Summer 2018

Living life to the fullest

the Pleasantview Home

Pleasantview celebrates 60 years of caring

In the year 1955, many local Mennonite and Amish ministers gathered at Yoder's Hatchery in Kalona to talk about a "home for the aged." The ministers took the concept back to their churches to ascertain the interest of their congregations of building such a home. Interest from their church members was overwhelmingly supportive of such a project. Two years later – in March of 1957 – ground was broken for the construction of Pleasantview Home. Less than a year later, the three-story brick building was complete and on April 14, 1958, the first resident -- Arminda Brenneman -- moved in and Pleasantview was officially "open." Mrs. Brenneman was the first of 16 early residents.

Resident Nita Miller shares a story with a community youngster.

Fast forward to present day. It is 2018, and since those humble beginnings, Pleasantview has grown for 60 years. Cottages and duplexes were added to facilitate independent living; residential care, nursing and skilled nursing, as well as home health were services added at various times along the way. Miller Chapel was built for worship and many other activities. The Friendship Center was built to accommodate activities, potlucks and other activities for "The Village" people (Independent Living residents). Today the Pleasantview campus offers a variety of services and is home to about 140 residents!

In honor of this occasion Pleasantview will host an Open House to celebrate its 60th anniversary. The celebration is planned for Sunday, September 9th in the Miller Chapel from 1-3 p.m. The community is welcome to come and join the celebration by sharing stories, meeting staff and of course enjoying some dessert and drink!

Benefit time nearing, set for Nov. 2-3

Is it really that time of year?

Well, not just yet, but all successful events require advance planning – sometimes a lot of advance planning.

The first Pleasantview Benefit Sale was held in 1956 on a weekday afternoon and evening. Proceeds were to benefit an as-of-yet-unbuilt (and unnamed) "Home for the Aged."

On the sale bill were items such as Holstein heifers, open gilts, turkeys, a hay loader, a 200-ft. gas pipe, a cultivator to fit a Ford tractor, a tumble bug scraper and the always-popular baked goods and food items.

There were also furniture items, hay and straw, and "hundreds of items not on this bill."

And no quilts.

Sixty-two years later, the 2018 Benefit Sale is being planned for November 2-3. The event will be at Iowa Mennonite School northwest of Kalona, with meals, live auctions (with *many* quilts), a silent auction, bake sale, and entertainment on tap.

Originally held in the Kalona Sales Barn for more than 50 years, the Sale moved to the current location for a number of reasons. The iconic nature of the fund-raising event ensured that it didn't lose a beat in the transition, as attendees come from far and near to support the institution now known as Pleasantview Home. Today the Benefit Sale generates in the neighborhood of $70,000 on an annual basis.

How are the proceeds used?

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Annual state inspection yields deficiency-free survey

Nick Jedlicka

Each year, surveyors from the *Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals* (DIA) makes a one-week visit to Pleasantview to ensure we are in compliance with federal regulations that cover nursing facilities. Often the end report contains a handful of low-level infractions that need correcting. Plans of correction are then written and submitted back to Des Moines to the DIA offices for review. However, this year Pleasantview didn't turn in a plan of correction…because this year it was unnecessary.

When we received our official survey report, we were extremely excited to learn that there were no issues associated with this year's survey! For the first time in a couple decades, Pleasantview's visit from the *Department of Inspections and Appeals* saw no infractions. A state survey for a nursing facility without any issues is known as a "deficiency-free survey."

While here, DIA inspectors look at many things, including clinical record-keeping and documentation of patient care; that we're following proper hiring practices; and that staff are trained and educated in areas specific to long-term care (such as dependent adult abuse, etc.). The regulations for nursing facilities such as Pleasantview are vast and in some cases extremely complex, making it all the more difficult to come away unscathed from a survey.

Our great staff was up to the challenge, and because of their efforts Pleasantview achieved the best possible outcome from our visit from the DIA. We are thankful for the staff that we have and the care they are able to provide to the residents living here.

This happened in large part because of the guidance and leadership of Amy Skelton (Pleasantview's Director of Nursing) and the dedication, hard work, and vigilance of the entire nursing department. Although we are a team and all departments contribute to our success, the clinical aspect of Pleasantview is what receives the highest level of scrutiny.

Music and sweets a nice combination

The music wafted across the lawn as those in the audience enjoyed their homemade ice cream and a host of sweets. The sun was shining – and ultimately beginning to set by evening's end – as the bands brought back memories with their tunes.

Carey & Joani Miller once again made their ***Home Place Retreat*** available for the benefit of Pleasantview Home. The *Sweet Night of Music* is their way of giving back to the community, and the venue situated on an expansive hill in the middle of an Iowa farm is the perfect place!

