

Along the Journey

Spring 2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITIES AND FRIENDS OF BAPTIST HOMES SOCIETY

BAPTIST HOMES & MANOR PROVIDENCE POINT BAPTIST HOMES FOUNDATION BAPTIST HOMES SOCIETY



photo by Andrea Bobinis

Society celebrates three milestones in one year

Baptist
HOMES
SOCIETY

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President & CEO
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On December 12, 2014, amid the holiday bustle, Baptist Homes Society set aside an afternoon to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Baptist Manor, the organization's HUD apartment building for seniors 62 and older or mobility impaired individuals. Opened 35 years ago to the day, Baptist Manor was the first HUD building of its kind in Pittsburgh's South Hills.

In 2015, Baptist Homes Society will also celebrate its 105th anniversary as a not-for-profit organization (March 26) and the 100th anniversary of the placement of its cornerstone in Mt. Lebanon (May 30). The three significant dates help to tell our tale of service, and demonstrate our commitment to our mission of providing the highest quality of living for all those we serve.

BAPTIST MANOR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Baptist Manor's 35th anniversary celebration recognized the significance of the senior housing project that marked a major expansion of Baptist Homes Society's service role in the community. The facility continues to be a model for affordable senior housing.

Fifty years ago, when Baptist Homes Society's Board of Directors began planning for this project, the concept was new and the hurdles to completion were significant.

As far back as 1965, the Board of Directors recognized the need for

(Continued on pg. 3)

Above: Residents Elizabeth Porter, Cynthia Sewell, Dolores Fazio, Mary Lauro, Jennie Marino, Claramae Wertman, Alice McClain, Eileen Unger, Lois Pilarski, and Isabel Scharf send greetings from a Baptist Manor balcony; (right) a champagne punch toast was part of the 35th anniversary celebration.





*Alvin W. Allison, Jr.
President & CEO
Baptist Homes Society*

A bold step a century ago has a lasting footprint

This edition of *Along the Journey* opens with a brief look at the long and illustrious history of Baptist Homes Society. I am still humbled when I think about the bold step of faith that was taken 105 years ago by a group of visionary pioneers who saw the need to provide housing and services to the seniors and the

A message from the President

orphans of that day, and took the steps necessary to launch Baptist Homes Society on a mission and ministry to meet that need. Over a century later, we are very proud to continue with the vision, mission, and ministry entrusted to us in providing the highest quality of life for all those we serve, while uplifting one person at a time.

Although we are quite proud of our history, we also look to the future with a renewed commitment to all those we serve.

I hope you enjoy the articles highlighting our strides forward in wellness programming, technology, new and upgraded equipment and furnishings, and the wealth of activities, programs, and events our residents on both the Baptist Homes and Providence Point campus enjoy on a daily basis.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a few groups of individuals without whom we could not achieve such a high level of success in what we do. First, I want to recognize our incredible staff members who live out our mission, vision, and values

on a daily basis. Their commitment to providing services and care with the utmost compassion, respect, dignity, and professionalism is key to our longevity, stellar reputation, and success.

Thank you also to our Board of Directors who continues to guide our efforts with vision and expertise. Finally, I want to thank Baptist Homes Society's most gracious and generous donors whose support makes our ministry possible.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support of Baptist Homes Society. 🌿

God bless you all,

Along the Journey

is published three times a year for friends of Baptist Homes Society and its communities: Baptist Homes and Providence Point. Baptist Homes Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization serving people of all faiths since 1910.

Jan O. Wenzel
Chair, Board of Directors

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President & CEO

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Jack Miller
*Vice President for Development
Baptist Homes Foundation*

Our mission

To provide the highest quality of living for all those we serve, while uplifting one person at a time.

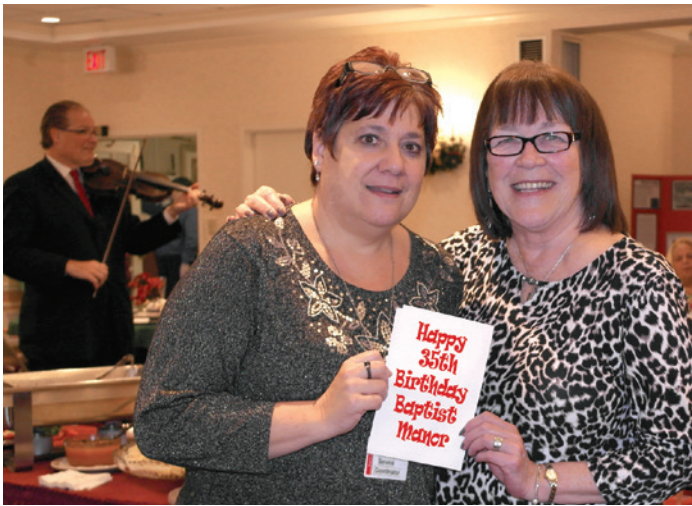
Our vision

Seniors in our community will experience the most fulfilling life possible.

