Newsletter of Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services

CARING

SPRING 2020

Offering a continuum of high-quality care for seniors and children in an intergenerational setting

At the Gathering of Eagles, the Marine Corps honor guard recognizes a Mount Olivet veteran and receives a salute in return.

Therapeutic Recreation Team Enriches Residents' Lives

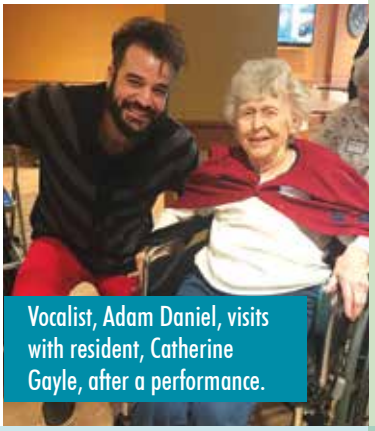
Ask Therapeutic Recreation (TR) staff members what their role is at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home, and the replies tumble out with obvious enthusiasm and affection. The responses all point to one thing: enriching the lives of residents and recognizing their unique experiences and gifts. Brenda Howard Larson, director of therapeutic recreation, puts it this way: "As our team defines it, we are designing and implementing quality programs for all of our residents. We talk about 'person-centered' care. We try to find out who our residents are—to identify activities that bring delight and meaning throughout their lives."

Brenda joined the staff in June 2019, and since that time TR activities have taken a two-pronged approach: facility-wide events and on-floor, intimate gatherings. In addition, her team is engaged in ongoing conversations with each resident, to learn about their past experiences, involvements, and skills, as well as their interests now.

BIG EVENTS

"We've enjoyed implementing one big event each month," Brenda says. "We want people to celebrate life." As an example, in August the entire facility was invited to the "State Fair on Lyndale Avenue," with food you would find at the State Fair, a variety of games, a dunk tank, fun with face paint-

Continued on page 4



Vocalist, Adam Daniel, visits with resident, Catherine Gayle, after a performance.

Thanks for Year-End Gifts

Thanks generous donors, we have raised more than $350,000 for the construction of the Mount Olivet Careview portico. With the portico, residents, family members, staff, and visitors will enjoy protection from the weather.

Please help us reach our goal of $450,000 by making a gift online at www.mtolivethomes.org or mail a check to:

Mount Olivet Careview Home
5517 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

To make a gift using your IRA or a stock transfer, call the development office at 612.821.3150. All gifts will be matched. Thank you!

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Online at www.mtolivethomes.org

Third and Fourth Compassionate Caregiver Awards Given

Celebrating the third Compassionate Caregiver award: Steve Roach, program sponsor; Patti Roach; Britni Bolstad, director of education; Kevin Bender, director of environmental services; Balinda Mann, award winner; Tim Hokanson, administrator; Elaine Roach, program sponsor

Celebrating the fourth Compassionate Caregiver award: Britni Bolstad, director of education; Patti Roach; Steve Roach, program sponsor; Henock Teklu, award winner; Tammy Nelson, assistant administrator

The Compassionate Caregiver Award recognizes staff members who exhibit a **caring, attentive, respectful, engaged, proactive, responsible,** and **joyful** style of work.

The third Compassionate Caregiver award recognized the work of Balinda Mann, housekeeper, who received a $1,000 award.

The fourth award was presented to Henock Teklu, nursing assistant, who also received the $1,000 award.

This award was inspired and then funded by Steve and Elaine Roach, whose parents Marilyn and Robert Roach had been residents at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home. The Roaches are committed to the need for high-quality care for all residents at all times.

The Compassionate Caregiver Award reinforces the mission of one team, providing high-quality long-term care in a loving and caring environment. Serving our residents is the reason for every job at Mount Olivet. All employees are encouraged to think about how they, personally, can become a Compassionate Caregiver and enhance the experience of our residents.

Families are invited to nominate individuals for the award. Forms are posted near the bulletin board.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

TIM HOKANSON

Dear Friends and Family,

There are many things that make our Homes special—our relationship to Mount Olivet Church, our wonderful volunteers and Auxiliary, and certainly our dedicated employees. A recent retention study showed that we are way ahead of the state average for employee retention. Our employees carry out our mission, and it is our goal to have an employee-friendly atmosphere that treats everyone as family. Our high retention rate shows that is what we are doing.

