



WESLEYAN
SENIOR LIVING
www.villageliving.com

the MESSENGER

WESLEYAN VILLAGE • WESLEYAN MEADOWS

More Living. Less Worry. More Everyday.

FALL 2009



In This Issue

- President's Message (pg. 2)
- Donor Stories (pg. 3)
- Kristen's Message (pg. 4)
- Filial Support Laws (pg. 5)
- Mary Lilly Society (pg. 6)
- NEW Smith Hall Suites (pg. 7)
- Mary Lilly Luncheon - Back Cover (pg. 8)

*Care less for your harvest than
for how it is shared and your
life will have meaning and your
heart will have peace.*

— Kent Nerburn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael H. Rogan
President/CEO
Wesleyan Senior Living

Fall 2009

This story was told by Larry Minnix, Jr., President and CEO of AAHSA (American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging). I think it deserves repeating and I hope, you too, will share this story with others.

The Man on the Roof

A man named Clarence passed away a few days ago.

It was four years to the day after he was rescued during Hurricane Katrina. They found Clarence on the roof of his modest house in New Orleans. You may have seen his story on the news. No family. Nowhere to go. A single soul in search of stability, safety, security and community.

The Katrina response by AAHSA members was immediate, overwhelming and amazing. Member employees, state associations and AAHSA staff joined together to marshal money and supplies to people in Louisiana and Mississippi who were instantly without necessities.

Part of the AAHSA member response was the establishment of a hotline by National Church Residences (NCR), whose CEO, Tom Slemmer, is AAHSA's board chair. We helped broker needs with available housing throughout the country for older people and employees from the Gulf Coast. Some 900 people, including Clarence, wound up being helped.

Clarence went from the roof of his flooded house to Lakewood Christian Homes in Atlanta. The transition was orchestrated by Brenda Schrader, an NCR service coordinator based at NCR's headquarters in Ohio.

Service coordinators are increasingly important to the emerging housing with services agenda, and they are an under-recognized group of professionals who help countless people like Clarence every day. Brenda is a poster child for the role. Brenda, and AAHSA's Leslie Knight, her own brand of "service coordinator" to our members, were part of a great team throughout this unprecedented set of events.

Recently, Brenda wrote Tom about Clarence's passing. As you read this, think about what it says about Brenda.

"I am deeply saddened after receiving a call at home this morning from Fulton County, Georgia's M.E. office, informing me that Clarence passed away yesterday. They stated they found my name on a card I sent him, which I assumed was the birthday card I sent last week, but they stated it was a card dated 2007. Let this be a reminder of what the smallest gestures may mean to others. I will greatly miss talking with him and our

harassing each other over sports teams... for me, the opportunity and experience assisting Clarence, and knowing him as a kind and gentle person, is something I will never forget."

The rescue of Clarence – the man on the roof – represents everything great about mission-driven people. For every Clarence, there are millions more in need. For every Brenda, there are countless others with her 24/7 commitment and motivation to help vulnerable people through difficult times.

Your "man on the roof" may be an Alzheimer's resident who is without family or identity. It may be an impaired senior living in the community, hanging on to home and a shred of independence because of the many other people like Brenda, whose names I wish I knew and could share.

The birthday cards from many a staff member are on tables, in drawers and on the refrigerators of people who kept them because they are such important gestures – however simple and mundane they may seem to the sender.

Remember that many people on the roof of desperate and difficult circumstances need our help. And celebrate the Brendas and Leslies, and the organizations that create cultures of services to empower them to fulfill a calling to help people like Clarence enjoy a new and better life -- because there are people like you and your staff who care so very much.

Brenda, your smallest of gestures had a great impact on Clarence – and on people like Tom and me whom you inspire.

