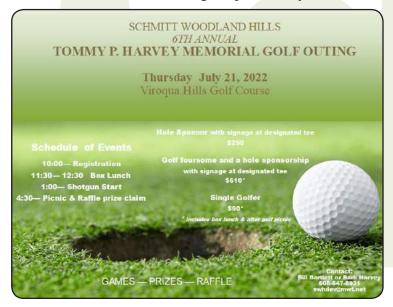
SCHMITT WOODLAND HILLS WOODLAND HILLS Views

BIG DREAMS, BIG NEEDS, BIG HEARTS!

Yes, it is that time of the year again! The 6th Annual Tommy P. Harvey Memorial Golf Outing is just around the corner. It just doesn't seem possible that Tom has been gone that long. Even more incredible, this will be the 22nd year we will have held this event. Starting in the summer of 2000, we have held an outing every year except 2004. At least I can find no records that the event was held that year.

The first eleven years for the event we had average net income of approximately \$5,345.00. The next 10 years saw that average grow to \$13,514.35 per year, with a high of \$20,414.33 in 2019, the year before the Pandemic crept into our lives. The COVID-19 Pandemic hit us hard, and our net revenues dropped almost \$7,000.00 per year in the two years of the pandemic when compared to the two years just prior to the onset of the pandemic. Our Golf Outing Planning Committee is full of energy and would like this year's event to be

the best ever and to try and make up for some of the funds we were not able to raise during the pandemic years.





The theme for this year's events is Big Dreams, Big Needs, Big Hearts! We are dreaming big. Big, because our revenues have been down over the last two plus years because of the Pandemic which means there are many needs for our residents that have gone unmet. Big Hearts, as they always seem to do when the chips are down, we hope our community will open their hearts and support our mission of care for the senior citizens of our area.

Although we are still working on some of the details, this year's outing is going to look a little different than previous events. The 6th annual (22nd overall) Tommy P. Harvey Memorial golf outing itself will still be held on the third Thursday of July at Viroqua Hills Golfcourse in Viroqua, and will feature two hole-in-one prizes, several other prize holes on the course and a golfer's only raffle with a nice array of prizes. This year we will be adding a second event in September. This event "Nine at Night" will be held on September 17th at Quail Run

Golf Course in Richland Center. The event will be open to the public and will kick off with a live auction at 5:30. A catalogue of items in the auction will be available. At 7:00 pm we will be pulling the winning ticket for a Polaris Ranger 1000 side-by-side UTV and tilt-bed trailer, a Traeger pellet grill, and pair of kayaks as prizes. Tickets for these wonderful prizes will be \$20.00 per ticket or a book of 5 for \$100.00. Following the drawing for these great prizes we will be having a shotgun start for nine holes of best ball golf in the dark. "Better dust off those glowin-the dark golf balls." This should be a fun and exciting night for everyone.

The proceeds from this summer's events will be used to establish a designated memory care wing here at Schmitt Woodland Hills. Any donations that are not needed for the new Dementia care wing will be used to help complete the LuEtta Livingston memorial garden at the front entrance, which we are hoping to start soon. The Committee's plans are ambitious, and we will be hoping for broad support from our Board, our staff, and our community.

BIG DREAMS, BIG NEEDS, BIG HEARTS! CONTINUED

How Can You Help?

Raffle tickets for the Polaris Ranger and the other great prizes are available now and are ready for purchase. By Federal law you cannot sell raffle tickets through the U S Mail. However, you can purchase a ticket/s over the phone or via email. Just telephone us or send us an email using the contact information below.

Lynnette Eder

lynnette.eder@schmittwoodlandhills.com 608-647-8931

Bill Bartlett

bill.bartlett@schmittwoodlandhills.com 608-647-8931

Barb Harvey

barb.harvey@schmittwoodlandhills.com 608-647-8931

Provide your name, address, telephone number and email address. You would also need to provide your credit card information; card number, expiration date, 3-digit security code and the number of tickets you wish to purchase. In return, we will email you a copy of the stub/s for the tickets you have purchased. Sales will continue from now through early September.

As always, if you wish to support the creation of our new dementia wing here at Schmitt Woodland Hills without participating in the raffle, your monetary gifts of any size will be greatly appreciated. Please see the donation form on the back page of the newsletter.

CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY ELLEN ALVIN

Schmitt Woodland Hills is home. After over 17 years at another long-term care facility, I feel like I have returned "home" to Schmitt Woodland Hills. Many things have changed but many things remain the same.

The size and layout of the building has changed. The color of the walls, the number of rooms and size of the rooms have changed. Some of the faces have changed. But, the care and compassion of every single staff member has remained the same. Every employee is part of the "team".

Returning to SWH brings back memories of my early years as a CNA. When I walked through the doors the very first time for my interview, I could feel the warmth. As a new CNA in the late 90's, I was scared to death. It didn't take long for it to feel like "home." This has not changed.

The teamwork shown by all staff has not changed. Feeling overwhelmed as a newbie one morning, I thought to myself, "I'm not going to be able to do this." Well, I made it through the first week, then the first month, and soon a year. It was very obvious the "team" was not going to let me fail.

The entire staff go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of all that reside here and those we serve in the community. As we make our way through this pandemic, the staff continue to try to give each and every resident a sense of normalcy. It doesn't matter where you live in the facility, the staff is working together to give everyone their best life.

It may be as simple as the nursing staff making sure a resident gets that first cup of the coffee that they were used to having at home. It may also be the activity staff making sure a resident is able to participate in the Bingo game that they love playing. Or the Dietary staff making the perfect egg for them in the morning. The environmental staff are just as important. From keeping the resident's rooms clean and tidy to sanitizing daily for the health and safety of all that live and work here. I must not forget, the House Calls and Adult Day Center staff. Their care and compassion for the members of our community does not go unnoticed.

We have been through some tough situations over the past year. Some tough decisions had to be made. Did we ever think that the RCAC tenants would have to figure out a way to get their groceries? Did the nursing staff ever think they would have to do virtual doctors visits? Did environmental staff ever think they would have to build something out of plexiglass so residents could visit with their families? Together as a team, WE DID IT! This is what a compassionate team can accomplish.

As Dalai Lama said, "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."



WINNER OF CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST IS ANNOUNCED

Each year all full and part-time Schmitt Woodland Hills staff are invited to enter a "Caring People Make a Difference" essay contest. Beautiful stories happen at SWH nearly every day. This contest is an attempt to give our compassionate care givers an opportunity to tell their story of how they touch the lives of our residents. This year's winner of the \$500.00 prize is Ellen Alvin.

Ellen moved to Wisconsin with her parents in 1979 after they purchased a farm in the Sabin area. She has lived in Richland County since then.

Having a love for animals, she wanted to be a farm wife when she grew up. After graduation, she was planning to attend Southwest Tech to pursue a nursing degree. Instead, she married her "farmer" in January of 1982. They now have 1 son, 2 daughters, 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

Ellen started her work career off the farm in 1984 at a factory in Richland Center. After 15 years, she decided to pursue that career in the Healthcare field that she postponed when she got married. She took her CNA classes at Sauk County Healthcare in 1998 and worked there until Joanne Amell hired her to work at Schmitt Woodland Hills in September of 1998 as a new CNA. She left after 2 years and worked at Pine Valley Community Village. She returned to the Schmitt Woodland Hills in November of 2016 as the House Calls Coordinator. She has since added RCAC manager and Adult Day Center Director to those rolls.

When asked what compelled her to enter the essay contest, she replied that "sitting at home one evening, she thought about how everyone made me feel 'at home' when she returned to Schmitt. So, she put those thoughts into words and wrote the essay.

INSPIRATION BY CRAIG PEACH

Most of us know hope when it appears. We start our day with the anticipation that something good is just around the corner, but then it happens—disappointment steals our hope, we wonder if the excitement and joy we felt were from God or our imagination.

Hope stealers are at work twenty-four hours a day. They include the criticism of others, difficult circumstances, trials, feelings of rejection and self-doubt and more. What can you do to safeguard yourself against such thought patterns?

First, tell yourself the truth about your situation. Don't beat yourself down. God never does.

Second, remember that God is the God of Possibilities. In the book, The Attributes of God, A. W. Tozer maintained:

God is kindhearted, gracious, good-natured and benevolent in intention...We only think we believe, really. We are believers in a sense, and I trust that we believe sufficiently to be saved and justified before His grace. But we don't believe as intensely and as intimately as we should. If we did, we would believe that God is...gracious and that His intentions are kind and benevolent. We would believe that God never thinks any bad thoughts about anybody, and He never had any bad thoughts about anybody.

