



## WE'RE BREAKING NEW GROUND IN MEMORY SUPPORT

December 2 was an historic and exciting day for The Village at Summerville as ground was broken for a new memory support center. Currently under construction with expected completion in late 2021, the neighborhood has been uniquely designed for the Montessori lifestyle approach to aging and dementia – the only one of its kind in the United States.



*(L-R): Tim Barresi, Executive Director; Franklin Fant, President and CEO; Clif Green, Resident; Vicki Brown, Director of Residential Care; Mandy Stamper, Director of Program Advancement; and Bryan Boyer, Boyer Construction*

The 19,600-square-foot facility will feature:

- 24 private rooms, each with a private bathroom
- A specially prepared environment to help residents enjoy maximum independence
- Work/life stations to provide individualized and meaningful activities
- A secure courtyard for outdoor experiences

While PCSC offers memory support services at all six communities, this is the first memory support household to be constructed with Montessori at the heart of its design. PCSC pioneered the Montessori-based model of care in the state of South Carolina, having successfully

implemented the novel approach at The Bridge memory support neighborhood at The Foothills Retirement Community in early 2020.

PCSC has been guided by Jennifer Brush, a consultant affiliated with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), which was founded by Maria Montessori in 1929. According to AMI, “The goal of the Montessori program is to support older adults and people living with dementia

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*Rendering of the courtyard*



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# THANKING GOD FOR TWO MIRACLES: THE VACCINE AND OUR STAFF



*The Columbia Community celebrates its vaccine VIPs.*



*Dr. Ruth Weber receives the vaccine in Summerville.*



*Showing off the vaccine reminder card at Foothills.*



*Looking good for the Summerville Facebook page.*



*A*s I write this, we near the end of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, a year unlike any we have ever seen. No aspect of our society has been untouched by this crisis. But has any segment been more deeply impacted than senior living? The past year brought unimagined change to our ministry. Much of this change was difficult and painful. Residents were kept safe for the most part, but at the cost of so much social contact with friends and family. How many times did we say, in one way or another, “Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!” (Psalm 90:13).



And now, after long months of waiting, a true blessing from God is at hand. Vaccines are being distributed to all residents and staff who want them. Close to 100% of our residents have been immunized. We are now “opening up” our communities. Some of this is under our control, as with independent living residents. Opening up other levels, such as assisted living and skilled nursing, will depend on the permission of regulatory authorities. But the dawn does appear to be breaking. Praise God!

And yet, as we give thanks to God, we must not imagine that God’s mercy has only been seen in the miracle of a vaccine. Truly, God has been present with us, supporting and sustaining us, throughout the pandemic. Nowhere has God’s mercy been seen and felt more deeply than in the presence and efforts of our staff.

If the pandemic has been hard on our residents (and all older adults!), it has been almost as hard on our dedicated employees. Our staff have endured radical changes to their daily work. They have had to take on difficult new tasks and work longer hours than usual, all under the added constraints of new infection control practices. They have had to take work leave when potentially exposed to COVID. And they have had to do this all while enduring whatever additional stress and strain the pandemic brought to their personal lives.

But our remarkable team has continued to show up day after day throughout the pandemic, providing true care and support to our residents. If PCSC has reached the point of being able to celebrate the vaccine, it is because our staff has carried this organization to this point. Because they have endured and persevered, so has PCSC, and so have so many residents. So what I say about the vaccine, I say about our staff: Praise God!

Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant

*Laurel Crest displays a banner of thanks from PCSC Management Services Office.*

# AMBASSADORS PROVIDE A VITAL LINK BETWEEN PCSC AND LOCAL CHURCHES

The PCSC Ambassadors are a beloved and devoted group of people who serve as liaisons between their churches and Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. These are folks who care deeply about what PCSC does and who help keep their church connected to its mission. This network of individuals is vital to the ministry of PCSC.

