

Reflections

Beechwood Cuties Have You Covered

It all started with a boom...a baby boom!

These have been trying times for healthcare workers and their families. Anyone who has had a baby knows of the struggle to afford diapers and how quickly it adds up. The average baby uses up to 2,200 diapers in the first year!

Last spring, there was a Beechwood baby boom! To help alleviate some of the worry and cost of raising a young family, our Human Resources Department held a diaper drive. In true Beechwood compassion fashion, our staff soon had donated enough diapers to send to their fellow co-workers who were going on maternity/paternity leave. They truly appreciated it!

A year later...just about the time our diaper closet was running low, we learned of an organization in Rochester who built up their diaper program using their hospital supply company. Beechwood reached out to them and our supplier to expand our program. As a result, our diaper closet provides a menu of products. Costs to parent (and grandparent) staff members is just



Cory Frasier, new dad and nurse at Beechwood, picks up his recent diaper order from Melinda Crawford, Human Resource Manager.

\$3 for each carton of various sized diapers, training pants and baby wipes.

"We're thankful that we are able to provide this benefit and to make parenting just a bit easier for our team members," said Julie O'Connor, Director of Human Resources at Beechwood.

At Lockport Presbyterian Home – Shoes Galore



Lockport Presbyterian Home, together with Funds2Org, collected new or gently used footwear to send to charities around the world that support small businesses in developing countries. Funds2Org will

make a donation to Lockport Presbyterian Home based on the weight of shoes collected. For those with a sweet tooth – the Auxiliary Board held a bake sale with all kinds of goodies!



A better way of caring. A better way of living.



Daniel P. O'Neill
President/CEO

The personal dedication and commitment to excellence of every staff member in this unprecedented time is truly inspiring. The reaffirming and compassionate approach to combating the ongoing challenges of the pandemic is greatly appreciated.

Beechwood Continuing Care remains focused on achieving strategic goals to better address the pending residential and health care needs of the Western New York community while helping to ensure the sustainability of our organization. I'd like to share an update on just a few initiatives.

Enthusiasm and anticipation remain strong to repurpose the old Blocher Homes to mixed income apartment living in the Village of Williamsville. Providing access to appropriate housing for the most vulnerable members of our community is now more important than ever. Partnering with People Inc. on the Blocher Apartments development project will help address this unmet need and is perfectly consistent with our commitment to nurturing each individual's quality of living and aging by honoring personal values in a supportive environment.

Since receiving final regulatory approval of our merger with Presbyterian Senior Care of Western New York last February, significant capital investments have been made at both Presbyterian Village at North Church senior apartments in Williamsville and Lockport Presbyterian Home. The campus improvements and contemporary apartment renovations have been very well received. We look forward to an active fall season of assisting new applicants with moving in and introducing them to the full scope of services available within the Beechwood continuum.



I'm pleased and proud to announce that the Attorney General has recently approved the development of a unique new business entity. Beechwood Continuing Care is now able to offer outsourced administrative services and management assistance to other health care and human services providers. Organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, this not-for-profit service line will provide consultative and other professional support to local clients and customers while still supporting our current group of Beechwood affiliate facilities. Very exciting!

Embracing change and being proactive in challenging times has been and still is imperative to Beechwood's success.

On behalf of our Beechwood Continuing Care family, thank you for your interest, inspiration and support.





Dedication Soothes the Soul

On Wednesday, July 21, Beechwood Homes held a very moving tree dedication and butterfly release to honor those we have lost to the pandemic and celebrate those who have recovered. Staff were also recognized for their selfless work and sacrifice throughout the pandemic. In attendance were many residents, staff and board members.

Trees have been found to represent physical and spiritual nourishment. They are seen as powerful symbols of growth and resurrection. Butterflies are also a symbol of rebirth and renewal. Both Rich McCune, administrator and Ken Keenan, pastoral care director were on hand to share their thoughts and blessings to all in attendance. With the assistance of Dave O'Donnell of Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm and our auxiliary board members, over 75 butterflies were released on campus. Various types of milkweed have been planted throughout the campus to encourage the butterflies to remain and lay eggs. Members of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Ambassadors provided a wonderful backdrop of uplifting music throughout the event. Below is a link that shares a brief video of the dedication. If you would like to experience your own feeling of renewal...we encourage you to watch.

https://youtu.be/-4oik_nD4o0



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Carol's Garden

During the past 16 months, COVID-19 changed all our lives in so many ways. But, nothing so dramatically as in nursing homes and Beechwood was no exception. Many difficult days of illness and, at times, losses. And many difficult days for staff, caring for both our residents and their own families at home. They are true angels. Whenever we could, we would look for silver linings to get all of us through the challenges of each day and the feelings of loss and loneliness.

And we found it in the "gift" of a simple garden.

Carol Cannon lives at Beechwood Homes in Holzman House, one of three households that share a large common courtyard with gardens and two ponds with soothing waterfalls. Due to COVID visitor restrictions, our landscapers could not come into the building. Thus, they were unable to come into the inside courtyard to work on beddings, weeds and tend to flowers, etc.

