

SCHMITT WOODLAND HILLS

WOODLAND *Views*



THE END OF AN ERA

Phyllis Marie Keller, 91, of Richland Center received her heavenly reward on January 26, 2023, at Schmitt Woodland Hills in Richland Center. For many of us, her passing was the end of an era for Schmitt Woodland Hills. Phyllis and her sister Ruth Moser spent a great deal of their early years with William and Oda Schmitt. It was William and Oda's gift, at William's passing, that made the construction of Schmitt Woodland Hills possible. But the connection didn't stop there. Phyllis was an active supporter of Schmitt Woodland Hills throughout her life. She served on the Board and on a number of committees over the years as did her sister Ruth.

We asked Phyllis' daughter, Ellen Keller-Evans, to reflect on her remarkable life of service to Schmitt Woodland Hills and to her community. As told by Ellen, we share her thoughts in memory of a remarkable woman, Phyllis Keller:

"Now go, and be nice", is a phrase that will always echo in my mind. My brothers and I heard those words time and time again. They were spoken to us by our mother in the last days of her long and wonderful (according to her) life, in January 2023. She was at Schmitt Woodland Hills for four short days. They went by in an instant. We all knew the days at "Schmitt", were going to be her last.

While there, she sent us on endless errands, and had us coming and going constantly. A few days earlier, at the hospital, she made sure we brought her taxes, so she could do them on time. That's how she was. Each time we walked out the door, on yet another mission, she told us "Now go, and be nice".

April 21, 2023 was her 92nd Birthday. The first year in my life there wasn't a celebration or phone call for her birthday. Born Phyllis Keys in Richland Center, she had two sisters and one brother. Jean Alf, Ruth Moser, and Bill Keys. Her brother, Bill, survives her. We always got the impression it was quite difficult when she was young. Her father was absent much of the time due to medical issues. That had to make life very painful for them all. Never once did she complain

or dwell on the situation. She did let us know how much she loved her family though.

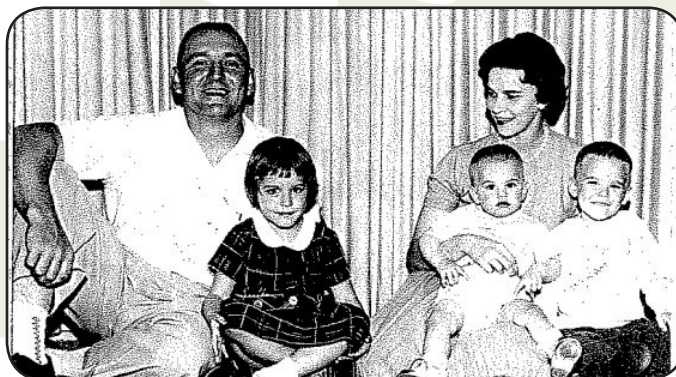
Oda and Bill Schmitt were her Aunt and Uncle. Oda Keys Schmitt was her father's sister. Oda and Bill Schmitt are the benefactors of the beautiful Schmitt Woodland Hills. They also made it possible for her to attend UW-Stout for a year. For that, she was always grateful. The Schmitts were always a presence in her life, and in ours when we were young.



As a sophomore in high school, she met Bun Keller, and nothing was ever the same. They graduated in 1949, she went to college, he was drafted, they got married and off to Oklahoma! I think they both hated it. Ft. Sill Oklahoma, that is. Army time done, and back to Wisconsin. She began working for Burnham's Jewelry Store. She had found her place. Customer service was her specialty, without a doubt. She dove into the jewelry business headfirst. Soaking in knowledge, on her own, from her boss, and seminars, any way she could. Working her way up to manager, then, when the opportunity arose, she and my dad, a happy Mailman, or Letter Carrier as he would correct us, bought the store. He

was content to remain the happy Letter Carrier. She ran a wonderful staff and treated each and every one of them like family. Her biggest and most important training point was "impeccable customer service". She was kind and always pleasant to every customer she ever had in that store for 35 years. An active member of the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, Secretary for many years, she was currently a member. As a woman in the 50's, 60's and 70's, working in a man's world, she didn't skip a beat. She was the first female member of the Wisconsin Jewelers Association, holding the position of Secretary for 12 years. Also, a member of the Richland Hospital Board for 9 years.

Anyone who knew her understood that God and her faith came first in her life. It was evident by the way she led her life. She liked everyone, was friendly to everyone, and I believe, loved everyone unconditionally. She was the



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THE END OF AN ERA *continued...*

first to reach out and help anyone in need. People stayed with her, she took food to countless others, gave rides to people, sometimes getting up very early in the morning in frigid weather to help someone that she thought might need it. This has gone on my entire life. My brothers and I always saw her giving and helping others endlessly. I remember when I was very young, going with her every Sunday to visit people at Schmitt Home and then the former "County Home", now Pine Valley. Every Sunday! Always delivering cookies or taking flowers from her garden when they were in bloom. My adult children now reminisce about the Sundays going with Gram to "Schmitt" and Pine Valley.

