



Morrow Home Community Messenger

Newsletter of Morrow Home Community • Sparta, WI • (608) 269-3168

WINTER 2012-2013

Michael's Message

Connections *By Michael Bonello, Executive Director*

With friends and family members spread throughout the country, my wife Deb and I enjoy the Christmas letter exchange tradition. At least once each year we learn a bit about those people who remain important connections in our life. Often, this Christmas letter has helped us maintain those connections that may otherwise have dissolved over time and distance.

Similarly, Morrow Home Foundation each year connects to people who have been important members of the Morrow Home Community family throughout the years. Each Christmas many friends of Morrow Home generously respond to our annual appeal. These financial contributions significantly impact on the well being of our residents. Once again shortly after Thanksgiving, we mailed over 3,000 annual appeal letters. (A copy of our letter is on page 4). We invite you to join the Morrow Home Community family to stay connected with our "Christian Tradition of Caring"!

The 2012 Christmas appeal goal is to raise \$12,000 that will be matched by Mary Morrow's Attic. The generous contributions will provide new electric beds for our nursing home residents. Please consider a contribution today and help us reach that goal!

Have you ever mailed 3,000 letters? Thanks to Morrow Home office staff and volunteers, the letters were finally mailed. I was one of the "volunteers" and spent several evenings stuffing envelopes and putting on the address labels. Just as Christmas cards and letters remind us of our friends and loved ones, I was reminded of Morrow Home connections with each label positioned on the envelope.

I remembered hundreds of family members of people we have served in the past and continue to serve today. I am proud of the dedicated Morrow Home caregivers and staff who prepare meals, wash laundry, clean rooms, plan activities, and lovingly serve those for whom we provide daily care. Morrow Homes' connections include families of nursing home residents and our friends in Homestead and MaryCrest and BridgePath's assisted living homes. The Parkview Apartments have welcomed residents for eleven years already! We currently serve delicious meals to over 50 Sparta area friends through Morrow Meals in Motion. So many family connections!

Morrow Home's connections include young families who trust us with the care of their children at our Young at Heart Child Care Center that celebrated five years of outstanding

child development in 2012. These are the future Morrow Home caregivers and leaders!

Often, Morrow Homes' family connections include area friends who visited for just a short time during their healing, recovery, and short term Medicare rehabilitation now in the Meissner Transitional Rehabilitation Wing.

I saw names of former staff, board members, donors, volunteers and others who have so generously shared their time, talents and treasures over the years to insure that Morrow Home offers the highest quality of care. Since 1917, Morrow Home has dedicated its mission to a "Christian Tradition of Caring." Our current board members, staff, and volunteers continue to excel in serving our residents and community through stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us.

The Morrow Home community connections extend to our partners in health care as well as those community leaders and government officials who support our continued progress in serving those who cared for us. As a not-for-profit Christian service organization, community support is a blessing.

The residents, children, staff, and volunteers at Morrow Home Community sincerely thank everyone connected to our organization for the encouragement, prayers, and gifts of love.

Thank you for the opportunity each year to remember the Morrow Home connections that are God's gifts to our Morrow Home Community.

In Christ,
Michael



Morrow Home Community was treated to a special concert on December 8th by the DeCapo Band. Morrow Home's Registered Dietician, Janet Roth, is part of the band.

NEW TO OUR HOME

We welcome the following people who have joined our senior living family between the dates of September 1, 2012 and December 14, 2012:

PARKVIEW INDEPENDENT LIVING APARTMENTS

Marian Dahl

HOMESTEAD INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

George and Delores Leis, from Parkview

MARYCREST ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

Helen Donskey

Ida Meissner

Janet Marx

BRIDGEPATH ADVANCED ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

June Gerke, *from Homestead*

Alberta Rommel,

Carmen Konop

from Homestead

Alberta Kick

Fay Schlaver, *from Parkview*

We also welcome the following people who have become a part of our nursing home facility between the dates of September 1, 2012 & December 14, 2012:

Fred Altmann, *from BridgePath*

Leone Ross

Bruce Bettis

Richard Siebenaler

Michael Haag

from MaryCrest

Ida Helgeson, *from MaryCrest*

Judy Stedman

Mary Rice, *from MaryCrest*

Irma Watzka

Dori Roraff

Leona Ziegler, *from Parkview*

Morrow Home Community Remembrance Tree

Remember or honor your loved ones this holiday season while supporting a great cause!

For the price of \$5, you may "purchase" a light for the Remembrance Tree. Your name and that of your loved one will be placed on a display in the reception entrance.

