



Sweet Charity

Summer 2018 Volume 111, Issue 2

A Good Shepherd Publication

A League of His Own



Gratitude Heals

Dear Friends,

At Good Shepherd compassionate healing is at the heart of what we do. Our therapists and physicians use innovation, education and clinical expertise to help heal those with physical disabilities. But there are other kinds of healing taking place here every day, and that is healing of the soul through relationship building.

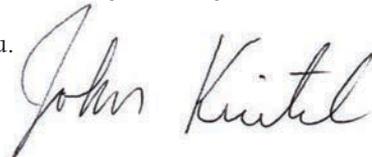
So often I have heard patients and our long-term care residents praise the acts of kindness and superb caregiving that are among the hallmarks of the Good Shepherd experience. At every level of our organization from security officers, housekeepers and certified nursing assistants to nurses and our chaplain, it's often the little things that make a big difference in the healing process.

Our volunteer patient ambassadors play an important role in enhancing the patient experience. They received the 2017 Conrad W. Raker Volunteer of the Year Award and with good reason. Whether it's answering a family's question about where to find the cafeteria or just sitting and listening to patients talk they are participants in healing.

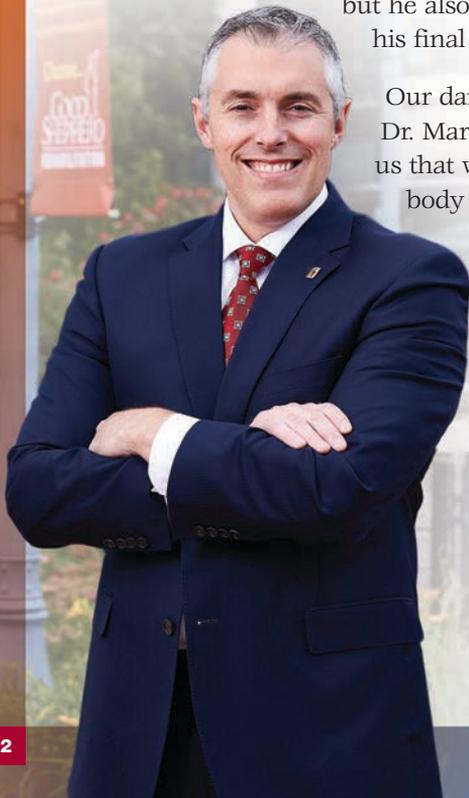
For Chaplain Paul Xander, gathering strength from family, friends and his faith contributed to his healing and brief return to his ministry at Good Shepherd after a lengthy illness. Chaplain Paul's sudden passing in April leaves us deeply saddened, but he also left an inspiring message of hope and gratitude in his final Reflections column which you'll find in this issue.

Our daily lives are often in need of healing to offset stress. Dr. Mary Brownsberger, our director of psychology, reminds us that when we practice gratitude our stressed out mind, body and spirit gets needed relief. My own experience has taught me that giving back has a powerful healing impact. Whether it is with those small acts of kindness, volunteering or supporting Good Shepherd's mission through your donations, opportunities for showing gratitude are everywhere and easily within your reach.

Thank you.



John Kristel, MBA, MPT, FACHE
President and CEO



Lewy Schoenberger spent the first 202 days of his life in the NICU struggling just to breathe. But with the help of Good Shepherd's inpatient pediatric team Lewy is now thriving at home.



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A League of His Own

Cover photograph: Randy Monceaux



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— Woods Talman, Linda Breitenbach, Paul Xander, Matilda Sunnygard

Our Mission

Motivated by the divine Good Shepherd and the physical and cognitive rehabilitation needs of our communities, our mission is to enhance lives, maximize function, inspire hope, and promote dignity and well-being with expertise and compassion.

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A League of His Own



Jade Szukics remembers hearing her baby's first cry. But the moment every mother dreams of, that exquisite moment of holding her newborn as he took his first breath was denied her. Instead, Lewy, who was born by emergency C-section on January 11, 2017, was whisked away to the neonatal intensive care unit where he was put on a ventilator and placed in an incubator.

