

FALL 2011
SPARKS of Inspiration

A Publication For and About Our Team Members

New Medical Center at Rydal Park... *a Center of Clinical Excellence*

Technology and a new work environment are setting the stage for excellent people to do truly excellent work.

"In the nursing profession, you have to be willing to learn new technology," attests CNA Emma Bartley. "Technological advances in our new medical center are enabling us to provide the best possible care."

Emma, who began working at Rydal Park in 1979, is among 136 team members who are enjoying the new Joseph C. Scott Medical Center at Rydal Park and its many amenities it offers residents and staff alike.

The 94,000 square-foot building features private rooms and private baths, the latest in medical and rehabilitative equipment and technology, more spacious and functional nursing care stations, as well as enhanced employee lounges and break rooms.

"Presby's Inspired Life not only has invested in residents, but also employees," Administrator Amy McGovern said of the new medical center. "It creates the opportunity for staff to deliver care more efficiently."

For example, the central, switchboard-type of call bell system has been replaced with Health Sense, a wireless clip-on device that each caregiver wears to answer resident requests in a more efficient manner. If they are helping another resident when a call comes in, they simply forward the request to another caregiver with the push of a button, eliminating the need to stop what they are doing to call or return to the nursing station.

To receive a sneak peak at their new workplace, staff was treated to a preview reception in mid-September, and many attended the September 26 dedication, during which President & CEO Judee M. Bavaria expressed words of appreciation to them.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to Rydal Park staff," said Judee. "For two years, you have demonstrated patience and cooperation during the construction process, and I assure you that it is much appreciated."

The new building is named in memory of Joseph C. Scott, late husband of Rydal Park resident and "Call To Care" Capital Campaign leadership benefactor Pat Scott.

Enhancements throughout the new building are made possible by generous contributions to the Campaign, which will continue in earnest until the \$5 million goal is reached. Many donations were made by Rydal Park staff through the Team Member Campaign that will feature several fundraising activities in the next several months.

For now, adjusting to their new workplace is creating much excitement for medical center staff. "Who wouldn't want to work in a beautiful building like this," says Staffing Coordinator Mya Dennis. "It's like starting a new job!"



Proudly standing in front of the new Joseph C. Scott Medical Center at Rydal Park are medical center nursing staff (from left) CNA Emma Bartley, CNA Valarie Williams, Staffing Coordinator Mya Dennis and LPN Annie Donnell, along with Administrator Amy McGovern. The state-of-the-art building is enhancing the staff's ability to provide the best possible care.

From the Heart



One of my favorite aspects of my job is visiting our communities. It fills me with joy to witness your dedication to our residents and the familial bonds that form in the process.

In this issue of "Sparks of Inspiration," you will experience these bonds as they are celebrated ministry-wide through special events and simple, every day tasks that can make the biggest difference is a resident's life.

You will read about how our new medical center at Rydal Park is enhancing work experiences for staff, how our Tuition Assistance Program opens doors for team members, how our Rosemont community helped to define the American dream for a mother/daughter team of caregivers, and how a nurse at our Broomall community finds the true meaning in her vocation.

In October, I attended the Annual Service Awards, which honored 80 team members for longevity in their careers at Presby. This event is one of my favorites because

it is a chance to formally acknowledge the dedication of our co-workers, who set examples for all of us to follow.

Our "Presby's Service From the Heart" customer service initiative continues to enhance quality life experiences for residents, and we will introduce team members at your communities who exemplify outstanding service that is full of H.E.A.R.T.

Presby's Inspired Life is truly a "Ministry To Many," serving seniors from all walks of life and economic circumstances. You are an integral component of this ministry, and your commitment does not go unnoticed.

As I visit each community, I will continue to be filled with joy witnessing residents' smiles because they are made possible by your commitment. You truly are the 'sparks of inspiration' at Presby's Inspired Life.

God bless,

Judee M. Bavaria
President and CEO

TEAM MEMBERS HONORED

Presby's Inspired Life hosted its Annual Service Awards October 27, 2011 to pay tribute to team members' long-standing service.

"Each year, I look forward to this event as one of my favorites because its purpose is to honor our team members for your unwavering commitment to the people we serve," said President & CEO Judee M. Bavaria.

"Each of this year's honorees embodies our mission and brings compassion and 'Service From the Heart' alive to enhance the quality of life for residents."

In total, 80 team members were honored for marking between five and 35 years of dedication to Presby, totaling 1,025 years of service.

