



Saint Mary's Home of Erie

The Mirror

A Publication of Saint Mary's Home of Erie

July 2009

Caring across the Centuries  125 years

Loving to Care

Many of you are aware of Saint Mary's Home of Erie's Mission of "Loving to Care". Another aspect of our Mission, which you may not be as familiar with, is "fostering an atmosphere of community".

You may have noticed our van or the LIFT full of our Residents in various parts of the Erie area. Our Activities Departments, along with our Volunteers (The Friends of Saint Mary's), are continually looking for new venues and/or activities for our Nursing, Residential and Adult Day Services Residents/Clients to enjoy. This is an important aspect of our culture change at Saint Mary's. A few of the opportunities afforded our Residents have included: a trip to the movies, shopping at the Mall or various stores of choice in the area, a SeaWolves Game, lunch at a favorite restaurant, a night at the horse races and Casino, a ride around the Peninsula and of course a trip to Sara's!

Several of our Residents participated in or actually held a local art show. Ask to see their art work and awards!

Inhouse activities have taken on a new and expanded sense of community. Whether it is daily Mass or an Ecumenical Service, Wii bowling, an afternoon on our putting green or outdoor exercise equipment at Asbury, monthly birthday parties, coffee hour following Sunday Mass (for our Residents, Families, and Friends), a Senior Prom for

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Mission Statement

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and operated in the Catholic tradition, Saint Mary's Home of Erie is committed to an environment of loving to care where primarily seniors, their families, staff and volunteers participate in fostering an atmosphere of community.

Vision Statement

Saint Mary's Home of Erie, through partnership, networking, and referrals will be a principal enabler to primarily seniors in the Erie Community aiding them in living their lives in a respectful, dignified and fulfilled manner.

the Asbury Ridge Residential and Carriage Home Residents, an inside Mardi Gras parade (at the Gallagher Center) complete with homemade floats, a salute to our Residents and their families who are Veterans and/or serving in our Armed Services, a short wheelchair ride outside to view our beautifully landscaped grounds or the construction at the East facility – Saint Mary's is attempting to create or foster an atmosphere of community for each person as far as they are able to participate.

Our Employees join in this endeavor by their contributions for the Alzheimer Association on "Jeans Day", their donations of needed goods for the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network at our Mission Day, their daily living out of our Mission, or volunteer activities throughout Erie.

You will notice our Saint Mary's East Lobby sporting new "senior friendly" furniture, a fireplace, and a coffee nook. We are elated to see so many more Residents, Families, and Visitors enjoying this space and one another – making community – if you will!

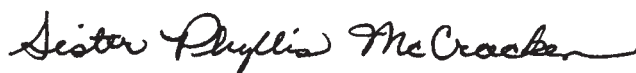
It's all about bringing people together in as many different ways as possible – to suit our various needs and abilities – which enables community to naturally occur! It reminds me of the Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania – that of "unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God".

Saint Mary's partners with local organizations such as a group of not-for-profit long term care facilities in Healthcare Ventures Alliance and the larger Western Pennsylvania Alliance of Senior Service Providers. We are members of The Catholic Health Association and its Pennsylvania organization, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and its state portion, PANPHA. These are just a few of the organizations we partner with in an effort to build community, quality, and efficiencies among long term care providers.

As I write this article, we eagerly await federal moves on health care reform and the unknown Commonwealth budget details. We pray that they are positive for long term care services and the most rapidly growing population in our country.

We're on the move at Saint Mary's and we ask you to join us as we move actively into the future.

After all – we're Saint Mary's and we're all about YOU!



Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ
President/CEO



Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ
President/CEO

Our Mission of "loving to care" and "fostering an atmosphere of community" flows out of the Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of "unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God".

Saint Mary's East and Asbury Ridge Rehab Departments Receive Awards

The Administration and Employees of Saint Mary's would like to congratulate the Saint Mary's East Alliance Rehab Team who received the Exemplary Customer Service Award from Alliance Rehab/HVA. This award was based on patient satisfaction, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, and upholding the mission/vision and core values of Alliance Rehab.

