



Celebrating 10 Years at *The GreenFields*

2001 - 2011

In October of 2001 the first residents moved into their GreenField Court assisted living apartments. Shortly thereafter, GreenField Manor welcomed its first residential apartment home dwellers. After more than a year and a half of planning, fund raising and construction, the second phase of The GreenFields Continuing Care Community became a reality. GreenField Court & Manor complemented the skilled nursing, rehabilitation and outpatient therapy services already offered at GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Today, several original residents of GreenField Court and GreenField Manor are still very active members of the campus. Some have even taken advantage of the various levels of care provided on campus and have remarked about how wonderful it was to be able to do that.

“Knowing my friends were nearby and able to visit really helped me when I was in rehab at GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center after surgery,” says one of these residents. Another Manor resident, whose husband now needs skilled nursing care, comments, “I am glad I live so close to the nursing home. It’s easy to visit my husband as often as I’d like.”

The GreenFields, which offers priority access to all the services on campus to its residents and has no entrance fee, is one of Western New York’s most sought-after housing and healthcare options. People come to The GreenFields for a variety of reasons.



Being centrally located in Lancaster, it offers a continuum of care in a convenient location for residents, their friends and families in the East Aurora, Elma and Southtowns area. For others, the Lutheran connection is what brought them. They knew that the same attitude of *Caring ~ Heart & Soul* would be present at The GreenFields as it has always been at Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center and Lutheran Church Home on our Buffalo campus. For even others, it was word of mouth and the experiences of others that brought them to The GreenFields.

Whether they have lived at The GreenFields for ten years or ten months, GreenFields’ residents agree that moving to this friendly, affordable community is the best decision they could have made.

Celebrations included a 10-Year Anniversary Celebration & Open House in September and a special Worship Service of Thanksgiving on October 1.



Original Residents—Seated L to R: Betty Brown, June Collins, Buna Doerr, Erla Hall, Evelyn Jacobus, Jane Kinkead (recently deceased), Esther Kellogg, Henrietta Schlotterbeck, Jeanette Heiss. Standing L to R: Marge Beman, Charlie Blackwell, Christine Manchester, Don Scholz, Mary Dianetti, Ola Benzee.

“*Being nice to people who make your life difficult is a choice, an act of love. It happens every day at GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center.* ~ Jason Maier”

EMPLOYEE ANNUAL APPEAL



The Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation conducts an Employee Annual Appeal throughout the Health System each year to seek contributions in support of resident needs. Our 2010 goal was to raise a total of \$40,000 from employees of all Niagara Lutheran Health System facilities. During our appeal, 319 Health System employees contributed a total of \$45,865 to the campaign (115% of our goal), which stands as our third-highest Employee Annual Appeal total ever.

Despite the sluggish economy, the average employee gift amount was \$144. Congratulations to all of our compassionate employees who made this drive such a wonderful success!

LETTERS FROM THE HEART

The nursing home experience revolves around emotions: indecision, grief, worry and too frequently, a profound sense of guilt. For nearly twenty years, I watched helplessly as Huntington's disease devoured my father's mind, body, and dignity. When the time came for around-the-clock care, it was an emotional adjustment for the whole family (even in a setting as beautiful as GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center).

It takes some very special people to care for a man like my father, Richard Maier. I loved him deeply, but there's no denying that he was free-spirited, eccentric, and stubborn to the core. He refused to accept that there was anything wrong with him, or that he needed help. For five years, my father put his GreenField caregivers through the wringer.

Most of the time, my dad wandered the premises. The nurses wanted him to use the elevator, so naturally he took the stairs. Wherever he roamed, he was greeted warmly by the staff. You might think, "Well, the staff is *expected* to be nice to residents – it's their job!" But that doesn't make it any easier. Being nice to the people who make your life difficult is a *choice*. It's an act of love. And in my family's experience, it happens every day at Greenfield Health & Rehabilitation Center. Care giving is a grueling ministry. I didn't fully understand it until my father was dying and my daughter was born with special needs. Fortunately, the Jesuits at Canisius High School taught me the doctrine of *cura personalis*: "care and concern for the whole person." In the same vein, I pray that Niagara Lutheran's commitment to *Caring ~ Heart & Soul* continues to resonate with its leaders in every endeavor.

The night before he died, my father's breathing was labored. He was in terrible distress. Somewhat impatiently, I asked the GreenField attending physician if he was doing everything in his power to ease my father's suffering. I'll never forget the doctor's response, because it was so poignant and sincere: "Richard is part of our family, too."

~ Jason Maier, East Aurora, New York



Richard (left) and Jason Maier

JUNE SCHILLINGER ~ Retired & still actively involved



In February June Schillinger officially retired from her position as Executive Assistant to the President/CEO of the Niagara Lutheran Health System after more than 30 years. June has always been actively involved in her church and through that became a volunteer for the Lutheran Church Home, Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center, and was an active Guild member. While Guild President she was asked to represent the Guild at board meetings and was eventually invited to become a board member. She worked as assistant to the administrator and then to the President/CEO. Never one to sit around, June continues her mission of service by volunteering at NLHRC and as a member of the executive board and various committees.