The Compassionate Caregiver Award is meant to recognize those employees who are exemplary in their care and concern for our residents. We are so grateful to the Roach family for creating and funding this award.

Our dedicated donors have put us in a position to be able to break ground this summer for our much needed canopy/portico at the Mount Olivet Careview entrance. We hope you will support our last fundraising effort. Thanks to all the donors who will help make this possible.

We are working with the City of Minneapolis for the proper permits and our architect on the final design. Every day, Med-Cabs, Metro Mobility, and family members pick up and drop off residents, and it is for this reason we are going forward.

When I walk our halls, I am so heartened by all the Therapeutic Recreation department activities and interactions happening for our residents. Vital and enjoyable events help our elderly residents thrive. We can never do enough for them. It is to this end that our staff work every day to try and achieve.

As always, let me know if you have any comments or concerns (612.821.3100).

Tim Hokanson

CARING

SPRING 2020

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CELEBRATING A CENTENARIAN

EUNICE GARIN

Eunice with her children (l-r): Kenneth, Eunice, Janet, Michael.

Eunice (St. Martin) Garin was born and raised in Bloomington, Minnesota. Interestingly, her life coincided with the development of that suburb, from a largely rural area to now, a major city. In her childhood, she, her mother, and sister Elizabeth lived in a home on Old Shakopee Road. Her mother, the first telephone operator in Bloomington, was from the Cameron clan, who were instrumental in establishing the city of Bloomington.

Eunice went to Bloomington High School, then attended the University of Minnesota for a time. She married George Garin, whom she met in high school, and they welcomed son Kenneth. George went into the Navy in February 1942 and served in the South Pacific until the end of World War II. During that time, Eunice remained in Minneapolis, working as a waitress and living with aunts and cousins.

When George returned home in 1945, they welcomed daughter Janet and son Michael, completing their family. In 1953 they opened Garin's Dairy Store at 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue South.

They built a house nearby, and lived there for many years. They were members of Nativity Catholic Church, where their children also attended school.

Their store was open seven days a week, so Eunice worked in the store each afternoon, spelling George, who opened up early in the morning. In addition, Eunice was a member of a gardening club. "Mother just loved to work in the garden," her daughter Janet says. "She was a good cook too," her son Michael remembers. "Dad was a hunter and brought home all kinds of things for her to cook." Her son Ken recalls that "Dad was the breadwinner, but everything went through Mom."

Eunice in high school

Eunice and George Garin

In the mid-1950s, George and Eunice bought a mobile home in Apache Junction, Arizona, and from that time forward spent several months each year there to alleviate arthritis symptoms. "They loved golfing and hiking there," Ken says. Meanwhile, the kids and "Grandma Bon" kept the store going while they were in Arizona.

They sold the store in the 1970s, and George managed the Dwan Golf Course in Bloomington. He died suddenly in June 1983. "She never got over his death," Ken says. "They grew up together."

Eunice continued living in their home, gardening, reading, sewing, and taking care of grandchildren, while still going to Arizona each winter. During that time, she discovered the joy of travel, especially to California, Nevada, and Hawaii.

Two years ago she moved into Mount Olivet Careview Home, where she loves to watch the birds in the aviary and drink coffee. Janet says, "She loves her coffee!"

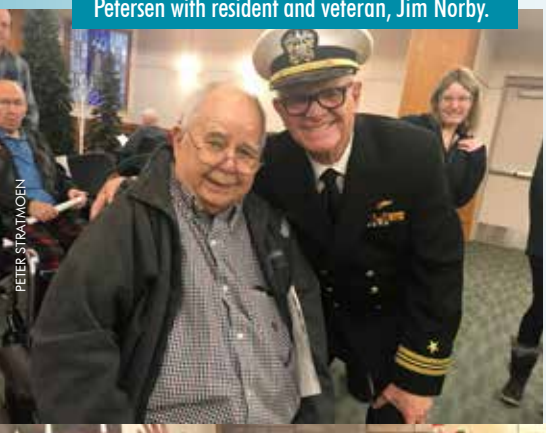
Her family lovingly surrounds her—including seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Happy 100th birthday, Eunice!