Our values

Our values represent the philosophy that guides our organization in all circumstances, at all levels of the organization. These values are Faith, Benevolence, Service, Ethics and Wellness. 🌿

Baptist Manor 35th anniversary *(Continued from pg. 1)*



Baptist Manor's Resident Coordinator Beth Visnich and Director of Independent Living Carol Fierst at the 35th anniversary celebration.

affordable housing options for independent seniors. Financing such a large project was one of the obstacles until, in 1976, Baptist Homes Society was selected as one of 70 projects around the country for a Housing & Urban Development (HUD) direct loan program.

Construction of the \$4 million project began in the spring of 1978 and was completed the following year. Prior to opening, more than 400 people indicated their interest in moving in, and by April of 1980, every apartment was occupied. Since then, the 100-unit building has always maintained a waiting list.

Baptist Manor's popularity is easy to understand. Through its affiliation with Baptist Homes Society, the

clean, well-maintained building offers exceptional services and amenities. Residents have access to a gift shop, church services, a fitness center with wellness programming, a beauty salon, medical clinic, laundry facilities on each floor, free assigned parking spaces, an urgent call system, and weekly shopping trips.

What truly makes Baptist Manor special, however, is its people. Residents are engaged and involved in the Baptist Homes community. They volunteer in the gift shop, help out at bake sales, or participate in activities.

Director **Carol Fierst** and her staff work hard to ensure residents' needs are met.

Baptist Manor has also benefitted from the work of Baptist Homes Foundation. Generous donors recently made it possible for Baptist Manor to install ceiling fans in the living room and bedroom of each apartment and provided funds so that bath tubs in 40 of the units could be converted into accessible tubs (*see below*).

The building has withstood the test of time, but it is the residents, staff, volunteers and donors who—on a daily basis—make it the warm, inviting home that has served more than 500 people since opening its doors.

(Continued on pg. 12)

Donors make Baptist Manor update possible

Baptist Manor had quite a bit to celebrate as its 35th anniversary approached. Generous donations made it possible for two improvement projects in the last year. Through gifts from longtime friends Becky and John Surma, the Baptist Homes Auxiliary, and the George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell and Mary S. Campbell Foundation, ceiling fans were installed in the living room and bedroom of all 100 Baptist Manor apartments. The new fixtures provide more interior light and allow residents some control over the temperature of their unit year-round.

Another anonymous donation allowed Baptist Manor to convert bathtubs in 40 of the apartments to the more accessible cut-out tub. The donor is also making it possible to convert 20 additional tubs in the coming year.

Carol Fierst stated, "We are constantly striving to make improvements that will enhance the quality of life for our residents, and we are grateful to these donors who have partnered with us in accomplishing this goal." 🌿

Resident Hilda Handleman standing beneath her new ceiling fan.



Choices

Future Residency Program

Upon acceptance into Choices at the level you designate...

THREE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Diamond

For those who are ready to move in pending availability of the style of residence they have chosen and want to begin enjoying their new lifestyle now.

Requires a \$30,000 or \$50,000 deposit (based on size of residence selected)

Includes access to amenities and dining, priority access to healthcare and Care for Life option plus \$100 per month for dining and other services.

Platinum

For those planning to move within the next three years and want to become engaged in the community and take advantage of some of the amenities.

Requires a \$10,000 deposit

Includes access to amenities and dining, priority access to healthcare plus \$50 per month for dining and other services.

Gold

For those interested in moving within the next five years who want to explore the benefits of Providence Point's retirement living.

Requires a \$1,000 deposit

Includes access to our dining venues and invitations to selected community activities, priority access to healthcare and more.

All deposits within the plan guidelines are fully refundable.

Choices

Future Residency Program

Providence Point's new program offers perks for future residents

Providence Point reached an occupancy level of more than 95 percent in its independent living residences at the end of 2014. Due to the high demand, and to accommodate the many individuals who have expressed interest in joining the community in coming years, the marketing team introduced *Choices*, a new, expanded future



Choices members are invited to special community events and have the opportunity to meet current residents like Emily McCann and Jacqueline Lioon, shown here.



Those who join Choices at a Diamond or Platinum level can take advantage of Providence Point's fitness center, like residents Carolyn and Dick Westerhoff, here with Fitness Coordinator Jessica Higgs.

levels: Diamond, Platinum and Gold.

"This is a great way for people to experience our amenities and to get to know their future neighbors before moving in," explains **Eileen Moore**, the Director of Marketing for Independent Living at Providence Point.