NLHS GUILD MEETINGS & FUNDRAISERS

[Thursday, NOV. 17 at 11:30 am](#)

GHRC Chapel and Aud
Program: The VICTORIAN DANCERS
will demonstrate dances & clothing
of the era

[Thursday, DEC. 8 at 11:30 am](#)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
68 Eagle St., Williamsville
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION &
FUNDRAISER with theme baskets.
Program: QUEEN CITY CHORDSMEN
with barbershop quartets and
holiday favorites



NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder which you do not require is needed by others.” - St. Augustine of Hippo

Funds raised by the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation help to improve the quality of life for our residents and the work environment for our caregivers by contributing toward the expansion of our facilities and the purchase of necessary equipment, programs, and furnishings. Gifts to the Foundation offset reimbursement underpayments and assist us in caring for those who can no longer care for themselves. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the many individuals and organizations that have shown extraordinary support of our mission and vision.

2010 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation donors become members of our *Leadership Council* with annual gifts totaling \$500 or more. The 2010 campaign was co-chaired by Foundation Trustees Linda Dobmeier, Vice President of Dobmeier Janitor Supply, and Michael Straeck, President/ CEO of Buffalo Ultrasound.



Linda Dobmeier & Michael Straeck

Our 2010 drive focused on raising funds for the new automated fire protection sprinkler system that was installed in the Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center (NLHRC) this past spring. This installation was federally mandated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and failure to install the sprinkler



system by August, 2013, would have resulted in the mandated closure of NLHRC.

This new sprinkler system greatly increases the chances of survival for our residents, volunteers, and staff in the case of a catastrophic fire. Unfortunately, such protection comes at a high price, as the cost of installing the sprinkler system in NLHRC was over \$900,000.

Funds raised through the 2010 *Leadership Council* campaign were used to install the NLHRC sprinkler system and preserve our fifty-four year old history of caring for the frail elderly within the City of Buffalo. Our goal was to raise a total exceeding \$215,000, and gifts totaling \$341,332 were received by the Foundation during the campaign (159% of goal). Our 2010 campaign total is a new record high, exceeding our previous record total of \$309,475 set in 2008 by over 10%.

Our 2011 *Leadership Council* campaign is now in full swing, and your support again this year would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Foundation at 716-886-4377, or via email us at: Foundation@NiagaraLutheran.org.



Legacies for Life is a special program that recognizes generous friends who have given a planned gift through provisions in a will, trust, insurance policy, individual retirement plan, or the like. *Legacies for Life* provides an excellent opportunity for you to leave a legacy of your own, while also enabling us to continue our mission of caring for those in need.

Niagara Lutheran's *Legacies for Life* program currently has 79 living members and 81 deceased benefactors. We have confirmed a total of 61 new *Legacies for Life* members since we launched this planned giving program in 2005. We would be pleased to work with you to arrange a planned gift that best suits your interests. For more information, please contact David McMullen, Director of Development, at 716-886-4377, or via email at: dmcmullen@NiagaraLutheran.org.

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“The staff at GreenField Court provided outstanding support that eased my father’s move at 96 plus. The care is the best we will find anywhere. ~ Terry Beerman & Nina Ruth Wright”



The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held in August.



Thomas and Wilma Nantka with the stained glass window he designed and crafted for the new Prayer Chapel at GreenField Manor.



Residents, families, friends, and staff attended the 10-Year Anniversary Worship Service of Thanksgiving at GreenField Manor on Oct. 1.



2010 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR (L to R): Mary Lou Aepelbacher (GCM), James Houghton (GHRC), Joanne White (LCH), Barbara Schwartz (NLHRC).



Buffalo Sabre Patrick Kaleta, whose great-aunt is Manor resident Dorothy Marycinski, visited residents at both GHRC and the Manor & Court. GHRC resident Doris Gilbert was pleased to get his autograph.



Donald Will was presented the NLHS Caring ~ Heart & Soul Award at the Leadership Council "Food for Thought" event on September 20.



2010 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR (L to R): Carmen Mullen (NLHRC), Veronica Nemes (LCH), Cecilia Seger (GHRC), Reva Shaw (GCM).



THE GREENFIELDS HOLIDAY BAZAAR



The GreenFields Holiday Bazaar, which began as a convenience for residents and was later opened to the public, has become so popular that this year there will be a total of 50 vendors at BOTH GreenField Manor and GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center. Shuttle service between buildings and refreshments will also be available.

YOUR FAVORITE VENDORS will be there: home parties, crafts, home décor, gifts, jewelry, pet accessories, quilts, holiday treats – and MUCH MORE!

There will also be **FAMILY FUN** in the form of horsedrawn wagon rides, face painting, caricature artist, kettle corn, hot chocolate, and cider. Santa will also be there, of course. Call 684-8400 for more information.

Lancaster Opera House is holding its 25th Annual Craft Show, with 40 vendors expected, the same day at nearby Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral • 6298 Broadway, Lancaster.