Work of Therapeutic Recreation Team Enhances Residents' Liv

At the Gathering of Eagles, a grandchild or Scout reads the history of each veteran's service.

Gathering of Eagles event organizer, Lieutenant Commander, United States Naval Reserve, Mike Petersen with resident and veteran, Jim Norby.



PETER STRATMOEN

ing, a bevy of classic cars, bubble machines, and music. Residents, staff, as well as children and adults from Mount Olivet Day Services, delighted in the activities and the appropriately festive setting.

Just last month the entire facility was treated to a "Winter Wonderland Gala," with "frosty food, glistening goodies, and chilly cocktails!" Music filled the air, and residents were invited to "come dressed festively in white, or maybe your favorite ball gown or tuxedo!!" Lund Chapel was transformed into a winter wonderland, and everyone attending enjoyed the mid-winter celebration.

At a "Gathering of Eagles" ceremony in January, veterans residing at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home were recognized and thanked for their military service. A Marine Corps squad recognized each veteran. Relatives and grandchildren read the history of their loved one's military service. "Lieutenant Commander, United States Naval Reserve, Mike Petersen, was instrumental in planning this event," says Brenda.

At Christmas, staff was ready to party with residents!

"The big events bring people together," Brenda says. "They see someone they knew in another setting, or they get to dance, or they can sit and watch their friends enjoy new experiences. These events nurture relationships and give our residents options and experiences."

A "Sweethearts Dessert Social" took place on Valentine's Day, along with singing valentines and balloon sales.

In addition, in the future, residents will experience a wedding day event (featuring two staff members who were recently married) and a beach party. And who knows what the summer will offer! Lucy Palma, a TR team member says, "I like that we have big events, get residents off their floors, and help them meet other people."

Jackie Horner, another TR team member, emphasizes, "We bring fun into their world."

SMALLER GATHERINGS

In addition to the big events, the team increasingly offers smaller gatherings on the floors where residents live. "We have added entertainment and education on their floors," Brenda notes. "We want to create a community *full* of life. We're also scheduling more events on weekends."

In addition, the TR team is helping to pull groups of residents together. "We bring together people who have common interests," Brenda says. "We have 'life stations' that reflect specific life skills and interests," designed with residents in mind. "We are working hard on the memory care floors," she notes, "bringing them together in cognate groups." TR team member Heidi Opitz comments, "So often families tell us what our residents *can't* do. We try to learn what they *can* do."

Team member Amanda Blomquist adds, "And sometimes that needs to be adaptive, so we do that."

The iN2L ("It's Never Too Late") computers on each floor provide residents individual times of learning and growth. "We're in the process of upgrading them," Brenda says. "Residents can explore all kinds of interests on these computers. There is, for just one example, a driving simulator!"

The whole facility is involved. "We sometimes connect another staff member with a resident who has a similar interest, something like, 'Did you know she loves baking cookies too?' or 'Did you know he worked in finance too?' Suddenly there is a special relationship between that staff person and that resident which enriches both lives."

COMING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Brenda has initiated a program called "Resident Life Stories." Staff members work through a formal packet of questions with each resident to learn more about each person's interests and experiences. Questions range from "What was your occupation(s)? Was there a job you would have liked to pursue?" to "What inspires your creativity and imagination?" The information the team learns through this engagement will help determine future smaller gatherings and common interest groups. "We like to involve residents too in planning our events," Brenda emphasizes.

TR team member Sue Webster says, "It's fun to find out what they like and then incorporate that into the activities we plan."

Terry Korbel, a TR team member who focuses on resident assessment, says, "The best part of the job is learning to know people—their hobbies, interests, careers. It is my privilege to get to know them."

Sue adds, "You get energy from them." Then she emphasizes, "We *listen* to them. On any floor, whatever their condition, we listen to them."

Amanda notes, "The nursing staff is so busy with their medical concerns. We get to work with residents on the other side—taking time to listen and respond to their interests and concerns. Sometimes they just need a hug or a hand to hold." The uniqueness of each resident and staff person is front and center. Amanda adds, "Everybody does have their own styles and gifts, so sometimes a resident finds it easier to talk with one of our staff, while others do better with other staff members. We observe that and respond accordingly."

