shortly thereafter. While in Boston, Catherine also volunteered with an organization called FriendshipWorks, which worked to reduce elder isolation by connecting volunteers with older adults for friendship and support.

Catherine and her family relocated back to Endwell, NY where Catherine grew up during the pandemic. As a mom of three now living closely to her parents, sister and niece, grandmother, aunts and uncles, she is very grateful for the opportunity to implement her expertise at a local organization with an important mission that personally resonates.



The graphic features a light grey, textured background with decorative blue and white floral sprigs in the corners. At the top center is the United Methodist Homes Foundation logo, which includes a red and white icon of a house and the text "United Methodist Homes FOUNDATION". Below the logo, the text "Annual Appeal 2023" is written in a large, elegant, blue cursive font. Underneath, a bold black line of text reads "Giving Tuesday is November 28! We'd like to take a moment to remind you of the opportunity to make a meaningful impact through our 2023 Annual Appeal." This is followed by another line of black text: "We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our seniors. We greatly appreciate your ongoing generosity, which is vital to our mission." Below this is the website address "UnitedMethodistHomes.org/giving" in a blue, underlined font. At the bottom, the words "Thank You!" are written in a large, blue cursive font.

United Methodist Homes
FOUNDATION

Annual Appeal 2023

Giving Tuesday is November 28! We'd like to take a moment to remind you of the opportunity to make a meaningful impact through our 2023 Annual Appeal.

We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our seniors. We greatly appreciate your ongoing generosity, which is vital to our mission.

UnitedMethodistHomes.org/giving

Thank You!



UMH Foundation Relaunches the Memory Makers Program

Prior to the pandemic, the UMH Foundation sponsored a specialized art program known as “The Memory Maker” project on the Hilltop Campus. It was very well received among residents, and psychosocial benefits were observed. The program utilizes mixed media, allowing residents to express themselves through art, evoking memories from their past when creating their works of art. UMH had collaborated with program co-founder Christina Muscatello, who has a Masters in Integrated Teaching through the Arts.



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The Foundation was pleased to relaunch and expand Christina’s Memory Maker project to the Elizabeth Church and Wesley Village Campuses in addition to the Hilltop Campus. Throughout the program, residents are socially engaged as they reminisce, sharing memories from their past while expressing them through the creative process in their artwork. The residents have created several beautiful works of art. Therefore, it was only fitting that they plan exhibits inviting families, friends, and staff members to showcase their works of art. The selected pieces chosen for the exhibit have a common theme of nature.

The first art show occurred at Wesley Village. If they desired, residents were given the opportunity to speak about their art. The Hilltop Campus art exhibit is scheduled for November 20. We look forward to extending this program through the Foundation.

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Campus Employee Updates

Eric Yashinski joined the team as the Nursing Home Administrator at the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility. Eric has been licensed as an NHA since 2018. He has acquired invaluable experience serving as an NHA in our local long-term care market. Eric possesses industry knowledge, local market understanding, and experience, making him an asset to our organization.

Sean Walton was promoted to the Personal Care Home Administrator position for the Wesley Village Campus, overseeing the Myers and Anderson facilities. Sean advanced his career here at UMH over the last ten years, where he began as a Maintenance Tech at Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility, later moving to Tunkhannock Manor Campus, serving as their Maintenance Director until 2020. He then obtained his Personal Care Home Administrator’s license and was promoted to Administrator at Tunkhannock Manor in 2020.

Chelsea Newhart is a dedicated healthcare professional whose journey began at Tunkhannock Manor as a Licensed Practical Nurse. It was her first job out of nursing school, setting the stage for a rewarding career. After moving on and gaining valuable experience as an LPN, Chelsea obtained her personal care home administrator license and returned to Tunkhannock Manor as the new Administrator.

Mary Alice Middleton has joined Wesley Village as the Dining Services Director with oversight over both Tunkhannock Manor and Wesley Village dining operations. Mary Alice has been in the industry since 1983, starting as a Dietary Aide, and has been in the Food Service Management realm since 1992. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will benefit our residents.

Memory Makers Photos - Photo 1: Display of final artwork at the Wesley Village Exhibit. Photo 2 - L to R: Eric Yashinski, Tammy Hadsel, Christina Muscatello from Memory Makers Program, Danielle Janeski, and Brian Picchini at Wesley Village Exhibit. Photo 3 - L to R: Rebecca H. and her mother, Wesley resident, Ruth H. Photo 4: Helen T., Elizabeth Church resident participating in Memory Makers. Photo 5: A group at Elizabeth Church participating in Memory Makers.





How to Donate

To make a donation online, please visit UnitedMethodistHomes.org/giving.

Checks are payable to United Methodist Homes Foundation and may be sent to:

United Methodist Homes Foundation

Corporate Office

10 Acre Place

Binghamton NY 13904

On the memo of your check, please indicate what fund you would like it to go to:

- Unrestricted (UMH Fund)
 - Resident Assistance Program
 - Elizabeth Church Campus
 - Hilltop Campus
 - Tunkhannock Campus
 - Wesley Village Campus
 - Chaplain Program
-
- Please also include along with your check if your gift is in memory or in honor of someone.
 - * If you would like us to notify the family of your gift, please provide their mailing address.
 - Please let us know how you would like your name to appear on donor recognition materials.
 - Lastly, please be sure that you include your mailing address and email (if desired) to be sure that we can send you your tax deductible information.

If you have any questions about making a donation, please contact Catherine Young at cyoung@umhwc.org OR 607-725-7112.

Thank you!

News & Announcements

The Connections Newsletter is officially virtual!

In an effort to be good stewards of our donations and the environment, the Connections Newsletter is now virtual. All new and past issues will continue to be posted on our website. We will also share a link to the newsletter via email and on social media. If you are not on our email list and would like to be, please email Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org. The campuses will continue to receive a limited print supply of the newsletter for common areas.

Connections is designed for easier readability. Contact Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org

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