What does God think about you? Marvelous. Wonderful. His creation. You are his child and He is proud of you.

Father, as I face criticism, difficult circumstances, trials and rejection today, help me remember Your declaration concerning me: I am marvelous, wonderful, Your creation. I accept Your evaluation and reject the negative opinions of others.

JUST IN TIME!

Reinforcements have arrived! It seems that weather conditions have been perfect for making grass grow fast. Our grounds keeping crew has been working hard to keep up with the grass-cutting routine. Then, just in time, a new John Deere X758, 4X4, diesel tractor with a 60" mower deck shows up to save the day. Jerry Knoble, one of the grounds keepers said this new 4X4 mower really cuts down the time needed to mow especially all the banks and sidehills.

This generous gift was made possible by Billie Dean Braithwaite a current resident in our retirement apartment complex. Dean made the gift in memory of his late wife Wyvonne Braithwaite. The crew quickly christened the new addition "Tiny B" a nick name it now shares with Wyvonne.

Because this new unit is a diesel it is far more efficient than the gas unit it replaced. Because it is a 4-wheel drive we are getting more done at a lower cost and that is always a plus. Everyone at Schmitt Woodland Hills is grateful for this new tractor and we cannot thank Dean enough for this gift made in loving memory of his wife.



WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

We hear a great deal about Planned Giving from not-forprofit organizations and other public institutions, especially at this time of the year. Couple that with the COVID-19 pandemic which has made it extremely difficult for the not-for-profit sector to raise badly needed funds required to execute their missions, whatever that might be. Because of the pandemic and the economic hardships it has forced on the not-for-profit community, I believe we will hear a great deal more about planned giving in the weeks and months to come. Therefore, we felt it would be appropriate to offer some basics of planned giving starting with a definition.

Quite simply, planned giving is the process of making a significant charitable gift during a donor's life or at death that is part of his or her financial or estate plan. Planned giving is also referred to as gift planning or legacy giving. In a nutshell, it is a donor's intention to contribute a major gift to an organization, beyond their lifetime. So, unlike an annual gift (an outright gift made for current use), a planned gift is for the future. Essentially, donors make arrangements for planned gifts in the present but they are actually doled out at a later date. Additionally, the major gifts contributed by a donor can be made as a part of their financial or estate plans.

Even if donors contribute on a recurring basis, planned giving enables them to contribute gifts that they wouldn't ordinarily be able to make. The gifts donated end up being larger and aren't dependent on one's regular income. That's why most planned gifts contributed by donors take the form of life insurance, equity, or real estate holdings (among others). Thus, even if a donor consistently contributed small gifts, their planned gift can be of a much higher value.

In order for an individual to leave behind a major gift, planned gifts can take many different forms. They can take the form of real estate, personal property, life insurance, or even cash. Other types of planned gifts provide a financial benefit on top of tax deductions for donors. Charitable remainder trusts provide an income stream for individuals, and at the death of the donor, the charity receives what is left in the trust. A charitable lead trust, on the other hand, produces a stream of funds for a charity, and at the death of the donor, the donor's heirs receive what remains in the trust. However, the majority of donors seem to gravitate towards 3 primary planned giving options:

1. Bequest

A gift (typically cash; personal property; real estate; stocks; or bonds) left behind in a will for a group, individual, or organization. There are four types of charitable bequests:

- General Bequests: gifts of property taken from the assets of an estate.
 - Demonstrative Bequests: gifts that come from a



source, such as a bank account.

- Specific Bequests: gifts of personal property such as cash, jewelry, or other tangible assets.
- Residuary Gifts: gifts that come from the remainder of any debts or expenses that have been paid along with other bequests that have been made.

2. Annuity

A fixed sum of money paid to an organization each year. So, this typically takes the form of a simple contract between a donor and a charity. Also known as a charitable gift annuity, a donor transfers cash, security, or assets to a cause in exchange for a partial tax deduction. They can also receive a lifetime stream of annual income from the charity itself.

3. Trust

A legal entity whereby an individual holds or invests property as its titular owner. This can be for one or more beneficiaries. Additionally, there are two types of charitable trusts:

- Charitable Remainder Trust: a tax-exempt trust created to reduce an individual's taxable income by dispersing their earnings to the beneficiaries of the trust over time. The remainder of the trust goes to the organization outlined in the trust.
- Charitable Lead Trust: this is the inverse of a charitable remainder trust. The trust provides financial support to multiple causes over a specified period of time. The remainder of the trust then goes to the other beneficiaries (family members, friends, etc.)