Since it is not practical or possible for PCSC staff members to visit every Presbyterian church in South Carolina, we turn to the Ambassadors to help bridge the gap. It is only with the help of the PCSC Ambassadors that we are able to share the message of our mission around the state.

PCSC staff members frequently travel to conferences and share best practices with our Presbyterian-affiliated peers in the senior living industry, and we find the Ambassadors program is envied throughout the country.

These faithful spokespersons meet annually at one of our communities to receive an update on the ministry and to share ideas for supporting PCSC and promoting the annual Mother's Day offering. The Mother's Day offering is used exclusively to help those who live at a PCSC community and have exhausted their savings through no fault of their own.

This year, our Mother's Day Offering campaign will look different as we anticipate that churches will still be adapting to COVID-19 and worshipping in new and different ways in May. This year,

our Ambassadors will be equipped with additional virtual materials to share with their congregations after a state-wide virtual meeting in the coming months.

We need your help! Are you interested in becoming an ambassador? For more information, contact Jenn Paden Stanley at 803-772-5885 or [jenn.stanley@prescomm.org](mailto:jenn.stanley@prescomm.org).



*Jenn Stanley, Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations*



## It's easy to support PCSC or your favorite PCSC community online!

You can make a gift by credit card or debit card, and it's so easy. Go to [prescommunities.org/make-a-gift](https://prescommunities.org/make-a-gift). We will send you a letter thanking you for your gift and will also send an acknowledgement notifying others of memorials or honorariums.

Your financial support strengthens our organization, enhances PCSC's mission and vision, and helps provide security to those residents who have outlived their financial resources through no fault of their own.



## PCSC FOUNDATION

*The PCSC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization that receives and manages charitable gifts given to support the mission and ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC). You can make your charitable gifts to PCSC payable to the PCSC Foundation. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



## CHURCH CONNECTIONS

We are grateful for the continued connection with and support from our churches even in the midst of COVID-19.

PCSC Ambassador Dr. Lucia Horowitz (above right) and Rev. Caroline Dennis (above center) of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood deliver a check to the Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant from the proceeds of mask sales. Lucia, along with the Mission Committee of Westminster Presbyterian Church, designed and sold masks to the members of Trinity Presbytery. The masks had a scripture message to spread the love of God while keeping folks safe. The committee voted to send the proceeds of the mask sales to Presbyterian Communities to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for our staff and residents. PCSC gives thanks to God for this unique gift!

## PCSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

One of the most important assets for any organization is an engaged board whose members generously share their time, energy and wisdom to sustain and advance its mission. PCSC is blessed to have two boards, its Board of Trustees (which governs PCSC) and the Board of Directors of PCSC Foundation (which is appointed by the PCSC Board of Trustees). This year, the Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome three new members.

Mrs. Martha Casto has served on the PCSC Foundation Board of Directors and is now serving on the Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees. She is the Chief of Staff to the Senate President of the South Carolina Senate. She has served in a variety of roles at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, including Youth Advisor, Elder, Deacon and Sunday School Teacher.

The Reverend Debbie Foster joins the Board of Trustees as the representative to the five Presbyteries of South Carolina. She is the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader for Foothills Presbytery. Debbie serves the larger church in a number of ways including 2020 PC(USA) Vision Team member, Presbyterian College Board of Church Advisors, and as a Coach and Mentor for new pastors. She also serves her community as the Director of the Anderson County Girls on the Run, a member of the Anderson School of Theology Executive Board, and a member of the Anderson Interfaith Ministries.

Mrs. Paige Parsons Lewis is a retired Certified Public Accountant. She served as the Senior Assistant State Treasurer for the state of South Carolina. Mrs. Lewis is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Manning where she serves as an Elder. In addition, she serves her community as a founding member of the South Carolina Internal Auditors Association, the State Retirees Association, and as Chair of the Wyboo Plantation Ladies' Golf Association.

