

Campus Newsletter Winter 2024



Celebrating Our Campus Centenarians! (see page 7)

Montabaur Heights Art Gallery Opens Feb. 9! (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily)



Check out the Campus Shuttles with Centennial Magnets!



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Save the Dates!

Caritas Awards Gala
Thursday, May 9
Salvatore's Italian Gardens

Summer Concerts!
The Boys of Summer, July 11
The Informers, July 18
Mid-Life Crisis, July 25

Oktoberfest
Friday, September 6
Race/Walk & "Buffalo's Best
After-Race Party"





Campus Update from CEO Peter Eimer:

Former Sacred Heart Home Building Being Redeveloped

In December 2020, our new Sacred Heart Home opened across the road from Montabaur Heights. This was not only a change in location and facility, but also in the level of care we offer as the new Sacred Heart Home now offers Assisted Living, Enhanced Assisted Living and Memory Care.

The former facility was licensed as an “Adult Home” under NYS Department of Health regulations, which offered residents assistance with activities of daily living, but was not truly “medical” in nature. Under the new license, The Brothers of Mercy now has a complete Continuum of Care Campus beginning with independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing and rehabilitation.

So, a natural question is what happens to the old Sacred Heart Home building? That is something our management team has been working on for a few years now. Two years ago, we moved Human Resources into the building and the Fiscal department still occupies the third floor. In addition, construction has recently begun on an exciting project that will fill 5,000 square feet of the building. This project includes a primary care clinic, a pharmacy, behavioral health counselors, the State University of New York at Buffalo Aging Resilience Center and a chiropractor clinic. These medical and behavioral professionals will be available to all campus residents as well as all of Western New York.

This revamped building, which will be named the Russell J. Salvatore Center when completed, was made possible by generous funding from Russell J. Salvatore, The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, the Margaret Wendt Foundation, the Daniel C. and Beatrice M. Fisher Fund and the James H. Cummings Foundation.

Our 5-Star campus continues to grow in residents served, the number of team members (now more than 600) employed and services offered!





From The Campus Foundation:

The New Year easily lends itself to a bit of retrospection as we review the past year, remain hopeful for the New Year and give thanks for the many blessings realized. Could The Brothers of Mercy ever have imagined back in 1924 what one hundred years would bring?

Those early days were humbling, traveling from home-to-home by bicycle as they spent long hours bedside while comforting the sick and dying of Western New York and being compensated with a loaf of bread or basket of eggs. The original mission of providing compassionate, faith-based care remains as strong today we celebrate this centennial milestone anniversary.



But the challenges remain such as the rising cost of providing 5-star quality health care, and dwindling New York State Medicaid reimbursement levels. So, how do The Brothers of Mercy press on? It simply would not be possible without your generous support.

Unlike privately owned corporate enterprises, there are no lavish salaries, no corporate cars outlandish perks.

All the money raised by the Campus Foundation goes back into the Wellness Campus as our dedicated staff works tirelessly to maintain the 126-acre campus and the quality of care to our patients.

This holiday season, as you count your blessings and generously support the many nonprofit organizations in Western New York please consider a generous gift so that the mission can continue for another hundred years at The Brothers of Mercy.

You can send your support payable to The Brothers of Mercy, 4520 Ransom Rd., Clarence, NY 14031 or by making a secure online gift at BrothersofMercy.org/donate.

Wishing you and your family a very blessed 2024!

Tony Fulgenzio, CFRE, M. Ed.
Executive Director, Campus Foundation





The Brothers of Mercy Appoints Roopa Chakkappan as New Board Member:

On October 16, The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus Board of Directors announced the appointment of new board member, Roopa Chakkappan.

Chakkappan, a partner at Hodgson Russ, LLP, is a member of the New York State Bar and specializes in public and private health care law. She advises health care entities on managed care contracts and provider agreements while serving as the firm's expert on the New York State Public Health Statute and federal and state Medicaid and Medicare statutes and implementing regulations.



"I and members of The Brothers of Mercy Board of Directors welcome Roopa. We are pleased to add her skills and experiences to ours in service of our mission to the elderly," said Sister Patricia Burkard, Chairperson of the Board of the Directors for The Brothers of Mercy.

Chakkappan, a resident of East Amherst, is a member of the American Public Health Association and the American Health Lawyers Association. She is also involved with advocacy for domestic violence survivors and is an active volunteer with the Women's Health Initiative and a volunteer advocate for SAKHI for South Asian women.

A graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, Chakkappan earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology from the University of Illinois and a master of public health from Boston University.

The Brothers of Mercy Board of Directors consists of Sister Patricia Burkard, OSF, Board Chair, Monsignor David Lipuma, Brother Kenneth Thomas, FMMA, House Superior of The Brothers of Mercy, Thomas Fentner, President of HR Solutions, Brother Matthias Moller, FMMA, David Nasca, President & CEO of Evans Bank, Michael E. McRae, President & CEO of St. Ann's Community in Rochester, David Rogers, Founder of Life Storage, Inc., Dr. Michael Noe, Clinical Professor Emeritus in the Department of Epidemiology & Environmental Health and Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medicine at the University of Buffalo, and Peter Eimer, CEO (ex-officio).



The Brothers of Mercy Appoints Cindy Eller as New Board Member:

On December 14, The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus Board of Directors announced the appointment of new board member, Cindy Eller.

Eller, a long-time development executive in the region, joined the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1988 and rose to her current position as the Chief Development Officer and Executive Director of the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.



“I and members of The Brothers of Mercy Board of Directors welcome Cindy. We are pleased to add her skills and experiences to ours in service of our mission to the elderly,” said Sister Patricia Burkard, Chairperson of the Board of the Directors for The Brothers of Mercy.

A graduate of Canisius College, Eller was Roswell’s first Director of Development to create a development program and establish a private foundation supporting the cancer center. She had previously served as the Annual Fund Director for the Buffalo Philharmonic, Director of Campaign Finances for David Schwartz’s Congressional campaign, and as the Director of Special Events for the Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

“It is a great honor to be selected to the Board of Directors at The Brothers of Mercy, an organization I have long admired for its deep history of providing compassionate care and innovative therapies to Western New Yorkers,” Eller said. “I look forward to working with the other Board members as the organization commemorates its centennial anniversary in 2024 while stewarding the continued growth of philanthropic strategies for the Campus Foundation and contributing to the strong tradition of high-quality, specialized care provided to residents and patients on the Wellness Campus.”

Eller was recently recognized by Buffalo Business First as a 2023 C-level Executive Award winner and is listed on the top 200 most powerful women in Western New York. She has been recognized with The National Association of Cancer Center Development Officers with its highest award “The Lisa Considine National Service Award.”

In the 35 years she has spent as a senior administrator with Roswell Park, Eller has been credited with building a dynamic development program that has realized more than \$600 million dollars, a program which now realizes \$30 million annually. She is also responsible for the Alliance Foundations team that manages the fundraising, endowment, and allocation of funds to research and patient care programs.



Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center News:

By Teresa Dillsworth, Administrator

Dear Friends/Family/Team Members of the Nursing & Rehab Center:

As another year starts, we need to take time to reflect back on the very busy year it was. We endured our fourth year of COVID and all that accompanied it including enduring it.

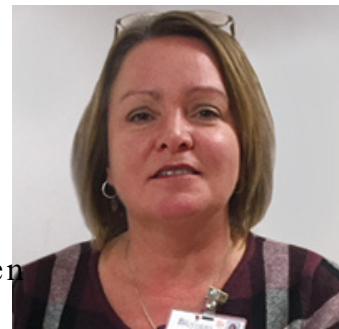
We received some wonderful recognition from *US News & World Report* by being recognized among the best nursing homes across the country. We successfully maintained our CMS 5-Star status and have been working hard on our quality measures.

We had our struggles this year with recruitment and retention of our Team – thank you to everyone who pulled us through. Our world looks very different than it did four years ago but we have evolved.