Above all, planned giving preserves a donor's legacy. Donors first begin thinking about planned giving when they are nearing retirement age. So, donors may give to organizations that act in accordance with their personal values and beliefs. As a result, their planned gift symbolizes the relationship they've cultivated with the cause they've given to. If anything, they want their contribution to help secure the future of the organization. It also represents their commitment to positively impacting communities in actionable ways.

If you have been considering a planned gift to secure your legacy, please consult with your financial planner/advisor for assistance in carrying out your directives. If you have already created a planned gift to benefit Schmitt Woodland Hills, please contact Bill Bartlett the Development Director at 608-647-8931. We would like to acknowledge your gift in accordance with your wishes during your lifetime.



JEANNE GUTWEILER CALLS IT A DAY

Jeanne came to Schmitt Woodland Hills from Pine Valley in February of 2004 to accept a position in our Medical Records Department. After over 18 years at SWH Jeanne has decided its time for a change and retirement looked awfully

good. More time to spend with her children and grandchildren seemed like something she was ready to try.

On Friday June 3rd residents a co-workers gathered in the 2nd floor lounge for cake and ice cream to wish her well and send her off into retirement. We thank Jeanne for all her contributions over those 18-plus years and wish her well

in retirement. Good luck Jeanne you've







RICHLAND COUNTY - THE DAYCARE DESERT

Schmitt Woodland Hills, along with many other employers, are finding it hard to hire needed staff. There are obviously many reasons for this but one of the reasons that we have heard repeatedly is that staff or potential staff do not have daycare for their children. This is not new to just the pandemic era, but rather has been an ongoing problem for many years.

This is especially difficult for the Healthcare Industry, as staffing is at a crisis level in most areas of the State of Wisconsin and Nationally as well. Richland County was recently referred to as a "childcare desert". The issue is compounded for Healthcare Facilities, who must staff their facilities 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. We need to be able to provide solutions for our staff to care for their children. We have really tossed this around for several years now and there is not an easy answer. We all need to think outside the box on this issue because we are not talking about staff that need daycare from 8 to 5. We are talking about needing a daycare solution that can assist staff with daycare on all shifts, including Day shift, PM shift, and Night shift.

As many of you know, space we have been providing, at a minimal cost, in the lower level of our Westview assisted living wing has served as home to the Discovery Playschool. is a traditional preschool open to children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Most recently the school has approximately 6 children enrolled and operated for 3 days per week.

For several years, we have tried to convince Discovery Playschool to expand its hours and broaden the age range of their students. This would provide more opportunities for our staff to utilize their services and consequently help alleviate some of our employment issues.

Well, this has finally become reality. Back in October of 2021 Discovery Playschool applied for and received a \$75,000 grant from Richland County to provide additional childcare options in the county. Schmitt Woodland Hills encouraged them and supported them every step of the way. The first use of these funds was used to advertise, interview, and hire a permanent Director who would be charged with growing the program and the services provided. In addition to a new Director the school will have a newly fenced in outdoor play area for the children as early as June 10th. Another exciting development is a new summer program that will be open to area children. The summer program starts June 6th and will run from 8-4:00 pm. It will have full and part-time slots available, and the cost will be \$18.00 dollars for half days and \$36.00 dollars for whole days. A morning and afternoon snack will be provided, and parents will be required to provide a sack lunch. Schmitt Woodland Hills employees will receive a 20% discount.

This is all very exciting! Much has been accomplished in a short period of time. We expect to see the program continue to grow and expand as time passes. Watch for more updates as the program moves forward.

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS

Westview residents decorating Christmas Cookies.



