

The HEALING SPIRIT

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

Vol. 7, No. 3

FALL 2017



Thank You!

Thank you to our attendees, donors, and sponsors for supporting our 2017 Educational Forum!

We truly could not hold the Educational Forum without your support and we couldn't continue to deliver on the promises of "the Notre Dame Difference" and "educating for life" without your partnership. Thank you so very much!

Your support this year made it possible to bring **Steven Pantilat, MD** (left) to the community for an engaging discussion about living your best life even after the diagnosis of serious illness. Attendees are now better equipped to talk with their health care providers about their values, beliefs, and priorities, and how a treatment plan fits in with their lives, rather than just how to make their lives work around a medical treatment plan.



Your generous support—through sponsorships, tickets, raffles, and the gift of your time—continues to make possible the critical services of the Notre Dame Health Care Educational Bridge Center. Similar to the discussion at this year's Educational Forum, the "Ed Center" empowers individuals and opens minds year 'round. Our team counsels, educates, and supports our students to obtain the education they need to serve their residents and



Shakira Masembe and her daughter Kelly shared how the NDHC Educational Bridge Center has helped both of them over the years.

patients, to move up a career ladder, and to better support their families. Through your contributions, you have given many students the only internet access they have for their school work. You have helped struggling families keep their housing by giving them a supportive place to continue their required classes. You have helped eager students improve their English, increase their earning potential, and better care for their children. Your support has even greater impact than you might realize, and we are grateful for it!

Welcome to the NDHC family!

Notre Dame Health Care is pleased to announce the appointment of **Emmanuel Ikomi** (left) as Executive Director & Administrator of Notre Dame Long Term Care Center and **Jessica Morreale** (right) as Executive Director of Notre Dame du Lac Assisted Living Residence.

(continued on page 2)



Welcome *(from page 1)*

Emmanuel Ikomi is a graduate of UMass Boston with a degree in Human Services Advocacy & Healthcare Management. He has worked for nonprofits, including the New England Home for the Deaf where he learned American Sign Language. His experiences helped him develop his philosophy for individualized care for the whole person. Lucy, his Miniature Schnauzer service dog, is part of his unique approach. As Emmanuel says “she softens things a little bit” and helps him form relationships with staff and residents. Lucy understands instinctively the mission of empathy in her role and brings us all closer to God’s Goodness!

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Jessica Morreale was raised in Southborough, MA, holds a Master’s degree from Worcester State University in Healthcare Administration and a Bachelor’s degree from UMass, specializing in Social Work and Counseling. She resides in Worcester with her dog Callie. Jessica brings a wealth of experience in managing care communities in Assisted Living, Hospice, and Skilled Nursing settings. She is licensed as both a Nursing Home Administrator and Assisted Living Administrator in RI. Jessica’s accomplishments include Brookdale Cumberland being named one of RI’s Top 5 Assisted Living communities on multiple listings for 2015 and 2016. Jessica is excited and honored to be part of this loyal and dedicated team.

A Well-Deserved Honor



Beth Tobin and one of her fidget quilts

Congratulations to Notre Dame Hospice volunteer Beth Tobin for receiving the 2017 Volunteer Service Award from LeadingAge Massachusetts! Beth was recognized for her 6 years of service and for sewing fidget quilts for our patients with dementia. These beautiful and useful quilts help patients feel calm in times of stress or worry, such as during “sun downing” hours, and have provided noticeable relief to individuals in our program. The dedication and selfless giving by all of our Notre Dame Hospice volunteers make a difference in the lives of our patients and families, and we are grateful.

“I have been honored to walk with many at the end of their lives. They have inspired me in ways they will never know. So, thank you for this honor, but mostly thank you to all who give their lives daily to serve the elderly and the dying. You are all an inspiration.” —BETH TOBIN

JOIN US ON CAMPUS . . .

Upcoming events:

- ▶ **Dec 15th** 8:45-10am thrivin’: Explore Holiday Traditions from around the world, and join in a sing along! FREE and open to the public; seating is limited, so please call to register 508-852-5800
- ▶ **Dec 21st** 3-4pm LTC Holiday Concert by Resident Bell & Voice Choirs, LTC Chapel
- ▶ **Dec 29th** 6:30pm New Year Celebration for residents and family members, du Lac

Hospice Bereavement Support Group

Call Peggye Arcouette, Bereavement coordinator at 508-852-5505 for information.

Eucharistic liturgy

- ▶ Notre Dame du Lac: Daily (except Sat.) at 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Notre Dame Long Term Care Center: Daily at 10 a.m.



*Officer Bishop and Elmer with
Dr. Pettinati and Tasha*

Canine Helping K9 by SR. JULIE DONOVAN, SND

Tasha Marie is the resident service dog at Notre Dame du Lac. Each year, after her birthday, she consults with her friends to decide which charities focused on the needs of animals would receive the \$100.00 of her “birthday money.” This year they had the wonderful idea of using Tasha’s money as the “seed” for a fundraiser to benefit the K9 officers of the Worcester Police Department.

Because of the kindness and generosity of residents and some family, friends, and staff, we raised \$1,700.00! Officer Tom Bishop and canine Elmer came to du Lac to say “thank you” and give a demonstration of the bond on which their teamwork is built. The funds will help purchase equipment for the dogs—such as a bullet proof vest or cooling unit for the cage in the patrol car (each of which costs about \$1,500.00).

As this story was disseminated through an article in *The Catholic Free Press* and our Facebook page, other facilities and organizations decided to emulate the model and raise funds for other canine officers. Like the ripples created when a pebble is dropped into a still pond, the waves of goodness, generosity, and caring radiate out into the world. It is yet another manifestation of the charisma of St. Julie Billiart shared at du Lac and with the Worcester community.

Walk for Citizenship

Members of the SND Band of 1967 held a fundraising walk to benefit the Sr. Helen Wright Citizenship program.

Through this unique program at the NDHC Educational Bridge Center, hopeful U.S. Citizens receive tutoring with the Sisters and other volunteers to prepare for the vigorous naturalization exam and interview. The Educational Bridge Center and tutors have helped 91 individuals (so far!) achieve the rights and responsibilities of US Citizenship.

This was a terrific celebration of the 50th anniversary of when they entered the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and an impressive way to show that they are still living the mission and walking the walk.

Together, they have raised more than \$8,000 for help pay the U.S. Citizenship application fees for hopeful U.S. Citizens.

Staff Reaching Out

In addition to efforts to support the work of the Educational Bridge Center and the residents’ support of the WPD K-9 unit, NDHC staff members have come to the aid of neighbors near and far with contributions to food drives and for disaster relief. NDHC staff members provided food for needy families to get them through the summer months when their children don’t eat breakfast and lunch at school, and raised \$1,700 for relief efforts after recent hurricanes.



NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE
Long Term Care Center

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I am grateful for NDHC's Ed Center for the assistance, resources, and emotional support. I am grateful to the donors who help keep the Ed Center open for students like me.



Sincerely,

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We pray that your spirit is filled with hope, your heart overflows with joy, & your holiday is blessed with the Goodness of God.

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

from your friends at

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