Brenda is complimentary of her team: "The team is educated, creative, and compassionate," she stresses. She also recognizes the facility-wide commitment of management to residents. "This place supports people who are developing programs. Mount Olivet values and invests in the staff and their programs."

Brenda adds, "The neat thing is that we see the *best* of the residents. We get to know them. We work hard to keep them happy."

TR staffer Tija Barhayiga offers, "When someone is very fatigued, and you make them smile—well, that's the best."

Brenda sums it up: "It's about quality of living, not quality of life!"

The TR staff all dressed up for Halloween

It's Pirate Day on one of the memory care floors!

TYLER HAUSER

The Therapeutic Recreation staff (back, l-r): Sara Brue, Jackie Duncan, Drea Davis, Tija Barhayiga, Sue Webster, Brittney Lieb, Jae Laidlaw, Amanda Blomquist; (front, l-r): Emily Myers, Brenda Howard Larson, Lucy Palma. Not pictured: Rachel Hastings, Jackie Horner, Terry Korbel, Heidi Opitz, and Devon Torres.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

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FACES AND PLACES

AT MOUNT OLIVET HOME, MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME & MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

PETER STRATMOEN

At "State Fair on Lyndale Avenue," therapeutic recreation staff member Drea Davis served corn dogs.

TYLER HAUSER

The Blessing of the Animals involved residents, members of the TR staff, and several friendly dogs.

TYLER HAUSER

The Rose Ensemble was a big hit at Mount Olivet Day Services.

TYLER HAUSER

The festively decorated Lund Chapel was the scene of holiday caroling in December.

PETER STRATMOEN

PETER STRATMOEN

Centenarians, their families, and friends celebrated their significant achievement at the Centenarian Luncheon last fall. Centenarians (front row, l-r) are: Eleanor Laumb, Elvi Peterson, Mattie Widen, Gertrude Fischer, Ositha Rupert, June Johnson.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Excitement abounds at Mount Olivet Careview Home with the possibility of a portico on the 55th Street entrance. Thanks to 210 generous donors, our year-end fundraising reached $350,000 for the portico. Matching funds inspired donors since gifts of all sizes were doubled. New donors have come forward with additional matching funds to help us reach the goal of $450,000. It can take time for families to get their loved one into a car, which exposes everyone to the realities of the weather. A portico will make things so much easier.

New portico coming!

Please consider doubling your impact! You can send a check, make an online gift at www.mtolivethomes.org, do a stock transfer, a charitable IRA rollover, or use your donor-advised fund. There are many ways to give! Call us questions! 612.821.3150.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to our Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary for their hard work in 2019 under the leadership of President Lynne Fehland. They gifted $25,000 to each of our three facilities on Lyndale. Plans for 2020 fundraising are underway. See the sidebar box.

Our therapeutic recreation department under the direction of Brenda Howard Larson is featured in this issue. Their energy knows no limit. The daily schedule reminds me of being on a cruise ship and not wanting to miss anything! Our residents have many fun and fulfilling opportunities to enrich their lives. Last month watching our resident veterans salute visiting military members at the Service of Eagles touched my heart. Respect, empathy, gratitude, and admiration were felt by all! And, a few tears were shed.

You make a difference sharing your time, talent, and treasure! Many thanks!

Mari

Mari Carlson, Director of Development
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church & Affiliated Organizations | 612.821.3150 | mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org

Thank You Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary!

In December the Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary presented checks of $25,000 each to Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services. Thrilled to accept the checks (l-r) from Lynne Fehland, 2019 Auxiliary president, are Tim Hokanson, administrator, Ginny Cullen & Allison Lewis, Day Services adult & child coordinators.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mount Olivet Gala

Friday, October 23, at the Edina Country Club

All are welcome!

The Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary annual garage sale will not be held in 2020.

SAVE THE DATE

THE GALA SUPPORTING grace Hospice

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020, 5:00–9:00 P.M.

Hyland Hills Chalet, Bloomington

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are online at Bidpal.net/Legacyofgrace2020

Grace Hospice is a partnership between Mount Olivet Careview Home and Cassia