The Millers provided the desserts with the help of East Union church friends and others. Two bands volunteered their time and talents to share their gift of music.

The Young Ramblers & Friends – Isaac Hooley, Lisa Schrock, and Allison Yoder – opened the evening with a variety of music. The *Old Man Band* – Lee Ebersole, Gil Perez, Doug Schmieder, and Tony Stutzman – closed out the evening.

Is it an annual event? This was the third such evening, and you'll need to watch for more information regarding next summer!

The 'Old Man Band' (left) and 'The Young Ramblers & Friends' entertain the crowd.

Benefit Sale nearing

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Over the years there have been numerous above-budget items purchased, including call lights, a wheelchair van, furniture, weight-room equipment, renovation projects, etc. The 2017 funds were used to support the construction of a new Memory Care Unit and renovation of existing space into Assisted Living apartments. So too will proceeds from the 2018 and 2019 Sales.

It's a great couple of days of supporting Pleasantview! It's a place to enjoy a turkey tenderloin meal or all-you-can-eat breakfast…or both! It's a chance to purchase that quilt you've always wanted, or bid on that home-cooked meal in the country that you will enjoy next summer!

It's a place to meet old friends and new, listen to some great music…and support a great cause! See you there!

2017 Benefit Sale attendees eagerly anticipate the start of the auction.

Infection Preventionist training completed

One of the new CMS (Medicare) regulations is that each facility must designate one or more individuals as an Infection Preventionist (IP) who is responsible for the facility Infection Prevention and Control Program. These requirements go into effect in November 2019. Courtesy of a grant, Vickie Bender (RN/QAPI Nurse) and Amy Skelton (RN/DON) were completed the required training courses through the *Iowa Department of Public Health*; they have recently passed the exam to become certified IP's!

The requirements for this role state that the IP must have primary professional training in specific fields like nursing or microbiology, and undergo specialized training courses in Infection Prevention and Control. Vickie will serve as the primary IP, which coincides well with the Quality Assurance work that she currently does.

The goal of this regulation is to streamline reporting systems for identifying infections, standardize assessments and reduce antibiotic usage through good stewardship and infection prevention and control methods. We want to be proactive rather than reactive. Some of what **V**ickie will be addressing are staff education addressing hand hygiene, personal protective equipment use, isolation precautions and cleaning procedures to prevent and control infections. Such issues affect all departments. The infection control program covers the residents, staff, volunteers and visitors. It is important that we look at all aspects.

Of note, an educational fact sheet was sent out to all family members/ representatives regarding the antibiotic stewardship work that is required of us through this regulation. Using antibiotics wisely reduces the production of "super bugs" that then create resistance to antibiotics. Please do not hesitate to call with questions.

Amy Skelton

Vickie Bender

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A Continuing Care Retirement Community

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About Pleasantview Home:

Developed by churches in the Kalona area in 1958. Pleasantview Home is a non-profit retirement community offering a continuum of services, from independent living to nursing and Alzheimer's care.

Mission Statement:

Pleasantview is a Christ-centered community that promotes aging well and supports the quality of life for our residents, their families and our employees.

Core Values:

Integrity, quality, compassion, faith, community

Board of Directors:

Michael Loss, chair
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Lee Ebersole, secretary
Gary Fisher, treasurer
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The View is published quarterly.
- Production and Editorial staff -
Jeslin McArtor, Larry Swartzendruber and Nick Jedlicka

You're invited…

- *60th anniversary Open House...Sunday, September 9 (1-3 pm)...Miller Chapel*
- *63rd annual Benefit Sale...Friday/Saturday, November 2 (4-10 pm) & 3 (7 am-12 pm)...Iowa Mennonite School*

Larry Swartzendruber

Very likely you are aware of the many ways in which you might support Pleasantview Home financially. Since we are a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, your gifts are tax-deductible.

The most common method of giving, of course, is an outright cash gift -- via check, credit card, etc.

There are gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts or including Pleasantview in your estate plans. There are also gifts of land or other properties that you might consider, or a gift of stock.

Perhaps you are employed by a corporation that matches your charitable gift. Two such companies come to mind:

Monsanto Co. - they match employee gifts 1:1 up to $5,000 per year.

Gannett Co. - they match employee gifts 1:1 up to $10,000 per year.

Of course there are many more, and I encourage you to check it out within your own place of work. Some may even match 2:1 or 3:1.

Each company has their own guidelines and specifications for the type of organization they will support. Googling your company or speaking with the appropriate person within the company will give you the information you need in order to support your favorite charity.

As with any gift other than an outright cash gift, I encourage you to consult with your financial planner or tax person as to the tax benefits you may receive. I'm also happy to answer questions to the best of my ability.

Thank you, as always, for considering Pleasantview Home in your giving plans!