We learned a lot as the MDS changed significantly on October 1. Work flows are longer and we get to spend more time at meetings.

Thank you to the families of our residents/patients for entrusting them to our care – for without them we would not be.

Best wishes for a happy & healthy 2024!



*Congratulations to **Dante Caruana, CNA**, as the winner of October's drawing for a \$50 gift card! Congratulations to all those who were recognized ! Thank you for all you do!

*Congratulations to **Brianna Brunner, Shari Kersch's granddaughter**, for being inducted into the National Honor Society. She works in dietary and is a junior at Alden High School. She plays soccer and basketball and is very active in her school.





Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Receives High Performing Ranking from U.S. News & World Report

National Recognition Cites Positive Patient Outcomes & Ample Staffing

On November 14, The Brothers of Mercy Nursing & Rehabilitation Center received the highest possible rating of “High Performing” and was named a Best Nursing Home for 2024 for its Long-Term Care program as announced by the U.S. News & World Report today.



U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in health care rankings and consumer advice, evaluated more than 15,000 skilled nursing homes across the nation to assess the highest performing long-term care facilities. This nationally-recognized honor is a symbol of excellence in the health care system, and the rankings are determined and awarded by an unbiased trust agent. Through an in-depth analysis of publicly available data, the rankings evaluated factors such as patient and resident outcomes, infection rates, staffing levels, success in preventing hospital visits, health inspection results and other indicators of quality care obtained from CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services).

The Brothers of Mercy, also a 5-star CMS-rated facility, is one of the only 19% of all United States skilled nursing facilities that earned a “High Performing” rating. It is also one of the 5% of facilities that meet existing staffing requirements and proposed staffing requirements by the Biden administration.

“Receiving this national ranking for our long-term care program brings great pride to The Brothers of Mercy staff,” said Peter Eimer, Chief Executive Officer of The Brothers of Mercy. “The commitment and thoroughness that the Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation staff provides to ensure the highest quality of personalized care for each resident shows with our facility achieving this high performing ranking.”

The Brothers of Mercy Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center provides comprehensive inpatient therapies, including physical, occupational, speech, cardiac, pulmonary and neurologic, for patients across Western New York. Its location in the Clarence Hollow area, just nine miles east of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, is very convenient for northtown residents to receive the rehabilitation services or chronic disease management they need to improve their quality of life.

Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Honors Centenarians!

It was a wonderful afternoon on Thursday, Nov. 16 when the Skilled Nursing staff presented nine residents who are 100 or older with a special Centenarian Celebration! These residents were alive when The Brothers of Mercy was founded in Buffalo in 1924.

As part of the 2024 centennial for The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus, the Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center staff honored eight residents who are 100 and older with a centenarian celebration including a presentation, cake and refreshments. The eight centenarian residents who were honored are as follows with their previous hometown:

1. Freda Hilczmayer 100 Buffalo
2. Evelyn Garlock 100 Lockport
3. Virginia Kloc 101 Snyder
4. Florence Niziol 101 Clarence
5. Evelyn Behr 102 Buffalo
6. Jeanette Schonfeld 102 Florida
7. Estelle Ozimek 102 Buffalo
8. Louise Punaro 102 Lockport





Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Newsletter: Highlighting Exceptional Members!

- Employees who have had positive comments given about them by other team members, managers, supervisors, residents or their families!
 - Recognized as an example of good teamwork, positivity and customer service!
- Any team members who are recognized will be entered in a monthly drawing for a prize!
- Congratulations to our September drawing winner: **Jim Keller** chose a \$50 Apple Gift Card!

October Team Highlights

In a recent Resident Council meeting, our residents gave compliments to the following team members who they say, “Go above and beyond!” Thank you to all for your kindness and care!

Catalina Molina C NA, Stephanie Schaffer CNA, Tom Eicheldinger C NA, Cheryl Evertt CNA, Dante Caruana C NA, Darlene Work CNA, Jessica Cameron C NA, Laura Waite C NA, Tara Garrett C NA, Kristin Sorgi, Activities, Dawn Knopp CNA, Tanya Hinton LPN, Renea Harrison C NA, LaShante Spearman CNA, Kathryn Sawyerr CNA, Kelly Lavrincik LPN, Dereck House-King, CNA , Maria Sayers Activities, Kaylee Carmichael Activities.

- **Amy Widmaier, LPN:** Thank you for helping your co-workers whenever help is needed! Teamwork and supporting each other is key to a happier work environment!
- **Maverick McNeil, CNA:** A co-worker acknowledged you as a person who “goes above and beyond to help them and the residents.” “You are appreciated!”
- **Tyshawn Silas, CNA:** A resident’s family member commented about you taking care of her mother. She says her mom can be difficult at times, and you are great with her!
- **Renea Harrison, CNA:** Many thanks for helping the admission nurse with skin checks and vitals! You are exactly the person anyone would want to work with! Awesome job!
- **Lashante Wilson, CNA:** kudos to you for your endless patience and creativity when you are training new team members!

Thank you to **LaQuinn Harris, CNA, & Dawn Graber, CNA**, for returning new hire competency packets fully completed on time with many thoughtful comments on the audits!

Sherlette Smith, CNA: “You are missed on the evening shift,” says a co-worker. “You are always helpful and wonderful!”

Kasey Hayes, CNA: A co-worker says, “You can depend on her. She’s wonderful!”

James Fillmore, PTA: Kudos to James for his quick assessment of an unsafe situation in the parking lot which prevented a patient from falling! Nice job!

Kayshawn Wright, CNA: Can often be found braiding and combing our resident’s hair! It was said by a manager that Kayshawn is very attentive and “just wants the residents to look nice”

Many Thanks given to our dietary departments own, **T.J. Stockweather and Sue Blasko** for always giving above and beyond what is asked of them!

Thanks to those listed below for their great Emergency Response! Code 9 Response Heroes:

- **Alicia McIntyre, LPN:** You responded with AED & emergency equipment ready to jump in!
- **Jessica Wagner, LPN:** Excellent emergency response & CPR! You remained calm & focused!
- **Lashanti Spearman, CNA:** You acted quickly and called the code 9 and 911 with all the information! Great job assisting staff with anything needed!
- **Ava Green, LPN:** Great response to the code 9 and remaining calm when performing CPR!
- **Miranda Verecka, LPN:** Thank you for your quick assessment in determining the need for CPR, getting the code called and remaining focused on the patient!



Q&A With Bonnie Tunmore, Outpatient Therapy Clinic Client

Q: What made you choose The Brothers of Mercy Outpatient Therapy Clinic for rehab?

A: I was against coming to any short-term rehab after my hospital stay, but it was recommended based on my condition. My neighbor, who has received care at many area facilities, told me “go to The Brothers of Mercy, they are the best.”

Q: Have you ever needed therapy services in the past?

A: This was my first time ever requiring therapy in my lifetime!

Q: After staying on campus for short-term rehab, what made you choose us again for outpatient therapy services?

A: I was familiar with the facility and knew how short the commute would be. I had such a good experience with inpatient therapy, I thought outpatient would be just as good.



Q: What were your expectations for outpatient therapy and was your experience different?

A: My goal was to continue healing with the clinic’s help, and I needed motivation to exercise because that’s not something I would normally do on my own. I envisioned a bustling environment but was pleasantly surprised by the relaxed nature of the clinic. I assume you schedule that purposefully so one therapist has one client, which only allows for a few people at a time.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who is unsure about starting outpatient therapy?

A: I would tell them to “just go for it...it is part of the progression of healing.” If nothing else, it gets you out of the house and you get to meet and interact with new people.



Thank You Letter for Subacute Rehab!

To: Dawn & Paula
Physical & Occupational Therapy
Brother of Mercy – Subacute Rehabilitation

Date: January 8, 2024

On behalf of my sister, Marie, and I we would like to thank you for your patience, understanding, concern, care, and kindness you have given our mom,

The job of taking care of patients when they are at their most difficult and vulnerable times in their lives is incredibly stressful, frustrating, and demanding.