*Saturday
NOVEMBER 19
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
The GreenFields
5949 Broadway
Lancaster*

DASH'S RECEIPTS



The NLHS Guild collects Dash's register receipts, turns them in for cash, and uses that money to directly benefit our residents.

The tapes add up quickly. Please bring your Dash's receipts to any of the NLHS affiliate's reception desks or mail them to:
NLHS Guild
64 Hager Street
Buffalo, NY 14208

GUILD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS - ALWAYS GIVING

How do people volunteer? Let us count the ways!



At Greenfield Health & Rehabilitation Center (GHRC) and Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center (NLHRC), volunteers distribute mail, magazines and books, transport residents to church and the beauty shop, assist residents with activities such as seasonal parties, bingo, bowling, cards, scrabble, horse racing, cooking, learning French or sharing their hobbies, and going on trips. GHRC has several volunteers who come in for “guy things.” There is a veteran’s group that visits on their Harleys, often taking photos with residents. They even have a veteran’s picnic. Another volunteer, who is a wood carver, teaches carving, using bars of soap. Volunteers at Lutheran Church Home and Greenfield Court assisted living facilities read books with residents and operate hospitality carts. They also help with Bible study and birthday and bingo parties, sometimes hosted by church women’s groups. Greenfield Manor and Court volunteers manage their cafe, read to others, mend clothes, service the library, garden on the grounds. and make lap robes.

Other volunteers work in the offices of the various affiliates shredding, filing, mailing and sometimes typing. A few provide music for resident enjoyment and for worship. Last, but not least, volunteers at the GHRC gift shop manage the shop, stock the shelves, wait on customers and keep the shop clean and attractive.

I often wonder what we would do without these faithful and generous volunteers who work in ways too numerous to count. May God continue to bless us with volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents, and sometimes their treasures, for the benefit of our residents. ~ Florence Doran, NLHS Guild President

If you’d like to learn more about volunteering, call Vivian Cosentino at 886-4377, ext. 365.

MEETING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS

Meeting the spiritual needs of our residents is as important as meeting their physical needs. With that in mind, the Pastoral Care Committee of the Niagara Lutheran Health System (NLHS) gives an enormous and hearty THANKS! to those who serve in this capacity on a regular basis — our core group of nearly 150 pastors, priests, ministers, eucharistic ministers, chaplain assistants, pianists, organists, visitors, worship assistants, and more. The Reverend Allen Griep, NLHS Chaplain, and the Pastoral Care Department coordinate the efforts of these individuals and are always looking for ways to be of assistance. For example, after a number of requests for personal Bibles, the Pastoral Care Department coordinated with area Gideons who came and distributed Bibles on each campus to every resident and staff member who was interested in receiving one.

This spring residents and family members were requested to complete a survey of their perception of pastoral services. Results were very positive most respondents said that the regularly scheduled worship services at each affiliate, led by area Lutheran pastors and Roman Catholic clergy in most cases, were very important to them. They were also pleased with the Bible studies that Pastor Griep has been leading at each affiliate on a regular basis. Several commented that knowing every effort would be made to arrange for spiritual counseling was also a great comfort.

Our Chaplain Assistant program has been running strong for the past three years. However, because life has changed for some of our Chaplain Assistants, they are no longer able to serve in the same capacity that they have in the past. We are currently recruiting faithful individuals with a heart for service who would like to be part of this important ministry at Niagara Lutheran. If you are interested in learning more, or know of someone you feel would be a good candidate, please contact Pastor Griep at 886-4377, ext. 365 or 692-6380. You can also send an email to pastoralcare@niagaralutheran.org.



Recognized at the Pastoral Care Appreciation Dinner in May by Rev. Allen Griep, Chaplain (LtoR): Rev. Devie Ellis, Rev. Michael Blackwell, Charles Blackwell, Chris Manchester, Bruce Jacobs, Maureen Weibel, Judy Bratty, Cheryl Parr, & Father Emil Swiatek.

“Your staff made my mom a part of their family, and in so doing, we had a new family as well. . . . she was always treated with respect and patience. It was very clear that she was loved. ~ Kathy Beeny & Family (Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center)”



HEARTBEAT

is published by

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM

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*For corrections or comments regarding
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(716) 684-8400

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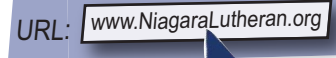
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VISIT OUR NEWLY REVISED WEBSITE

www.NiagaraLutheran.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

The GreenFields Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 19, 2011

9 AM - 3 PM

5949 Broadway, Lancaster, NY (716) 684-8400

NLHS Guild

Christmas Luncheon & Fundraiser

Thursday, December 8, 2011

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
68 Eagle Street, Williamsville NY

*Enjoy your favorite holiday songs with The Queen City Chordsmen.
There will be Theme Baskets & Door Prizes too. Everyone is
invited! Call 836-6803 for reservations.*

A MISSION OF



Our mission is to provide for the physical,
social, and spiritual needs of the individuals
we serve, in a Christian environment.