In 1970-71 we hosted a foreign exchange student, Vanvalai, from Thailand. She was a delight, and we have stayed in touch ever since. This was yet another undertaking for my mother. Vanvalai had to do some traveling to other schools and meetings. I'm convinced my mother thrived on the theme of "the more she had to do, the better". Mom always wanted to go see Van, so we went to Thailand on a once in a lifetime trip in 2015. It was a true highlight in my mom's life.

Just listing everything she was involved in, and part of, exhausts me. She was a member of Park Street Christian church choir for 73 years, taught Sunday School for 65 years, was a member of the missionary group at church for 60 plus years, and PEO 50 years.

This was all while being successfully married, raising 3 children, running a business 7 days a week, (she worked on that at home too), church, Sunday School, choir, meetings for downtown, meetings for church, baking for home and others, gardening, visiting shut-ins, to name a few. After retirement she volunteered at Richland Hospital, was a charter member of Crime Stoppers, Richland Food Pantry, President of Pine River Cemetery Association, and baked cookies for the local Police officers, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and EMS. Still baking for others, visiting Schmitt and Pine Valley, choir, Missionary meetings, church, gardening, and toting people around as she saw necessary. She insisted on having the Easter get together every year, always hid an Easter basket for everyone and hid Easter Eggs outside for great grandchildren.

She was also a doting grandmother of 6 and extremely proud great grandmother of 5. They brought her so much joy every time she spoke with them or was lucky enough to see them. One of her favorite vacations was a couple years ago when we all went to my brothers in Missouri. All her great grandchildren were together for the first time. She was in the pool with them, then led them in exercises! They were not able to keep up with her. It was very funny to watch.

To me her sense of humor was never more evident than in her last few weeks of life. I was fortunate enough to spend much of that time with her. All of us laughed and joked about many things, some could be embarrassing, but she just laughed and laughed. She also would pop up and say things that would be quite unexpected, and very funny. As much

as it could have been a very depressing and sad time in our lives, she never once, was down, depressed, or complained about knowing her life was in its last weeks and days. Always upbeat, finding the upside, telling us she was so grateful she had such a wonderful, long life.

Faith in God led her life. She was a serious businesswoman, wife, mother, friend, and citizen of the world. She also had a sense of lightness and grace, yet did things her way, no matter what others thought. That could be anything from how she ran her business, to having her grandchildren throw wildflower seeds out the window as she drove them down country roads, so many, many times. Or it could be shooting at squirrels on the birdfeeder out the backdoor with her BB gun, not that long ago. There are so many humorous things about her she just laughed off. For example, a couple of speeding tickets, no surprise there, speeding. Backing into the garage door...from the inside, maybe twice! She was always in a hurry. Falling out of a tree and breaking her wrist. Not this last time, but when she was in her 50's! It didn't slow her down for a minute. It's how she was built. She also took very good care of herself. Always making sure she walked "her mile" every day, did her floor exercises and rode her exercise bike. She was walking and exercising just days before she passed. There was no stopping her.

There are few people ever to walk this earth that were so forgiving, compassionate, and loving. She wasn't perfect, and she would say so, but she was generous to a fault, never used bad language, or looked down on anyone. There will only be one Phyllis Keller. We were fortunate to have lived in her world and be touched by her love. I believe if she could help close these words of remembrance and recognition, she would simply say, "enough about me", now go, and be nice".



CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

Barbara Harvey from the Schmitt Woodland Hills Development Department made the big decision to retire at the end of 2022. Barb worked part time at Harlan's Furniture & Appliances and started working at SWH in the Development Department in 2008. During part of her career at SWH she also worked in the Activities Department. Barb stated that she thoroughly enjoyed her work in both departments. Interacting with the residents was one of the things she enjoyed most about her years at SWH, as she formed special relationships with many of the residents. Barb was always willing to go that extra mile when it was needed, whether it was the Tommy P. Harvey Memorial Golf Outing, named in memory of her father-in-law, the Christmas Gala, Wieners-On-Wheels, or any of our many other fundraising events, she was always there. Another thing she really enjoyed doing that wasn't in her formal job description was helping with the planting of flowers and landscaping work which reminded her of home where she had extensive gardens at her home in Canada.



Barb came to SWH by a rather circuitous route. She grew up in Dryden, Ontario, lived and worked there and in Winnipeg, Manitoba as well as a short time in London, Ontario. In 1980 she went to Switzerland for what was supposed to be a year, wound up getting a job working for Citibank and stayed for 10 years.

In 1990 she moved back to Canada. In 2003 she met her husband Tom Harvey when he was on a fishing trip in Canada. After a 2-year courtship they married in 2005. Barb waited a year to receive a visa which allowed here to live and work here in the States. Barb and Tom settled in Woodstock, Wisconsin, just outside Richland Center, where they still reside today. She took the huge step of receiving her United States citizenship in 2022 and now holds citizenships in Canada, Switzerland, and the U.S.

In Barb's words, "That is my life in a nutshell!" That's a lot of life to put in one nutshell. Congratulations Barb and enjoy your retirement.

INSPIRATION BY CRAIG PEACH

Let's not miss opportunities to be kind.

Mark Twain once said "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Actually, kindness is the only language that communicates what it means to be the family of Christ.