Going to see the Rotary Lights in the Park

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's party





Hi, my name is connie Mortimer

y Valentine's Love
Advice is be honest, love
your neighbor
Be a good husbard;
be a good husbard

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

SPRING CHEER CRAFTS





EASTER



TREE OF CONTINUED CARING – IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

| DONATED BY: | IN MEMORY OF: | Dorothy HegeRobert W. Hege |
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| Dan & Linda Phetteplace | | Timothy Hershberger |
| Jackie & Mark Schwichtenberg | Cocil Schwichtenberg | John Miller |
| | | Trent Hostetler |
| Sally & Dave Exline | | |
| Michael & Lorie Schwichtenberg | | Skip Miller |
| Sandy & Mark Campbell | | John & Joyce Tennant Lenice Stafford |
| | Benita Storms | Leo Stafford |
| Ardith & Carl Hansen | | Delight Totten Husband, Bob Totten |
| | The Nursting Staff | Sister, Phylis Hendricks |
| | Irma Miller | Mom & Dad, Glen & Dorothy |
| Janet Olson | Residents & Employees | Harwood |
| Sharon Moore | | Gerry Schwichtenberg Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| | Kathryn Moore | Judy & Wayne MadsenJoe Rewald |
| | Harold Moore | Sally Rewald |
| | Marlene West | Jon Rewald |
| | Stella Walty | Alex Rewald |
| | Wilma Peterson | Ruth Moser |
| | | |
| | Joseph Peterson | Paul & Louise MurpheyLaura Stoddard |
| | Norma Peterson | Mary KnotheJohn Kinney |
| | Charles Peterson | Margurite Kinney |
| | Infant Elayn Anderson | Mark Knothe |
| Jean Birkett | | Mike Knothe |
| | Mabel H. Kanable | Joe & Kristi Durst Helen Shireman |
| | Marvin Kanable | Ralph H. Shireman |
| | Anna Kanable Ziesmer | Bill Shireman |
| | William Birkett | Darlene Perkins |
| | Carol Klinzing Higgins | Florence Durst |
| Dorsey Ames | | Christopher & Patricia Kreger Mom, Ramona Adsit |
| , | Jean Melvill | Gramma, Vernie Mohrmann |
| | Lois Wanless | Grampa, F.Fred Mohrmann |
| Larry & Carolyn Weinhaus | | Uncle, Fred A. Mohrmann |
| Earry & Gurotyti Weithaus | John & Clarice Shelton | Aunt, Camilla Mohrmann |
| | Fred & Camilla Mohrmann | Aunt, Camma Mont mann Aunt, Clarice Shelton |
| | Ramona Adsit | Uncle, John Shelton |
| | | |
| | Wayne & Jean Barnes | Cousin, Jean Barnes |
| | Jean Walsh | A Favorite Teacher, Jean Birkett |
| | Laura Stoddard | Wendi's Mom, Eunice Moore |
| | Craig Peach | Virginia Merry McCauleyRuby Merry |
| | John Tews | Laura Fruit |
| | Jerry Knoble | Wyvonne Merry |
| | Peggy Hampton | Virgil G. McCauley |
| | Cole Pyfferoen | Marilyn Williams |
| Tom Egge | Betty Egge | Garland Fruit |
| Michelle Harwick | Buena Anderson | Madalene McCauley |
| Linda Henderson | Wilfred Moser | Roland McCauley |
| Frank & Juliane Ward | | Alvina Merry |
| | Janet Hofmann Woodbury | Velda Jean Marshall |
| | Sharon Moore | Bonita HirschfieldJeff Sandmire |
| | Russ & Barb Shannon | Patricia Leonard |
| Mary Jean Fruit | | Eleanor Lane |
| 11111 y Jeun 1 run | Laura Pyfferoen | Peggy HamptonMartha Zintz |
| Carolyn Freeman | | Jeff Sandmire |
| Sarotyn i reeman | Lillian & Willis Cooper | Bernie Dyer |
| | | Lisa & Gary Schwichtenberg Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| | Joan & Ed Vodak | Edwin & Ellen Noehre |
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| | Jean & John Hopkins | Jean Gochenauer Ray & Bonnie HirschfieldMartha Zintz |
| | Vicki & Jerry Wisniewski | |
| The Flyte Family | | William Zintz |
| | Grandma Carolyn Freeman | Bernie Dyer |
| | | Patricia SchiroRobert & Winifred Brewer |