"Within today's volatile job market, the fact that you continue to choose Presby as your employer speaks volumes to your commitment to our residents," added Judee. "You put the 'heart' in Presby's Service From the Heart."



At the Annual Service Awards ceremony on October 27, President & CEO Judee M. Bavaria (left) congratulates 30-year honorees (from left) Senior Vice President for Operations Mary Kender, CSC; Maintenance Manager William Butcher, Ann Thomas Presbyterian Apartments; and Receptionist Elizabeth Montgomery and Housekeeper Fong Sorathsasomboune, Rosemont Presbyterian Village.

See community inserts for community-specific honorees.

Assistant Director of Affordable Housing Vaccine Irick (center) proudly displays her bachelor's degree she earned this spring with help from Presby's Tuition Assistance Program. Joining her in a congratulatory moment are fellow team members (from left) Riverside Presbyterian Apartments Assistant Manager Ludie Viaud, Assistant Director of Human Resources Krista Jacobs, Vice President of Affordable Housing Jim Polaski, and I.T. Solutions Coordinator Yordanos Tela.



TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

An Investment in Team Members' Dreams

"Life is about achieving the goals you set for yourself," says Assistant Director of Affordable Housing Vaccine Irick. "Presby can help make it happen."

This spring, Vaccine achieved her life-long goal of graduating from college when she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Communications from Chestnut Hill College.

"All of us at Presby wish Vaccine heart-felt congratulations," says Vice President of Affordable Housing Jim Polaski. "She successfully completed her studies while caring for her mother and maintaining her full-time responsibilities at Presby; she is an example of inspiration."

Vaccine's career spans 20 years, having first worked for the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation before joining Presby's Affordable Housing Ministry in 1997. "I love helping seniors in need achieve their dream of living in safe, affordable and

beautiful accommodations," Vaccine added. "That's the most rewarding aspect of my job."

Although Vaccine achieved fulfillment in her chosen vocation of helping dreams come true for others, one of her own dreams eluded her for many years: earning her college degree. With the help of Presby's Tuition Assistance Program, achieving her dream became a reality. She enrolled as a part-time student at Chestnut Hill College.

"With tuition assistance from Presby, I was able to take more than one class per semester, enabling me to graduate earlier," Vaccine adds. "Presby certainly helped make it easier; the tuition assistance process is easy and convenient."

But Vaccine's determination didn't stop with taking classes. Through her example, she empowered her fellow affordable housing team members to go back to school.

"Vaccine encouraged me to enroll

in college to earn my degree by using Presby's Tuition Assistance Program," attests Riverside Presbyterian Apartments Assistant Manager Ludie Viaud. "It's something I always wanted and Vaccine's support and Presby's assistance is helping me." Ludie is one of several of Vaccine's team members who are heeding her advice and following in her footsteps.

"I would encourage any Presby team member to pursue their academic goals by taking advantage of Presby's Tuition Assistance Program," Vaccine advises. "After all, if a grandmother like me can do it, anyone can."

To learn more about Presby's Tuition Assistance Program, contact Assistant Director of Human Resources Krista Jacobs at (610) 260-1134.

LPN Lorna Cane and resident Gloria Fratoni share a familial moment at Broomall Presbyterian Village. For Lorna, residents have become like family, which is one of the rewarding aspects of her vocation.

Presby's Mission in Action Inspires Broomall Nurse



"I worked as nurse at several different organizations before coming to Broomall Presbyterian Village," said LPN Lorna Cane. "What sets Presby apart is the care here is given with love and a family touch."

Lorna joined the Broomall team in September 2010 and immediately felt at home. Not only did she experience Presby's mission in action of enabling older adults to live life in all its fullness, she realized that this is possible due to the compassion of Presby team members.

"Here, our mission is not just words on paper, but backing up that mission with action," Lorna attests. "The heart behind what we do comes from the top of the organization and that trick-

les down to staff and, ultimately, enhances residents' quality of life."

Lorna's role includes providing direct care to residents, administering medications, conducting health assessments and helping to meet their every day needs.

"Lorna is truly a wonderful nurse," said resident Gloria Fratoni. "She's prompt, efficient and good-hearted. When you're ill, you need a nurse like Lorna to make you feel better."

For her top-notch skills and nurturing demeanor, Lorna was recently transferred to Broomall's B-wing, where residents with Alzheimer's Disease and other memory loss disorders benefit

from her sense of compassion. What Lorna appreciates most about working at Broomall is that she has the support and resources to do her job to the best of her ability.

