

Reflections

Beechwood Kicks off 2022 in the News

Beechwood Receives New York State Award

Nominated by Aspire of WNY, Beechwood Continuing Care received an award for employing persons of disabilities from the WNY Employment Consortium and the NYS Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR).

Beechwood houses a number of non-paid internships for local high school students through a unique vocational program called Project SEARCH of WNY. Although an international model, Project Search is a one-of-its-kind program in the Buffalo area with Beechwood serving as its business liaison and primary employer. Beechwood Continuing Care employs several graduates of Project SEARCH of WNY. As of this nomination, there are many individuals that were offered paid employment positions by various departments within Beechwood. Supervisors are open to working with Employment Specialists/Job Coaches to collaborate to ensure individuals with disabilities have the best on the job experience possible.

According to Julie O'Connor, Director of



Front row: Ahmed Dawood, Recreation & Activities; Melinda Crawford, Human Resources; George Nicholas; Environmental Services; Robert Snyder, Dining Services and Back row: Julie O'Connor, Human Resources; Matthew Barnwell, Recreation & Activities; Tina McKerrow, Environmental Services; Rich McCune, Administrator

Human Resources, "Beechwood Continuing Care has established opportunities for growth and advancement, not only through our collaborative partnership through Project SEARCH, but also for the individuals who have obtained competitive employment within our business. Additionally, Beechwood has hired individuals with disabilities outside of the collaborative project and has modified job duties to support people in getting into the job, while increasing their assigned responsibilities over time."

Some of our Friends from Project SEARCH



Joseph and Matt, who graduated in 2019 and still part of the Beechwood team



David Snider, works in dining services



Trevor, who works in Medical Supplies & Purchasing



Daniel P. O'Neill
President/CEO

As we look back over the last year, we reflect and give thanks for the blessings of each day. We are grateful for the opportunity to have cared for seniors who graciously share with us the joys of their life experience. We are grateful to all of our dedicated staff whose compassion and professionalism allow our residents to continue to enjoy the highest quality of life possible. We thank our Board of Directors, volunteers and all donors whose time, talents and ongoing generosity help ensure that we can continue to provide compassionate, high quality care for our current and future residents.

Resident census has remained very strong at Asbury Pointe and has increased significantly at both Presbyterian Village at North Church and Ken-Ton Presbyterian Village.

Kudos to the team at each location for assisting residents transition and adjust to their new “home” during these unprecedented times. The success and growth of our Independent Living level of care is very exciting.

Beechwood Homes has continued to deal successfully with the challenges facing every health care provider in New York and across the country. Despite the reduction in elective surgeries and medical procedures done in hospital due to the ongoing pandemic, Beechwood still experienced over 600 new resident admissions in 2021. Utilizing a national survey firm specializing in post-acute and skilled nursing care, we confirmed residents were pleased with the quality of services provided as over 96% of respondents were satisfied with the care received and would recommend Beechwood overall. Finally, Beechwood Homes was recognized in Newsweek's list of Best Nursing Homes 2022 and was ranked as one of the top 50 nursing homes in New York State. Parameters taken into consideration include key performance indicators in health inspections, quality measures, reputation survey, and staffing as well as recommendations from experts on COVID-19 Response. Congratulations and thank you to the Beechwood Homes team!



After 28 years of service, Director of Development & Marketing, Cheryl Wasson, announced her decision



Cheryl Wasson

to retire at the end of last year. Cheryl always served as a leader in culture change and the movement toward person-centered care. The Beechwood Annual Auction was a tremendous success for 25 years under Cheryl's passionate direction – truly amazing. The dedication and devotion demonstrated by Cheryl to her Beechwood family is an inspiration and will be fondly remembered. It's with grateful hearts that we congratulate Cheryl for her years of service and wish her good health and much happiness in retirement.

Once again I'd like to acknowledge and express my deepest appreciation for the extraordinary dedication and commitment to excellence of all staff and managers. They have met every challenge and exceeded every expectation throughout this pandemic and have always kept our mission in mind – the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of our residents is first and foremost. THANK YOU ALL.

'Tis the Season to Give

An annual favorite tradition had Beechwood partnering with Primary Care Coordination to collect and distribute toys and gifts for the children and families that they serve in the community. Primary Care works with individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to ensure that they receive the services and support they need to live their lives in the most meaningful way.



Kathy Eschborn,
Beechwood's chief elf.