TREE OF CONTINUED CARING - IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

| Patricia Schiro | Mary Catherine Meyer |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 411 1614 96111 0 | Carolyn Burnham |
| | , |
| | The SWH Staff |
| | those who can't care for themselves |
| Gary & Cindy Hanold | Ardith Hanold |
| | Connie Cosgrove |
| Joanne Taylor | Jim Leonard |
| | Eleanor Lane |
| Terry & Tammy Fritz | Rose Anne Fritz |
| | Donald R. Fritz |
| | Tracy Tolbert |
| | Don Fritz, JR. |
| | Dad, Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| | Grandma, Mildred Robinson |
| Sue McGrew | Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| Eunice Black | Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| Jaleen & Jeff Ambrose | Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| Denise & Steve Ruetten | Cecil Schwichtenberg |
| Tammy Fritz | |
| Vicki Burkheimer | |
| THE SUITABLE THE SUITABLE SUIT | Vernon Maxwell |
| | Carl Maxwell |
| James Eigletal | |
| Joyce Fichtel | |
| Bruce & MaryLou Tessmer | Kenneth & Augie Olson |
| | |

TRIBUTE LISTING

| TRIBUTE: | DONATED BY: |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| In Honor Of Carolyn Freeman S | Sherry & Larry Quamme |
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| In Memory Of Alfred Ulrich | Alan & Teresa Ulrich |
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| In Memory Of Charles Denman | |
| In Memory Of Hazel Marshall | |
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| , | NSDAR |
| | Bill Schaub |
| | Anna & Myron Richard |
| | Kathy & John Madden |
| | Linda & Myron Peterson |
| In Memory Of Ken & Augie Olson | |
| , | Records |
| In Memory Of Kent Houck | Virginia Wiedenfeld |
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| Dar | niel & Carolyn McCauley |
| | Adam & Carolyn Flyte |
| | Paul & Louise Murphey |
| | Carl & Ardith Hansen |
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| Down of Manufact Transcon |
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| Bruce & MaryLou TessmerJohn & Esther Perkins |
| June McNamer |
| Betty Tennant |
| Laura Stoddard |
| All Former Teachers residing at SWH |
| Wes & Dianne PanzekRobert & Chrystal Panzer |
| Carole Troxel |
| Sharon Dederich |
| Charity Larsen |
| Gayle AliotoHarry Collier |
| Avis Collier |
| Jean Birkett |
| Dan & Julie (Burnham) TaylorCarolyn Burnham |
| Winnifred Brewer |
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| Vanessa SartonFather, Wilbur Lee Stark |
| Mother, Evelyn Lucille Palmer |
| Kathleen Crary Donald Crary |
| Buford Cooper |
| Gwen Cooper |
| Don & Annette Clark Judy Davis |
| Rita Thielmann |
| Irma Miller |
| Ardith Hansen |
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| In Memory Of LuEtta LivingstonLynnette Eder |
| Mark & Sandra Campbell |
| |
| Louise Schadauer |
| Luanne Harris |
| Gary & Lucinda Hanold |
| Linda & David Harlan-Post |
| James & Heidi Olson |
| Joanne & William Amell |
| Leon Livingston |
| In Memory Of Richard and Ruby Chitwood Sharon & Tim |
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| Mary Waage |
| Lynnette Eder |
| Richard & Suzanne Hanzel |
| Richard & Suzanne Hanzel |

In Memory Of Sally Rewald Wayne & Judy Madsen

Dr. Louis Williams Loren & Nancy Brown Marilyn Marshall Karen & James Cooper Sydney Pulvermacher Terry & Dorothy Chitwood

Janet & Herb Irvin

JACKIE'S JOURNAL: Meeting the Needs of our Community

Since March of 2020, we have lived in an ever-changing world. We pride ourselves at Schmitt Woodland Hills in being able to take in and care for the seniors in our local communities. Unfortunately, it has been very difficult to accept everyone that has applied for admission to SWH due to the staffing shortages in our facility and in our community in general. As a result of the shortage of certified nurse aides caused by the pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services initiated a program which allowed for the creation of Nurse Aide Emergency Training Programs (ETPs) and the use of Temporary Nurse Aides. This program allowed individuals to complete a 16-hour on-line training program after which they could work as caregivers in long-term care facilities such as SWH. Unfortunately, no new training programs (ETPs) were allowed to be initiated after May 7, 2022, and any training programs in process must be completed by June 6, 2022. After June 6th any temporary aides, not on a path to the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry, must stop working as nurse aides unless they are employed full time and enrolled in an approved permanent nurse aide training program.