Please remember that you both have made a special mark on their lives even if it is for a small time.

Thank You,

Lynne Blaszczyk
Marie Colella

Lorraine Probst, Campus Foundation Advisory Council Member, Reflects on Her Mother's Journey in Skilled Nursing Center:

Lorraine Probst is a retired clinical social worker who specialized in children and families. She has been a dedicated member of The Brothers of Mercy Advisory Council for several years. Here, she reflects on the care that her mother, Georgia, received at The Brothers of Mercy.

When it became clear after rehab that my Mom would be unable to return home, there was only one place to consider for long-term care - The Brothers of Mercy! The way we were treated at the front door carried right up to the outer corners of the fourth floor! Each and every day, we were treated and respected just like family.

Not too long after arriving, Mom was given the endearing nickname of "Gigi" by her family of loving Brothers of Mercy caregivers.

In the early days, Mom never missed an activity and had the run of the community, meeting and greeting everyone! She would often say, "We are one big happy family here...there isn't anyone here I can say I don't like."

The nurses and aides who were in the trenches each and every day were vigilant in their care and attention to detail. There was not a need unnoticed or a concern that was not communicated. It was astounding the level of patience, kindness and compassion that was demonstrated daily.

During her stay with The Brothers of Mercy, Mom experienced a series of mini-strokes that altered her personality. Through it all, the staff remained steadfast in their care, always looking beyond the behaviors and continually appreciating the person they once knew.

The Brothers of Mercy caregiving team was like a family to us before and during the dwindling days of Mom's journey. The final week was marked by staff from all areas of the building - the very ones she frequented -coming in and lettering her know that she was loved.

She was surrounded by sights, sounds, smells and voices that were familiar to her. The Director of Nursing came to evaluate her and asked if I was staying. I acknowledged that I was, and she gave me a thumbs up...no words were necessary. That night, "Gigi" completed her journey.



"People will forget what you said.

People will forget what you did.

But people will never forget how you make them feel."

-Maya Angelou

The Brothers of Mercy Honors Three Volunteers of the Year:

The Brothers of Mercy Nursing Mercy Wellness Campus recently honored its 2023 Volunteers of the Year during a special recognition dinner that celebrated the talents and contributions of all volunteers throughout the year. The three Volunteers of the year were:

- **Mike Coon**, a volunteer for 11 years is a Eucharistic Minister in the Spiritual Care Department
- **Mary Sondel**, a volunteer for 19 years, sorted and delivered mail and completed many other assignments for the Skilled Nursing Center staff
- **Bob Coffey**, a volunteer for six years, is a Eucharistic Minister in the Spiritual Care Department



“The dedication and compassion of our volunteers is truly impressive,” said Valerie Sonnenfeld, Volunteer Coordinator at The Brothers of Mercy. Their encouragement, respect, support, flexibility and friendship are essential to coordinate a successful, organized volunteer program.”

The Brothers of Mercy Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Sacred Heart Home Assisted Living and Memory Care are always seeking new volunteers to help with a variety of patient and resident activities. Volunteers are motivated by many reasons to help others, and they can be retired individuals, concerned citizens, active professionals, friends, family members, former rehabilitation patients and high school and college students looking to learn new skills or fulfill community service requirements.

Volunteers provide an extra dimension to add to the comfort, care and happiness of residents and patients. They are scheduled to specific assignments by the volunteer coordinator, and their activities include therapy transport, activities, spiritual care, gift shop, clerical, friendly visitor, dog visits, beauty shop and podiatrist transport, sewing, sorting and delivering mail.

Individuals interested in volunteering with The Brothers of Mercy, can call 716-759-7617 or visit BrothersofMercy.org/Volunteer-Services to fill out an application.

Photo from left to right: Mike Coon, Valerie Sonnenfeld, Volunteer Coordinator at The Brothers of Mercy, Mary Sondel and Bob Coffey

Sacred Heart Home Memory Care Hosts Community Open House:

The Sacred Heart Home staff hosted its first open house and educational presentation for the community on Saturday, December 2. The assisted living care facility, which opened in December 2020, is located at 4526 Ransom Rd. in Clarence.

The Sacred Heart Home Memory Care community provides a “wellness neighborhood” setting that features private rooms, shared living and eating spaces, circadian lighting, personalized activity enrichment and enclosed courtyards for outdoor access.

The event is an opportunity for families in Western New York who have loved ones living with dementia to find out more about caregiving and their future care options to help improve quality of life, comfort and safety.

“The Sacred Heart Home care team is so dedicated to ensuring comfort and quality of life for all of our Memory Care residents,” said Mindee McDonald, RN, BSN, Administrator of Sacred Heart Home. “Our staff looks forward to meeting family members at the open house to answer any caregiving questions and help them navigate and plan for future transitions of care.”



The Alzheimer’s Association of Western New York will provide an education presentation to start the open house, followed by tours of the memory care residential suites and community living and dining area, meeting the care staff, music from Robin Grandin of Music to Remember, refreshments and prize drawings.

Sacred Heart Home News:

By Mindee McDonald, BSN, RN, Executive Director

We recently passed our three-year anniversary of the opening of the new Sacred Heart Home on Dec. 14, 2020. Now, in 2024, we are commemorating the 100th year anniversary of The Brothers of Mercy. I think it is safe to say that things have significantly changed. Although we have embarked on the many challenges and hurdles (i.e. pandemic, Buffalo storms, staffing challenges and shortages, adjustments to new building routines and policies, etc.) throughout this time Sacred Heart is honored and blessed to continue striving to meet our residents “right where they are” to provide quality and personalized care.



We couldn't make it through these changes and still be striving for success in providing this kind of care had it not been for our dedicated team members. Their hard work, integrity, and dedication along with the cooperation and patience of our residents and family members is what makes this possible each day. The staffing challenges that we have grown to face; like the rest in the healthcare industry, certainly leaves us with having to be more creative in ways to attract and retain team members.

With recognizing these challenges, I feel that it is necessary to give a BIG THANK YOU to the that continue to battle this with us alongside one another nearly every day while still working hard to remain a positive influential caregiver in our residents lives. We continue to look for new ways to enhance and enrich our resident's quality of life and bring our “SHH Family,” together as you can tell by some of the Enrichment Programming highlights for the last quarter.

We are at the time of year when respiratory and other illnesses increase especially as we tend to spend more time together indoors through the winter months and gatherings. It is SHH's priority to keep our residents and team members safe and while we will continue to do that we recognize that it is equally important for our folks lives to remain as normal and engaged as possible. We continue to have to work within the guidelines of NYSDOH but I can assure you that we strive to maximize our potential within them within every way possible. Thank you for your cooperation with our rules and regulations to do this!

I hope you all stay safe and warm through the next few months, Until next time – here is to hoping and praying that the groundhog does not see his shadow (as we have certainly had enough snow), and most importantly that our residents and team members remain happy and healthy as we wait for sunnier days to come!

Sacred Heart Home News:

Sacred Heart Home had its first-ever family bingo. Residents and family members played together. It was a big hit, and more games are planned for the future!

On October 27, staff hosted its annual trick-or-treat event. Staff and residents dressed up, and kids came to trick or treat with the residents.

On Halloween, both wings had a costume contest involving residents and staff. Memory Care residents had fun decorating their walkers for Halloween and making Halloween cards!

Assisted Living Employee of the Month for October: **Deb C.**

Resident of the Month for October: **William (Bill) Carey**

Memory Care Employee of the Month for October: **Courtney Humphrey**



Rose A. Krayski Trust Enhances Landscaping in Memory Care Courtyard:

Jeanne Blankenberg, a volunteer at Sacred Heart Home Assisted Living & Memory Care, suggested enhancing the Memory Care courtyards for the enjoyment and use by residents. She mentioned the project to her husband Greg Stamm, from the Stamm Law firm, who is the Trustee of the Rose A. Krayski Trust.