The Board of Trustees and Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina extends sincere thanks to Mrs. Robin Langston Gorman and Dr. Stacey Van Pelt Brennan for their terms on the Board. Stacey will continue her service as a member of the PCSC and Laurel Crest Foundations Boards.

## MEET LESLIE FRYAR, Foothills' NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina is excited to welcome Leslie Fryar as the new Executive Director for The Foothills Retirement Community, effective January 4, 2021.

Leslie brings a depth of experience in the senior living field, including working with Senior Living Communities for the last 10 years. She has served as Executive Director at that organization's Brightwater and Lakes at Litchfield communities, and most recently she served as the Care Services Administrator at Cascades Verdae in Greenville. In this role, she was responsible for overseeing the skilled care and assisted living areas of Cascades.

Leslie recently received the 2020 Cascades Verdae Supernova Director of the Year Award for her efforts as the Care Services Administrator to serve the residents under her care, as well as her colleagues. The Supernova Award is the highest individual honor that Senior Living Communities gives, awarded annually to one individual on the leadership team at each community, as voted by their peer directors.

When asked about her career choice, Leslie shared, "Working in senior living is a true passion and a call to service that I was drawn to from an early age. My grandmother served Wilson Hospital, now McCleod Health, for 55 years before retiring. I grew up volunteering at the hospital she served at and at Medford Nursing Center, an affiliation and part of Wilson Senior Care. After graduating college, it came full-circle for me and my first professional position was serving Wilson Senior Care as the Director of Outreach."

Leslie holds a BA in Business Administration with an emphasis in management and marketing. She is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

"In meeting some of the residents and team members at The Foothills, I felt a

very welcoming and warming culture," Leslie said. "I am looking forward to building relationships and collaborating to continue positive steps forward."



*Leslie Fryar*

PCSC is excited to welcome Leslie to our ministry and looks forward to the gifts and abilities she will bring to the Foothills Community. Many thanks to the Foothills staff and members of the Resident Council Executive Committee who participated in interviewing candidates and advised the search process.

## NEW APARTMENTS COMING TO Foothills

The Foothills Community broke ground on a new apartment wing in January 2021. The new wing will have 12 apartments, bringing the total number of apartments to 64. Six apartments will be the 1022 square foot Bailey floor plan with one bedroom, one and a half baths, and a den; six apartments will be the 1230 square foot Callas with two bedrooms and two baths. All apartments will have either a covered patio or covered balcony.

This third wing of new apartments will connect to the main building on the second floor and have an open-air walkway downstairs to allow access to a courtyard. Additional common areas will also be added along with another elevator. Future development plans include adding a pavilion in the courtyard and a bistro/café with indoor and outdoor dining. For more information about availability, please contact Cathy Stuckey at (864) 307-1977.

*Rendering of the new Foothills apartments.*



## Memory Support Groundbreaking

*Continued from page 1*

by creating a prepared environment, filled with cues and memory supports, that enables individuals to care for themselves, others, and their community.” The building plans and design of this new Memory Support Center in Summerville were born out of the Montessori mindset.

The goal of the Montessori approach is to help residents maintain their abilities and interests, relearn past life skills and enjoy new ones, and live at the highest level

of functioning possible. As with the Montessori method used with children, much of this is task-based. Residents enjoy daily activities in a prepared environment that includes signs to help guide residents, which can be helpful when they are unsure of what they can or should do. For instance, next to a hairbrush on a dresser, there might be a sign that reads, “brush your hair.”

Village resident Clif Green wanted to memorialize his late wife with a gift that would make a difference. He was joined by his daughter Susan Green Grove as they presented a check for \$165,000 in memory of Barbara L. Green towards the construction of the new center.