A woman named Helga tells of taking a plane to Arizona because her father was gravely ill. Just as the plane was about to depart to Phoenix, her father's physician called to inform her that her dad had rather suddenly passed away. For the 3 hour plane ride, she sat in stunned silence among strangers.

When she arrived at the airport in Arizona, she walked to the nearest wall, sat down and cried. And as she sat and wept for 2 hours, thousands of people walked to and fro in the airport and not a single person stopped and asked if she was okay. She said it was that day she realized how much we need each other. It was that day I realized that kindness isn't normal. Most of us are preoccupied with our own concerns to pay attention to the needs of others, and yet, what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus if it doesn't mean we are to be sensitive as Christ was sensitive to the needs of persons who are hurting.

An anonymous author has put it this way:

*Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to her today?
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's
slipping fast,
that you helped a single person of the many that you
passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading now with
courage look ahead?
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God
will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you
did today?"*

We don't have to earn our tomorrows, thank God. They are the gift of a loving and gracious heavenly Father. He gave those tomorrows to us even when we were unworthy, simply and solely as an act of kindness. Now it is our time to pass on what we received to others.

Jesus said, "For truly I tell you whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward."

“CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST” WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Each year, all full and part-time Schmitt Woodland Hills staff who work a minimum of 15 hours per week are invited to write an essay. All essays will be entitled “Caring People Make a Difference”. The essays will tell a story of how our organization has made a significant difference to an individual or to a group of individuals. The essays were judged by a four-person panel and awarded points on style, quality of writing, and how compelling your story is.

Anyone submitting an entry automatically agrees that it may be used as radio, electronic and print public relations materials. This contest is an attempt to give our compassionate care givers an opportunity to tell their story and our story. Beautiful stories happen here nearly every day. Stories of how caregivers touch the lives of our residents and their families. This is a perfect way to recognize our caregivers and help us tell our story!

The judges really struggled picking a winner from this year’s entries. After much deliberation it was decided that in 2023 there would be co-winners and the payout would be increased to \$700.00 from the traditional \$500.00 prize. This would provide a prize of \$350.00 to each co-winner. This year’s winners were Morgan Crotsenberg and Teona Salazar. Congratulations ladies!

2019 \$500.00 contest winner
2020 \$500.00 contest winner
2021 \$500.00 contest winner
2023 \$350.00 each

Teona Salazar
Melanie Ring
Ellen Alvin
Morgan Crotsenberg & Teona Salazar

CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE *BY TEONA SALAZAR*

Imagine your grandparents, your mother, your father, or even yourself. Imagine where they’ll be in the later stages of their life, when they can no longer care for themselves. It can be hard to think about or even imagine. We want to know they’ll be shown compassion and love each and every day, even when we can’t be there for them ourselves. We want to know there will be someone there holding their hand through the rough days that we know are inevitable.

It takes a lot to trust in others to care for those we love. There was a gentleman who had come to Schmitt Woodland Hills from another facility, where unfortunately he was not given the proper care and attention he deserved. This man was an old farmer who had spent most of his days outdoors but with his advancing dementia and confusion he required constant supervision and care.

When he first arrived, he was less than thrilled by the new environment and was consistently trying to leave and find his wife and family. The man did not understand that he was here

for his safety and well-being. In his mind he still had work to do on the farm and loved ones back home he needed to provide for.

The first few weeks were tough on everyone, but slowly over time the gentleman got adjusted and staff began to understand his likes and dislikes. In no time, the man was full of smiles, cracking jokes, and jamming to some classic rock and roll.

The man’s daughter visited one afternoon. After their visit she approached me with tears in her eyes and an obvious smile under her mask. She thanked me wholeheartedly for the love and care we give to someone who means the world to her.

It can be a huge weight lifted off your shoulders knowing your family is in a place where they are well cared for, let alone happy. It’s a humble feeling to step back and realize not only the impact you have on the person themselves but the peace of mind you bring to their families as well. In times where life is difficult for us all, finding a place or people who truly care can make a world of difference.

CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE *BY MORGAN CROTSENBERG*

There are so many people that care for residents in many ways through different areas of expertise. It takes a village to care for a person that is dependent on care takers for everyday living tasks. At the base of this village is the nursing staff.

The nursing staff here at Schmitt Woodland Hills are available twenty-four hours a day to be with the residents when they need anything at all. The nursing staff knows so much about each resident. They know just how much resident eats in a day, how the resident transfers, what show they like to watch, or even a change in condition that could be indicative of something medical that needs attention. Our nursing staff knows when a resident needs something even when the resident hasn’t asked for it yet. This may be a fresh water, using the restroom, or even changing positions to be comfortable. From my six years of experience in the nursing field I have seen so many different scenarios that show just how much impact the nursing staff makes on someone’s life but there is one scenario that sticks with me to this day from my own experience that I

would like to share.