Our Mission:

To provide quality services and residences enabling persons to age creatively with the support of a Christian community

Fruits of the Spirit

The fresh taste and natural sweetness of fruit make it everyone's favorite. Fruit is a great source of essential vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber, and it's also easily digested. The American Heart Association advises us to consume 25 to 30 grams of fiber from fresh fruits and/or vegetables. In practice, this means we should have five to nine portions of fresh fruit per day. At Wesleyan Senior Living, we think that fruit is one of the healthiest foods on earth and, therefore, it is well worth spending our money on.

That's why a recent contribution from Mr. George Hoffman means so much to us. Mr. Hoffman noticed the amount of fresh fruit available to Residents, and wanted to "do his part" to help our financial bottom line. His generous donation will not only fund many months of fresh fruit for our Residents, but will go a long way in contributing to the good health of many persons. **Thank you Mr. Hoffman, for your gift of fruit and for demonstrating "Fruits of the Spirit!"**



Memorial Brick

Just take a stroll through our Village Café, and you will notice people searching the Pathway of Honor for the names of special loved ones. Located in the café seating area, Residents and community members gather in the lovely atrium setting for relaxation and fellowship. The memorial and honor bricks that line this pathway serve as a living testament to those who have supported the growth and expansion of our work with older adults.

Recently, a dedication ceremony was held for another Memorial brick – in memory of Olivia Kozich and contributed by her husband, Elmer Kozich. Mr. Kozich continues to reside at Wesleyan Village, and sought a way to create a lasting memorial for his wife. We thank you, Mr. Kozich, for this thoughtful and generous tribute.

A limited number of brick pavers are still available, in two sizes. Contributions of this nature support our ministry to older adults and provide a gracious way to honor and remember those you love. For more information, contact Kristen Jones at 440.934.6161.



Elmer Kozich and family at the dedication of his wife's memorial brick.

A Promise Made... A Promise Kept... The Mary Lilly Society

As a very small child, I remember playing in my grandparent's garden, *here at the Village*. As a retired Methodist ministerial couple, my grandparents lived in the Austin Cottage, the earliest of our original cottages, constructed in 1937. A few years later, my father, David Jones, came on board at the Village as the Director of Development...the very same position I hold now. Eventually, following his passing, my mother came to reside in our Patio Homes at the Village campus, where she still lives today.



Three WSL generations: This 1974 photo shows (left to right) Kristen Jones, her father David Jones; and grandparents Rev. Dr. Charles and Leta Jones, standing in front of the Austin Cottage.

All this speaks of a Legacy. For me, it's a very personal commitment to the continuum of care given to my parents...my grandparents...and to so many thousands of seniors throughout our 113 year history. It's a **Promise** that was made long ago, and it is a sacred **Promise** that is still upheld today.

A Promise Made...

In 1896, Mary Lilly saw the need for the security and comfort of a Home for older women. She used her own resources because she felt a calling in her heart. As our founder, she decreed that no one would be asked to leave if, through no fault of their own, they outlived their savings.

A Promise Kept...

113 years later our founder's Promise stands strong. Through our benevolent **Life Care Fund**, we continue to provide a comfortable, safe environment that our Residents can always call home, regardless of financial circumstances. In this past year, the need for benevolent care reached \$2 million. As you might imagine, the challenging economy, cuts in Medicaid and Medicare, and the volatility of the markets have all contributed to the increasing financial

needs, and depletion of resources, of many of our Residents.

Wesleyan Senior Living Foundation upholds this **Promise** through fundraising efforts that support the **Life Care Fund** and the many programs and initiatives of Wesleyan Senior Living that add to the quality of life for so many individuals. We continue to recognize the strength of Mary Lilly's foresight through our esteemed **Mary Lilly Society**. Members of this Society have, likewise, made a **Promise** that continues our mission through their Legacy gift. I hope you will read about the Mary Lilly Society in this issue (page 6), and consider becoming a part of this vital group of contributors.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of somebody's enthusiasm." While our day to day events at Wesleyan Senior Living may not qualify for a listing in the "annals of the world," the impact we have on people's

lives cannot be underestimated. Our communities support the continuum of life, and they support living life to the fullest.