*(L-R): Franklin Fant, President and CEO; Susan Green Grove, daughter of Clif Green; Clif Green, resident; Jenn Paden Stanley, Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations; and Tim Barresi, Executive Director*



*Above: Attendees at the groundbreaking ceremony explore renderings of the new facility, scheduled for completion in late 2021.*

*Right, top to bottom: Renderings of the memory support center's exterior, dining room, common area and rear courtyard.*



# KATHERINE R. LIGON HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER DEDICATED

The Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina recently announced that the healthcare center at The Village at Summerville has been named in honor of Kathy Ligon, former President and CEO who retired on June 1, 2020, after 33 years of service to the organization and ministry. Kathy was a visionary leader whose keen foresight guided PCSC through remarkable growth while simultaneously preserving the culture, values and institutional memory. Naming the facility in her honor is a permanent way to recognize her many contributions to PCSC.

On October 25, 2020, a special ceremony was held to unveil the new name and an official portrait, and Kathy's family and friends gathered from near and far to celebrate the occasion. During the celebration, the Chaplain from The Village, Rev. Achim Daffin, reflected on Psalm 103, saying, "Kathy was a shepherd to sheep. You often think of pastors being shepherds to their congregation, but Kathy was our shepherd."

Former Chairman of the Board, Jim Brogdon, summarized Kathy's success with four attributes, "Faith to know that God was looking out for her and the organization, vision to see the plan and see it through, compassion to make our communities feel like home, and perseverance to not give in or give up."



*Tiffany Ligon, Will Ligon, Coulson Ligon, Kay Beekman, Kathy Ligon, Bill Ligon*

Dan Holloway served on the search committee in the mid-1980s that was tasked with selecting the new President and CEO for Presbyterian Communities. He recalled that the committee hoped to find someone who could take the organization into the future while preserving tradition. The committee was acutely aware that this person would impact literally thousands and thousands of people – residents, staff, families and beyond.

A national search was launched, and Kathy stood out. "Wow," he said. "I still remember her driving to meet with each member of the search committee in their home because she was so passionate about the ministry of PCSC."

Jay Nexsen, current Chair of the Board of Trustees, had the distinction of officially naming the building in Kathy's honor. He noted that this was the single largest construction undertaking by PCSC to date, and Kathy led the organization every step of the way – from the acquisition of the property to the day the first resident moved in.

Humbled by the generous honor, Kathy said, "I would not be here today without the team that made it possible. Each and every one of you has had an impact on my life. From the residents who have taught me how to age gracefully, a staff that is committed to living out the mission to older adults, architects, engineers, project managers, families, and so many others. Thank you."

## HAPPY RETIREMENT!

By Jennifer Harris

With the start of 2021, the Clinton Community announced the retirement of two beloved employees: Reggie Williams and Colleen Childers. Supervisors and co-workers honored the two for their devoted service and dedication to the workplace with a drop-by celebration filled with fun memories, cake and well wishes. Both employees were presented with retirement awards for outstanding achievement and excellence.

Reggie Williams departs after almost nine years of service to our community as a maintenance technician and a dear friend to all. Speaking of his employment at PCSC, Reggie says, "It has been a good place to work, nothing like it." He also spoke of the close-knit atmosphere within the maintenance department, expressing that his time at the Clinton Community has been a "great journey," and he will miss the frequent words of appreciation displayed by residents and staff alike.

Colleen Childers departs after almost 24 years of service as an outstanding registered nurse and true inspiration. Colleen is known for her hard work, commitment, and team-player attitude. She spoke of her coworkers lovingly at the retirement celebration and she expressed how much she has enjoyed providing care for the residents. "They are unforgettable," she said. Engraved on one of her gifts, it reads, "An excellent nurse is rare to find, hard to tell goodbye, and impossible to forget." Likewise, Colleen is certainly unforgettable.

We know you all join us in wishing the best to two of our greats. Happy Retirement to Reggie and Colleen!



*Curt Brown (Director of Maintenance), Reggie Williams, Colleen Childers and Crystal Gibbs (Director of Nursing) at the retirement celebration.*

## RECOGNITION FOR COVID-19 TRAINING

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publicly recognized 1,092 nursing homes at which 50 percent or more of their staff have completed CMS training designed to help staff combat the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes. CMS applauds these facilities for taking this critical step to equip their staff with the latest information regarding infection control, vaccine distribution and other topics.