Rose, who passed away in April, was an avid outdoors person who would be thrilled to know the courtyards were improved for residents to enjoy. New perennials & turf areas were added this week, and phase two in the spring will include bed clean-up, trimming & new mulch. This project was funded to honor and remember Ms. Krayski. Thank you Jeanne & Greg for your generous support!



Profile of Barbara Kobos, Sacred Heart Home Resident

What was your hometown before coming to Sacred Heart Home?

I grew up on the East side of Buffalo and belonged to St. Luke's Church. Before coming to Sacred Heart Home, I lived in Depew..

Do you still have family members or relatives in Western New York?

My sister Theresa, who is widowed, lives in Williamsville and has two daughters. My brother Eugene and his wife live in West Henrietta.



What are some of your earliest memories of the former Sacred Heart Home?

The great teamwork throughout all departments. Everyone tries their best. Barbara is honored to be a part of The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus.

How different is it for you now that you have lived in the new Sacred Heart Home for three years?

Marvelous changes! I was told at the new building I would get a small fridge. I would not call this fridge small! I love having my personal bathroom, parlor and kitchenette. I do not call this my room, I call it my apartment. I'm blessed I'm able to have my furniture from home here!.

What activities do you enjoy at Sacred Heart Home?

I enjoy knitting and attending group discussions to get to know other residents.

Do you have a group that does activities together?

Yes, we attend Rosary, group exercise classes and bus trips!

In what ways does the staff help you out on a daily basis?

The staff helps with just about everything and anything. If someone doesn't have a solution for me, they will find someone who does.

What is your favorite part about living at Sacred Heart Home?

The simplicity of the meal routines and the relationships formed with tablemates.

Do you have a favorite memory from your years here on campus?

Watching the view outside my apartment

What would you say about the quality of care and comfort you experience at Sacred Heart Home if a local family asked you about it and they were considering having a loved one come here for Assisted Living or Memory Care?

You will receive excellent care!

How would you describe Sacred Heart Home?

Home!.

What is your life motto?

"I'm not old, I'm experienced."

Profile of Margaret “Mary” Honer, Sacred Heart Home Resident

Where did you grow up? What was your hometown before coming to Sacred Heart Home?

I grew up in North Buffalo. Before coming to Sacred Heart Home, I lived in Tonawanda.



Do you still have family members or relatives in Western New York?

I have two daughters, a grand-daughter and a great-granddaughter.

What are some of your earliest memories of the former Sacred Heart Home?

50 years ago, Brother Fidelis would come to my home on his bike to care for her father. Eventually her father moved into the nursing home. My husband Jim resided at the Skilled Nursing Home. When I moved into the former Sacred Heart Home, I would take the elevator to the basement and walk through the connecting tunnel to visit him.

How different is it for you now that you have lived in the new Sacred Heart Home for three years?

There is more personal private space. I have my own kitchen, bathroom and walk-in shower. In the former Sacred Heart Home, those were shared amenities.

What activities do you enjoy doing?

I enjoy watching TV, reading, playing games on my tablet, going to Rosary, walking around the campus when the weather is nice and going on bus trips!

Have you gotten to know some of your fellow resident really well over the years?

Yes!

Do you have a group that does activities together?

Yes, attending Rosary, exercise and bus trips

In what ways does the staff help you out on a daily basis?

The staff is fantastic! They help me with everything I need..

What is your favorite part about living at Sacred Heart Home?

Having my own personal space and enjoying the view outside my window.

Do you have a favorite memory from your years here on campus?

Being able to visit my husband Jim.

What would you say about the quality of care and comfort you experience at Sacred Heart Home if a local family asked you about it and they were considering having a loved one come here for Assisted Living or Memory Care?

You will receive excellent care. If you need anything done, it is taken care of.

How would you describe Sacred Heart Home?

Contentment.

Ashlie's Announcements from Montabaur Heights: *By Ashlie Kohlhagen, Executive Director*

The residents at Montabaur Heights enjoyed a lovely autumn with colorful leaves on our campus' trees, plenty of plump pumpkins, and "Scarlett O'Scara" (our garden scarecrow) all playing a part in their fall experience. Numerous outings, including a scenic trip to Vidler's in East Aurora, helped make the return of "sweater weather even better."

A "spooktacular" time was had by residents at this year's Halloween Party which included bobbing for apples, music performance, a costume contest, and treat-a-plenty. Residents were also pleased to host a local Brownie Troop whose trick-or-treating throughout the building brought a great deal of friendly fun for everyone.

In November, a delicious Thanksgiving dinner was served in our seasonally decorated Dining Room. Residents and their guests enjoyed turkey and all of the trimmings as well as a tasty slice of pie topped with whipped cream. An "attitude of gratitude" could be found and felt at this very special gathering.

December was a special time at Montabaur Heights. Residents adorned their apartment doors with beautiful wreaths, the lobby Christmas tree was beautifully decorated and seasonal décor was displayed throughout the entire building.

In addition, residents attended a performance of the Mighty Wurlitzer 1920's Christmas Concert at the Rivera theatre.

As we get through the winter, planning is in place for numerous initiatives and several exciting events. Our spotlight for February the opening of our rotating art gallery.



Vince's Viewpoint at Trier Woods:

By Vince Dunston, Executive Director

The last quarter of 2023 has been a fun-filled Holiday affair, starting with October, our monthly resident dinner also included a Halloween contest and entertainment from Brian Beaudry, a member of Nerds Gone Wild. In November, we hosted our inaugural Trier Treasured awards to acknowledge resident contributions to Trier Woods throughout the year. They were also able to enjoy a delicious Turkey dinner with all the trimmings concluding with entertainment from a campus crowd favorite, Sentimental Journey.

December's memorable moments included a Prime rib dinner, entertainment from Vintage Wine, Holiday decorations and themed activities. Shout-out to Jim Hockey who prepared November/December dinners!

We welcome the newest member of our team, Nelson Ramirez (Maintenance Mechanic) as our Director of Plant Operations Joe Anger is out on medical leave. Joe expresses his heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the support he's received during this time. Ann Marie Childs (Activity Leader) will be transitioning to full-time at Montabaur Heights; we are thankful for her contributions and creativity and she will be missed by all here.

We are looking forward to what lies ahead in 2024 and I'm optimistic that we will thrive in all forms as we have several projects to enhance our facility in motion. Committees are being formed by residents to ensure our enrichment program is sustained despite the loss of Ann Marie and I have created a special committee that will serve as advocates and ambassadors to the entire resident community.

Lastly, I'd like to extend special thanks to Jan Eaton (Office Manager), Garrett Marafino (Lead Maintenance Mechanic) and Amy Webster (Housekeeping). You have allowed me to maintain my commitment to our residents and I look forward to working with you throughout 2024 and beyond.



Ben Madonia: Veteran & Musician at Home at Trier Woods Apartments:

Within The Brothers of Mercy Trier Woods independent living apartments, there are several residents who have lived there around 20 years. One of these residents is a gregarious 98-year-old U.S. Navy Veteran named Ben Madonia who was married to Mary Grace for 69 years. For 19 years, he and his wife, Mary Grace, lived eight months of the year near Hollywood Beach, Florida where they fronted a 10-member swing band called the Beachcombers that played at the beach theater all afternoon two days a week. He fondly recalls those fun-filled sessions with the band and the crowd on the boardwalk.

They had to stop playing when Mary Grace became ill on their last trip home. She lived in the Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center for 17 months and passed away on March 19, 2019 on the feast day of St. Joseph.

Ben is a proud Western New York and loves his alma mater, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. During the pandemic, he wrote a feature about his time there and it was published in the school's alumni magazine. His article was titled "A Tribute to My Alma Mater 78 Years Later: It All Started Here."