Lewy Schoenberger's pre-term delivery at 30 weeks and five days was due to a slower than normal growth rate putting him at risk. The tiny baby boy weighing just two pounds and 5.4 ounces, and measuring a little over 14 inches long, struggled to breathe as Jade lay in the recovery room for what seemed an eternity. A first-time mother, Jade learned from Lewy's father, Russell Schoenberger, and her parents that Lewy, unable to breathe on his own, was in the neonatal intensive care unit on a ventilator.

"I remember finally being able to see him," says Jade. "It wasn't until a couple of hours later that the neonatologist came in and said how bad Lewy really was, and that he had taken a turn for the worse." Lewy's arterial blood gases, a measure of whether the lungs are providing adequate oxygen as they remove

carbon dioxide, were “pretty much incompatible with life,” says Jade.

Lewy made it through those first critical hours but his survival was anything but certain. “Within 48 hours we were told three times he wasn’t going to make it,” says Jade. “They asked us if we wanted him baptized. We said yes. After that we literally were counting down the minutes and seconds on the clock.”

By Lewy’s second week of life, his blood gases were stabilizing. But just as the couple’s hopes were buoyed by this encouraging news, a neonatologist told them that Lewy had suffered two brain bleeds at the most serious level. Jade and

*Jade and Russell love
playtime with Lewy.*



*“He’s definitely a fighter.
I actually learned a lot from
him and look up to him
for that...”*

— Russell
Schoenberger



Russell were cautioned that Lewy might never, walk, talk, speak, or know his parents. “She (the neonatologist) pretty much told us that we had options,” says Jade, “meaning if we wanted to just drop care we could.”

That night, Jade and Russell met with their parents to wrestle with an awful decision. They wanted to give Lewy a chance but also didn’t want him to suffer. Would they ever be able to bring their baby home or would they be planning his burial? The couple began researching stories on the internet about other babies that suffered brain bleeds. In those stories they found hope from other parents who didn’t give up on their children. “That’s pretty much when our attitude changed,” says Jade. Lewy had come this far; the fighter in him deserved another chance.

Yet another life-threatening medical obstacle loomed; as a result of the brain bleeds, Lewy developed hydrocephalus, a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in the ventricles of the brain. “Every single day they had to get measurements of his head to see how much it grew,” says Jade. Lewy’s condition became critical. On February 14 a shunt was surgically placed to drain the excess fluid and relieve the pressure in his skull.

Lewy’s head quickly began reducing in size. With that crisis past, focus

again shifted to increasing Lewy's pulmonary strength. A round of steroids helped and Lewy was taken off the ventilator which until then had been doing much of his breathing for him. Ten days later though, Lewy's progress took a nosedive and he was back on the high frequency ventilator.

After conferring with the doctors, Jade and Russell agreed with the doctors that since Lewy was so dependent on the ventilator he would benefit from a tracheostomy, a tube surgically inserted in his windpipe and connected to the ventilator. "That was kind of like a curveball that crushed us because we never thought he'd be back on that ventilator," says Jade. "We had to wrap our brain around that."

Lewy was one tough little boy though, and after another round of steroids he transitioned to a less aggressive ventilator. Ultimately, the goal was to get Lewy strong enough to breathe on his own. For that to happen though, Lewy needed therapy and lots of it.

On August 1, Lewy was transferred to the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Emily Howatt Pliskatt Pediatric Unit in Bethlehem. Within 48 hours, Lewy began a daily regimen of physical, occupational, speech, and pulmonary therapies. Jade told his therapists, "Lewy's in a league all his own. He'll teach you things you never saw before."