Of the 12 facilities in South Carolina which were recognized, five were PCSC Communities. Laurel Crest was not included because it does not provide rooms regulated by CMS.

Nationwide, there are 125,506 individuals from 7,313 nursing homes who have completed the training. This represents approximately 12.5% of the approximately one million nursing home staff in the country.

The training includes multiple modules, with emphases on topics such as infection control, screening and surveillance, personal protective equipment (PPE) usage, disinfection of the nursing home, cohorting and caring for individuals with dementia during a pandemic. CMS developed this training in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and expert stakeholders.

The training modules for frontline staff address basic infection control and prevention - some of the most common concerns found by surveyors and Federal Task Force Strike Teams (teams of federal staff deployed to facilities with high numbers of cases).

We are proud of the PCSC staff members for their ongoing commitment to safely serving our residents and for their resilience during challenging times.



## PCSC JOINS CARING COMMUNITIES

This year, Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina became a member of Caring Communities, the largest member-owned liability insurance company to exclusively serve not-for-profit senior housing and care organizations.

For nearly 20 years, Caring Communities has helped its members foster safer, healthier environments for their residents and employees. And by virtue of their ownership, members are financially rewarded for their outstanding performance, transforming what was once an expense into a performing asset.

“We are thrilled to welcome Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina as Caring Communities first member that operates six communities located throughout South Carolina and represents our expansion in the southeastern states,” said Jim Caldwell, CEO at Caring Communities. “We are especially grateful to Reverend Dr. Franklin Fant, CEO, and Chad Melven, CFO, for the time and interest they devoted to Caring Communities.”

“The safety of those we serve is a top priority for Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina, so we are very pleased to be joining Caring Communities,” shared Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant. “We look forward to further refining our risk management practices by working with an organization of like-minded members, as well as opportunities to better manage our insurance costs. Joining Caring Communities has given us a greater sense of control and self-determination in the areas of risk and insurance.”



## MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT AVAILABLE IN SUMMERVILLE

*By Ellen Imperial RN, BSN, LNHA, CRCF, Director of Clinical Services and Corporate Compliance Officer*

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina is committed to bringing cutting-edge treatment options to our healthcare residents, and with the rise of COVID-19 we have continued to evaluate the treatment options that are available to those we are privileged to serve. As soon as Monoclonal Antibody Treatment became available in skilled nursing facilities, we collaborated with the Co-Medical Directors serving The Village at Summerville to bring this option to our communities.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful antigens such as viruses. Bamlanivimab is a monoclonal antibody that is specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells.

With constant Registered Nurse coverage in our skilled care units, we are able to provide complex clinical services such as IV infusions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With the support of our Co-Medical Directors, Dr. Ruth Weber and Dr. Russell Blackwelder, we were able to administer one of the latest treatment options for COVID-19 at The Village at Summerville.

With hospital systems at capacity, we are thankful that we are able to provide our residents the latest treatment options in-house at our communities. Our Independent Living and Assisted Living residents can also receive the monoclonal treatment in our healthcare units in all Presbyterian Communities. We are thankful for our clinical staff and medical practitioners who are dedicated in ensuring the best quality care for our residents.

# THE BENEFITS OF DOWNSIZING

Taking care of your home can be a labor of love, but it can also be a drain on your time and money. As the years go by, you may decide that having a big house with lots of rooms is more than you need. And if you've been spending more time at home with social distancing, you may be ready to simplify your living situation. Downsizing your home can give you the freedom to focus on other goals as you plan your retirement years.

While it can be difficult to leave a home where you've built memories over the years, there's a lot to gain by moving to a smaller home, townhome or retirement community. Here are six perks of living small:



**1 Less home upkeep.** Maintaining a large home can be overwhelming, and the repairs can be both time-consuming and expensive. With one project after the next, it can feel like your work is never done.