Congratulations also to the Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Alliance Rehab Team who received the Overall Performance of the Year Award from Alliance Rehab/HVA. This award was based on patient satisfaction, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, fiscal responsibility, stewardship, teamwork, and upholding the mission/vision and core values of Alliance Rehab.

Both of the Alliance Rehab Teams received excellent customer and patient satisfaction surveys. Alliance Rehab has contracted with Saint Mary's for the past 8 years. The Administration, Employees, and Residents would like to thank everyone who works for the Alliance Rehab Teams at Saint Mary's for helping us fulfill our Mission of "Loving to Care." Congratulations and keep up the great work!



Pictured above is the Saint Mary's East Alliance Rehab Team:
Back row (left to right) are Michelle Almon, Sue Przyblak, Ann Johnson, and Kim Gnarra.
Front Row (left to right) are Amy McCall and Brian Komisarski.
Not pictured are Tiffany Veres and Carolyn Dixon.

Pictured right is the Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Alliance Rehab Team:

Back Row (left to right) are Shelly Willemsen, Amy Seeley, Michelle Kuzma, and Emily Plonski.

Front Row (left to right) are Jessica Jennings and Ashley Dawley.

Not pictured is Heather Amy.



AROUND OUR HOME...

Oh Danny Boy

(Left to right) Katy Capito, Asbury Ridge LPN; Theresa Conley, Asbury Ridge Resident; and Dan Geary, Bagpiper, pose for a picture after Dan's performance on March 27th. Dan performed a number of songs on his bagpipe for the Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Skilled Nursing Residents.



Mission Day 09



(Left to right) are Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, and Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ in front of Employee donations from Saint Mary's Mission Day Celebration on March 19, 2009. The items collected were donated to the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network which is one of the sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Saint Mary's Employees are extending their mission of "Fostering an Atmosphere of Community" to the greater Erie Community by supporting organizations like the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

Community Education Programs



Dr. Dorothy Candib, MD kicked off our 2009 Community Education Programs with a presentation on Behavioral Disturbances in Alzheimer's. Dr. Candib is the Medical Director for Saint Mary's East. Over 80 guests attended this Community Event.

Honoring Our Own Heroes



Saint Mary's Gallagher Center Residents, Family Members, and Employees celebrated Memorial Day with a special program called "Honoring Our Own Heroes." The Naval Reserve started the program with a "meet and greet" followed by a flag ceremony. An ongoing slide show of Gallagher Center Residents and Family Members who served our country was part of the emotional celebration honoring our own heroes.



A Sweet Tour for Saint Mary's East Residents

(Left to right) Kaytee Britt, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Employee, is showing Paul Gray, Saint Mary's East Resident, how to make a Krispy Kreme doughnut. Residents from Saint Mary's East toured Krispy Kreme in April. Each Resident had a chance to make a doughnut during the tour.

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Residents Receive Art Awards



Congratulations to Sandra Mead and Ralph Cooney who received honorable mention for their art pieces that were entered into the 2009 Senior Art Exhibit sponsored by Independent Council on Aging this Spring. Above (left) Sandra is pictured with her art piece entitled "councilwoman." Above (right) Ralph is pictured with his art piece entitled "Monkey."

Historic Print Donated



A historic print of Saint Mary's Home of Erie was recently donated by James Duchini to Saint Mary's. Presenting the print are (left) Christina Mulvin, Sales Manager, A. Duchini Inc. and James Duchini, President, A. Duchini Inc. to (right) Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, President and CEO, Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

The Administration and Employees would like to thank the Duchini's for their beautiful donation.