As we near the end of this calendar year, we know that funding for our services will continue to be challenging. We thank all those who support this important ministry, and hope that you will look into your heart and consider making a gift. In doing so, **you** will make a difference in the lives of those who need it most!

We recognize the many contributors who have supported a **promise made**. With grateful hearts, we thank them, and acknowledge their part in a **promise kept**.

With warm regards,
Kristen Jones
Director of Development
and Church Relations

Filial Support Laws-

How do they affect my family

The host of a local talk radio program recently put these questions to his audience: *Do you have a moral obligation to pay for your parent's long-term care? Is it your duty as an adult child to financially support your elderly parent when your parent runs out of his or her own money?*

Most people want to be there for their parents, emotionally and financially. However, the children of an aging parent are typically saving for their own retirement, putting their own children through college, and paying off their own mortgage. They may want to help their parent financially, but have other priorities for their money. We know that our senior population is growing dramatically. And we know that at least one-fourth of our aging adults will need some kind of long-term care for a chronic condition.

Could you be legally liable for paying for the care of an elderly parent? Under something called Filial Support Laws, you most certainly could in thirty states.

Wesleyan Senior Living provides you with relief from that worry. That's why our Life Care Fund is so vitally important. Now, more than ever, as retirees and "future" retirees consider their retirement income, our Life Care Promise provides the kind of peace of mind that is often elusive in today's world. **In the 113 years of our existence, no one has ever been asked to leave our Communities because they have outlived their financial resources.** Wesleyan Senior Living knows that older adults deserve the best care without regard for their financial situation.

Next month, you'll receive our very important annual Holiday Appeal in the mail. You can help us provide comfort and joy to the older adults in our care by making a gift for our Life Care Fund. Your gift will provide older adults with the assistance they need to have full and enriching later years. In doing so, you'll truly make a difference!



Mary Lilly Society

Annual Appreciation Luncheon

It's almost time for the Annual Luncheon of The Mary Lilly Society. The Luncheon will be held at Wesleyan Village on October 22nd.

What is The Mary Lilly Society? Created in 1994 and named for our founder, The Mary Lilly Society is the Foundation's way of recognizing and thanking those who have shared their commitment to our community by making a planned (or "deferred") gift to Wesleyan Senior Living. Through our Mary Lilly Society, you can make provisions today that will help meet the needs of tomorrow!

How might you become a member of this prestigious Society? There are several ways to qualify for membership:

- Consider making a provision to Wesleyan Senior Living through a simple codicil in your will. We annually induct into the Society those who have named our organization in their wills. They have designated a portion of their estates to be used in fulfilling our Life Care promise to our Residents. Simply let us know you've included us in your plans.
- Consider establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity. In this way, one makes a gift of assets now, while still maintaining a guaranteed income for life and receiving tax benefits at the same time. Guaranteed rates are currently as high as 9.5%. Our Foundation office can establish an annuity for you in a matter of minutes!
- Consider a gift of insurance or retirement benefits, payable to Wesleyan Senior Living after one's lifetime.

Please contact Kristen Jones in the Foundation office at 440.934.6161 for more information. Inquiries are entirely confidential and non-obligatory. If you do remember Wesleyan Senior Living in your plans, we ask that you tell us about it now so that we can thank you properly! It may also inspire others if you will allow us to include your name on this prestigious list of supporters. We hope to see you at the Mary Lilly Luncheon on October 22!

We are honored to recognize Members of The Mary Lilly Society – 2009

**designates those to be inducted on October 22, 2009*

Mrs. Ruth E. Adams
 Mrs. Sophie S. Albrecht
 Mrs. Wilda M. Ashcraft
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Keith Beery
 Miss Mildred E. Bjorkman
 Mrs. Ruth E. Blank
 Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bogart
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Branting*
 Mrs. Dorothe H. Brennehan
 Mrs. Iada Burris
 Mr. Don B. Buss
 Mr. Ray V. Chatham
 Rev. Dr. Walter S. Chisholm
 Mrs. Marjorie Cole
 Mrs. Angeline Copeland
 Mr. John H. Cox
 Rev. R. Edwin Crabtree
 Rev. Ronald D. Dauphin
 Mrs. Lorene Diesel
 Ms. Julia Dowling
 Mrs. Betty Early
 Mrs. Agnes M. Fazakas
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Fitch
 Mrs. Carol J. Gibb*
 Mrs. Judith Guinn
 Mrs. Mary T. Hagesfeld
 Mr. and Mrs. August Hansen