The beautiful pine tree, which was planted many years ago in memory of longtime Maintenance Director Pat Cote, is located in the circular drive at the entrance to the nursing home. It has grown to be a majestic symbol of Christmas love

and caring.

Funds raised this year will be used to purchase sturdy outdoor furniture for the Water Street entrance where many of the residents congregate to talk with friends and families.

Forms are available at the Morrow Home Community, 331 S. Water Street, Sparta, WI. For more information, you may

Contact us at 269-3168.
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PROUD TO HAVE PROVIDED SERVICE

We are proud to have been able to provide service to the following people who have returned home or to another setting between the dates of September 1 and December 14, 2012:

Esther Becker

Nancy Kowitz

Palma Berry

Ida Meissner

Marie Boyle

Mary Nussdorfer, *from MaryCrest*

Jennifer Burkhalter

Esther Pulham

Helen Byzewski, *from BridgePath*

Usula Rambis

Irene Brueggeman

Robert Richards

Virgene Bue

Howard Shutter

Janice Cole, *from MaryCrest*

Vera Siekert, *from Parkview*

Tracie Davies

Judy Stedman

Darrell Hansen

Carl Stellner

Ruth Hancock

Eugene Stelter

Roger Hansen

Barbara Tolley

Donna Heilman

Ruth Taylor

Audrey Olson

Michael Trones

Marlene Kamrath

Gilbert Vandinter

Kenneth Kennedy

Dorothy Walters

Irene Kenworthy

Alan Wright

Paul Klingelhofer

Sharon Zibrowski

Richard Knoll, *from BridgePath*



Morrow Home Meissner Rehabilitation Wing Opens

Almost 100 people attended the Morrow Home Community Open House for the recently remodeled Meissner Transitional Rehabilitation Wing on Sunday, October 14th. Pictured are Ruth Ebert; Jessica Wallace-Bialecki, Social Services, and Merlin Ebert who toured the wing. Mr. Ebert is a relative of the late Beverly Meissner, whose bequest made the remodeled wing possible. Her portrait graces the entrance of the area. This wing of Morrow Home Community is designed to serve the short term transitional rehabilitation needs of the post hospital resident. As noted in our list of "Proud To Have Provided Services," we have already served many in our new Rehabilitation Wing. Our sincere appreciation goes to the late Bev Meissner for making this expansion to our circle of care possible.

Nativity Returned Home

Morrow Home Community is celebrating with Homestead resident, Gladys Mendler, in the return of a cherished nativity set. Here's the chain of events, and how an angel and a camel helped...

Gladys Mendler was a resident of the nursing home a while back. In her days of recuperation, it became evident that Gladys would be a great candidate for assisted living. She was still able to be independent in many aspects of her life, but needed a little assistance in others. Thus, her family and friends rallied together and began the process of emptying her home, helping Gladys pick and choose what to move to her Homestead apartment, what items Gladys wanted to give to family members, and what items to be donated to Mary Morrow's Attic.

Many of Gladys' donations were hot items at the Attic, as Gladys had collected over 180 popular cat figurines. People flocked to the Attic just to buy a cat! Her favorite cats are beautifully placed around her apartment.



Homestead resident, Gladys Mendler, center, with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Friend, Liz Lamm, left, with the angel. Mary Morrow's Attic Volunteer, Elvira Braun, with the camel.

Since this process took place in the early spring, Gladys' Christmas items were safely packed in boxes, namely, her special 18 piece nativity set that she received years ago from her sister, Genevieve, who is now deceased. That was 18 pieces minus one...since Gladys really like the angel of the nativity, and angels are appropriate décor any time, it was something Gladys kept out year-around and hung it on her rose tree.

As this first holiday season approached in her new Homestead apartment, Gladys came upon the discovery that she could not find her prized nativity set. She spoke with her family and friends, wondering if she had mistakenly given it to one of them. None of them had it. Could it be something that had gone to Mary Morrow's Attic? The volunteers at the store began their

search through the dozens of boxes of holiday items that had been donated over the past months. One day Liz Lamm, a friend of Gladys, received a call that they thought the nativity set was found. Liz ran to the store, only to see that it wasn't Gladys' set. Liz knew what Gladys' set looked like, since the angel was displayed year-round. Liz thanked the volunteers for their efforts as they said they would keep searching.

It happened one day that Elvira Braun, one of the volunteers at the store, was pondering on a camel that sat upon the microwave of the store's sorting room. The camel had been there for quite a few months. Elvira thought for sure it must belong to a nativity set and as she remembered the description that Liz gave of Gladys'

set, Elvira was determined to proceed with the search once again. Downstairs she went looking through the many donated items. And there it was—an entire box of nativity figurines that matched the camel!