Marketing Counselor **Claudia Scheibel** concurs, adding, "Many of the people who live at Providence Point have said they 'wished they had moved five or ten years earlier.' *Choices* makes it possible for people to experience our retirement lifestyle and make an informed decision about their future."

If you would like information about the *Choices* future residency program at Providence Point, call the marketing office at 412-489-3550. 🌿

Case study features Baptist Homes outcomes

Donors and staff come together to achieve results with real impact

In an article entitled, “*Reducing Falls in Long Term Care: A Case Study*,” recently submitted for publication to the *Annals of Long Term Care*, author Guy Fragala used a Baptist Homes study to help conclude that bed system design can play a significant role in maintaining a safe environment for skilled nursing residents and their caregivers.

Rossella Minniti, RN, Director of Nursing at Baptist Homes, researched equipment solutions in the hope that new beds could be obtained with features intended to reduce the risk of falls for residents.

Baptist Homes Society President **Al Allison, Jr.** directed the organization’s Foundation to seek funding. Grant commitments from Baptist Homes Auxiliary, the George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell and Mary S. Campbell Foundation, Joerns Healthcare, LLC, and John and Becky Surma enabled 41 beds to be acquired. The beds are wider and have a greater vertical range, promoting safety and good caregiver posture when delivering in-bed care.

Victoria Geisler, RN, Restorative Nurse Coordinator, reported that the new beds helped reduce falls by 29 percent and reduced the severity of fall-related injuries. As a result of the success reported on Baptist

66 percent when compared to the same two-month period one year earlier.

Although not a focus of the study, staff noted improvement in resident sleep patterns resulting in a better quality of life. After

reviewing our findings, BHS has committed \$100,000 from an anticipated bequest to purchase new beds for the remaining skilled nursing beds on the century-old Baptist Homes campus. They should be in place by June 30.

“I don’t believe I’ve seen any better example of donor support directly impacting the quality of life of our residents,” said BHS President Al Allison, Jr.

“I’m proud that what we’ve learned can also be shared with other healthcare providers

to better serve those entrusted to their care. This is what we’re about.”

A link to the proposed article may be found at www.baptisthomessociety.org. 🌿



Bruce Miller of Joerns Healthcare, LLC [second from left] presented a sponsorship check for the Baptist Homes Foundation Charity Golf Invitational to Baptist Homes Executive Director Bernie Erb with BHS Board member Tom Ague, and BHS President Al Allison also present. For the third straight year, Joerns Healthcare, supplier for the new beds, is serving as a sponsor, proceeds of which are directed to our Samaritan Fund for Resident Assistance.

Homes’ 41-bed dementia care unit and additional support from donors, Baptist Homes Society was able to acquire new beds for the short-term rehabilitation unit in August of 2014. In the two months following the installation of those new beds, falls in the short-term rehabilitation unit were reduced by

Foundation office relocates

Baptist Homes Foundation has relocated to 466 Castle Shannon Boulevard, directly across the street from the Baptist Homes campus. Calls may still be directed to 412-489-3260 and general information may be obtained on the Baptist Homes Foundation website at www.bhf.plannedgiving.org.

The move became necessary when the former site was needed for resident living space on the Providence Point campus. As both campuses approach capacity, the

Foundation is focusing on generating resources to assure a second century of service to those entrusted to our care.

We invite you to visit us at our new office and hope you will continue to support our mission through your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure. 🌿



*Jack Miller, CFRE,
Vice President for
Development*

Volunteer?

Baptist Homes Society relies on a great group of volunteers to help bring support and lively activities to our residents. Both communities are always in need of people to escort residents to activities and events and provide one-on-one visits. If you have a passion for helping seniors and would like to get involved, call **Dionne Rose** at Baptist Homes at 412.572.8254 or **Jessica Corey** at Providence Point at 412.489.3567 for more information. 🌿

Congratulations to our MVPs

Through an employee recognition program called Mission and Vision Personified (MVP), our outstanding staff members are nominated and recognized for their contributions to Baptist Homes Society.

Winners are selected by their peers and honored monthly and at an annual recognition event. This year,

the event was held on February 28, 2015. An MVP of the Year will also be selected for each campus (*see page 15*).