As a youth, he attended Mt. St. Joseph's Elementary School in Agassiz Circle, which later became the former Medaille University. "I took lessons at the Wurlitzer store on Main Street in Buffalo, and they gave me a horn to get started in 1939." He recalls fondly performing with the St. Joseph's Glee Club. "We had a swing band, and that was my main interest in school. Our senior year, they put on a show at Kleinhans Music Hall with the band and the glee club," he said. "I directed the swing band, and the professor gave me the baton and I conducted a song I arranged."

Another great chapter in Ben's life was his time with legendary singer and actor, Frank Sinatra. "My father knew Frank's father from Hoboken, New Jersey. One day the phone rang and the voice says, 'Hello, this is Frank Sinatra.' It didn't mean anything to me then," he recalled. "We go down to the Ford Hotel and pick him up. He was tired from traveling, so he was just elated to be in a home. After each show, he would come over for dinner and there were times he brought home Tommy Dorsey, Harry James and some saxophone players."

Frank was about 10 years older than Ben and had a great influence on him. They shared many visits together when he was a teenager. He once visited Frank on the set of one of his movies and collected autographs from famous singers and actors such as Pearl Bailey, Cecil B. DeMille and Mary Hatcher. He has a program from the Romulus Club's scholarship fund show held at Kleinhans on April 9, 1951 that Frank signed.

When he was 19, World War II was still going on in the Pacific. He entered the Navy, went through basic training and was assigned to the U.S.S. Leary Destroyer. "I missed the commissioning because I was still in school, but I met up with the ship in Virginia," he recalled.

He was stationed throughout the South Pacific toward the end of the war, and he went to Guam, China, Japan and others countries. One of his duties included experimenting with different radar techniques to detect enemy ships in advance of U.S. fleets. When asked what country he liked the most of the all ones he saw, he replied, "This country is the best!"

After his service in the war, Ben embarked on a long career as an electrical contractor with his family business. He remained a talented tenor saxophone player for most of his life. Ben is extremely proud of the careers and achievements of his sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. As he approaches 20 years of living at Trier Woods, he is very pleased to be an active member of the independent living community, attending a variety of resident activities, meetings and dinners.

"The beautiful park-like setting was an easy decision to make when we moved here 19 years ago," Ben said. "I enjoy the classes, dinner parties and socials here with the other residents. I absolutely must say thank you to The Brothers of Mercy for having the foresight to build this great Wellness Campus that now has more than 500 residents."



Centennial Trivia Questions & Answers

1. What year did the Skilled Nursing & Rehab Center hire employee #10,000? **2016**
2. How many employees have been hired on the campus overall? **22,371**
3. What year did the original Sacred Heart Home open? **1953**
4. What year was the first female allowed at Sacred Heart Home? **1970**
5. What year was the new Sacred Heart Home built? **Groundbreaking 2019 and move in 2020**
6. What year was Trier Woods built? **1972**
7. What year was Montabaur built? **Groundbreaking 2014, doors opened in 2016**
8. What year did the Russell J. Salvatore outpatient therapy clinic open? **Groundbreaking was in 2017 and doors opened in 2018**
9. What year was the Skilled Nursing & Rehab Center built? **Groundbreaking was in 1973, and doors opened in 1975**
10. What was Brother Ken's first job? **The first job he ever had was as an employee (bagging, retrieving shopping carts, and bottle room) at Tops in Fredonia when he was 16 years old.**
11. What was Brother Ken's first job at the Brothers of Mercy? **He was a Cook and Dietary Aid at the old Sacred Heart Home.**
12. What was Pete Eimer, CEO, first job? **He worked at a supermarket (and actually delivered newspapers before that).**
13. What was Pete Eimer, CEO, first job at the Brothers of Mercy? **He managed The Brothers congregation's finances and was the Foundation Director**
14. How many acres does The Brothers of Mercy Wellness Campus own? **126**
15. What is the name of our founding Brother? **Brother Peter Friedhofen**
16. What is the Brothers of Mercy motto? **The Charity of Christ Urges Us**
17. What year did The Brothers from Montabaur, Germany begin their mission in WNY? **1924**
18. Who is the current house superior? **Brother Kenneth Thomas**
19. Name the two main fundraisers The Brothers of Mercy have every year? **Caritas and Oktoberfest**
20. What was the mode of transportation for the Founding Brothers of Mercy? **Bicycle**
21. The first Community of Brothers of Mercy that settled in downtown Buffalo consisted of how many members? **5**
22. On what date did The Brothers of Mercy officially settle in Buffalo and WNY? **6/24/24**

Reminders for IT Help Desk Requests:

There are 3 ways to contact the IT support for any computer issues or requests. Please note the following:

1. Send an email to support@aerotg.net and include your name and brief description of the issue in the subject line.
2. Email ITSupport@brothersofmerc.org with the same details as #1 above.
3. Call Ext. 262 and wait until after the music to leave a detailed message. Please provide your full name and a good call-back number.

Upcoming General Orientations:

2/26 3/11 3/25



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of MERCY**
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Scan QR code to view

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- Cook
- Aides



Human Resources: 716-759-6985

BrothersofMercy.org

BACK IN 1924

1920s AVERAGE COST

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| A first class stamp | \$0.02 |
| A gallon of gas | \$0.25 |
| A dozen eggs | \$0.55 |
| A pound of bacon | \$0.47 |
| A half gallon of milk | \$0.28 |

AVERAGE
NET INCOME
\$3,481

'20s SLANG

Ankle - To walk
Bearcat - A lively woman
Berries - "Bee's knees"
Darb - Splendid
Giggle water - Liquor
Hotsy totsy - Attractive
Sinkin' - A doughnut

IN Style...

WOMEN

Art Deco fashion
Felt hats • Bonnets
Chemise dresses
High heeled shoes
Bobbed hair • Fur coats

MEN

Knickerbockers
Wingtip Shoes
Custom tailored suits
Fedora & newsboy hats
Shiny, slicked back hair

U.S. PRESIDENT

Calvin Coolidge



**U.S.
POPULATION**
114.1 MILLION

TECHNOLOGY

Astronomer Edwin Hubble
concludes that the
Andromeda Nebula is a
Galaxy.

Willem Einthoven wins the
Nobel Prize in Physiology
or Medicine for the
electrocardiogram.

The Computing-Tabulating
Recording Company (CTR)
renamed itself International
Business Machines (IBM).

IN THE NEWS...

J. Edgar Hoover is appointed as the
head of the Bureau of Investigation, later
to be known as the Federal Bureau of
Investigation or FBI.

Two U.S. Army planes complete the first
around-the-world flight in 175 days.

Ellis Island closes as an immigration
entry point to the U.S.

Ira Gershwin, George Gershwin and
Irvine Berlin continue to dominate the
music industry and Rhapsody in Blue
is played for the very first time.

The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day
Parade is held in New York City.

POPULAR SONGS

Rhapsody in Blue - George Gershwin
It Had to Be You - Isham Jones
California, Here I Come - Al Jolson
Charleston - Arthur Gibbs & his Gang
Sleep - Fred Waring & the Pennsylvanians

POPULAR FILMS

The Iron Horse
The Last Laugh
The Navigator
Sherlock Jr.
Greedy

Television...

John Logie Baird
created the first
television pictures
of objects in
motion in 1924.