Liz received another call from the store asking if she would come and look at this

nativity set. It appeared this could indeed be the beloved set Gladys had been looking for. Liz took the box to Gladys' apartment. Upon entering, Gladys immediately burst into the biggest smile ever, and said "I know that box!" As Gladys lifted the cover off the box, more heartfelt comments came pouring out. "It's the same as when I wrapped it." Each piece of the nativity had been wrapped individually and packed well, and each piece was still intact.

How the camel ever got out of the box in the first place—no one seems to know. But all 18 pieces are back home in Gladys' Homestead apartment. We celebrate with you, Gladys! Your nativity set has returned home!

MaryCrest resident Evelyn Olson had a special “occupational therapy” session with Innovations staff Jackie Sands. Evelyn was reminiscing on how much she used to love to make a special holiday treat of “Krumkaka” with her mother.



Beginning the Process with Jackie's assistance.



Stirring the batter!



Finished!

Generosity from Mary Morrow's Attic

Mary Morrow's Attic has made monetary donations for numerous items for the Morrow Home Community. Pictured is diagnostic equipment and wheel chair, one of fifteen, which are among some of the most recent purchases. Other items purchased are electric beds, special mattresses, wheel chair scales, bariatric trapeze, and Christmas gifts for the residents. Mary Morrow's Attic is run solely by volunteers who work so diligently at sorting and pricing all the wonderful donations received. If it weren't for these donations by so many generous people, there wouldn't be anything to sell. Mary Morrow's Attic wishes to say thank you to all who help make this Morrow Home ministry possible!



In the photo is Lois Stubrud, volunteer at the store and Jean Mattakat, the manager.

"When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches, Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psalm 63: 6-7 KJV

Christmas 2012

Dear Friends of Morrow Home Community,

We rejoice, as David did in the above Psalm when he sang for joy in his bed as he meditates regarding his God. At Morrow Home Community, many of our residents spend quality time in their beds resting, recuperating, or sleeping. They seek comfort. We at Morrow Home Community provide physical comfort to those entrusted to our care. The Lord provides spiritual comfort to these same individuals.

Your gifts not only supply the needs of others, they also abound in thanksgiving and praise to God and produce prayers in the hearts of the recipients for your generosity. The hearts of our nursing home and assisted living residents, the children of our child care center, and all of our employees sincerely thank you for your gifts.

Your 2012 Christmas donation will again this year go toward nursing home electric beds (\$1,200 each).

Your generosity in the past has made it possible for us to purchase seventy-two electric beds. Electric beds add to the independence of our residents since they themselves may adjust their bed without assistance. These beds are also safer as they can be lowered close to the floor to prevent injuries in the event of a fall. Employee work-related incidents are lessened due to the fact that the beds can easily be raised to a convenient height for repositioning residents, providing cares, or changing linens.

Our goal is to purchase twenty additional electric beds so residents in the nursing home may enjoy the comfort and independence that these beds provide.

Last year, Mary Morrow's Attic generously matched the first \$10,000 of the funds we raised from the Christmas donations. This year, they have offered to match the first \$12,000 received. Our Morrow Home Community is truly blessed to have the hard-working volunteers from the Attic. All proceeds from this thrift store benefit the residents and children of our Morrow Home Community.

May the Lord bless you as He has blessed our ministries. Thank you for your continued prayers, volunteer efforts, and financial support. You help make Morrow Home Community a place where we proclaim the Good News in "A Christian Tradition of Caring."

In His Name,

Karen Cronick
Chair
Morrow Home Foundations

Ed Johnson
President
Morrow Home Community
Board of Directors

Morrow Home Community serves as a tangible expression of God's love through a continuum of long term care services to all who entrust us with their care.



Mr. & Mrs. Roger & Eileen Herberg

We strive to enhance life by preserving the dignity, independence, and uniqueness of each individual while meeting their physical, social, and spiritual needs.