Baptist Homes Society also celebrates the excellent work of all staff by offering special activities on a monthly basis. Congratulations to the following staff members for their commitment to excellence. 🌿

BAPTIST HOMES MONTHLY MVPS



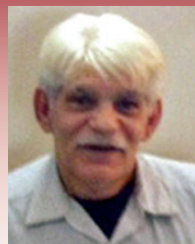
*Stephanie Elder
July 2014*



*Leslie Evans
August 2014*



*Natalie Reitmeyer
September 2014*



*George Pappas
October 2014*



*Jerome Nkhuwa
November 2014*



*Suellen Linkowski
December 2014*

PROVIDENCE POINT MONTHLY MVPS



*James Jones
July 2014*



*Chris Toth
August 2014*



*Paul Holland
September 2014*



*Brian Devlin
October 2014*



*Cindy Baker
November 2014*



*Ellen Haywiser
December 2014*

A Not-for-profit Organization



Golfing for a great cause

22nd Annual Baptist Homes Foundation Charity Golf Invitational

Baptist Homes Foundation invites you to attend the 22nd Annual Charity Golf Invitational on Monday, May 18, 2015 at Allegheny Country Club.

The Charity Golf Invitational includes lunch, on-course beverages and dinner. Guests may also participate in a silent auction, raffles and other contests. Proceeds benefit the Samaritan Fund for Resident Assistance, the fund that has enabled Baptist Homes and Providence Point to care for hundreds of individuals every year that might not otherwise be able to receive the quality care they deserve in their senior years.

Sponsorships range from a Double Eagle (\$15,000) to on-course tee sign opportunities (\$250). Already, Joerns Healthcare has signed on as a major sponsor and Bobby Rahal Automotive Group® has agreed to be the Hole-In-One sponsor. Some sponsorships include golf foursomes, advertising and prize donations. Non-golfers are also invited to the country club for dinner.

For information, go to www.bhf.plannedgiving.org. You can register securely online at Blacktie.com/Pittsburgh by clicking on our event date, May 18, 2015. You may also call the Foundation office at 412-489-3260 to register or to request an invitation in the mail. We invite you to be a sponsor, make a donation, or golf. We are seeking donations for door prizes and raffles. 🍀

Baptist Homes Foundation Charity Golf Invitational

Monday, May 18, 2015
Allegheny Country Club

REGISTRATION FORM

Check all that apply:

SPONSOR PACKAGES:

SOLD Double Eagle Sponsor (\$15,000)

___ Eagle Sponsor (\$10,000)

___ Birdie Sponsor (\$5,000)

___ Par Sponsor (\$3,300)

SOLD Dinner Sponsor (\$3,500)

___ Lunch Sponsor (\$2,500)

SOLD Hole-In-One Sponsor (\$1,500)

___ Hole Sponsor (\$250)

GOLF PACKAGES:

___ Foursome (\$1,500) ___ Individual (\$500)

DINNER ONLY: (limited to 75 persons)

___ Dinner Only (\$125 per person)

RAFFLE TICKETS: (based on PA Daily Lottery)

___ Tickets at \$10 each

TOTAL REMITTED: \$ _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Check enclosed
(Payable to Baptist Homes Foundation)

☐ Please bill me

☐ Please charge my:
VISA/MasterCard/Discover/AmExpress

Expiration Date: _____ CV# _____

Name on credit card: _____

Please complete and return the registration form to:

Baptist Homes Foundation, 489 Castle Shannon Blvd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15234, or FAX to (412) 572-8253,
or register and pay online at
www.baptisthomessociety.org
www.bhf.plannedgiving.org

No refunds for cancellations due to adverse weather conditions.

What's new at

Baptist HOMES

Live gracefully.



Dancing Divas delight audience at Winter Garden

Christmas season at Baptist Homes kicked off with a special opportunity on December 1, 2014. The Dancing Divas, a resident dance and performance group, were invited to perform at PPG Place's Winter Garden. The group delighted visitors at the popular downtown Christmas attraction with their seated dance routines choreographed to some of the season's most popular Christmas songs.

BH Bowlers join national league

Baptist Homes bowling season takes a new twist this year, as two of its top Wii bowling teams will compete in the National Senior League Wii Bowling Tournament. With



(left) Members of the resident group, the Dancing Divas, performed at PPG's Winter Garden during the holiday season. (right) Activities coordinator Laura Flaus helped serve Belgian waffle breakfasts to residents. (below) Wii bowling turns the Activity Room into a virtual bowling alley for Thomas Sullivan, Judith Hirschberg, Margaret Dice and MaryBeth Flickinger.

Leading Age sponsoring this year's tournament, the National Senior League is hoping for a turn-out of 300 communities.

Starting in February, teams from across the United States submit their weekly scores and compete to win. The tournament will take place over the course of seven to ten weeks.

Baptist Homes' teams have been practicing hard and getting into the swing of it.

Meet at the movies

The Denis Theatre Foundation in Mt. Lebanon invited Baptist Homes residents to participate in a program for seniors with dementia that stimulates engagement and memory. Collaborating with an organization called "Meet Me at the Movies & Make Memories," the



Denis Theatre Foundation shows a series of clips from old movies and invites participants to share their memories. The program promotes participation, audience discussion, and reminiscence. More events are being planned for the coming months.