Sacred Heart Home

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- Neurologic Rehab
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- 1-on-1 Therapy for 60 minutes
- Comfortable Setting

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an evaluation:

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- Meal Preparation & Medication Reminders
- Assisting with Ambulation, Bathing & Toileting

Medicare's Highest Rating



Congratulations to Our Employees Celebrating Anniversaries!
****For September through December Only****

| Name | Anniversary | Hire Date | Position | Location |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SMITH, MONICA | 5 years | 09/10/2018 | AR BILLING COLLECTION | Management Company |
| CINOTTI, ARIANNA | 1 year | 10/01/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Montabaur |
| TRIMMER, GRACE | 1 year | 10/10/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Montabaur |
| CARUANA, FLORENCE | 15 years | 10/27/2008 | RN SUPERVISOR12 HR | Nursing Home |
| ALBERT, KAREN | 10 years | 10/07/2013 | RN NURSE MANAGERASSIST | Nursing Home |
| JORDAN, ERICA | 10 years | 10/21/2013 | RN STAFF | Nursing Home |
| DILIBERTO, MELISSA | 10 years | 11/04/2013 | NURSING ASSISTANTPER DIEM | Nursing Home |
| NEYMAN, RACHEL | 5 years | 09/10/2018 | ADMISSIONS ASSISTANT | Nursing Home |
| ZIARNIAK, RACHEL | 5 years | 10/08/2018 | DIETARY AIDE | Nursing Home |
| PRIOR, CORENDA | 5 years | 10/15/2018 | NURSING ASSISTANT | Nursing Home |
| ADAMS, MONIQUE | 5 years | 10/31/2018 | LPNPER DIEM | Nursing Home |
| METZ, GREGORY | 5 years | 11/26/2018 | COOK 1 | Nursing Home |
| ARNOLD, CARLEY | 5 years | 12/17/2018 | HOUSEKEEPING AIDE | Nursing Home |
| TORRES, ALICIA | 1 year | 09/12/2022 | LPNSTAFF | Nursing Home |



Congratulations to Our Employees Celebrating Anniversaries!
****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| HOWARD, JAYANNA | 1 year | 09/12/2022 | LPNSTAFF | Nursing Home |
| PERRY, DOUGLAS | 1 year | 09/12/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Nursing Home |
| DONALDSON, BETH | 1 year | 09/19/2022 | LPNSTAFF | Nursing Home |
| HARRIS, LADAZIA | 1 year | 09/26/2022 | LPNSTAFF | Nursing Home |
| SEARLES, KIM | 1 year | 09/26/2022 | LPNSTAFF | Nursing Home |
| FORD, LINDSAY | 1 year | 09/26/2022 | ADMISSIONS SCREENER | Nursing Home |
| PILC, CHLOE | 1 year | 10/24/2022 | NURSING ASSISTANT | Nursing Home |
| VARGO, BRADLEY | 1 year | 10/24/2022 | Physical Therapist Assistant FT | Nursing Home |
| DAVIS COTA, MEGAN | 1 year | 10/24/2022 | COTA FT | Nursing Home |
| GOODRIGE, AMY | 1 year | 10/24/2022 | HOUSEKEEPING AIDE | Nursing Home |
| SIMPSON, DANIELLE | 1 year | 11/07/2022 | NURSING ASSISTANT | Nursing Home |
| HIGGINS, KAYLEE | 1 year | 11/11/2022 | ACTIVITIES AIDE LPT | Nursing Home |
| CAVALLARO, MARK | 1 year | 11/19/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Nursing Home |
| MICKLES, TEA | 1 year | 11/28/2022 | NURSING ASSISTANT | Nursing Home |
| RICHARDS, JONATHAN | 1 year | 11/28/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Nursing Home |



Congratulations to Our Employees Celebrating Anniversaries!
****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| MCDONALD, MINDEE | 25 years | 10/14/1998 | ADMINISTRATOR | Sacred Heart Home |
| GIBSON, KELLY | 1 year | 09/26/2022 | COOK 1 | Sacred Heart Home |
| WOJEWODA, CARLA | 1 year | 10/24/2022 | PCASHH | Sacred Heart Home |
| WITTMAYER, HAILEY | 1 year | 11/11/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Sacred Heart Home |
| SCHMIDT, JULIA | 1 year | 11/11/2022 | DIETARY AIDE | Sacred Heart Home |
| LACKEY, ANGELA | 1 year | 12/12/2022 | PCASHH | Sacred Heart Home |
| PEAL, AMINAH | 1 year | 12/12/2022 | PCASHH | Sacred Heart Home |



Welcome to Our New Employees from September - December!

****For September through December Only****

| First Name | Last Name | Location | Position | Hire Date |
|------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------|
| BREANNA | LUKACZ | Montabaur | SERVER | 09/05/2023 |
| ILANA | MCDERMOTT-FRY | Montabaur | SERVER | 09/09/2023 |
| MYLES | GSELL | Montabaur | SERVER | 09/18/2023 |
| ROBERT | DENNIS | Montabaur | SECURITY GUARD PT | 09/19/2023 |
| SEAN | HUBER | Montabaur | SERVER | 09/25/2023 |
| ISABELLE | ARENT | Montabaur | SERVER | 09/30/2023 |
| LUKE | CAREY | Montabaur | SERVER | 10/09/2023 |
| KATHLEEN | BASHAM | Montabaur | CONCIERGE COORDINATOR | 12/04/2023 |
| AARON | BURNS | Nursing Home | MAINTENANCE MECHANIC FT | 09/05/2023 |
| HANNAH | COLLOPY | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 09/11/2023 |



Welcome to Our New Employees from September - December!

****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| LARONDA | BRANCH | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 09/11/2023 |
| JASON | ROGACKI | Nursing Home | COOK 1 | 09/11/2023 |
| CAROLINE | SAWYERR | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 09/11/2023 |
| JENNIFER | MANNING | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF12 HR | 09/25/2023 |
| BETTY JO | VIRGIL | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 09/25/2023 |
| HALEY | TROMBLEY | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF12 HR | 09/25/2023 |
| HALEY | FLANAGAN | Nursing Home | LAUNDRY AIDE | 09/25/2023 |
| MARISSA | TAYLOR | Nursing Home | LAUNDRY AIDE | 09/25/2023 |
| DENINE | HARTWIG | Nursing Home | LAUNDRY AIDE | 09/25/2023 |
| ERIN | GUTHRIE | Nursing Home | RN STAFFPER DIEM | 10/09/2023 |
| DONIQUE | ROBERTSON | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF | 10/09/2023 |
| ANNABELLE | DAILEY | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 10/09/2023 |
| KORBIN | GROUND | Nursing Home | MAINTENANCE MECHANIC FT | 10/09/2023 |
| TANISHA | FULGHAM | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 10/17/2023 |
| ALIMA | TAMBWE | Nursing Home | HOUSEKEEPING AIDE | 10/23/2023 |



Welcome to Our New Employees from September - December!

****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| LEONA | SIMMS | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 10/26/2023 |
| PAMELA | HOAG | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 10/26/2023 |
| ARIYONA | CORNWELL | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 10/26/2023 |
| COURTNEY | BARAN | Nursing Home | DIETETIC TECHNICIAN | 11/06/2023 |
| LAURA | GOSTLING | Nursing Home | COOK 1 | 11/08/2023 |
| TERAIA | HARRIS | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 11/10/2023 |
| SARAH | SHIPSTON | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF12 HR | 11/13/2023 |
| LAWRENCE | BAIA | Nursing Home | Floor Care Technician | 11/13/2023 |
| CHRISTINA | BRUNDAGE | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 11/27/2023 |
| AMBER | WILLIS | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF12 HR | 11/27/2023 |
| LAQUITTA | RIDGEWAY | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF | 11/27/2023 |
| ALICIA | CARPENTER | Nursing Home | RN SUPERVISOR | 12/04/2023 |
| SHAKARYIA | LONG | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 12/04/2023 |
| KALEB | POPIELSKI | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 12/04/2023 |
| RAYMONE | LEFTWICH | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 12/04/2023 |



Welcome to Our New Employees from September - December!