I was 16 years old when I started working at Schmitt Woodland Hills. This has been my home. I started off with a resident who always had a sparkle in her eye. She was a very caring woman who treated everyone with kindness. She raised her children the same way. This resident was here long-term, which means she was spending her remaining days with us. She could light up a room with her contagious smile she carried so well. Never showing any pain or discomfort and never had a small amount of disrespect for anyone no matter what age they may be. She carried herself until the end with her head held high and a heart of gold. When she started to decline with her health, mentally and physically, she still wore a bright smile. I was assisting her to bed one night as I did most every night that I had worked the evening shift, when I noticed something different. She had a look in her eyes that she was hurting. When I asked her if she was having pain she replied, “No, I just don’t know how much fight I have left in me anymore.” I gave her

CARING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MORGAN CROTSBERG CONT...

a hug, smiled, and said, “you have lived a long, beautiful life. You raised beautiful, respectful children who will cherish you forever. If you let go, they will understand. We will be with you until the end and will never forget that beautiful smile of yours.” This resident gave my hand a squeeze and said, “I love you.” As I left the room that night, tears filled my eyes.

You see when a person tells you that they don’t know how much longer they can fight to stay alive, this means the end is coming near. It means that it is time to help them with the final stage in their life. It is time to give the family a call to make sure they have time to arrange their visits and say their goodbyes. It is time to help the family through the grief they may experience as they hear and/or see the decline in the resident. The nursing staff is here to hold hands, wipe tears, and offer a comforting hug when someone needs it. Having a support through the final stages is the most important aspect of this all. The nursing staff make a very large impact on the

resident’s life and the families too.

When the final stages of this resident’s life came, I was there. I sat with the family after my shift one night for a while and talked with them. I still remember the beautiful smile each time I would walk into her room. After I said my goodbyes that night, I was able to leave knowing that I helped a resident stay comfortable and pain free. I also helped the family say their goodbyes and offer my support by holding their hand, giving a shoulder to cry on, wiping a few tears, and reassuring them everything will be ok.

When you hear a resident say they are ready to stop fighting and live their final days it is our jobs to make sure that they can do so comfortably. The nursing staff is here and makes impacts on so many lives each day that it is important to remember that they are our angels in disguise. They give a helping hand to anyone in need and have hearts of gold.

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

For many years, Schmitt Woodland Hills has participated in Southwest Wisconsin Technical College’s scholarship program. For most of these years we have provided two \$250.00 scholarships to them to distribute to deserving students. The criteria to receive one of our scholarships was that the student be enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program or the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program. One of the other criteria was that students who were currently Schmitt Woodland Hills employees would be given preference. If they did not meet the employee qualification, preference was to be given to Richland Center or Richland County residence. If none of these criteria could be met, SWTC could award the scholarships at their discretion.

Recently we were approached by SWTC with a request. They pointed out that in this day and age a \$250.00 scholarship did not have a huge impact on a student’s situation. They were requesting permission to roll our two \$250.00 scholarships into a single \$500.00 scholarship. After some reflection we agreed with their logic, and we also agreed to combine the two scholarships into a single \$500.00 scholarship.

Earlier this year the Schmitt Woodland Hills Nursing Scholarship was presented to Ashley Harper. It is our hope that at some point in the future we might be in a position to expand this program to include two \$500.00 scholarships.



March 27, 2023

Schmitt Woodland Hills
Attn.: Bill Bartlett
1400 W Seminary St
Richland Center WI 53581-2099

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the impact you have made on a student’s life.

Your gift of \$500.00 which was processed on 3/22/2023 for the Schmitt Woodland Hills Nursing Scholarship is helping our students improve their lives by providing them with support to pay their tuition and fees.

Thank you so much for this opportunity! I am so grateful for all that you do and how SWTC helps support individuals like myself. Being at SWTC has given me so much hope. HOPE for the future. Hope is such a special thing and with it, everything seems so possible. – Ashley Harper, Scholarship Recipient

This letter can serve as your donation receipt for tax purposes and certifies that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your donation.

I hope you will continue to support our students and the Southwest Tech Foundation. Please reach out if you would like to learn more about the ways we support our students or to visit campus.

Your support to keep our students in school, who will go on to become the workforce of Southwest Wisconsin, is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Cooley
Executive Director of Advancement
608-822-2747
dcooley@swtc.edu
www.swtc.edu/foundation

Thank you, Bill, for this great gift in support of Schmitt Woodland Hills' fund. We value this partnership and look forward to growing it even stronger into the future. All the best! Dennis

1800 Strasson Boulevard
Fennimore, Wisconsin
53605-0770
Phone: 608-822-2747
Fax: 608-822-0310
www.swtc.edu

REPRESENTATIVE KURTZ KICKS OFF NURSING HOME WEEK

Representative Tony Kurtz from Wisconsin’s 50th Assembly District was at Schmitt Woodland Hills on Monday May 15th to help kick off Nursing Home Week. Representative Kurtz helped Executive Director Jackie Carley and Director of Nursing Tyler Kleist distribute t-shirts to staff who were on the floor that morning. The t-shirts had the Schmitt Woodland Hills logo on the front and the slogan “Making a Difference in Every Life We Touch” on the back.

Many of our staff were excited to meet Tony and to share a bit of their story with him. Representative Kurtz has always been a strong supporter of Schmitt’s mission of service to the senior citizens of this area. Executive Director Jackie Carley stated, “it is always a pleasure to have Representative Kurtz stop by for a visit.”