Breakfast Valentines

Dining services staff served a special breakfast for Valentine's Day. Made-to-order Belgian waffles with fruit toppings and whipped

cream, and scrambled eggs, were served by staff, with all departments helping to prepare and deliver the breakfasts.

On a bitterly cold winter day, residents couldn't have asked for a warmer or sweeter treat!

Though breakfast is usually served in rooms, residents were encouraged to come to the country kitchens—even in their robes and PJs.

(Just like home!) Dietary

Technician **Charlene Walter** coordinated the event and the helping hands of many caring staff made it possible.

Beating winter's doldrums

Just about everyone starts wishing for spring when the cold days of winter linger a bit too long. Activities staff help residents stay

active by offering fun, informational and engaging programs. Movies, music, dancing, educational sessions, coffee socials, and crafts make frigid afternoons enjoyable.

A big challenge is ensuring that people can get to all the activities they want to attend. Baptist Homes staff and terrific volunteers do a great job of making that happen on a daily basis. 🌿



Florence Burns enjoyed the craft session where she made a Valentine owl.

Join us for the Baptist Homes Auxiliary Luncheon

May 5, 2015 at Noon in the Baptist Homes Dining Room

The Baptist Homes Auxiliary will hold its annual fundraising luncheon to benefit the Samaritan Fund for Resident Assistance at Baptist Homes on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, beginning at noon. In addition to a fabulous lunch, guests will be invited to participate in the basket raffle, and enjoy entertainment and fun. There will also be tickets available for the 'handbag raffle.' You could win a lovely handbag stuffed with great gift cards.

For more information, or if you want to attend or make a donation for the raffle, please contact **Cathy Luck** (412.655.4758) or **Sally Barnett** (412.793.4437).



Guests at last year's luncheon enjoyed the food, entertainment and raffles, and raised more than \$2000.

Providence POINT

*Where active seniors and a vibrant lifestyle
create a unique living experience.*



Annual holiday party

Providence Point's Resident Christmas parties are possibly the biggest social events throughout the community. As the community has filled (now more than 95 percent occupied and reserved), the annual party for those living in the apartment residences and patio homes has continued to grow.

The Common areas were overflowing during the December 2 event. Decked in holiday attire, guests enjoyed entertainment by a strolling violinist, two pianists, and carolers. Passed hors d'oeuvres, sparkling champagne punch and tables of cookies and pastries added to the holiday cheer.

Residents recall early move-in

While many of Providence Point's residents were winding down from the fifth anniversary celebration

(left) Throughout the dining rooms and common areas, holiday cookies and other treats enticed residents during the holiday party; (below) James Masilunas serves sparkling punch to Ruth Hayes.

that took place in September, a handful of residents were actually planning a sixth year anniversary.



In October, 2008, **Harold and Bonnie Amos** were the very first people to move into one of the patio homes on the Providence Point campus. A few weeks later, **George and Jinny Cochrane**, then **Bob and Ginny Patton** moved in. By the end of 2008, six couples had taken up residence in the patio homes amid the noise and final construction phase of the main building and apartment towers. They now look back fondly on that time amidst mud and construction, and celebrate the anniversary annually with a small gathering.

Providence Point hosts Scout's special honor

Bernard Queneau, at 102 years old, had accomplished many things in his life. And though his health was failing, he was thrilled to be honored as a Distinguished Eagle Scout for his adventure across the USA in 1928 as an Eagle Scout and other life achievements. He and three other scouts drove from New York to San Francisco in an era when the Lincoln Highway was the only Interstate roadway. It was an accomplishment he treasured.

When **George Cahill**, a former Scout executive of the Allegheny Trails Council and WWII veteran, and other Providence Point residents



Judge Livingstone Johnson and Awards Chair C.W. Kreimer of National Eagle Scout Association Pittsburgh listen to Bernard Queneau's tales of his Scout adventure.

heard that Bernard was to be honored as a Distinguished Eagle Scout, they rallied to help organize the event on December 6. Many dignitaries attended, including US Senator Tim Murphy, Judge Livingstone Johnson, and Admiral Bill McGowan.

Sadly, Queneau passed away the following day, yet he left a legacy of service for us to honor and remember.

Meet & Greet surprise

Prior to sitting down at the quarterly Board of Directors meetings, members of the Board are invited to meet with our seniors. This informal event for residents and board members alike, took on special meaning for Director **Terry Gruneberg** in January. As Terry moved among the residents who had assembled, he suddenly recognized his longtime neighbor, **Gata Bua**. The two of them spent time catching up



Rita Lucchino and Gata Bua chat with Director Terry Gruneberg at a recent Meet & Greet.

on events in their neighborhood.