**2 Less cleaning.** Downsizing to a smaller space means spending less time dusting, cleaning and scrubbing floors, washing windows and vacuuming carpets.

**3 Less clutter.** If you're living in a smaller space, you'll have an incentive to declutter and downsize your belongings. You might even make some money selling excess furniture and items you don't need.

**4 Greater safety.** Moving to a home or retirement community that meets your needs can help you stay safe, whether that means one-level living, lawn care services or other home features that make life easier.

**5 More freedom.** The responsibilities of maintaining a large home can make it difficult to get away. Downsizing can free up time and money to spend on travel, hobbies, family and friendships.

**6 New social opportunities.** Living in a big home can be lonely, especially after children have grown up and moved away. Joining a retirement community can open doors to new friends and social activities.

## Ready to rethink your living situation?

We're here to help you explore your options so you can make a smart decision. Move-in ready accommodations are available, and tours have resumed for Independent Living and Assisted Living! Learn more about what you can gain by exploring what Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina has to offer when you visit [www.prescommunities.org](http://www.prescommunities.org). For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the marketing office at your community of interest.

# LIFE INSURANCE: THAT GIFT IN THE BACK OF YOUR DESK DRAWER CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE



Many prudent, thoughtful people purchase life insurance to protect and provide for their families. But life changes. Children grow up, get married and find jobs. And then one day you find yourself carrying more life insurance coverage than you need. Sound familiar?

Why not consider transferring ownership of your life insurance policy to Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina? It's an extraordinary way to provide for the well-being of older adults far into the future.

Another way to use life insurance to support PCSC is to purchase a new policy and name PCSC as the owner and sole beneficiary. You can make annual gifts to cover the premiums and take an income tax deduction each year.

## A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE TO PCSC COULD BE RIGHT FOR YOU IF...

- ✓ You want to make a significant gift now, but lack liquid assets.
- ✓ You are carrying more coverage than what your family requires.
- ✓ You have a paid-up policy you no longer need.
- ✓ You care about the future of PCSC's ministry to seniors.
- ✓ You are in your peak earning years and want to benefit from annual charitable income tax deductions.

## BENEFITS OF DONATING LIFE INSURANCE

- You convert a policy you no longer need into a legacy gift that expresses your values and your support for older adults.
- For very little out-of-pocket cost, you make a substantial gift.
- You receive an immediate charitable deduction without affecting your investment portfolio or your cash flow.

## OR MAKE PCSC THE BENEFICIARY

Instead of making an outright gift today, you can also retain ownership and simply name PCSC as a beneficiary. Or you can name PCSC as the contingent beneficiary, should you outlive the primary beneficiary. While not tax deductible, this approach has the benefit of allowing you to change your mind in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can use your life insurance to fulfill your charitable intentions, please call Jenn Stanley, Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations, at (803) 772-5885 or email [Jenn.Stanley@PresComm.org](mailto:Jenn.Stanley@PresComm.org).

## NEW CHEF HOSTS HOLIDAY DINNER

The Clinton Community's new Executive Chef, Patrick Phillips, showed off his skills at a 5-course "Chef's Holiday Dinner" for Independent Living residents, featuring:

- **First Course** – Choice of Deviled Eggs with ham, sweet pea, Dijon and dill or Duck Confit with goat cheese, cranberry and rosemary
- **Second Course** – Choice of Roasted Butternut Squash Bisque or Arugula Salad with roasted peach, crispy prosciutto, shallot, pecan, bleu cheese and honey vinaigrette
- **Third Course** – Choice of Jumbo Shrimp with pimento grits, succotash and tomato gravy or Popcorn Chicken and Waffles with bourbon cayenne maple syrup
- **Fourth Course** – Choice of Beef Filet with potato crab pancake, carrots, haricots verts, lardons and béarnaise or Jumbo Scallops with curried sweet potato, haricots verts
- **Fifth Course** – Choice of Cherry Pie or Lemon Raspberry Cobbler

Director of Dining Services Jennifer Moore said, "The residents were over the moon and very complimentary of Patrick's skills and amazing food! We are very thankful to have Patrick on board."



