

The HEALING SPIRIT

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

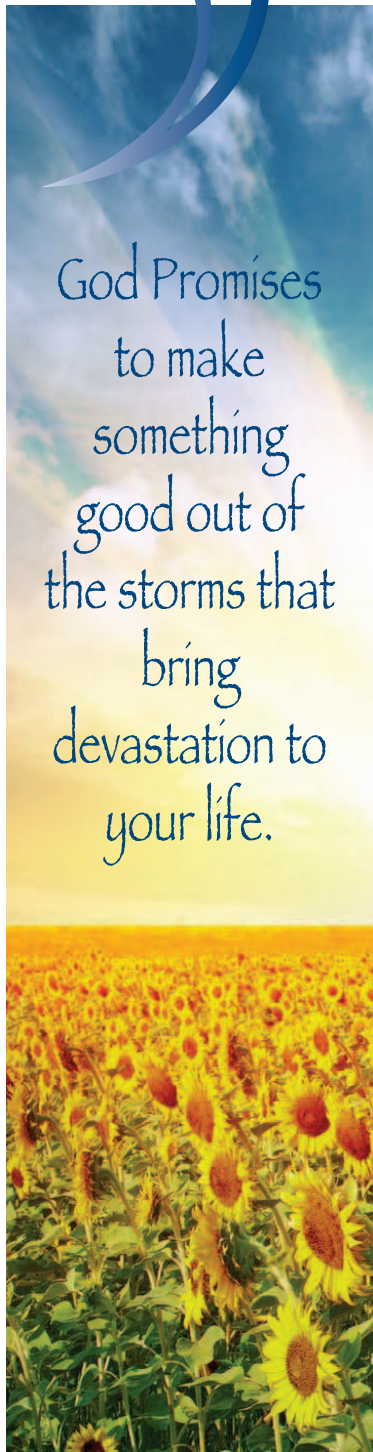
Vol. 10, No. 1

SPRING 2020



TRULY UNIMAGINABLE

God Promises
to make
something
good out of
the storms that
bring
devastation to
your life.



As I reflect back to my last newsletter article from the winter of 2019, I could not have predicted how upside down our world would become in the new year. I was looking ahead to some exciting changes on the horizon at Notre Dame Health Care. Renovations and planned upgrades across our campus were a priority in both our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center and at du Lac Assisted Living Residence. And, I am always proud to look ahead with a focus on our mission of service to our residents, patients, and students.

THE STORM

With the new year, the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic brought a storm to eldercare service communities across the world. To date, this year has been tough, really tough. In spite of doing our very best to follow recommended guidance and protocols for infection control, we are still feeling the raging storm here at Notre Dame Health Care—we have seen positive cases among our resident population and staff; and, we've mourned the loss of some of our more health compromised residents and patients. It is heartbreaking.

Fortunately, for many of those who were infected, the symptoms were mild and they recovered well. These are blessings we do not take for granted, and we are counting them every day.

The extraordinary efforts to battle the spread of this insidious virus have forced the isolation of our residents from the outside world and their families. Somehow, they are weathering this storm with grace and patience. Understandably, sometimes with frustration—they miss the face to face

visits, the hugs, the small gestures, and the easy small talk with their loved ones. We know this has been hard.

THE HEROES

The pandemic has tested the strength and commitment of our dedicated employees who also face real world challenges due to the pandemic but come to work every day to fulfill our mission and care for those we serve. Our front line caregivers and support staff work hard to ensure our residents and patients feel loved and supported. Our activities staff are so "outside the box" in their efforts to lift spirits, and keep our residents engaged, that I find myself amazed everyday with their creativity. I could not be more proud of our entire team.

THE FUTURE

We know there are brighter days ahead, hopefully not in the too far distance. And, we know that while we have seen delays in some of our planned renovation projects—we will get back to them, when the time is right and safe to do so.

For now, in the face of our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission of service to our residents, patients and students is our highest priority as we continue to focus on their wellbeing.

We will get around to the other stuff someday soon. We are facing our future together with a new sense of appreciation and renewal, and with great gratitude for the many blessings we have.

Thank you for your continued faith, support, prayers, and commitment. These things help us to be the very best for those we serve and we are truly humbled and grateful.