Turning Techie

The Providence Point art studio is not only the perfect place to venture into watercolors or learn a new stitch. It is now the meeting place for those interested in a

technology boost. On Thursday afternoons in February, **Peggy Krall** provided instruction on technology tools like iPhones and iPads for residents who want to learn more about new technologies. The class is limited to just eight people, and is popular for those trying to stay abreast of technology. 🌿



Charles Snyder and Bonnie Amos get free instruction on use of their iPads from Peggy Krall.

Understanding the continuum of care

People move to Providence Point's independent living apartment and patio home residences for many reasons, and the continuum of care is often cited as the most important benefit. Yet, unless residents have used Providence Point's healthcare or personal care services, they often don't fully realize the value that their residency agreement provides within the continuum of care.

To help residents gain a broader understanding of their benefits and what to expect if or when they need healthcare services, the admissions and healthcare staff have begun a series of informational sessions. One of the most popular has been the Tour of Personal Care.

Those living independently are invited to see the beautiful suites and rooms in Personal Care and Memory Support areas. Tour participants meet staff, learn about services such as respite stays and post-rehabilitation care. Following the tour, they are invited to attend a question and answer period.

The popularity of the one-hour sessions has inspired staff to start some other programs to explain healthcare services offered throughout the continuum of care. Healthcare Clinic Manager **Kelli Jo Murphy** is planning a series of short question and answer sessions

about the clinic, and the healthcare department has begun regularly scheduled events to address various topics and provide information about their services. 🌿



Baptist Homes Society Controller Diane Mickail (standing) fields questions following a recent tour of the Personal Care residences.



Baptist Homes Society purchased property in Mt. Lebanon in 1915 and laid the cornerstone for this building that still overlooks Castle Shannon Blvd.

BAPTIST HOMES SOCIETY CELEBRATES 105 YEARS *(Continued from pg. 3)*

On March 26, 2015, Baptist Homes Society will celebrate 105 years of service to seniors in the Pittsburgh region. The organization is recognizing the event with on-campus events and a display of memorabilia and historical information that will travel around the campuses from March through May.

The organization leased its first home in West Newton, PA, in 1910. The building still stands. But the “Baptist Orphanage and Home Society of Western Pennsylvania,” outgrew the space quickly. In 1915, the organization procured the Mt. Lebanon property and began to build its own facility.

BAPTIST HOMES CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN MT. LEBANON

The cornerstone for the new Baptist Homes property in Mt. Lebanon was laid on May 30, 1915. There was a large home on the Mt. Lebanon property when

it was purchased. That served as a caretaker’s residence and housed the children until two cottages were built in 1926. The 1915 building

“As a child, one of my fondest memories was of ‘the bending tree.’ It grew beside and over the sidewalk between the two cottages. I spent many pleasant hours on that swing—swinging and weaving dreams of my future.”

DOROTHY FRYE CLARK

still stands and continues to serve as a residence.

In 1915, Mt. Lebanon had just become a newly established township making Baptist Homes Society one of the oldest organizations within the municipality. Mt. Lebanon’s rural landscape changed quickly. As the

community grew, so did Baptist Homes. The lives of many Mt. Lebanon residents are intertwined with Baptist Homes. People who grew up in Mt. Lebanon recall playing with the children who lived in the cottages. Others worked or volunteered at Baptist Homes or had family who lived with us in their senior years. Some of these memories are being gathered and will be placed on display in the coming months.

Baptist Homes Society’s service to the community has continued to grow. In addition to Baptist Manor, the nursing center was expanded in 1985 and the chapel built in 1988. Then in 2009, Providence Point opened.

The Board of Directors and leadership of Baptist Homes Society continue to respond to the needs of our community. This year, there is quite a bit to celebrate, and we hope you will join in.

If you would like to contribute memories or items for the exhibit, or would like to visit one of our campuses, please call **Marilyn Walsh** at 412-572-8258. 🌿



The “boys’ cottage” now serves as administrative offices. Children who lived here remember the “bending tree,” removed to accommodate the construction of Baptist Manor.

Residents rally for record appreciation fund gift

Families, residents, and other friends of Baptist Homes Society often want to give gifts, tips, or otherwise recognize employees for their service. Yet, state law and Baptist Homes Society policies prohibit gifts and gratuities to staff. As a solution, the BHS Board of Directors created the Employee Appreciation Fund (EAF). People who want to express their gratitude or honor an employee, department, or the organization, may contribute to the fund. At the end of the year, all proceeds are shared among employees. Those being honored receive notification of the gift and are noted in our *Gifts in Honor* portion of *Along the Journey* (see pg. 16).

In 2014, the Employee Appreciation Fund generated \$214,989, nearly \$33,000 more than the previous record.