## A MUCH NEEDED VISIT

It was a much needed visit. Balloons, signs and smiles lined the parking lots and sidewalks at the Clinton Community last fall as family, friends and first responders participated in a car parade. Staff, residents and families were thrilled to see each other, waving and calling to one another as the parade passed by at a safe distance. Employees delighted in making parade signs with the residents prior to the parade, and many family vehicles were decorated with signs of inspiration and special messages for their loved ones. "What an awesome parade! It made my day to see the connections made between residents and their families, and to see the staff tear up as they watched," said Executive Director Paul Pridmore.



Betty Power



James Teal and Mary Neil Askew

## AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

This past December, residents Chuck and Anna Hull (right) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a small group of Independent Living friends (social distancing and masks, of course) who live on their hallway at The Clinton Presbyterian Community.

The event was filled with levity and laughter as Chaplain Jim Caprell shared a humorous narrative

"Marriage is Not Beautiful" and stories and jokes by staff and friends. Capturing the nostalgia of the day, photos, mementos, and albums of the past were displayed. Champagne toasts were offered as well as cake complete with the original wedding bride and groom topper.



Mementos from 60 years ago.



*Henry Brandt*



*Jane Cunningham*



*Anna Hull*



*Catherine Swetenburg*

## CAN'T MASK THE MERRY

The Christmas spirit could not be masked at the Clinton Community, which had an abundance of Yuletide celebrations this year. Residents modeled Christmas masks all month and decked the halls during a Christmas tree drop-in decorating event, where Independent Living residents stopped by to adorn the parlor Christmas tree and departed with a delicious cookie to-go treat in hand. Each foyer was garnished with Christmas trees and peppermint themed décor, some trimmed with candy cane ornaments carefully crafted by our residents.

Residents delighted in Christmas-themed trivia and the sounds of the season with local Christmas programs and music performances all live streamed throughout the community. Making spirits bright, residents showed off their artsy side when they decorated holiday wine bottles with majestic white Christmas lights.

Adding humor to the holiday mood, residents embraced National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day on December 21 and entered an Ugly Christmas Sweater Cookie Decorating Contest. Residents voted for their favorite festive holiday attire cookie creations. Resident Mary Alice Schmoyer submitted the winning cookie titled, “The Grinch (COVID) Who Stole Christmas.” Though the Grinch definitely made an impact on holiday plans this year, the staff and residents – like the Whos of Whoville – found they could still celebrate and be merry. The Christmas joy, laughter, and good times continued as residents donned their reindeer antlers and Santa’s elves celebrated the magic of the holiday season with a surprise door-to-door gift delivery. It was a month filled with an abundance of joy, fun (and socially distanced) festivities, and a very merry Christmas spirit.



*Mary Creighton, the red-masked reindeer!*



*Neil Prater, looking good in his Ebenezer Scrooge top hat.*



*Left: Jason Basile, Executive Director, and Felecia being Super Heroes as they get their COVID-19 vaccination.*

*Below: Jason Basile and his daughter Penelope at Halloween.*



*Frances Kuhne and Herbert Croxton enjoy a friendly game of corn hole on a sunny afternoon.*



*Amy McCormack delivers Veterans Day gifts around the community. We are so grateful for the many residents who served in the armed forces. Thank you all for your service and sacrifice for our country.*



