Pleasantview LIVING IN COMMUNITY

the View

Pleasantview Newsletter Spring 2021

COVID-19 Hits Pleasantview

Everyone saw the news.

"Long-term care facility residents are among the most vulnerable."

"The elderly among us are the most susceptible to contracting the virus."

Yet as diligently as Pleasantview staff attempted to stave it off, COVID-19 found its way into the building in early November.

More than 25 residents eventually tested positive, and as is the case globally, the effects were varied. Some residents recovered, while others were not as fortunate, and passed away.

Staff members also tested positive throughout the pandemic, creating dilemmas with staffing issues.

The care, however — and the love and attention given residents — never waned. Several staff members who had been infected offered to care for infected residents on 3rd floor makeshift unit.

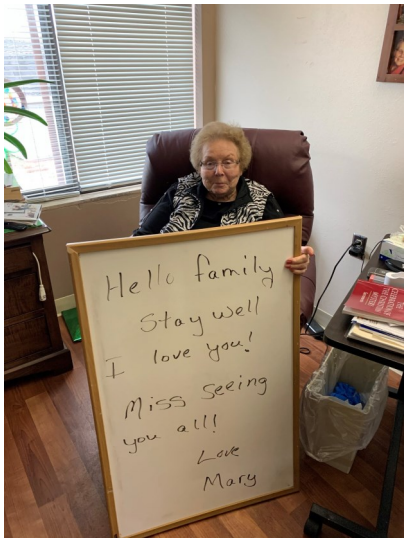
Though life would likely not return to normal anytime soon, residents, families and staff were able to find hope in the midst of despair.

A measure of relief hit the campus in early 2021. The vaccine arrived on January 4, with additional clinics scheduled for January 25, February 9 and 17 and March 9.

Palpable optimism spread through the building as more than 90% of the residents received both doses. Staff members also received the vaccine.

It is with deep gratitude that the Pleasantview staff and administration thank the community for the unbelievable support offered! Treats on a regular basis, creating facemasks early in the pandemic, words of encouragement and prayers — all provided ongoing hope for those confined to the facility.

Pleasantview will never forget the extraordinary kindness of the community far and near!



Pleasantview resident Mary Rogers takes a minute early in the pandemic to let family and friends know how she's doing.

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Benefit Sale Plan B Implemented

No Benefit Sale? Not a problem!

Well, that is not entirely true, as the "problem" lies in the fact that 2020 was the first time since 1956 in which the Benefit did not take place. The "problem" was that the community that defines and supports Pleasantview was unable to congregate in one location to enthusiastically, generously and publicly show that support.

It came as no great surprise as the summer gave way to fall that the pandemic would cancel the Benefit, so the Steering Committee organized an alternative fundraiser to compensate for the annual proceeds of $70-80,000 for special projects.

This year's project was the purchase of a 2018 coach — a 20-passenger unit with five wheelchair capabilities.

To secure the coach, several methods of fund-raising were employed, including a turkey steak fund-raiser as part of a mini-fundraiser with other organizations. That raised $3,474, thanks to the generosity of Keith and Linda Troyer, who not only grilled the meat all day, but donated *everything* to the cause! Many thanks to them!

A direct mail campaign, including the business community and individuals far and wide, resulted in approximately $65,000. That included online giving through the Pleasantview website as well.

The cost of the vehicle?

Right at $65,000, give or take a few dollars.

While it is hoped that an in-person Benefit Sale can happen in 2021, it must be reiterated: No Benefit Sale? Not a problem!

Thanks to all who made it possible!

The new coach was delivered in early December.

The 2021 Benefit is currently scheduled for November 5-6 on the campus of Hillcrest Academy.

Heather Canott Named *Star of the Year*

As both an Activity Coordinator and Certified Nurse's Aide, Heather Canott has ample opportunity to shine.

She does it well, and has been selected as *Star of the Year* for 2020.

Canott has tended to residents for nearly 20 years at Pleasantview, and counts it a privilege to spend her days and many weekends with residents and other staff.

"If you have a heart for helping others, this is the place to be," she said. "It feels really good to help (the residents)...they are like family."

Canott was chosen among several others who had been *Star of the Quarter* throughout the year. She received a certificate, star pin, crystal "Excellence" trophy, $450 in Land's End bucks, $150 in Kalona Kash, reserved parking for a year and a personal pampering package from Eden's Salon and Spa.

Building Project Moving Forward

For more than four years, a massive building project has been brewing on the Pleasantview campus.

In what seems like a long process (it is!), progress *is* being made and the project *is* moving forward!

Director of Advancement Larry Swartzendruber explains the process to date:

"We had sincerely hoped to begin the actual construction and renovation process in October or November of 2020.

"For various reasons that did not happen."

Swartzendruber cited a couple of things, including the pandemic.

While the planning continued, details were being decided and it was felt the renovation of the original building into Assisted Living apartments could commence, reality hit on November 9.

That reality centered around COVID-19. The outbreak hit and both the focus of efforts and the need for space collided.

That space was needed to isolate residents. More importantly, nursing the residents back to health became priority number one.

Over the next number of weeks, energy and focus rightly so ramped up and became the true primary focus.

"Our building project is important to us," said Swartzendruber. "More importantly it has been extremely difficult to lose residents due to this virus, and that remains our focus: to continue providing exemplary care."

Charitable support has continued, to be sure, but the organization is also relying on funding from USDA. That too has posed some challenges and issues.

"First of all, we are extremely grateful to our donors," said Swartzendruber. "We continue to solicit gifts and contributions, and will do so regardless of the USDA funding and support. The fundraising continues!"

The project itself includes the following components:

- new construction of 16 Memory Care rooms
- renovation of existing space into 28 Assisted Living apartments
- relocation of the commercial kitchen
- the creation of Medicare suites and relocation of rehabilitative services
- a new Community Center/Friendship Center

"We are very excited about the plans!" stated Swartzendruber. "We look forward to the process continuing to take shape!"

Current plans call for a spring 2021 start date, with completion by mid-late 2022.

Shown are renderings of the new CCDI (Memory Care) courtyard (above) and a CCDI resident room (left).

Pleasantview
LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Return Service Requested

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Mission Statement
A welcoming faith-based community that supports healthy living and quality of life.

Vision Statement
Pleasantview will be the place of choice to live and work.

Core Values
Integrity - Quality - Kindness
Compassion - Community

Board of Directors
Janet Geyer - president
Dave Hochstetler - vice-president
Deb Yoder - secretary
Rachel Knebel - treasurer
Derick Cranston
John Miller
Marlin Miller
Ramona Miller
Wendell Miller
Lowell Yoder

Executive Director
Jeffrey Schmidt

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Editor
Larry Swartzendruber

Upper left: one of the more creative ways of expressing community support.

Above: chaplain Jay Miiller preparing for some visits.

Left: resident Margaret Curtis sharing treats on her 99th birthday.