That's where Carol came to the rescue.

Carol loves to garden and as she says, "get my hands dirty!" When she saw all the weeds growing in the courtyard gardens and the poor condition of the beds, she asked Nora, a nurse in Holzman House, if she could weed and clean the beds. After a quick assessment from the occupational therapists, Carol was cleared to take on this huge undertaking. According to Carol, this is therapy for her body and soul.

That was last May 2020. Fast forward to June 2021!

The transformation has been miraculous! During the warm weather months, Carol is outside in the gardens every day working. She is a very spry and physically fit petite woman, who spends hours on her hands and knees. Carol said, "I know my limitations and ask for help if I need it. The staff stand at the door and check on me to make sure I'm ok," she laughed. Fran Angelino, neighborhood secretary in Holzman House declared, "I don't know anyone who could get down and weed for hours . . . I couldn't do it!"



A “garden club” is born.

Residents – many in wheelchairs – would ask to be taken out to watch the day to day transformation while chatting with Carol and each other. They would help paint decorative small stones and metal flowers. Staff got involved – bringing in garden décor like flags, miniature gnomes and fairies. Beechwood added flower baskets and flowers for Carol to place wherever she and the residents thought were best to enhance “bloom” in the courtyard. Lastly, solar landscape lights were placed throughout the courtyard for residents to enjoy at night.

Carol said the maintenance men are always checking in on her to see if she needs anything. “I would do anything for Carol to help her realize her dream garden,” said Ed Kusmierz. Housekeeper Sam Brown – who collects the huge bags of weeds – teases Carol asking her if she is done yet?!!

Fran helps Carol whenever she can. She helped plant vegetable and tomato plants for the raised garden. They both are planning to work with Beechwood’s kitchen staff to incorporate their harvest into their menus . . . and maybe even do some canning!



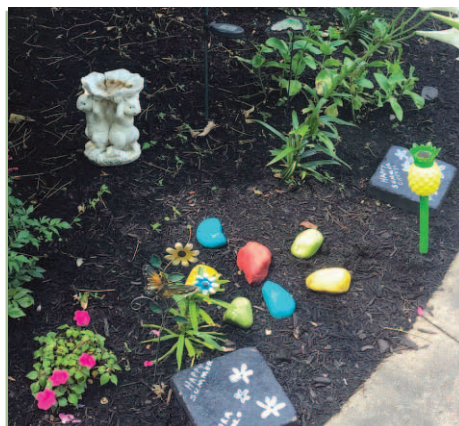
When one sits in the garden you are treated to paradise. The garden has become a sanctuary through the collective effort of all. It is a labor of love and provides joy and peace during a very tumultuous time.

During this interview with Carol, we had many visitors stop by including staff and residents. Everyone wanted to share a story about “their” beautiful garden and how grateful they were to Carol for her “gift of life.” As we were chatting, there were blue jays, cardinals, finches, robins and wrens singing and flying from tree to tree. Then the resident family of ducks stopped by and waddled right over to Carol. They seem to think Carol is their mother!

In honor of Carol’s hard work and the true gift she has given all of us...a dedication and blessing was held where residents, staff and several of Carol’s family members were in attendance. Together Rich McCune, administrator and Ken Keenan, director of pastoral care spoke of the heartwarming impact that this garden has had in bringing us together.

In recognition, a plaque has been placed under the large maple tree noting “Carol’s Garden.”

Cheryl Wasson, Director of Development and Marketing

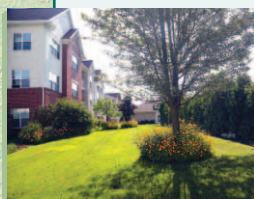




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If you wish to have your name taken off our mailing list call the Development/Marketing Department at 716-810-7371 or e-mail: zboyer@beechwoodcare.org



Asbury Pointe Resumes Its Popular Open Houses



As more and more seniors embrace the independence that comes with the maintenance-free lifestyle of retirement community living, Asbury Pointe announces dates in September and October for its popular Open Houses.

These informative Open Houses will take place at Asbury Pointe, located at 50 Stahl Road in Getzville, on the Beechwood Campus.



Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 11 & 25 ♦ October 9 & 23

Tours by appointment only!



Guests will have the opportunity to tour the grounds and building, including the beautifully-appointed apartments featuring such amenities as granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, custom kitchen cabinets and patios and balconies.

**Asbury Pointe's Open Houses are free and open to the public.
To schedule an appointment, contact Marilyn Ciavarella, Resident Sales Manager
at (716) 810-7522.**

Seeing is Believing!

Editor: Cheryl A. Wasson

Foundation information contributed by Brenda Schwamborn and Zoë Boyer

For corrections, comments, or topic suggestions regarding Reflections, please contact Cheryl A. Wasson at (716) 810-7370



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