Senior Prom & Spring Fashion Show

The end of May not only marked the start of Prom season for high school students, but it also marked the 5th Annual Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Senior Prom. The Senior Prom was conceived by an Asbury Ridge Couple 5 years ago. They thought it would be wonderful to go to a Prom again so they put together a committee and began planning a true "Senior" Prom. Tragically the wife of the couple passed away shortly before the first Senior Prom took place. Since then the Residents at Asbury Ridge have carried on the Prom by making it an annual event. This year the Prom was themed "Somewhere over the Rainbow." The Prom started with a happy hour followed by a sit-down dinner. Of course there was also plenty of dancing and entertainment!



The 2009 Senior Prom King and Queen were Clarence and Helen Schaal. Congratulations to this wonderful couple.



The Residents of the Carriage Homes and Asbury Ridge Residential Living enjoyed an evening of music, dancing, food, and entertainment at the 2009 Senior Prom.

At Saint Mary's East the beginning of June marked the beginning of what appears to be the start of a new annual event, The Spring Fashion Show. This was an intergenerational event that brightened the lives of anyone who was fortunate enough to attend it. Saint Mary's East Employees (many high school students) and their friends wore tuxedos, prom dresses, and beautiful Spring clothing as they walked a runway in front of a packed room of Residents and Family Members. After the first set of Employees walked the runway, they would then each take a turn walking the runway again, but this time with a Saint Mary's Resident. A number of Residents at Saint Mary's wore their best outfits as they modeled them on the runway with their younger counterpart.



Anne Cage, Saint Mary's East Resident and Eric Meyer, Saint Mary's East Dietary Aide.



Marissa Zastawa, Saint Mary's East Dietary Aide and Frank Jurewicz, Saint Mary's East Resident.

Congratulations to the Employees and Residents who put their heart and soul into both of these events. Thank you for making Saint Mary's the Community it is!

Employees Honored for

Fifty-three Employees of Saint Mary's Home of Erie were honored for their years of service and dedication at the 2009 Employee Service Award Recognition Dinner. The Recognition Dinner was held on May 13, 2009 at the Erie Maennerchor Club.



40 & 30 Years of Service

(Left to right) are Linda Palombi (40 years) and Lucy Negrón (30 years).

Not pictured are Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ (40 years) and Janice Malina (30 years).



25 Years of Service

(Left to right) are JoAnn Pratt, Heidi Patterson, and Mattie Appling.



20 Years of Service

(Left to right) are Tammy Adamaszek, Cheryl Kissell, Audrey Urban, and William Rabbitt.

Years of Service



15 Years of Service

(Left to right) are Margaret Plavcan, WillieMary Montgomery, Margaret Wieczorek, and Sister Naomi Wood, SSJ. Not pictured is Heidi Tomaso.

10 Years of Service

(Left to right) are Margaret Rodak, Donna Reed, Karen Kern, Tammy Tate, Julie McCreary, Stacy Pullium, Chad Zampogna, Tanya Jordan, Ramona Glover, Dionna Durr, and Robin Bretz. Not pictured is Diana Szocki.



5 Years of Service



(Left to right) are Nicole Demyan, Brenda Taylor, Toni Jones, Barbara Shields, Shannadda Crosby, Diane Allegretto, Gayle Meyer, Courtney Landis, Latonya Norris, and Machel Long. Not pictured are Shelly Brotherson, Debra Turk, Benjamin Jurino, Leah Mason, Daniel Vicander, Jaclyn Davis, Margaret Badach, Michele Williams, Kimberly Reusche, Amy Foltyn, Scott McKay, Sedina Barucija, Thomas Nichols, Kathryn Gedgudas, and David Hess.



The Friends of Saint Mary's **VOLUNTEERS HONORED**

More than 70 volunteers and guests attended the Friends of Saint Mary's 2009 Volunteer Recognition Dinner. This special event honored those who spend countless hours volunteering at Saint Mary's Home of Erie. Receiving special recognition for completing 100 volunteer hours this past year were Barb Gunesch, Adelaide Sperduto, Camille Hardner, Audrey Meyer, Carol Caldwell, Carolyn Keegan, and Christine Opron.