We Wish You All



Esther Gurgel



Bob Swartz, Eileen Ripley

Good Health & Happy Family Time



Christel Cooper



Doris Meyer



Betty McCauley

And a Very Very Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year



Jacoby Hauser



Pete Mulvaney



Logan Stremcha



Easton Ziegler

From All of Us Here at Morrow Home Community in Sparta, WI

THE REAL MCCOY

By Avis Quackenbush, Parkview Resident & Kasey Hansen, Housing Coordinator

Our Morrow Home Community and the city of Sparta were saddened this past summer with the passing of Joan McCoy a few months before her 100th birthday. Joan was born in Western North Dakota, possibly her family was part of the western migration to that area in the early 1900's. Her folks moved back to Sparta where Joan graduated from high school. In 1934 she married Douglas McCoy, the youngest son of the General for whom the nearby fort was named. He left to serve in WWII with the 32nd Division of the National Guard. Following war they returned to Sparta to raise their four children.

Joan volunteered her time with many organizations. She was an avid golfer and bridge player. Her mind stayed sharp and she did not need help in hearing and seldom wore glasses. Joan enjoyed receiving jokes via email from her son Doug, who inherited his mom's great sense of humor. Reading was Joan's special joy and she rarely was without a book to read. Joan spent many days at the Sparta Free Library. Her son, John also drove Joan to Barnes and Noble on many occasions, which included a meal at Joan's favorite restaurant, Red Lobster.

Another special joy was playing duplicate bridge every Tuesday night for over 40 years. She said this is what kept her going. A loyal bridge partner saw to it that she had a ride to St. John's Episcopal Church where the games were played. Joan was an active member of this church for most of her life. Her last game was exactly one month to the day before she died. This was just one example of Joan's determination to keep doing what she loved to do until the very end.

We will miss and honor this remarkable woman. Although Joan seemed to make to a point to spar with her daughters Ann and Joanie, they realized it was in jest—mostly. Many friends seemed to say the phrase when talking about Joan McCoy: "You just gotta love her."



Joan McCoy
1912-2012

A Caring Community

By Kathy Schmitz, Pastoral Care Coordinator

We have a great and caring group of employees and residents within our Morrow Home Community, as most of you know. But, did you know that besides all the work and caring that goes on inside our walls here there is work and caring that extend beyond our walls? During the course of the year, employees and residents support three very worthwhile outreaches in our Sparta community, in Monroe County, and beyond.

One of those outreaches is for the Sparta Area Cancer Support Group which provides aid to those affected by cancer. Each August Morrow Home has a team entered in the walk. Throughout the year this team works hard doing various fund raisers. Even our Young at Heart Day Care took part! Our team raised \$3,265. This year the importance of their work hit home as several of our employees lives have been touched by cancer.

Another one of our teams, Mary's Memory Keepers, walked in September of this year for the Monroe County WALK To End Alzheimer's. A brand new support person, Brett Williams, took over the Greater Wisconsin Chapter in July and was, needless to say, a bit overwhelmed. When he came to visit Morrow Home we said, "What do you need?" He replied "Everything." Staff pitched with a whirl wind of fundraisers and help. Thanks to the generosity of our employees, residents and families, \$1,156 were raised. Several of our long term employees are now taking care of a second generation of families affected by this devastating disease. We walk with the hope and goal that there will not be a third generation afflicted by Alzheimer's.

Our third charity that employees have taken on involves our veterans here and in this part of the state. Funds are raised to help with the Freedom Honor Flight which takes our veterans to Washington D. C. to see the war memorials built to honor them and the comrades they lost during times of war. In April \$2,025 was given for Flight #10. After attending the send off and welcome home of Flight #10, I would encourage anyone who has the chance to go and take a part. It was an awesome experience!

These are on going efforts that we continue to support as we strive to live out our motto of "A Christian Tradition of Caring" both in and outside of our Morrow Home Community walls. We welcome all who would like to take part in any of these great causes throughout the year and say a heartfelt thank-you to all who helped in any way.



WALK to End Alzheimer's Team, back row: Greg Schmitz, Kathy Schmitz, Todd Ramlett, Mark Lakowske, Jenn Williams and Christine Vian. Front row: Michael Bonello, Stephanie Wagner, Chris Nordberg and Tate Williams.



Morrow Home residents are treated to a very special program each December by the Young At Heart Child Care students. The teachers put together a fine presentation. Here is Young at Heart student Grace Olson singing her little heart out!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR HOME

August 15, 2012 - December 9, 2012

CLOTHING: family of Wayne Jones; family of Ordella Krueger; Bob Kewit; family of Dottie Meyer; family of Lucille Rhodes.

MAGAZINES AND BOOKS: Vera Knutson; Joyce Anderson; Alrita Ornes; Miles & Vivian Luke, subscription to OLD NEWS; Betty Howard.