—KAREN LAGANELLI, CEO

du Lac Assisted Living Happenings

Refresh and Renovate—du Lac upgrades underway

In early March, we began extensive renovations to our assisted living residence. While some aspects of the renovations were understandably put on hold due to restrictions around the pandemic, we still made great progress and look forward to finishing things up just as soon as we are able. We are nearing completion on our 4th floor common areas and hallways, where we replaced carpet, painted, and upgraded lighting. We look forward to the finishing touches to décor and furnishings in the weeks ahead. We are also in the process of a complete transformation of our Harmony Memory Care Unit. We've been fortunate to be able to continue with these renovations in a modified fashion over the past several weeks as our construction team was able to completely isolate the

work area from resident space. When the renovations are complete, Harmony will consist of mostly private studio apartments with their own private baths. Two apartments will remain shared apartments for couples and/or two roommates. Our common spaces on Harmony will also expand, creating more activity and relaxation space and a state of the art kitchen. We look forward to the completion of our new memory care unit this fall.

In addition to the changes underway in Harmony, we are also refreshing our traditional assisted living apartments,



Harmony Unit, kitchen rendering



Harmony Unit, living room rendering

including the Sisters' wing. These renovations will include new fixtures, new cabinetry, new flooring, and new appliances. We expect to complete these renovations by spring of 2021. We are incredibly excited and feel very blessed to be able to make these updates and improve the space for our current and future residents!

Honor or Remember a Loved One

With nicer weather to enjoy, our newly renovated courtyard at du Lac Assisted Living will be a place for residents to enjoy in the summer months. The beautiful space can even easily accommodate proper social distancing and allow folks to get a breath of fresh air. There are still opportunities available to honor or remember a loved one with an inscribed paver to be placed in the courtyard. These opportunities are available in three sizes: Large—\$750; Medium—\$500; and Small—\$250. Please contact pthayer@notredamehealthcare.org for more information.



The Singing Trooper

Daniel M. Clark (AKA "The Singing Trooper") is pictured here serenading one of du Lac's residents during his performance earlier this year.

Blessings on Ash Wednesday



Resident, Father Theodore LaPerle is captured here blessing a resident during our Ash Wednesday Mass.



Educational Bridge Center Happenings



*You help make
dreams a reality.*

— CANDY DERANAMIE, LPN

Spring Appeal— looking to the future

Student, Candy Deranamie shared her story in our annual Spring Appeal requesting gifts to support the educational mission of Notre Dame Health Care. She shared some of her struggles and barriers in her quest to make her dream of becoming a nurse a reality. And, she expressed her appreciation for the support and guidance she received from the staff and students at NDHC's Educational Bridge Center. We are excited to share that Candy recently completed her nursing boards and has achieved her LPN. We are honored to have played a small role in encouraging Candy along the way. What a blessing, and a great example of the work we strive to do in support of our students.

While we had to temporarily close our center due to the COVID-19 situation, we are always planning behind the scenes and looking forward to serving our students just as soon as it is safe. We know there will be a lot to “catch up” on when things return to normal, and that those we serve will face many challenges. We are grateful for the generosity of our community to ensure we are ready to meet their ongoing needs. We welcome your support. To learn more about how you can help, please contact our Development Office at 508-852-5800, x2509 or pthayer@notredamehealthcare.org.

**Closed for safety and
missing our students!**



Pat Campbell, Exec. Director,
Educational Bridge Center



Sue Strandberg, Workforce
Development Manager,
Educational Bridge Center

SAVE THE DATE!

2020 EDUCATIONAL FORUM

This year's annual Educational Forum will be held on **Wednesday, October 22, 2020** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross. Proceeds from this fundraising event will support the healthcare mission of our organization as we recover from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The evening begins with a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, raffles, mingling and music; followed by our program (including dessert!) Our featured speaker is **Loretta LaRoche**, an international stress management expert who helped pioneer the use of humor as a coping mechanism. You'll discover easy, practical ways to downsize your stress, and increase your ability to live a longer more fulfilling existence. You'll learn to let go of the stress and the things beyond our control as Loretta LaRoche makes you laugh and contemplate the good in your life. Sponsorship opportunities and individual seating are available. Please visit our website for details; or email pthayer@notredamehealthcare.org.



NOTE: We will reach out with updates if the ongoing COVID-19 situation requires modifying or rescheduling of this event.

Resident fun—with safe social distancing



Paul Bosse and Denise Carroll, our du Lac Activities Team delivers “Happy Hour” door to door on St. Patrick’s Day



Music Therapist, Tamilyn Little, entertains residents in their doorways

New van for resident trips



We are so excited to have purchased a new van for our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center and du Lac Assisted Living Residence to utilize for trips, attending events and bringing residents to medical appointments. Bishop Daniel P. Reilly, a resident of du Lac, blessed the van prior to its inaugural outing.

Long Term Care Happenings



Resident, Anna Naum poses with the new bells

Beautiful new bells

Thanks to a very generous donation from Polly Dolan and the Dolan Family we were able to purchase a brand new set of bells for our residents at our Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center. This very special gift was made to honor the memory of Marie Patrick Devine, SNDdeN. We have quite a serious group of bell choir musicians who are looking forward to enjoying their new bells and joining back together as soon as it is safe to gather!