Names L to R: Tyler Kleist, Director of Nursing; Jackie Carley, Executive Director; Maria Perez, CNA; Representative Tony Kurtz

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



CHRISTMAS COOKIES



MUSIC



Concert by Janet Lieb

Concert by Lou Oswald



Concert by Monty Berger

Concert by Guthrie

EASTER FUN



ROTARY LIGHTS



ST. PAT FRIENDLY CHAT

VALENTINES



TREE OF CONTINUED CARING – IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

DONATED BY:

Sharon Moore and Family Richard Moore
 Kathryn Moore
 Harold Moore
 Marlene West
 Stella Walty
 Wilma Peterson
 Joseph Peterson
 Norma Peterson
 Charles Peterson
 Infant Elayn Anderson
 Jean Birkett..... Basil Kanable
 Mabel H. Kanable
 Marvin Kanable
 Anna Kanable Ziesmer
 William Birkett
 Carol Klinzing Higgins
 Mary Knothe
 Jane Knothe
 Frank & Julie Ward Irene Ward
 Janet Hofmann Woodbury
 In Honor of Russ & Barb Shannon
 Mary Jean Fruit Bethel Barreau
 In Honor of Laura Pyfferoen
 Carolyn Freeman Bob Totten
 Dorothy Harwood
 Glen Harwood
 In Honor of Dolores Mockrud
 Judy & Wayne Madsen..... Joe Rewald
 Sally Rewald
 Jon Rewald
 Alex Rewald
 Ruth Moser
 Bruce & Mary Lou Tessmer Kenneth & Augie Olson
 John & Esther Perkins
 June McNamer
 Betty Tennant
 In Honor of All Employees of SWH
 In Honor of All Former educators residing at SWH
 In Thanks to All Staff Members
 In Honor of All Community Vlutneers who share
 their talents at SWH
 Gayle Alioto..... Russell & Beulah Peach
 Robert & Evelyn Pliner
 Rev. Mel Carlson
 In Honor of Sharon Moore
 In Honor of Aubrey Olson
 In Honor of Rachael Walsh
 Eunice Moore Herb Moore, Husband
 Jane Frances Cooper Ivan Cooper
 Buford Cooper
 Gwendolyn Cooper
 Fred Cooper
 Byrle Cooper
 G. Harry Cooper
 Anna Cooper
 Calvin Cooper
 Mildred Cooper
 Joe Schadauer
 Donald Crary
 In Honor of Louise Schadauer
 In Honor of Kate Crary
 In Honor of Sharon Moore
 In Honor of Carol Wilson

IN MEMORY OF:

In Honor of Rev. Peach
 In Honor of John Tews
 In Honor of Rachael Walsh
 Dan & Julie Taylor..... Carolyn Burnham
 Winnie Brewer
 Vanessa Saxton Wilbur Lee Stark, Father
 Evelyn Lucille Palmer Stark, Mother
 Fred Fry Paula Fry
 Edna Slayback..... In Honor of SWH Staff
 Avalene Swanson Aunt Fern Brown
 In Honor of Carl Hansen
 In Honor of Ardith Hansen
 Janet Olson..... In Honor of Friends & Employees at SWH
 Dorsey Ames..... Dorothy Ames
 Lois Wanless
 Jean Melvill
 Vickie Schumann Wayne Barnes
 Jean Barnes
 In Honor of Wyatt Renner
 In Honor of Sarah Mae Schumann
 In Honor of Willa Schumann
 Connie Cody..... Lucille Cooper, Mother
 Joe & Kristi Durst Helen Shireman
 Ralph Shireman
 Bill Shireman
 Darlene Perkins
 Florence Durst
 Dorothy Hege Robert W. Hege
 Timothy Hershberger
 John Miller
 Trent Hostetler
 In Honor of Eloise "Skip" Miller
 Mildred King Agnes Frye
 Mildred Wastlick
 Marge Wallace
 In Honor of Charlotte Bindl
 In Honor of Emily Berberich
 Roger Pribbenow..... Evelyn & Harold Pribbenow
 Gary & Cindy Hanold Ardith Hanold
 Connie Cosgrove
 Don & Annette Clark Judy Davis
 In Honor of Irma Miller
 In Honor of Carl Hansen
 In Honor of Ardith Hansen
 JoAnn Schmitz..... Sylvester Schmitz (Stub)
 Harley & Violet McMillin
 Marie Anderson
 In Honor of Lee Moriarty
 In Honor of Jim & Susie Schmitz
 Pat Leonard Jim Leonard
 In Honor of Eleanor Lane
 Joanne Taylor Jim Leonard
 In Honor of Eleanor Lane
 Phyllis Keller Ruth Moser
 Bun Keller
 Aunt Oda & Uncle Bill Schmitt
 Margie Walker Sever Gald
 Evelyn Gald
 Irene Joyce Fred & Verna Mohrmann
 Fred & Camilla Mohrmann
 Ramona Adsit
 Clarice Shelton
 Jean Walsh
 Gaylord Deets

TREE OF CONTINUED CARING – IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

