

The HEALING SPIRIT

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

Vol. 10, No. 2

WINTER 2020



By all counts and comparisons, this has been an extraordinarily challenging year. For everyone.

The impact of COVID-19 at Notre Dame Health Care has been intense, from the financial to the emotional, **it has been hard**. But we power on. Given the ongoing surge of the pandemic across the nation, we know there will still be difficult times ahead. We are resilient, as prepared as we can be, and unwavering in our commitment to our mission to provide compassionate care and service to our residents, patients, families and students.

Like nearly all healthcare organizations, we've struggled to overcome shortages and paid exorbitant prices for personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and more. We've done our best to enhance the wages of our staff during the toughest part of the pandemic response to ensure they were able to care for themselves and their families as well as those we serve.

We have endured the loss of "normal" revenue as we had to place a temporary halt on admissions to our long term care center and assisted living community in order to help ensure we did not exacerbate the spread of the virus amongst our resident population. We are still in the midst of recovering our occupancies,

but we are so pleased to be welcoming new residents and patients into our caring communities.

To strengthen our efforts to keep our residents safe and the virus out of our buildings, we are going "above and beyond" mandated requirements



with our COVID-19 testing schedules and use of PPE in all of our operating divisions, for both residents and employees.

Our tremendous efforts around infection control and our adherence to the ever-changing guidance from all of our regulatory authorities have proven to be effective. We are constantly reinforcing proper infection control protocols with our employees and our residents. Thankfully, we have not seen any "community spread" of the virus within our facilities for months. We pray every day that this trend continues, although we understand it may not.

We are grateful to be able to welcome visitors to our campus to spend

time with their loved ones, and we know the many rules and limitations we have in place present challenges to residents and families alike. We recognize this is very hard and has required patience and understanding, and the awareness that **all** of this effort is for the safety and well-being of those in our care and service.

Notre Dame Health Care is a truly special community. These past months have been emotionally and spiritually trying for so many of our residents and patients; it has been our privilege to help support their very individualized needs through our pastoral and spiritual care programs. We aim to respect each person's spiritual identity, regardless of religious affiliation, and we are honored to help nurture the body, mind and spirit of those in our care—whether living in our Long Term Care or Assisted Living communities; or served by our Hospice and Palliative Care teams throughout the community.

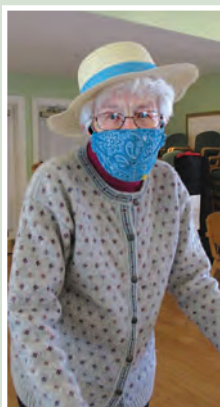
Across our organization, our staff have brought creativity to new levels as they work to offer unique and enriching activities that keep our residents and patients engaged, connected with family and friends, and as safe as we possibly can. You'll see some of the "out of the box" activities our teams have provided portrayed proudly in this newsletter.

continued on pg 4

"Notre Dame Health Care is a truly special community."

du Lac Assisted Living Happenings

Resident Activities — Never a Dull Moment



A fashion forward du Lac resident sporting a fancy hat with her matching mask!

Throughout 2020, our team at du Lac has done a phenomenal job keeping our residents entertained! From “Crazy Hat Day” to fun in the courtyard, there are always fun and enriching programs to enjoy.

To spread some cheer for Halloween, staff dressed up and did some “reverse” trick or treating, delivering candy door to door to bring many smiles to our residents.

We know the holidays may be difficult as some restrictions may make gathering with family more challenging. Residents, their families and our staff are all trying hard to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are also working very hard to make the holidays special for our residents. A “Friendsgiving” event provided residents with the opportunity to share a special meal with their friends in a socially distanced yet festive setting ahead of Thanksgiving Day.

And, we’ve continued with cherished traditions, even though they were done a bit differently this year to accommodate proper social distancing and the like. Our residents

were able to enjoy the annual tree lighting in the courtyard, complete with cocoa and warm cider; tree decorating on resident floors; and special holiday music. We even managed to come up with a special version of our annual holiday fair!



du Lac residents enjoyed socially distanced entertainment in our courtyard.

Annual Holiday Fair — Re-Imagined

du Lac Assisted Living’s Resident Council Annual Holiday Craft Fair took on a different spin this year due to the pandemic. Usually a time to gather our residents, families and the community for a craft fair, raffles and more; this year the Council organized a special holiday drawing for du Lac residents. Thanks to many generous donations, our du Lac Activity Team was able to create dozens of “resident-centered” gift baskets and prizes. Residents participated in various activities to earn tickets to participate in the free drawing. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to making this special day a success.



Winner Winner! For this year’s holiday fair, residents were able to win extra tickets by finding turkeys that were hidden throughout the building.



du Lac staff as Halloween butterflies!