Pictured above, back row (left to right) are Barb Gunesch; Dionna Durr, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Activities Director; Adelaide Sperduto; Camille Hardner; Diane Lutz, Saint Mary's East Activities Director; Audrey Meyer; and Audrey Urban, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Administrator. Front row (left to right) are Carol Caldwell; Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, Saint Mary's President and CEO; and Carolyn Keegan. Not included in the photo is Christine Opron.

MEET & GREET

*Saint Mary's Board of Trustees
adds New Member*

Dan Teed—A World of Experience for Saint Mary's



Dan Teed became a member of Saint Mary's Board of Trustees in January 2009. Dan is a Partner at Wedgewood Investors, Inc. He is also on the Development Board for Neighborhood Art House. An interesting note about Dan is his work experiences. Dan lived in Japan for 2 years, England for 1 year, and Chicago for 13 years as a Bond Trader.

Dan and his wife Karen have four daughters who are ages 8, 5, and twins that are 2 years old. His mother, Anna Teed, is a Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge Resident. Family life is very important to Dan and he spends much of his free time with his family. When Dan is not working or with his family he is training or participating in endurance sports. He participates in triathlons, cross county and running events.

The Board, Administration, and Employees would like to welcome Dan to our dynamic Board of Trustees at Saint Mary's.

SAINT MARY'S SKILLED NURSING RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Saint Mary's Employees take a lot of pride in providing Residents a "Loving to Care" atmosphere, but in this day and age providing quality care has gone beyond having just dedicated Employees.

It takes dedicated Administrators and Employees to care for Residents, but it also takes an organization's dedication to keep up with technology. Saint Mary's has been in the forefront of technological advances by implementing systems such as CareTracker which have helped to increase the quality of care for our Skilled Nursing Residents. It provides the Nursing Staff a means to efficiently document accurate data on each Resident.

CareTracker is a touch screen computer system that prompts the Nursing Staff caring for Residents to document accurately and timely the care they are providing. CareTracker reports alert the Nursing Managers of inconsistencies and any noncompliance. This greatly assists the Managers in monitoring the quality of care.



Juanita Stokes, East Campus CNA, demonstrates how the CareTracker system works.

Prior to CareTracker, the Nursing Staff was expected to complete paper documentation on several forms for each Resident. This cumbersome method often leads to inaccurate and incomplete data. With CareTracker the Nursing Staff is able to efficiently document a Resident's condition. This allows Nurses to spend more time with the Resident rather than completing paper work. Charge Nurses are able to monitor the data on Residents throughout the day. They are able to implement interventions because CareTracker reports help identify the potential risks for dehydration, low food intake, constipation, and any other conditions that are being monitored. This method of documentation also provides the Resident's Physician with accurate data which assists him/her in directing the Resident's care.

Saint Mary's was one of the first facilities in the Erie area to utilize the CareTracker system. It has been in place for the past 4 years at both of our campuses and is one of the many benefits for Saint Mary's Residents that came from recent technological advances in long term care.

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The Mirror is published quarterly
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friends of Saint Mary's Home of
Erie. Comments and suggestions for
articles are welcome.

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BLESSINGS

Your Financial and Estate Planning Resource

We are pleased to offer you a free
financial and estate planning
resource titled **BLESSINGS**. The first issue
contained topics ranging from "What to
do if Your Grown Children are in Debt"
to "Communicating Your Estate and Gift
Planning Decisions to Family."

Many of us count our blessings on a daily
basis. Where does Saint Mary's fall on your list of blessings?

During life's ups and downs, we are often reminded that more must
be done to sustain those organizations that have had an impact on
your life and the lives of your loved ones.

If you did not receive our first issue of **BLESSINGS** and would
like to be added to future mailings, please contact
Kim McCaslin, Director of Development, at 814.836.5312 or
kmccaslin@stmaryshome.org.



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a bequest or other estate gift, we hope you
will let us know by filling out the enclosed
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you and welcome you as a charter member of
the Estate Giving Benefactors.*