Peggy Rohn
 Wayne & Jean Barnes
 In Honor of Dietary Dept.
 In Honor of Housekeeping Staff
 Chris & Pat (Adsit) Kreger..... Mom, Ramona Adsit
 Gramma, Vernie Mohrmann
 Grampa, F.Fred Mohrmann
 Uncle, Fred A. Mohrmann
 Aunt, Camilla Mohrmann
 Uncle, John Shelton
 Grandmother, Mildred Adsit
 Grandfather, A.E. (Pat) Adsit
 In Honor of Morgan Crotensberg
 In Honor of Peggy Hampton
 In Honor of Jerry Knoble
 In Honor of Craig Peach
 In Honor of Sharon Moore
 In Honor of Jean Birkett
 In Honor of Eunice Moore
 Larry & Susan Hallett..... Ruth Moser
 Allan "Bud" Moser

James & Heidi Olson
 In Memory of Kathy Slaney Richard & Paula Thomasgard
 Ron & Joann Tennant
 Leo & Susan Thomasgard
 Russell & Karen Gald
 Brent & Nancy Clausius
 Lori & Steve Beatty
 Sue & Ron Klingaman
 Gene Slaney
 Laverne & Jolene Coy
 Cyndy & Gerald Klatt
 Donald & Glenda Dobbs
 Lori Boynton & James Helgerson
 In Memory of Augie Olson..... William & Augie Records
 In Memory of Leo Stafford Margie Walker
 John & Joyce Tennant
 Dale & Cheryl Urbanek
 Brent & Nancy Clausius
 John & Joyce Tennant
 Gary & Lucinda Hanold
 Stanley & Joyce Genzer
 In Memory of LuEtta Livingston First Baptist Church
 In Memory of Lynda Vogler Patricia Schiro
 In Memory of Marilyn Anderson Ruth & Randall Foss
 In Memory of Marilyn Tydrich..... Phyllis Keller
 In Memory of Norm Putz..... Dave & Jennifer Foley
 Eva Putz

TRIBUTE LISTING

TRIBUTE:
 In Honor of John Tews..... Rev. Craig & Sherry Peach
 In Honor of Lois Anderson..... Ruth Clark
 Ms. Lynn & Richard Swiggum
 Susan Metz
 Charles Melvin
 In Memory of Avis & Harry Collier..... Roland & Pamela Mielke
 In Memory of Betty Gilman Harvey.... Gerald & Sandra Collins
 Ed & Beverly Fink
 Dr. Louis Williams
 Wava Haney
 Debra Korus
 Gail & Michael Semb
 Sharon Moore
 Carolyn Freeman
 Mary Larson
 Mary & Lyle Rognholt
 Harold & Patricia Clark
 Beverly Burns
 Michael & Linda Gilman
 Erik Olson
 James & Heidi Olson
 In Memory of Charlie Aschenbrenner..... Patricia Schiro
 In Memory of Doris Rabine UW-P Richland
 In Memory of Evelyn Gald Trudy Karson & David Weber
 John Tews
 In Memory of Evelyn Gald Doug & Ellen Alvin
 Janet Olson
 Carolyn Freeman
 Bonnie & Randy Richardson
 Gordon & Phyllis Burns
 Sharon Moore
 Donald McCarthy and Donna Olson
 John & Joyce Tennant
 Margie Walker
 Donald & Annette Clark
 In Memory of Charlotte Hestetune..... Dan & Beth Hestetune
 In Memory of June McKittrick..... Peter & Linda Eggebrecht

In Memory of Opal Jones..... Dorsey Ames
 Mary Waage
 Cam Johnson
 Walt Mielke
 In Memory of Robert Hanson Clack Corporation
 Connie Perleberg
 Judy Johnson
 In Memory of Rosemary Nee Philip & June Nee
 John & Joyce Tennant
 In Memory of Ruth Moser..... Larry & Susan Hallett
 In Memory of Shirley Eng..... Wanda Harper
 Philip M Eng
 Julie & Brian Kanable

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH RETURNS

After a three-year break because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Schmitt Woodland Hills Mother's Day Brunch made a successful return in 2023. Residents, their families, and friends of Schmitt Woodland Hills were treated to a beautiful buffet featuring made-to-order omelets and Belgium waffles. The buffet line also included lunch items, a salad bar and desert table.

The Schmitt Woodland Hills Dietary Department, led by Laura Pyfferoen and her crew did a wonderful job of preparing the meal. Hats off to their effort. The rest of the Department Heads, Jodi Hines, Rachel Walsh, Bobbi Stoltz, Jeremy Walsh, John Tews, Tyler Kleist, Bill Bartlett and Executive Director Jackie Carley took to their tasks like ducks to water; seating our guests, making omelets and waffles, delivering omelets to the tables and just making sure everything was as it should be. Christine Schmitt the Development Coordinator handled the registration table and

greeted our diners, making sure they were headed in the right direction and felt welcome.

Despite the rainy weather outside it was a wonderful Mother's Day inside and everyone seemed to have a great time. We are happy to be back with this old annual tradition.