Kathy Eschborn, Beechwood's Wesley Neighborhood secretary, has headed up this campaign for six years. This year, Kathy received a list of 49 names, along with age and their Christmas wish list. In less than a week, all names were selected and the Beechwood staff got busy shopping! "It really makes the staff feel good to pick a name of a child and buy for them. It's one of my favorite things to do over the Holidays," says Eschborn.



Our Beechwood elves.

Making a Holly, Jolly Holiday Season!

Have you ever seen so many Santas in one place? For over 15 years, Elaine Bialecki, former owner of Elaine's Flower Shoppe in Depew, has been sharing her collections with Beechwood. They are rosy cheek to rosy cheek and toe to toe in our Beechwood display cases. Each Santa has his own special story and represents the true meaning of giving!

The Santa Collection was started quite by accident over 30 years ago when Elaine's friend and fellow shop owner, Steve received his first Santa as a gift and continued to receive a Santa for many Christmases to come. Then the holiday bulb lit up and Steve decided to collect Santas in earnest! Elaine recounted that Steve as buyer for his shop, always managed to find the Santas while on buying excursions to NYC and elsewhere.

Other flower shop owners decided to join in the fun and would sneak a Santa into his order without his knowledge!!!

Elaine's love for snowmen and Steve's love of Santas lead them cross country in search of "unique" additions to their collections. Sadly this came to the end when Steve passed away unexpectedly in August 2000 but his Santas found a new home with Elaine.

Now she shares them with us! The residents (and staff too!) are able to find their childlike holiday wonder and delight as they view the grand spectacular of Santas!

"I'm so happy to share a part of my collection with you," Elaine said. "And this is only a portion of them, the remainder of the collection can be viewed in the Village of Lancaster at The New York Store during the holiday season."



Our display case decorators,
Kay Andres and
Elaine Bialecki



Happy Birthday!

...to our residents who celebrated a very special milestone birthday in 2021! Happy 100th!!!

Asbury Pointe

Marion Fitzgerald

Beechwood Homes

Robert Hennesen

Sylvia Miller

Edith Paterson

Lockport Presbyterian Home

Janet Taylor

The Asbury Pointe residents came out in full force to celebrate Marion Fitzgerald's 100th birthday along with her family. All enjoyed a spectacular dinner in the festively decorated dining room and were treated to wonderful entertainment with a pianist playing familiar favorites.



On the Road to Recovery

John Doster has been a resident at Beechwood since last July. Upon admission to Beechwood, Mr. Doster was unable to move his fingers, hands, and legs. With his can do attitude and the help and support of our Therapy Department, Mr. Doster began to regain movement in his extremities, was able to attend his son's wedding in November, and celebrated his birthday in December in which he surprised his family by walking!



Beechwood Welcomes New Director of Development and Marketing

Kristin Scholz has been hired as the Director of Development and Marketing for Beechwood Continuing Care. Kristin, formerly the Senior Development Manager at Explore & More Children's Museum, will oversee all fundraising campaigns and marketing initiatives for Beechwood and all of its affiliates.

Kristin has about 20 years of marketing and fundraising experience, which includes working for various non-profit organizations in Western New York and Fort Myers, Florida.

Kristin is a Buffalo native and Medaille College graduate. She has a son, Ben, who is a junior at St. Joe's and plays baseball. Kristin loves the Bills, the Yankees, and her 5-year old bichon frise, Bella, who she adopted this past spring.



Kristin Scholz

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IN-KIND DONATIONS

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Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!



Holiday decorations made by the students and teachers at Heim Middle School.



Our Mission:

*Guided by Christian values,
we are committed to nurturing each
individual's quality of living and
aging by honoring personal values
in a supportive environment.*

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

Mark Your Calendar for Our Upcoming Open Houses

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These senior independent living apartments offer a luxurious yet neighborly lifestyle complete with 5-star dining service and heated underground parking garages. Make an appointment to attend an upcoming open houses at Asbury, learn more about the community and tour the beautifully appointed apartments of various sizes...all with a patio or balcony.

Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

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Make your appointment today -

call or email Marilyn Ciavarella at 716-810-7500 / mciavarella@beechwoodcare.org

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call or email Lisa Lundy at 716-810-7475 / llundy@beechwoodcare.org

Editor: Kristin Scholz

Foundation information contributed by Brenda Schwamborn and Zoë Boyer

*For corrections, comments, or topic suggestions regarding **Reflections**, please contact Kristin Scholz at 716-810-7370*



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