The growth of this fund, in large part, is due to the



(above) Rich Klaber, Joan Marcinko, Vera Jane Cornes and chair Carl Schrock served as the Providence Point EAF Committee, raising nearly \$180,000 for the 2014 campaign. (below) Bernadette Capps and P.J. Compton raised \$818 at a Holiday Arcade, selling craft jewelry in support of the EAF Campaign.



involvement of a growing number of Providence Point residents who are eager to recognize the valuable services of our employees. Residents raised a specially made EAF flag in October to begin their fund-raising campaign, and held special events to generate funds.

At the end of the year, Baptist Homes Society's 580 non-executive employees on both campuses received a share of the fund.

The Board of Directors, the members of the Executive Team, the Baptist Homes Foundation, and all staff who benefitted from the generosity of those we serve, extend appreciation to every person who contributed to the campaign.

Foundation Vice President **Jack Miller** stated, "Thank you for recognizing our employees for their commitment to serve and make a difference in people's lives." 🌿

CMU to assess and assist with technology



Baptist Homes Unit Manager Christy Reeves, and others, use wireless technology to record and to transmit medical information.

Technology has become part of every aspect of our lives, including life at Baptist Homes Society communities. To remain abreast of changes in technology and ensure the security and efficiency of our systems, Baptist Homes Society reached out to Carnegie Mellon University's Technology Consulting in the Community (TCIC) program. The 13-week program is a university-community partnership.

The TCIC program, led by **Joe Mertz**, PhD, Associate Teaching

Professor at the H.J. Heinz College, pairs graduate students with an organization to support and assess various aspects of computer and technology systems. CMU Master of Science degree candidate **Shreya Bhushan** selected Baptist Homes Society as her project. In the coming weeks, she will review our technology infrastructure and ultimately make recommendations to help Baptist Homes Society ensure the security of our data systems. 🌿



Walking study has multiple benefits

Baptist Homes Society's Wellness department is participating in a three-year research study with Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the University of Pittsburgh. The randomized trial held at various senior living and community centers throughout the Pittsburgh area will compare two different exercise programs to improve walking in older adults. The study will provide BHS campuses with an opportunity to assess our walking programming, and all of our residents who participate will benefit from the exercise and knowledge gained. 🌿

BHS to test latest technology

Always looking for ways to better serve our residents, Baptist Homes Society will participate in an innovative clinical study called "Hello Nurse." Findings from the 60-day study, taking place on Providence Point's campus, could have national implications.

The Hello Nurse system, developed by Elder Care Innovations, LLC, is a revolutionary wireless resident monitoring system.

The system monitors movement and wetness, allowing caregivers to manage residents who are fall risks or bedbound and need to be repositioned while electronically logging all alerts and their subsequent resolutions for reporting purposes. The alerts are sent to the caregivers via pagers.

Providence Point is the first facility to test the entire system in Pennsylvania and the first in America to test for wetness detection. The wetness detection is done via a sticker the size of a mailing label that is placed outside of the brief. The system has been in development and testing for over five years. The data from Providence Point will be used to further improve and prepare the system to be sold worldwide.

Because of initial meetings with Providence Point staff, Hello Nurse is already adding new alerts to the product. Tests are currently being performed in China, Singapore and Taiwan. Stay tuned for more on this innovative project. 🌿

The gift of kind words

"After almost a month in the hospital, this rehab experience was exactly what I needed."
--John

"All of your employees knew their jobs and performed same wonderfully. They treated me as a friend, not a patient."
--Charles

"Everyone has made my mother feel comfortable and cared about. She said everyone always smiles and that makes her feel good."
--Jean

"Your staff—everyone—seemed dedicated to their jobs, were personable and encouraging—very well run! Also the food was outstanding."

Baptist Homes Society relies on the generosity of families and friends to support the mission of benevolent care that is at the root of our organization. Your support is vital to our ability to ensure that those who are in our care are never uprooted or turned away because their funds become exhausted or are insufficient to fully pay for services. This year alone, thanks to generous donations, endowed funds and other gifts, we were able to provide about \$1.8 million in direct and indirect aid to residents of our communities.

We are also thankful for the kind words that often accompany the letters and gifts you send. We are proud to share these notes of gratitude with our staff and our supporters. Notes from families, residents, and others reaffirm our commitment to our mission of providing compassionate care and enriched living to those in our care.