MISC.: Christel Cooper, musical cassettes & cds; Miriam Cuddy, angel figurine; Dan Cornell, fish for aquarium; Jane Bruggeman, silk flowers and seasonal decorations; Gordon Tjaeden, squash; Jim Jefferson, Barb Jackson family, kitchen items, decor; Megan Watson, Ordella Krueger family, kitchen dishes, accessories, linens, towels, glassware, seasonal decorations; Wanda Gasper, Jeannette Liersch family, hair dryer, mirror; Jean Baumbach, card games; Joyce Anderson, Christmas cards; Joyce Anderson, misc.; Dave Hendricks, cards and calendars; Kirsten Courtright, new holiday decorations; American Legion Post 100, veteran thank you cards; Pat Ducklow, Christmas tree; Jeff Horswill, in memory of Lucille Rhodes, wreath, decorations; Robert Altmann, in honor of Fred Altman, bedding, towels, fan, wicker basket; Richard and Mari Krocka, large outdoor Christmas star; Gerry Crockett, Christmas Tree.

FURNITURE: Dennis Slayton, in memory of Dorothy Slayton, La Z Boy recliner, end table, blonde wooden table, kitchen chair, pendulum clock; Jim Jefferson, in memory of Barb Jackson, electric lift chair, tv trays, stool; Megan Watson, in memory of Ordella Krueger, dresser, bed, couch, chair, end table; Wanda Gasper, in memory of Jeannette Liersch, table, captains bed; Ginger Schumacker, 2 bins of Christmas decorations; Robert Altmann in honor of Fred Altmann, glider chair, bed, end table, 2 lamps, night stand.

NURSING HOME EQUIPMENT: Jim Jefferson, in memory of Barb Jackson, walkers, cane, wheelchair, medical equipment; Megan Watson, in memory of Ordella Krueger, walker; Wanda Gasper, in memory of Jeannette Liersch, walker, personal supplies; Jeff Horswill, in memory of Lucille Rhodes, walker, medical supplies, commode, wheelchair, bed.

FLOWERS AND PLANTS: Paul & Cindy Solberg, Eric & Becky Solberg, poinsettia; Cindy Isensee, 4 poinsettias.

QUILTS: Cecilia Flock, in memory of Geraldine Flock, 3 quilts.

DAYCARE: Clarence Justin, dorm size refrigerator; Jenny Koehler, play rug.

TREATS: Miriam Cuddy, in honor of Wally Kinyon, cake for staff; Gordon Tjaeden, home-grown squash; Eleanor Mull, treats for Mary Crest staff.

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

1 Corinthians 13:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

8 Love (charity) never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Since our last newsletter, we have received donations from the following:

In memory of Joan McCoy from Beverley Shiroda, Irene Raimer, and the family of Joan McCoy.

In memory of Rosellen Carlisle from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wohlers, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jandt, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Christensen.

In memory of Wayne Jones from Phyllis Christiano.

In memory of Dorothy Slayton from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall and Iona Hayter.

In memory of Della Wilcox from Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilcox.

In memory of Eotus Tonn from Barbara McNaughton to purchase a Broda chair.

In memory of Shirley Baumel from Iona Hayter.

In memory of Dorothy "Dottie" Meyer from Iona Hayter.

From Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Herbison for the needs of the Home and residents.

From Jenny Koehler for the Young at Heart Child Care Center.

From the Stoddard United Methodist Church Gold Cross Offering for Care Assurance.



Unto Life Eternal

September 1, 2012 - December 18, 2012

Mildred Adkins	Mae Paquette
Shirley Baumel	Ervin Peterson
Olga Christiansen	Richard Marx
Mary Christopherson	Theodore "Ted" Marx
Jean Cornell	Lucille Rhodes
Edith England	Dorothy Slayton
Barbara Jackson	Marcia Staton
Irene Koehler	Carl Schroeder
Ordella Krueger	Harold Talbot
Jeannette Liersch	Eotus Tonn
Dorothy "Dottie" Meyer	Elinor Ziegler



Morrow Home Community

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Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Sparta, WI
Permit No. 130

**Now on Radio! Listen for our
Morrow Home Jingle:**

*"Morrow Home Community
We Put Our Heart Into Your Care
When You Need Us, We'll Be There
Caring For Those Who Care For You
With Love, Home, Family
A Christian Tradition of Caring
Morrow Home Community"*

Return Service Requested

Morrow Home Meissner Rehabilitation Wing *"We'll get you back home."*



Ruth Hancock, center, with Innovations Staff

"I appreciated that everyone who works here is so accommodating. The therapy gym is beautiful and has a nice view. The care received was very, very good. I feel that this made my recovery faster."