JACKIE'S JOURNAL: *The True Meaning of the Season*

I was asked to speak at one of our local Methodist Churches on Sunday, May 7, 2023. I was asked to talk about Schmitt Woodland Hills. As I thought about what I wanted to say and what accomplishments I wanted to talk about, I found it more difficult this year than I ever had in our pre-Covid years. Pre-Covid, I found it hard to decide on just a couple of accomplishments because every year there were so many. This was shocking to me and quite frankly disturbed me.

So this year I really had to think hard. Covid literally turned all of our world's upside down. I thought back to March of 2020 when we were told to lock our doors and not allow any visitors in. This, yet today, makes me cringe because it literally went against everything about resident rights that we had ever learned. We were essentially told that safety came above a residents' right to visitors and to be able to come and go as they wished. This continued for quite some time and was very unsettling to our residents, families, and staff. We had to bring about other ways for residents and families to see each other and communicate with each other. We purchased iPads, set up window visits through the window glass, set up outdoor visits with the residents and the visitor separated by a divider. There was no touching, no hugging, and no kissing at that time.

Then along came the loosening up after a long time of essentially being locked down. We began to have visitors again. We began to get back to our "new normal". That was a slow and arduous process. As I continued to think about what we had been through I realized that we had been in survival mode for the majority of those 3 years under the Federal Covid Emergency.

So, as I thought back, we had accomplished things during that era, if you will. We accomplished survival. We accomplished new ways to have family communications and visits. We were again reminded why our residents need us as caregivers and staff. We were again reminded that we were not in control, but God was. God knew all the outcomes before the Pandemic ever started. He knew where we were going then, and he guided us through the stormy seas. He is still with us today as we unravel what normal is now and will continue to be for our residents, families, and staff. Today that normal looks so much more like our pre-Covid years. However, we will never be the same people that we were 3 years ago. We are better, stronger, and more appreciative for all that we have endured.

True we have increased costs at the stores and the gas pump. Business owners have increased anxiety and concern over the staff shortage that shows no end in sight. We still need to be cautious as we never know how Covid will affect us in the here and now or in the long-term if we contract it or continue to recontract it.

We live in a world of skepticism and negativity. We live in a world of uncertainty.

So, I challenge you to rise above the things affecting our moods and lives on a daily, if not hourly basis. Take control of your challenges and turn them into opportunities. Opportunities to grow, opportunities to help others worse off than you are, opportunities to remind the world that positivity and love still reigns in our world, and that we all have the opportunity to be a light in someone else's darkness. We have all been put on this earth for God's purpose. Sometimes we find it hard to see what that purpose could possibly be but his purpose for us is real and it is out there. Covid has not and cannot change that. Nor can any of the other obstacles that appear to be in our way right now. You, however, can change!! You can glow with radiance and positivity. You can reach out and take the hand of one that has no strength left to go on. You can make a difference. It is a choice that you have to make. No one has taken that away from you. You simply have to open your eyes, your heart, your ears, and your hands and find your way and help others to find theirs. Realize your negativity and anger and take that energy to love and encourage others.

Thank you to all that have helped me in my dark times throughout the last 3 years. You all know who you are. I believe and hope that I have helped others out of their dark places as well. We all can and will continue to do this for one another if we simply choose to make that decision.

Thank you to all that have loved, guided, and helped SWH throughout the long 3-year Covid Pandemic. We could not have made it without each of you whether you helped with money, a simple kind note, or the many, many prayers we received. You are all angels.

In the end, we all need to continue to be there for one another pandemic or not!!!!

God Bless!!!

- Jackie Carley, Executive Director

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS DAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Schmitt Woodland Hills recognizes Professional Caregivers: the Backbone of Aging Services.

On National Caregivers Day We Applaud Those Who Provide Essential Services to Older Adults—and Press Lawmakers to Support Them

At Schmitt Woodland Hills, we celebrate the dedicated professionals who provide care and support to our residents every day. Today, we are especially pleased to recognize these invaluable professionals on National Caregivers Day, which also recognizes the millions of family caregivers.

Meet a few of the valued caregivers here in our community.

Noelle Crook, CNA – “The feeling at the end of the day that I have helped others and the rewarding feelings that come with it, that is why I am a caregiver. You cannot get that at other jobs.”

Dulcey Kuehni, CNA – “Residents and families make you feel good when they tell you that you do a great job. It is so rewarding when a resident wants you to be the one to care for them and they smile and show you that you made a difference.”

Vicky Sheafor, RN – “We want to make the time that they have left in their lives to be the best it can be. They deserve to have the best.”

Mary Ricco - CNA, Tina Jones - CNA, Emily Phetteplace, - Med-Tech, summed up how they feel when they said, “Family! Residents make you feel like family. It is so rewarding to make them happy and comfortable. Their appreciation of what you do for them makes you smile.”

Jackie Carley, Executive Director stated, “Our motto is ‘It’s not just living, it’s living well.’ This is so true at Schmitt because of the wonderful care that our caregivers give to our residents no matter what the circumstances. Our RAs, CNAs, and Nurses are all Angels. They give so much love and compassion in everything they do. We are so blessed!!!!”

When speaking about the Caregivers at Schmitt Woodland Hills, the Director of Nursing, Tyler Kleist, summed it up this way, “To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors. Our professional caregivers live this honor daily and take pride in the care they provide to our residents. We are forever grateful for our caregivers and their desire to make a difference in one’s life.”