Mrs. Lena L. Hiller
 Mrs. June Holz
 Mrs. Carolyn Jensen
 Mrs. Jewel M. Keenen
 Mr. and Mrs. William B. Kirchner
 Mr. and Mrs. Budd Kleefeld
 Mrs. Dottie M. Klimczak
 Miss Ruth S. Link
 Mrs. Jane S. Lockard
 Mr. and Mrs. David A. Loop
 Rev. and Mrs. Russell E. Martin
 Ms. Margaret Anne McCloud
 Mrs. Maxine B. McConnell
 Rev. Dr. and Mrs. William L. McFadden
 Mrs. Ruth C. Merkle
 Mr. John W. Murbach
 Mr. and Mrs. Shigeo Nakanishi
 Mrs. Janet L. Nurenberg
 Rev. Ronald W. Ober
 Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Parks*
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Paton
 Mrs. Gwendolyn Peterson
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Pfaff
 Mrs. Kathryn R. Poe
 Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Purdey
 Mr. Kenneth M. Rea
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell C. Reed

Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Rogan*
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Rudolph
 Mrs. Maude E. Schack
 Mrs. Helen Charnes Schaefer
 Mrs. Bertina Schwartz
 Mr. Robert J. Stilgenbauer
 Mrs. Pauline A. Stone
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold F. Swan
 Ms. Zetta M. Sybrandt
 Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Alva W. Taylor
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Taylor
 Mrs. Virginia B. Tinny
 Mrs. Doris J. Turnbull
 Mrs. Donna E. Uehlein
 Mr. and Mrs. Jan D. Van Galen
 Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Verbsky
 Mrs. Benita C. Wales
 Dr. and Mrs. Irwin Wason
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Watts
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith E. Wurster

We sadly note the passing of honored Society members during this past year...

*Mrs. Virgene Buss
 Mr. John Gradish*

NEW

Introducing a new concept in Independent Living at Wesleyan Village



It's time to take the first steps toward independence and peace of mind.

Wesleyan Village provides both Independent and Freedom Choice Living in Smith Hall Suites. Smith Hall Suites at Wesleyan Village provide luxurious accommodations ideal for independent seniors looking for maintenance-free living. In Smith Hall Suites, our Residents experience life as they choose. Our friendly staff provides a comfortable residential living environment plus vibrant, comprehensive programming where we encourage older adults to live their lives to their fullest potential.

As a Resident of Smith Hall Suites, when your needs change, you have the freedom to choose from our many Custom Services. We offer inclusive Silver, Gold or Platinum Monthly Service Packages, or you can request specific services such as medication administration or personal care assistance. It's your choice!

When you are a Resident of Smith Hall Suites, you are a part of our continuum of care. That means you are guaranteed a lifetime of medical attention as your needs change – forever.

Call 440.284.9371 today for a personal tour of Smith Hall Suites and learn about Freedom Choice Living at Wesleyan Senior Living.





**WESLEYAN
SENIOR LIVING**

More Living. Less Worry. More Everyday.

Wesleyan Senior Living
807 West Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035

FALL 2009

440-934-0770
www.villageliving.com

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND OH
PERMIT # 3630

Mary Lilly Society Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday, October 22nd

12:00 PM

Chapel Dining Room ~ Wesleyan Village

807 West Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035

*with special musical entertainment
by professional musicians of TrueNorth Cultural Arts:*

*Richard Fortney, baritone
Cecilia Ilg McKay, harp
Sandra Tucker, piano*