Renovation Progress

Renovations to our du Lac community are well underway. Our Harmony neighborhood is due to be completed by the end of January. Additionally, renovations on our 1st floor, 2nd floor and 4th floor apartments have all been completed. The updates for the remaining 3rd floor apartments will begin the week of December 14th. We are anticipating that all apartments will be completed by the end of April 2021. We remain incredibly excited and blessed to be continuing with this project. We look forward to sharing photos of all of our amazing updates soon!

Welcome New Manager

Keith Mangabang was recently hired as Director of Dining Service, du Lac Assisted Living Residence



Educational Bridge Center Happenings

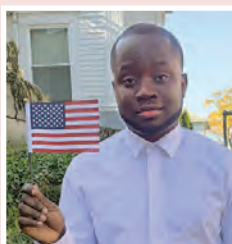
Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Notre Dame Educational Bridge Center has made some adjustments and continued with its Mission. Citizenship tutoring and Adult Basic Education have gone Virtual with some amazing results!



First Time Voters! Citizenship Program

More Americans voted in the 2020 election than in any other in more than 100 years. Since 2016, more than 160 new Citizens have earned the right to vote with the help of the Educational Bridge Center and its corps of dedicated tutors. Not only did Notre Dame Health Care close to outside visitors in March 2020, the United States Customs and Immigration service of the federal government closed as well. This meant that no applications were acted upon. Those that had interviews scheduled were told that they would be rescheduled 60 days after the government reopened.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who were providing Citizenship tutoring for these future Americans did not stop. Seven Sisters continued tutoring “virtually” using a variety of options to meet each student’s needs. They have provided more than 270 hours of tutoring since March and enabled more of our students to be eligible to vote in the 2020 Presidential election. As new Citizen Angela Garven noted, “I was thinking about you and the citizen program a lot this last election. I was so proud to be able to have my say



Kwabena Boakye celebrating his US Citizenship!

in the country I choose to call home. I hope you know the difference you are making.” Thank you, Angela, and a special thank you to all who responded to our Citizenship Appeal. You have enabled us to continue our work to make a difference.

Supporting our Students with Career Counseling and Scholarship Applications

Despite most schools turning to remote or hybrid classes the costs of a college education have not decreased. Students work with Sue Strandberg, the Workforce Development Manager, to complete scholarship applications seeking funding assistance. This year, students have applied for and received the Wisdom’s Way scholarship; Sr. Mary Gardner scholarship; and the Long Term Care Finance Association scholarship. Julie Walusayi, a PCA at ND du Lac, received a LTCFA scholarship which she will use towards her Practical Nursing certificate. Two Sr. Mary Gardner scholarships were awarded as well with one being given to Ioanna Tchangova of du Lac who will be majoring in Biology at Boston University and the other to Nana Boateng of NDLTCC who will attend nursing school. Congratulations to all of our students!



Nana Boateng poses with Sharon Blaine, RN, Director of Nursing for ND Health Care’s Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center as she receives her Sister Mary Gardner Scholarship



Julie Walusayi receives her LTCFA Scholarship from John Enos of Procure LTC

The NDEBC Adult Basic Education classes have gone Virtual!

Working with the new COVID-19 restrictions, our ABE Instructors scrambled to create virtual curricula in order to continue our HiSET and English for the Workplace classes. Beginning in October 2020 classes resumed using a combination of ZOOM and Google Classroom. Our students have a variety of means of accessing classes with some using phones, laptops, desk top computers or iPads. A drop box had been set up outside the Educational Bridge Center to facilitate student access to paper materials and books and for those without computers to leave assignments for the instructors to correct. The ESOL class was joined by a former member who had moved to Spain. Roger can now participate virtually and gave a presentation on his city of Valencia, its culture and customs, to the class. Everyone chimed in with questions and comments. Two students from Russia are planning a presentation for a future class. Just like the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, our students have hearts (and experiences) as wide as the world!

Nancy A. Lemerise, NDEBC English for the Workplace Instructor, “Zooms”



Long Term Care Happenings

A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A FACE MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth.

Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people will see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath it holds, be filled with Your love.

In Your name and in that love I pray. Amen.



Fr. Jonathan Slavinskis

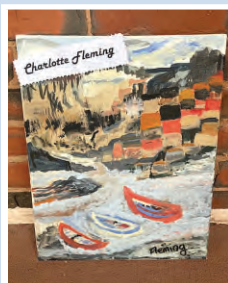
—REV. RICHARD BOTT, MODERATOR
Presbyterian Church of Canada

“Virtual Artshow” — Showcasing our Residents’ Talent

2020 has certainly presented challenges, but hasn’t stopped the creative juices from flowing from our residents at our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center. Staff worked throughout the year with resi-

dents to support their creation of beautiful works of art. Though we normally showcase resident artwork with a special Art Show event with families in our courtyard, COVID 19 restrictions meant that we had to think outside the box.

Our Activities Team created a “Virtual Art Show” which was held on November 25 and was featured on our Facebook page and website for families and the community to enjoy the works created by our amazing residents.