Sweetheart Dinner

The annual Sweetheart Dinner is a time for our residents and family to gather and enjoy a special meal. Our staff works to bring the “five star” experience to our home so our residents can enjoy great food and dressy table settings. A family member recently wrote a “sweet” note about the event—“. . . It was an absolute delight to attend and take pause for a moment as an attentive and joyous staff served us. Each piece of creative effort from decorations, to red roses, to place settings, to corsages, to very fine cuisine and the melodies of past moments rendered a heartfelt imprint of love and compassion. . . .” —Marie



The Padovano Family enjoys their special time at the Sweetheart Dinner

Fun, behind the masks



Our NDHC SuperHeroes wear capes!



Melissa Standing, Director of Activities pictured with Nana Sarpong from our housekeeping team enjoying some “NDHC Mickey D” shakes!

At Home — Hospice & Pedi Pals — Happenings

Working as a team in times of crisis

Providing the best in healthcare during a time of crisis, and pandemic, is an “all hands on deck” activity. Our At Home team has been assisting throughout campus to fill gaps and lend a helping hand.



Nancy McGrath,
Massage Therapist,
working at du Lac's
reception desk

Colleen Amyot,
CHPNA brings prayer
squares to our Long
Term Care Center to
bring comfort to our
many residents



Shelley
DePalo, Office
Manager takes
on the role of
managing our
cross campus
central supply
room for
personal
protective
equipment
(PPE)



New Grief and Loss Group Therapy via “Zoom”

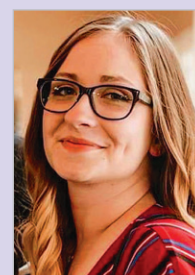


Are you grieving after a loss? A grief group is underway, open to anyone who has suffered a loss and would like the opportunity to be heard and begin to work through the grieving process. It may be helpful and supportive to meet with others who are grieving as well. The group will meet “virtually” via “Zoom.com.” If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Bereavement Coordinator, Peggye Arcouette, MSW, LCSW, BC at 774-823-4344.

Hospice welcomes two new nurses to our team!



Zach Guidaboni,
RN AD



Mikayla Parent,
RN AD

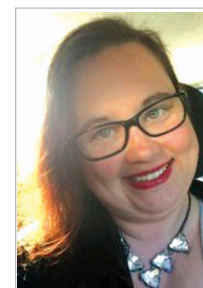


What's happening in Pedi Pals?

Kerri Padgett, Massage Therapist, recently started a support group for bereaved parents who lost children while on our Pediatric Palliative Care Program (Pedi Pals). Kerri has been with our program for over four years and understands the struggles parents face following the loss of a child as she lost her son on our program five years ago.

It is a peer to peer group as an added layer of support. Many families appreciate sharing stories and experiences with others who have traveled similar paths. There is comfort in shared experiences which is an important part of the healing and grieving process. The group meets virtually bi-weekly. For more information please call 508-852-5505.

Notre Dame Health Care wishes a warm welcome to:



Phoenix Dwyer,
MSM, LSW was
recently hired as
Director of
Marketing and
Admissions, du
Lac Assisted
Living Residence



Jenna Krysko,
RN BSN was
recently hired as
Nurse Manager
on West, Long
Term Care and
Rehabilitation
Center

The Healing Spirit is published as a service to the community.

EDITORS: Cathy Smith and Paige Thayer

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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

Supporting our Mission

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of individuals, companies, organizations, churches and foundations. When you support Notre Dame Health Care you enable us to provide extraordinary care to our residents, patients, and their families, on our campus and beyond; and you help us to empower students and caregivers who rely on our Educational Bridge Center to access the support they need to increase their earning power and self-sufficiency, bridging the gap between where they are and where they want to be.

Many ways to help

We gratefully accept gifts to support our work throughout the year. You may choose to respond to a particular request in the mail through one of our appeals; give online through our secure donation portal; sponsor or purchase seating for our annual Educational Forum; or simply make a gift when the spirit moves you.

For individuals who wish to give on an ongoing basis, we are able to accept automatic scheduled gifts via your credit card through our online donation form. Donors may choose to make a “recurring” gift to provide regular, ongoing gifts throughout the year. Additionally, some individuals may hold their own Donor Advised Fund (DAF) from which they may choose to gift to charities of their choice. We invite you to consider Notre Dame Health Care as an opportunity to direct your charitable giving. Please visit our website for additional information on these giving opportunities: www.notredamehealthcare.org/support-us/donate-now or contact our development office via email: pthayer@notredamehealthcare.org or by phone: 508-852-5800, X2509.