*John Strange (Air Force)*



*Carol McDonald (Air Force)*



*Pete Wylie (Army)*



*Jim McDonald (Army)*



*Employee appreciation check distribution.*



*Patty Lawrence shares her holiday creation.*



*Mr. and Mrs. McDonald enjoy a Christmas celebration dinner.*



*Carolyn Kay really gets into the Christmas spirit!*



*Hugh and Ruth Westbury celebrate their 68th anniversary.*



*Mary Jane Fuller*



## SHAWLS ALL AROUND

The Novice Knitters are a group of residents at The Florence Presbyterian Community who knit for a cause. For their recent project, the Novice Knitters crafted handmade shawls for residents in healthcare. A massive undertaking, the 11 shawls were made by Novice Knitters Coordinator Sue Haigler and members Kate Powers and Hepsy Parham. The residents in healthcare were treated to a fashion show to display the shawls. During Active Aging Week, the shawls were on display for our Independent Living and Assisted Living residents to see. In addition, the Novice Knitters made small knitted Christmas trees for residents to wear on their lapels during the holiday! These ladies kept their hands busy all year knitting and sewing these shawls, and we are grateful for their dedication and hard work.



## FAMILY PARADE BRINGS JOY

During Active Aging week last fall, staff dressed up in 1980's attire and facilitated a family parade. The family members decorated their cars and drove around the property while residents sat a safe distance apart outside and cheered for family members!







*Fred Owens and Steve Lefevre, competing in the Winter Olympics.*



*Beth Wilkinson enjoys baking through the community's 900 channel.*



*Turning ribbons into Christmas tree ornaments. Above (L-R): Raenota Merrill and Pat Culclaser. Below (L-R): Annette Bailine, Rocky and Mary Coronado, and Claire Labounty.*



*Chaplain Joseph Gaston, leading worship for residents through the community's 900 channel.*





## OPERATION FILL THOSE STOCKINGS!

The Life Enrichment team at Laurel Crest had this crazy idea that EVERY resident should have a stocking on Christmas morning, and our families did not let us down! We reached out to all of our families, letting them know our intent, and the stockings came in by the dozens. Some filled with fruit and nuts, others fills with toiletries, and others fills with candy and fun. Life Enrichment Coordinator Veronica Imel and security guard Paul Holmes went door to door delivering stockings to our Independent Living residents. Then, Santa's elf hand-delivered stockings to the residents in our Health Center. Residents were so surprised and excited to receive their stockings! It was a heart-warming and uplifting experience for us all.



*Stockings line the hallway in preparation for delivery to residents.*

## CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

In years past, we were able to come together in our beautiful Three Rivers Room as we honored and saluted our veterans. This year, we honored our veterans with a beautiful slideshow tribute with music from various choirs ... even our own choir from last year's celebration. Above, Airman 1st Class Donald Ward received a special compassionate care visit from his daughters, who watched the Veteran's Day program with their father.



*Santa's helpers created a festive mood at Laurel Crest, dressing up and delivering stockings to residents.*



The Clewetts celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Christmas Day. Their daughter helped them celebrate by bringing balloons, flowers and "Nothing Bunt Cakes" for other Independent Living residents.



Above: Wellness Director Erica Hayden and Life Enrichment Coordinator Emma Johannemann hold a hallway exercise class for Assisted Living residents.

Below: Residents Ann Crockett, Bev Long and Betty Settle joined in the walk, with Wellness Director Erica Hayden there to cheer them on.



Harriet DaSilva has made about 81 hats and will be donating them to our troops through Operation Gratitude.

The Village Artist Guild hosted an Out-DOOR Gallery exhibit, with residents displaying their own artwork on their doors. The theme for the show was "Silent Night." The Village is certainly blessed with a lot of talented residents!



Left: Painting by Beverly Long.  
Below: Painting by Beverly Heath.



April Lane, JoAnne McAfee and Emma Johannemann baked cookies and passed them out to residents in Independent Living and Assisted Living as a special Christmas treat. Above, Ermene Graham receives her cookie from JoAnne, and Aline Lambert Mills gets a cookie from April.



Florence resident Maymie Lou Spearman and Florence Executive Director Ben Prince

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