A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

continued from page 1

Our hospice and palliative care teams developed processes to manage their patient consultations with the use of telehealth technology and regular “phone” visits to ensure they were able to provide the support their patients and families needed. Staff in our Educational Bridge Center have been supporting students via phone, email, Facetime and Zoom, while developing remote or “virtual” learning programs to support the educational needs of our staff and students in the coming months.

Through all of the challenges this year, we remain committed to providing our mission-centric programs and services in a safe and responsible manner. We are grateful for your faith in our work and for staying strong **with** us as we move together toward a brighter tomorrow. We know it will come.....not as fast as any of us would like, but it will.

May God’s love and care be upon you all this holiday season and in the new year.

—KAREN LAGANELLI, CEO

2020 EDUCATIONAL FORUM SUCCESS!

We hosted our 2020 Educational Forum on Oct. 22 “virtually” this year as an event to raise funds to help support Notre Dame Health Care’s recovery from the many challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our featured speaker was renowned humorist, Loretta LaRoche, who shared her unique perspective on the benefits of humor to our health and well-being, especially in these very trying times. Her presentation “Embrace The Joy & Power of Laughter... See The World Differently” was shared via an online platform allowing viewers to enjoy the program safely in their own homes. We shared photos on our Facebook page as “attendees” enjoyed the program.

We are grateful for the outstand-



At Home — Hospice & Pedi Pals — Happenings

Bereavement Support Group



Notre Dame Hospice hosts an online Bereavement Support Group on the first Monday of each month from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Sessions are ongoing. If you would like more information please contact Peggye, Bereavement Coordinator at 508-852-5505.

Our At Home Team Supports Alzheimer's Association

The At Home team dressed in purple and showed their support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and participated in this year's virtual "Walk for a Cure" for the Worcester Chapter.

Kim O'Neill, Scheduling Coordinator for Hospice Program



Pedi Pals Holiday Gift Program

We are grateful to Talon's Christmas Wish which sponsored three Pedi Pal families this year for Thanksgiving. Included in the Thanksgiving packages were ingredients needed to make a meal and lots of personalized goodies for these families as well. The generosity and continued support of Talon's Christmas Wish is very much appreciated.



June Ganley, Pedi Pal Social Worker on her way to make a delivery of Talon's Christmas Wish Baskets

Notre Dame Pedi Pals patients and their families are recipients of Christmas gifts from "Caring for Children- The Frank and Rosemary Lovieno Foundation." The "Caring for Children" program provides support to families with children suffering from life threatening illness, such as HIV/AIDS or Sickle-cell Anemia. They

focus on providing for the children's basic needs (for example clothes, food, housing needs, etc.) and funding educational and enrichment opportunities that they otherwise would not receive. Foundation staff provided wrapped presents for 100 children in our Pedi Pals Program. We are thrilled and so grateful for this continued partnership with the foundation and the "Caring for Children" program which brings so much happiness to our Pedi Pals patients during the holiday season.



Welcome to the Newest Members of our Hospice Team



Karen Lacure, Hospice Registered Nurse Case Manager



Perg Kpannah, Hospice Home Health Aide

ing support of our sponsors, contributors and attendees who helped make the event a success. Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company; our Reception Sponsor, J.J. Bafaro Mechanical Contractors' our Registration Sponsor, Peoples United Bank; our Production Sponsor, MediaBoss; and our Challenge Sponsor, Mintz law firm for their leadership support.



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A link to view the event is available on our event webpage: www.notredamehealthcare.org/annual-educational-forum. You can also see a full list of our very generous sponsors, auction item donors, and view our event program booklet. We are so grateful for the generous support of all of our contributors, and online auction donors and bidders—you all helped make this event a success.



NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

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TRIBUTE GIVING

Remember and honor a loved one with an inscribed leaf on one of our *Trees of Life* which are located in the vestibule of the Notre Dame du Lac Chapel and the lobby of our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center. By request, and with your gift of \$250 or more, we will inscribe a “bronze leaf” in memory or honor of someone special in your life and will have it placed on one of our “trees.” For details, please contact pthayer@notredamehealthcare.org.



Like Us, Follow Us, and Tune In . . .



We love to share all of the wonderful things happening around campus. We invite you to get “social” with us—“like” us on Facebook (@NotreDameHealthCare) for regular updates on what we are doing; and “follow” us on Twitter (@NDHCMission) to see how our mission is being lived out on campus.

*For additional stories
and information,
please visit our website
notredamehealthcare.org*



*May God's
Blessings
be upon you
during this
holiday
season.*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from your friends at NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE**

We are grateful for the privilege to serve and fulfill our mission to provide our residents, patients and families with the care they so deserve. And, we are grateful to all who support our work with gifts of time and treasure throughout the year.

We invite you to visit with us, take a tour and learn more about how we can help you or your loved one benefit from Notre Dame Health Care programs and services.