The national workforce shortage is affecting aging services organizations locally. Aging services providers, especially nonprofits like ours, need public officials to act to help us continue to hire and retain the candidates best qualified to deliver quality care that meets our standards.

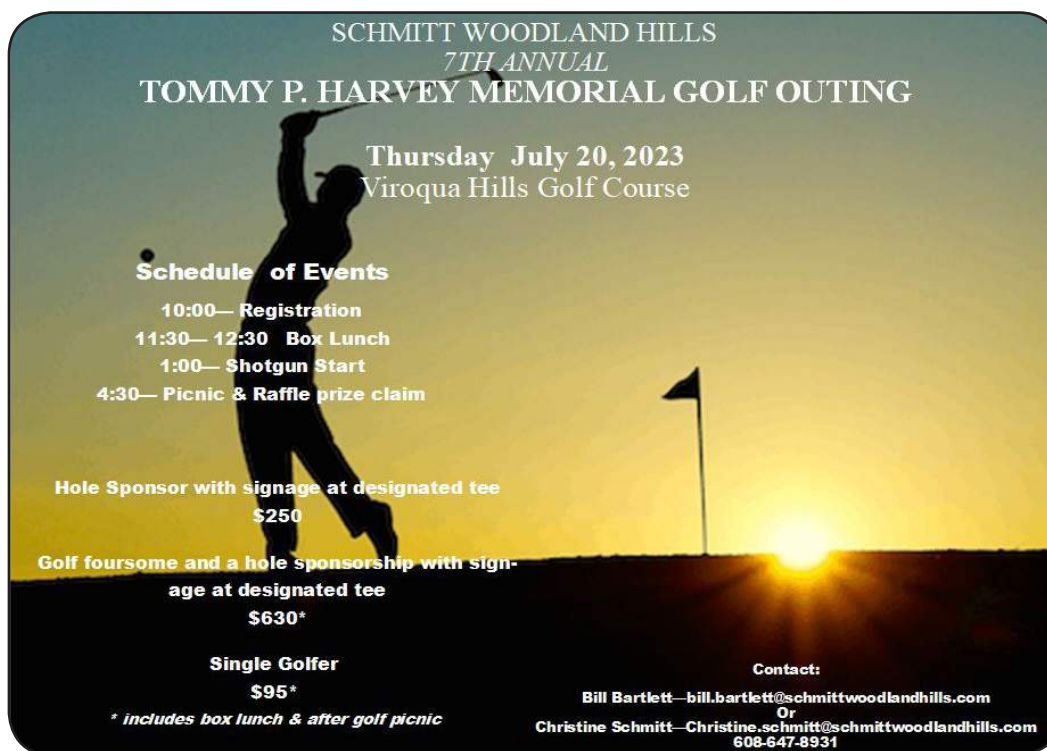
Just how important are these individuals to older adults and families nationally? Professional caregivers provide support to 20 million older adults who require assistance completing self-care and other daily tasks due to physical, cognitive, developmental, and/or behavioral conditions. It takes millions of skilled, devoted professionals to accomplish this.

Here’s a snapshot of the workforce in Wisconsin taken from data provided by PHI’s Direct Care Workforce State index.

- As of 2021 there were 103,070 direct care workers in Wisconsin
- As of 2020 80% of these direct care professionals were women
- In the period 2020 – 2030 there will be a need for 13,880 new caregiver jobs needed to meet rising demand

On National Caregivers Day 2023, we ask you to support our community and our devoted professional caregivers by contacting your elected officials and asking for their support. Use this link to access the LeadingAge Action Alert Page to urge your elected officials to co-sponsor the Better Care Better Jobs Act. <https://leadingage.org/action-alert-8/>

Thank you for celebrating the exemplary caregivers in our community and taking action to support them.



SCHMITT WOODLAND HILLS
7TH ANNUAL
TOMMY P. HARVEY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday July 20, 2023
Viroqua Hills Golf Course

Schedule of Events

- 10:00— Registration
- 11:30— 12:30 Box Lunch
- 1:00— Shotgun Start
- 4:30— Picnic & Raffle prize claim

Hole Sponsor with signage at designated tee
\$250

Golf foursome and a hole sponsorship with signage at designated tee
\$630*

Single Golfer
\$95*

Contact:
Bill Bartlett—bill.bartlett@schmittwoodlandhills.com
Or
Christine Schmitt—Christine.schmitt@schmittwoodlandhills.com
608-647-8931

* includes box lunch & after golf picnic



SCHMITT WOODLAND HILLS

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No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. Charles Dickens

The gift of your energy, passion and time make a difference in the lives of our residents!

I would like to donate \$_____ to:

- West View Renovation/Remodel Fund
- Matching Grants Fund
- Memorial Garden/Landscaping Fund
- Annual Staff Bonus Fund
- Undesignated Gifts Fund



More information on each of these funds can be found in the article on page ____

Donor Name/s _____

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Phone _____

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Please bill my credit care: Master Card Visa

Card Number _____

Expires _____ Sec. Code _____

All of the above information is required for a credit card donation

My check is enclosed