****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| MARKELL | MATTHEWS | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 12/04/2023 |
| SYDNIE | EATON | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF | 12/17/2023 |
| MARIA | FRIEDHABER | Nursing Home | DIETARY AIDE | 12/17/2023 |
| AKILAH | JACKSON | Nursing Home | NURSING ASSISTANT | 12/18/2023 |
| TIFFANY | MITCHELL | Nursing Home | LPNSTAFF12 HR | 12/18/2023 |
| SARAH | WOLFF | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 12/27/2023 |
| ANNETTE | KING | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 12/27/2023 |
| SHAQUILLA | ROSS | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 12/27/2023 |
| REBECCA | DALTON-SILSBY | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 12/27/2023 |
| ESSENCE | SANFORD | Nursing Home | NURSE AIDE TRAINEE | 12/27/2023 |
| OLIVIA | SIKORA | Sacred Heart Home | DIETARY AIDE | 09/11/2023 |
| MICHELLE | VANDERVOORT | Sacred Heart Home | DIETARY AIDE | 09/11/2023 |
| TERRI | MAXWELL | Sacred Heart Home | COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | 09/11/2023 |
| LINDA | VIGIANO | Sacred Heart Home | LPNSHH | 09/25/2023 |
| CHELSEA | REIMER | Sacred Heart Home | PCAMED TECHSHH | 09/25/2023 |



Welcome to Our New Employees from September - December!

****For September through December Only****

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| BRIAN | GOTT | Sacred Heart Home | LPNSHH | 09/25/2023 |
| JUDITH | BOTTONE | Sacred Heart Home | COMPANION CARE AIDE | 09/25/2023 |
| SANDRA | ENDERS | Sacred Heart Home | COMMUNICATION S COORDINATOR | 09/25/2023 |
| CASEY | TURNER | Sacred Heart Home | Home Health Aide | 10/09/2023 |
| SHAWN | MITCHELL | Sacred Heart Home | PCASHH | 10/23/2023 |
| KAYLA | DIBBLE | Sacred Heart Home | PCASHH | 11/13/2023 |
| BAILEY | GOTT | Sacred Heart Home | PCASHH | 11/13/2023 |
| CATHERINE | GALVIN | Sacred Heart Home | COMMUNICATION S COORDINATOR | 11/13/2023 |
| SHANA | DAVIS | Sacred Heart Home | LPNSHH | 11/27/2023 |
| EILEEN | MANEY | Sacred Heart Home | ANCILLARY AIDE | 11/27/2023 |
| KEIYUANNA | SCOTT | Sacred Heart Home | PCASHH | 12/18/2023 |
| NELSON | RAMIREZ | Trier Woods | MAINTENANCE MECHANIC FT | 12/18/2023 |



Congratulations to all of the Employee of the Year Nominations!

Thank you to all those who submitted nominations.

1. I would like to nominate **Kaileen Rechtsiegel**, LPN at Sacred Heart Home. She goes above & beyond to provide care for our residents & is always there to assist the staff members - Angela Collins, Scheduling Coordinator, Sacred Heart Home
2. **Dan Ross** is my nominee for Employee of the Year. Dan is thoughtful, hardworking and knowledgeable. Which makes him such a large part of our success here at Montabaur Heights. He is well liked by both Residents and fellow employees. I am sure he will pass his hardworking and compassion toward others to his young Family of four that him and his wife Alex are raising as well. - David Alvarez
3. The employee I am recommending is **Amy Webster**. She works in the home care department as a companion/home care aide. At Brothers Mercy, Sacred Heart. A few sentences that would describe her is: She is very driven, loyal to clients, employees, etc.. She picks up a shift when needed. She has taught me a lot about the job.- Kaitlyn McNamara
4. I nominate **Cheryl Everett**, CNA, as employee of the year. Hard-working, kind and caring, goes the extra mile. She takes good care of her residents, with attention to their appearance. She also makes their beds and puts everything in their rooms in order. She is ALWAYS calm and kind with even the difficult residents. – Janine McKenrick
5. I nominate **Kim Searles**, LPN for this great prize! I'm one of Kim's supervisors. She always goes above and beyond for our residents and her co-workers. She not only has excellent clinical skills but she is very caring to her residents. She is always agreeable to do whatever is asked of her without question and is a peer mentor as well. - Paula Miller RN, Nurse Supervisor
6. I think if anybody who goes above and beyond, it is my Department director **Mary Partridge**. She is a very hard-working individual who strives for excellence. During the pandemic, Mary worked very to have the residents feel better during a tough time when we moved into a new building. She helps employees and residents feel at home. She goes really above and beyond even when we had the storm last Christmas. I think my boss deserves Employee of the Year for Sacred Heart Home.– Patricia Zinter
7. I nominate **Dawn Graber**, CAN, on the night shift. She has worked there many years walking the halls at night. Making sure all our beloved patients are receiving the best of care. She has patients and rooms clean and ready, and she supplies for the day shift so they can start their day smoothly. Dawn is a team player and I am happy to be working with her and Meghan, they are exceptional trainers. I can always count on them to keep everything running 100 percent on the floor. They report things so I can keep my end 100% also. - Deb Wick LPN



8. **James Fillmore, PTA** in the outpatient clinic He should be the winner because he helped me with my knee and he's a good guy that goes above and beyond to help his patients. – Daniel Plowy

9. I am happy to nominate my coworker on 3 East, **Brandon Riederer, CNA**. We started out taking the CNA class here as a group of eight people, and Brandon is the only other one to still be here besides myself. He is consistently positive, always volunteers to help, and has never complained about working here, even after some extremely trying days. It's not easy to do the job that he does and never lose your patience, which is why I can confidently nominate him as an outstanding worker. - Will Wisnoski

10. I nominate **Vince Dunston** from senior apartment management. Vince is a valuable employee, always improving senior apartment living and also contributing when he can to help others out at the Skilled Nursing Center. He is also very caring to residents at both the Nursing Home and senior apartments He is someone I am proud to know and work with! - Pat Bajak

11. I nominate **Liz Santos!** – Hannah Longley

13. I feel **Ann Carrier**, the Montabaur Heights concierge manager, goes above and beyond. She is always on call and handles any and everything anyone needs. - Rob Dennis

14. I believe **Monica Rook** deserves employee of the year. Since I started working at this facility last December Monica has gone above and beyond for her residents and administrators. Any time I feel lost or need help Monica is always there to help. She does her own job plus more. She works doubles every day almost just to cover for the call offs and low staffing. If anyone deserves employee of the year it should be her! – Aminah Peal

15. I nominate **Erin Sarif, LPN**, on 3 East. She gives her all in working daily with residents who have behavioral dementia, despite how exhausting and challenging the residents can be! – Kelly Lavrincik

16. **Mary Partridge** is on it, always prepared. She never expects anyone on her team to do anything she is not willing to do herself. - Lisa Gentzke

17. **Michael Perez**, Assistant Director of Health Services SHH. He is always a caring boss and is working hard to better himself to help the department as a whole.