"Presby's Inspired Life has changed the way I view nursing," said Lorna. "When I was in nursing school, I wanted to be Florence Nightingale, but when I worked elsewhere, I became disillusioned. At Broomall, I can be the nurse I want to be; I can be Florence Nightingale."

MT. TABOR CELEBRATES OLDER AMERICANS BY "CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY."



Each year, Presby's Inspired Life communities commemorate older Americans with a host of special events and celebrations. At Mt. Tabor Senior Cyber Village, Presby's managed affordable housing community in the Northern Liberties neighborhood of Philadelphia, residents and staff marked the occasion by bringing the surrounding community together with their "Building Blocks to a Fabulous Community" celebration. Residents and staff hand made building blocks that included the names of all organizations, vendors and neighborhood associations who are active in the Mt. Tabor community. Once completed, they

assembled the blocks into a large tower and, in true Presby form, hosted a party to mark the occasion and to celebrate their community ties. Here, proudly displaying their community building blocks are (from left) Vice President of the Mt. Tabor Residents' Association Frances Woods; Manager Joyce Smith; Barbara Roane, of the local clothier B & B Fashions; Co-chair of the Mt. Tabor Activities Committee Pat Mixson; Mt. Brother Samuel Moore from Mt. Tabor AME Church; Co-chair of the Mt. Tabor Activities Committee Barbara Andrews; and Activities Committee members Sandra Baker and Barbara Pullin.

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS...

a Family Affair at Rosemont

The 1980s represented prosperity for many. A healthy economy and low unemployment enabled the 'American Dream' for countless U.S. citizens. But in Poland, the 80s represented a time of crisis as the country was enveloped in a strong Communist regime, causing economic depression and social unrest. This was the environment in which Rosemont Presbyterian Village Wellness Center Coordinator Alicja Wisniewska and her husband, Wojtek, were raising their family.



Mother/daughter nursing team Joanna Kehoe (left) and Alicja Wisniewska enjoy rewarding nursing careers at Rosemont Presbyterian Village, which became part of their 'American Dream.'

Determined to create a better life for his family and country, Wojtek worked toward solidarity efforts to abolish Communism; however, the threat of incarceration prompted the family to seek refuge in America. Wojtek eventually immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1984 to set up a home before his family could join him. Due to bureaucratic setbacks in the emigration process, it would be two years until Alicja and her children would see him again. Finally in 1986, with mixed emotions, it was time for Alicja and her children to go to America.

"It was scary leaving the only home we'd ever known," recalls Joanna, who was 10 at the time. "And, none of us spoke English."

"I was traveling to a different country with two small children," Alicja recalls. "But I knew a better life was on the horizon."

The family reunited and settled

in Delaware County. With Wojtek working and the children in school, Alicja started learning English by watching television. She honed her skills enough to secure a job in a local jewelry factory until a friend recommended Rosemont as a better place to work.

As she began her new career at Rosemont, working in the kitchen, Alicja revealed that she was a registered nurse (R.N.) in Poland. Although her Polish R.N. licensure was invalid in America, she was encouraged to pursue a similar post at Rosemont, eventually becoming the health clinic coordinator.

"I am so happy to be able to help residents," Alicja says. "There's a familial bond with them; that's what being a Presby team member is all about."

With her mother as her role model, Joanna decided to follow in her footsteps, which also led her to Rosemont. "I remember my mom working as a nurse in Poland," Joanna

recalls. "I wanted to experience the same joy she did."

Like her mother, Joanna started working in the kitchen at Rosemont. Through Presby's Tuition Assistance Program, she earned her educational credentials and became a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) and now works in Rosemont's personal care unit.

With Alicja and Joanna marking their 20-year and 12-year anniversaries working at Rosemont, respectively, the fears they experienced traveling from Poland have dissipated into dreams come true.

"We came here for a better life and we found it," Alicja adds. "Rosemont has played a significant role in our 'American Dream.'"

Spring Mill Team Members and Local Dignitaries Mark Resident's 100th Birthday

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Spring Mill Presbyterian Village Dining Services Director Michelle Brooker (foreground, center) and Activities Director Joseph Monserrat (foreground, right) celebrate the birthday of Spring Mill resident Sara Alparone (foreground, left) on August 20. Joining them are special guests Pennsylvania State Representative Josh Shapiro and Whitemarsh Township Supervisor Leslie Richards. Spring Mill team members hosted a birthday party for Sara, who turned 100 years old that day.

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Each year, many residents throughout Presby's Inspired Life celebrate becoming a centenarian, a milestone that a growing number of residents commemorate. For Spring Mill Presbyterian Village resident Sara Alparone, turning 100 was a cause for celebration, as well as for reflection.