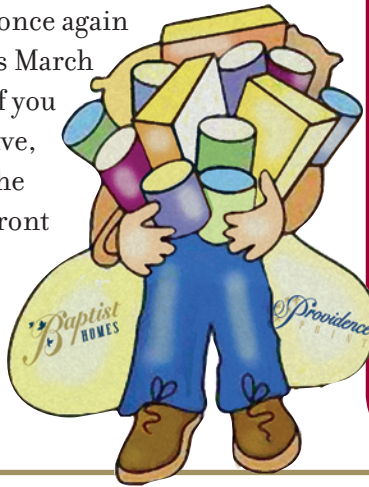
Thank you. 🌿

Community Collection Challenge begins

As a service organization, Baptist Homes Society recognizes its role in supporting the surrounding community, responding to community needs in much the same way the community responds to our resident needs. South Hills Interfaith Ministries has been an important partner over the years. At times, the food pantry has been there to help our staff, volunteers or residents. At other times, we are privileged to help SHIM continue its important work.

This spring, Baptist Homes Society will once again hold a food drive for SHIM. The drive begins March 16 and runs through the end of the month. If you would like to support SHIM through this drive, you can send or drop off your donations to the healthcare desk at Providence Point or the front desk at Baptist Homes.

Just for fun, our two campuses take on a challenge. The facility with the most donations gets to display a home-made soup can trophy for the year. 🌿



Our wishes

If you'd like to help Baptist Homes Society address a major need, contact the Foundation office at 412-489-3260. There are recognition opportunities as well as ways to give anonymously. Here are a few current priority needs:

- Endowment (\$500,000)
- BH elevator repairs (\$175,000)
- 21 recliners for Providence Point Memory Support (\$19,000)
- Windows for Baptist Homes' Chapel (\$17,500)
- Mechanical lift for residents (\$7,500)
- ElderSong (music library) (\$3,000)
- Vital sign monitoring cart (\$2,500)
- Brain health speaker fee (\$1,500)
- Pool supplies/equipment (\$1,500)
- Laptop computers (\$1,500)

Milestones and more



Worth Helms

It is with much gratitude and appreciation that Baptist Homes Society announced the retirement of two longtime members of its Board of Directors this fall. Between the two of them, **Worth Helms** and **Dave Berry** have served the Baptist Homes Society community close to 40 years.

Worth Helms joined the Board of Directors in 1980. He is a retired representative of Northwestern Mutual. For 35 years, Worth has helped guide Baptist Homes Society



Dave Berry

through many of its strategic initiatives.

Dave Berry has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2005. He is a retired Sales Engineer, works as a fire inspector and serves as a chaplain for Mt. Lebanon Fire Department. Both Worth and Dave have been passionate about the BHS mission and have generously shared their time, talents and expertise. They will be missed, yet their impact on BHS will be felt and remembered for years to come. 🌿

Donald McFarland, DO, has been named the new Medical Director for Baptist Homes. He is a member of the Preferred Primary



Dr. McFarland

Care Physicians group with an office in Bridgeville. 🌿



Laura Flaus

Congratulations to two staff members selected as annual MVPs at the Awards celebration on February 28. Coincidentally, both winners are vital members of their respective Memory Support units. Baptist Homes staff selected Activity Coordinator **Laura Flaus**. Providence Point chose Medication Aide **Vivian Statheros**. Both awardees received a one-time award of \$1000 in appreciation. 🌿



Vivian Statheros

Thank you, Interim

In December, 2014, Interim Healthcare made a generous contribution to the Samaritan Fund for Resident Assistance in recognition of Baptist Homes Society's commitment to its mission of providing the highest quality of living for all those we serve. The check was presented by Interim Healthcare Patient Care Representative **Christina Lonigro**. On hand to accept the check were (l to r) Board Director **Thomas Ague**, Baptist Homes Executive Director **Bernard Erb**, and BHS President & CEO **Al Allison, Jr.**



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Great care has been taken in preparing this list. If we have inadvertently omitted the names of one of our supporters, our apologies are offered along with our desire to correct the information. Please contact 412.489.3260 if that has been the case.

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Great care has been taken in preparing this list. If we have inadvertently omitted the names of one of our supporters, our apologies are offered along with our desire to correct the information. Please contact 412.489.3260 if that has been the case.



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SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Organizing a
move
and the rewards
of letting go**

presented by

Leslie Lutz, HomeAnew

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
at Providence Point

Registration 4:00 p.m.

Presentation 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn about the move process,
the problems that may arise,
and how to create a new attitude.

Contact Sue Lauer at 412.350.9654
or slauer@baptisthomes.org

**22nd Annual
Baptist Homes
Foundation
Charity Golf
Outing**

Monday, May 18, 2015
Allegheny Country Club

For information, see
page 7, visit our website,
www.bhf.plannedgiving.org,
call 412.489.3260 or email
jmiller@baptisthomes.org

**Baptist Homes
Auxiliary
Spring Buffet
Luncheon**

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
12:00 noon

Baptist Homes
Dining Room

Entertainment, raffles and fun
to benefit the Samaritan Fund
for Resident Assistance

Call 412.793.4437 for tickets