18. I would like to nominate **Monica Rook, PCA/Med Tech** at Sacred Heart Home. Monica goes above and beyond to take care of the residents and help out fellow co-workers! She trained me on my first day and I've learned everything from her. The love she has for her residents shows in her work here at Sacred Heart! She is very humble and has no problem helping out wherever she is needed.- Ku K'Baw



19. I would like to nominate **Lela Wilson** in health services as a PCA. The reason I would like to nominate her is because she's is an amazing worker she's kind, smart, funny, takes really good care of the residents. She also come into work on her days off when they call her, she helps out when there's no one else to come into work. She stays when ask without any complaints at all. She's the best PCA that Sacred Heart has. - Sherry Davis

20. I nominate **Angela Collins**, Sacred Heart Home scheduler. She works very hard at her job every day. I see her struggle, but she gets through it with a smile. – Carla Wojewoda

21. **Lela Wilson**, a PCA in health Services at SHH always shows up, even when her mother was passing. She's there for all her coworkers if they need a cover, or an extra hand. She always comes in early and stays late. She trains the new PCAs and does a thorough job. All the residents love her, and her coworkers as well. You'll never find any worker as hard working, compassionate, thorough, and detail oriented. – Ashley Canniazzaro

22. I nominate **Logan**, he is a great help and a team player. – Denine Hartwig

23. I nominate **Warren Drew**, the Executive Chef at Montabaur Heights. He is always so nice to work with as he tells some great stories about when he was growing up. Plus he's always making his coworkers little snacks throughout the shift to make our day better. Sometimes he even brings in stuff from home. He is truly a pleasure to work with. - Adam

24. I wanted to shed some light on the rehab tech (**Derek Walkowiak**) that works in our therapy department at the brothers of mercy nursing and rehab facility. Our department simply would not function without his constant assistance and attention to detail to keep things moving around the therapy clinics. He not only is the wheelchair master and will retrieve any wheelchair we need, extra positioning equipment, and assists with all the paperwork and making sure everything gets filed and handed to the right people. On top of this, he has taken on extra roles and responsibilities to keep our department running smoothly. He is always willing to give a helping hand and I just want to make sure it is known how much we all appreciate what he does over here and that it does not go unnoticed. - Maggie Tirado

25. I nominate **Melissa Maney** to be employee of the year. She's a hard working person and loves what she does. She is the assistant director of admissions and started at brothers many years ago as a social worker. She has recruited both of her daughters to work on the campus as aides, many of our family friends as well. She has nothing but great things to say about The Brothers of Mercy, and last winter when the storm hit for 4 days, she stayed with her employees in the admissions department and even took one of them home with her when they couldn't get home yet. I may be a little biased, but I have worked here as well since I was 16 in Health Services, and my mother has played a critical role in me becoming the aide I am today. - Madeline Maney



26. I nominate **Meverick** from 4 W. He is an amazing aide, always goes above and beyond for the nurses but most importantly even when it's not his section as well as the patients! Most people will say that's not my patient but not him and I love and live that! I appreciate him so much! Wish we had 1,000 more CNAs like him! - Samantha Knight

27. **LaShante Wilson**, 3 West, nursing. She's an outstanding mentor with a ton of patience. Great leader of 3 West! – Cheryl Everett

28. I firmly believe **Fantasia Jacob's** deserves to win the tickets and be employee of the year. I have worked with her well over a year and the care she gives to these residents on 3e, is nothing less than exceptional. It takes an amazing person with such compassion to be an aide, especially one on a dementia floor. She ensures each and every residents gets the care they deserve and goes above and beyond each day for them. Not only does she go above and beyond for her residents, but she is an amazing coworker. She never hesitates to help me or anyone on the unit when they are behind. She makes sure every new employee is welcomed and helps them in any way that she can to let them know she is there to make them better aides. I truly believes she deserves these tickets to show appreciation for what she brings to the 3east unit at Brothers. - Brianna Pagano

29. **Mary Partridge** at Sacred Heart Home goes above and beyond for all the staff in her department with whatever they need at work. She also very supportive with her staff when they have outside conflict going on. She is the hardest worker I have met and she seems to never get enough credit for it. She is so over prepared for the extreme weather and made our stay last Christmas as easy n enjoyable as possible. – Jocelyn Helta

30. I would like to nominate **Amie Widmaier LPN**, 4W night shift for the Bills tickets. She is a team player and always willing to go the extra mile to care for all residents. She is caring, compassionate and an amazing nurse! - Amanda Wyzykowski RN supervisor

31. I believe **Mindee McDonald**, Administrator of Sacred Heart Home should be entered to Win Mindee has been at sacred heart since she was 16 and is so dedicated to her job and fellow people she always does everything in her power to make a better place to work and makes sure you have everything you need to do her job – Jon Tesch

32. **Esteralla**, is a CNA on the fourth floor. She is dedicated, does her work responsibly. During peak of COVID, when it was impossible to get CNA to work. She was there. I work as a Physical Therapist Assistant on Saturdays. When I would have a patient, who would be a maximum lift or I needed a second person to stand the patient, Esteralla has never said no to me. Even when she would be busy with her work. – Arjmund

33. **Julie Kaczmarczyk**, Director of Activities, is always making the best of everything here and works very hard to make our residents happy. She goes out of her way endlessly to create a fun and comfortable work environment.- Kaylee Carmichael

34. I would like to nominate Justin Filipski, who works at Montabaur Heights, for Employee of the Year. Justin is my boss and also the person who hired me. He does all of the scheduling, and makes sure it fits with everyone's schedule. He is easy to work with and super flexible. Since most of his employees are high school or college students, he has to work around all of our busy schedules and does an excellent job at it. He always takes into account new ideas and is very kind. He is a great person and I am very thankful to have him as my boss. -- Madison McCrea



35. I nominate **Amanda Wyzokowski**, RN Supervisor at the nursing home/skilled nursing). Amanda always comes in early, stays late, hops on a med cart, jumps in when she sees someone falling behind, etc. Most recently, she came in 5 hours early to work on admissions. Yes, she's a supervisor and it's expected that supervisors do different things, and Amanda goes above & beyond when needed in situations like this. Amanda is also fair & easy to approach. - Alicia McIntyre, 4West

36. I nominate **Amanda Wyzokowski**, RN Supervisor. Amanda will always go above and beyond for her residents and employees. Whether it's showing a new nurse the ropes. Or simply making a PBJ sandwich at 3:30am for a hungry resident. She doesn't get annoyed or frustrated when she has to explain something to someone, when we're understaffed she's willing to take a med cart and still supervise the entire building. She's definitely one person a nurse, aide. Resident and family member can count on. - Amie Widmaier, LPN, Nursing Department

37. I nominate **Brianna Pagano**, she is such an amazing person! So kind and always interacting with the residents and family members. Everyone loves her, she is a team player and always so helpful to her coworkers. She is so patient and compassionate with the residents. Whenever there is a problem she knows how to handle it smoothly, she is the best team leader and deserves to win! - Fantasia Jacobs

****Anonymous Submissions****

1. **Vicki** is a long-tenured staff member who worked in the Health Services Departments as an LPN charge for nearly 15 years prior to moving up into the role of Case Manager. She is a tremendous asset and advocate to SHH residents and families. With her level of knowledge, attention to detail, follow through on ensuring the residents quality of life is met in an individualized manner, and desire to help our residents and families in any way possible she is one of the first "go-to," people that nearly everyone counts on to get the information or help that they need. Due to such reliable qualities we often find that fellow team members count on her too.

2. I nominate **Luanne Livingston**. She is a wonderful woman, dedicated and approachable and despite the adversity she faces, she is selfless—in the last year that I have known Luanne, I have grown to love her like family, she will go above and beyond to help others, and even lend a hand when I need it most.

3. I nominate **Carla Wojewoda** for Employee of the Year at Sacred Heart Home. She is a PCA assigned to the Maple Trail, memory care neighborhood. Carla is dedicated and loves her residents. She rarely refuses to pick up a shift, can be counted on, consistently goes above and beyond in her department, and is always willing to help other departments with a great attitude. She is an example of hard work, taking initiative, and it is very apparent she thinks of residents first. Her actions speak volumes of how much she cares for them.

4. I nominate **Kim Searles** for employee of the year. She shows great leadership and is always willing to help where needed.

5. I think **Shanita Garret** needs to be recognized here at BOM. She is a CNA who goes above and beyond every day. The residents and staff love her. She tried her best to make sure the residents feel special and she is always the first to help out when a family member or coworker needs help!

6. I nominate **Amanda Wyzykowski**, RN. She is a night supervisor, who works tirelessly. She is often here in the am staying longer to finish up her shift's paperwork. She takes care of the entire building and staffing call-ins with skill.

7. I nominate **Kaitlyn McNamara**, Companion Caregiver at Sacred Heart Home. Kaitlyn is a 20 year old student working 2 jobs. She is the youngest employee in our department. Most people her age do not think of caring for the elderly, but Kaitlyn loves her job. Her clients all adore her.