After living through the Great Depression, 18 U. S. presidents and two World Wars, Sara advised that the key to a long life is that, "We have to find the beautiful in life and give back something to the world."

Sara's party featured two V.I.P. guests when Pennsylvania State Representative Josh Shapiro and Whitemarsh Township Supervisor Leslie Richards dropped by to wish her well. Representative Shapiro presented an official Pennsylvania House of Representatives Proclamation acknowledging Sara's many contributions to family, friends and community over her first 100 years.

As a special thank you to her guests, Sara shared her insight into life by stating, "The Bible is not only a book of prayers, it is a book of knowledge; a little wisdom comes with age."

The entire Presby's Inspired Life ministry wish Sara and all of our centenarians wonderful birthdays blessings. You are all truly inspirational!



58th Street Home Reunion... *A Celebration of Compassion*

In late 2010, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cease operations at the The 58th Street Presbyterian Home. To show appreciation for the Home's staff and to celebrate their significant contributions to our 58th Street ministry, Presby hosted a special reunion for them on August 19th.

"Your dedication to the residents of The 58th Street Presbyterian Home has left an indelible mark on the lives of many," said President & CEO Judee M. Bavaria as she welcomed guests. "We join together to celebrate the 139-year legacy of compassion that you helped to create...a legacy that lives on."

Many former 58th Street Home team members have been reassigned to other Presby communities. After regaling stories of their time together, guests were treated to a buffet dinner and then enjoyed karaoke and dancing.

Presby's Inspired Life Medical Director Joan Weinryb, M.D. (fourth from left) and Director of Quality Improvement Bette McNee (second from right) join the reunion of former staff of The 58th Street Presbyterian Home (from left) Brian McGrowty, Diana Lyon, Patty McGrowty (wife of Brian), Elaine Hill, Teddy Livingston, Jackie Williams and Sheila Crosson. The August 19 celebration was hosted to honor the Home's staff for their dedication to the 58th Street ministry.

PARTNERS IN CARING

Sowing the Seeds of Love

The Parable of the Sower contains the message that although sometimes one's efforts do not bear fruit, success can still occur with determination and faith. In the parable, a sower dropped seeds on a path, rocky ground and among thorns, but the seeds did not grow. He then dropped seeds on fertile soil and they grew a hundredfold.

Much like the "sower," Presby's Inspired Life team members who participate in The Partners in Caring Program are helping Presby bear fruit. Their generosity enables the enhanced quality of life for residents in financial need.

The Partners in Caring Program supports various resident programs and services, including:

- Emergency financial aid for residents
- Health and wellness programs
- Rehabilitative equipment
- Recreational and educational programs

Your gift – no matter the size – makes a tremendous impact on someone's life.

Presby's Inspired Life would like to extend sincerest gratitude to the following team members for becoming Partners in Caring.

Community Support Center

Mary Kay Bauman
Judee M. Bavaria
Michelle Bryk
William Canteen
Latoya Carroo
Linda D'Ascenzo
Jeanette Dimitri
Surrietha Jones
Cindy Hoffman
Vaccine Irick
Jennifer Kappen
Mary Kender
Patricia Linder
Daniel Magee
James Polaski
Ennio Rossi

Broomall:

Rachael DeCecco
Cherry Frederico
Patrick McCallumi

Rosemont:

The Rev. Jerry Foote
Dana Miller

Spring Mill:

Anonymous (1)
Mary M. Hodgkinson
Barbara G. Simons

Rydal Park:

Richard Crotinger
Orion Gray-Chambliss
Lisa Heinrich
Michael Heneghan

Amy McGovern
Maggie McCloughlin
Patricia Morrell
Craig Pierre
Laura Wiater
Suzanne Wurst

Affordable Housing

Fatimah Bey
Edith Edmunds
Ruth James
Lillian Rubin
John Walker
Brenda Williams

*So far this year,
Partners in Caring
have raised more than
\$19,000.*

*Their generosity is truly at
the heart of our ministry.*

Be the next 'Partner in Caring.' You too can make a difference in the lives of our residents by becoming a 'Partner in Caring.' Make a gift with a check or sign up for payroll deduction. Online donations are also being accepted on our website, www.presbysinspiredlife.org. To discuss how to get involved, please contact Latoya Carroo at (610) 260-1160, or via email at latoya.carroo@presbysinspiredlife.org. Remember, your gift can be directed to a community or program of your choosing.

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