We saw this as a wonderful opportunity to help alleviate the ongoing caregiver shortage and were able to get one class completed during the Nurse Aide Emergency Training Programs Act window of opportunity. Our first class started in March of 2022, and we started with 4 students. All 4 students are currently employed at Schmitt Woodland Hills as CNAs. One of the students was me. I really felt the need to go through the CNA program for several reasons. First and foremost, I want to be able to help my staff in any way possible. It is discouraging when I cannot help the CNAs or the Nurses with a lot of their tasks when they are in need. I still cannot help the nurses much, but I can

help the CNAs. I already help Dietary, Housekeeping & RAs when I can so this enables me to help even more of our staff when there is a need.

The other reason that I took our first class is that I wanted to experience the class along with our other 3 staff that were taking it. I have to say that it was a beautiful

experience. I can't even describe how wonderful it was to be in the class and learn alongside the others. They are 3 amazing individuals and I learned so much from them. The teamwork in the class was extraordinary and we not only learned a lot, but we also had fun and it was a great bonding experience.

Out of this experience we quickly

recognized another need. Because the

three temporary aides we hired during this special time frame needed to be enrolled in a traditional CNA training program and on the path to the Wisconsin Nurse Aide or lose their jobs as aides, we decided that we needed to become a permanent CNA training site. We are now awaiting approval from the State of Wisconsin for their approval to become a permanent CNA training program site. We have hired a CNA program instructor who is an RN. Babette Kuehni has 25 plus years of experience in Long-term Care and 10 years experience teaching the CNA training program. We are blessed to have her as our

I hope that our CNA program continues to draw others into the Long-term Care field. We are truly blessed to get to work with the amazing seniors entrusted into our care. What a blessing each of them is to us every day. By taking this proactive approach to the labor shortage, with the start of this training program, we are also striving to improve the lives of our staff, our seniors, and our community. This is just another step in the right direction.

- Jackie Carley, Executive Director



instructor.

From Left to Right: Babette Kuehni – Course Instructor, Jackie Carley, Petia Rebhan, Deb Plumlee Savannah Bell – not available for the photo

A COMMUNITY FILLED WITH KINDNESS BY JOHN TEWS

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." The spirit of giving is one that is strong within the community of Richland Center. While working at Schmitt Woodland Hills, I have witnessed countless acts of generosity from the people of this area, and it is especially apparent around the holiday season.

One of the ways that community members brightened the spirits of our residents this Christmas was through the giving of gifts. Chief among these groups is Saint Mary's Catholic Church, who annually sponsors a giving tree for our residents. Through collections from the members of their congregation, they gather enough items to give gifts to all of our Health Center and Assisted Living residents. Additionally, we received donations from the Richland Center Youth Bowling and several individuals who brought lap robes, scarves, quilts, and other homemade goods to share with our residents.

A special group of residents also receives some well-deserved attention during the holidays; our veterans. The Richland Center VFW Post 2267 supplied overflowing gift bags for our veteran residents, satisfying everything on their wish-lists. They also keep connections with all of our veterans throughout the year and correspond with them frequently. Likewise, we received thoughtful gifts from the Lone Rock Legion Auxiliary to share with our past servicemembers, ensuring they all knew they were remembered during the holidays.

There were several other ways that community groups reached out or touched our organization this Christmas. A number of churches and school groups sent Christmas cards to share with all of our residents. We benefited from the efforts of the Rotary Club of Richland Center and all of their volunteers as we took multiple bus trips through the amazing Lights in the Park display. Students from Ithaca Elementary School sent a large festive banner, complete with pictures drawn by the kids, for us to hang for our residents' enjoyment. Sadly, the current health situation did not allow us to have carolers in the building this year, but a couple of groups opted to sing for our residents from outside, including a group of students from Saint Mary's Catholic School. The determination of so many to make this season special for our residents, despite all the new obstacles we face, was so encouraging to see.

Schmitt Woodland Hills has always been blessed by the generosity of this community. We are so grateful for all that has been shared with us, both during this holiday season and year-round. Being a not-for-profit organization, we often rely on donations of time and finances to continue providing the best for our residents. If you feel moved to donate your time and talents, please reach out to our Activity Director/Volunteer Coordinator, or if you wish to make a monetary donation, please contact Bill Bartlett, Development Director. Both can be reached at 608-647-8931. In the words of Anne Frank, "No one has ever become poor by giving."

The sale of our Cookbook last fall went very well.

The book included recipes from staff, residents and friends.

We still have about 10 copies left.

If you are interested in one (or two), contact Bill or Barb at 608-647-8931





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THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT BUSINESSES AROUND RICHLAND CENTER

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR LOCATIONS