Jade's words were on target. Lewy turned out to be one of the most difficult babies with stiffened premature lungs the Good Shepherd pediatric team had seen. "With Lewy, we knew we had our work cut out for us," says Sheri Luther, respiratory therapist, "because



they had a hard time transitioning him from the hospital ventilator to the home-care vent he would need in order for him to come to rehab."

Lewy challenged the pediatric team from the beginning by turning blue from five to 10 times a day, says Sheri. These episodes were triggered when therapists tried getting Lewy to do something he didn't want to do. "He would hold his breath, clamping down his airway and blocking the vent from doing its job, decreasing the oxygen in his blood and turning blue," says Sheri.

continued on page 14...

Being Brian Again



Brian Marrero may not be able to talk, but his face and body speak volumes. Sitting in the lunch room at Good Shepherd's inpatient pediatric unit in

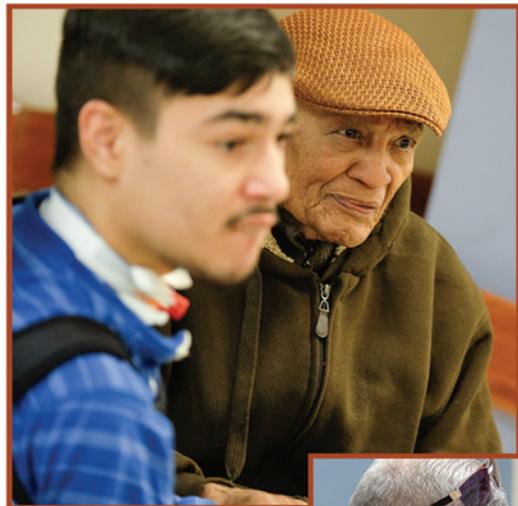
Bethlehem, Brian, who is non-verbal, goes from being quietly enchanted to enthusiastically bouncing up and down in his wheelchair as his 96-year-old grandfather plays the guitar while Brian's father sings a Spanish ballad.

The impromptu concert by Brian's musical family is not the first they have given at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Emily Howatt Pliskatt Pediatric Unit, but it will be one of the last. Brian, who has autism and a seizure disorder, will soon be going home to Middletown, leaving far different than when he arrived. It is cause for celebration, and Brian's father Luis and step-mother Gina Sanchez have brought a feast of Puerto Rican food to show their gratitude to the staff.

At left: Brian taking one of his walks with Jacquelyn Swackhamer, occupational therapist.

Opposite page: Brian and his grandfather Angel Marrero (top); playing the guitar with his father Luis.

"I have a vivid picture of him the day he came," says Jamie Zanelli, director of clinical



operations at the pediatric unit, recalling the young man who arrived weak and lethargic after 47 days in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a Harrisburg hospital. "If you told me this is what he would be like, I never would have believed it in a million years."

Last September, Brian, then 20 years old, suddenly became ill. He had a high fever and began aspirating his food and vomiting. Brian was rushed to the emergency room. He was diagnosed with high blood pressure and pneumonia in his right lung. Brian was admitted to the ICU where he had a tracheostomy and was put on a ventilator to help him

breathe. Brian also had a feeding tube inserted through his nose.

Brian was sedated for much of his hospital stay. Luis spent every moment by his son's side. At one point, Brian's tongue swelled to about 10 times its normal size, blocking his airway. His condition grew so critical and his prognosis was so poor doctors suggested it might be merciful if Brian passed away. But remembering the lively son who loved music, watching television, playing games on his iPad, and laughing, Luis wouldn't hear of it. Neither apparently would Brian. Brian not only survived, he was ready for the next step in his

recovery. Even though he would be 95 miles from home, Good Shepherd was the best place for Brian to get the rehabilitation therapy he needed.



Brian was admitted to Good Shepherd on November 16, 2017. His lengthy hospital stay had taken its toll. Brian just lay in bed and looked at people. He was so weak he

couldn't sit up on his own. He was dependent on high-flow respiratory support and still had a feeding tube. Brian needed physical, occupational, speech, recreational, and respiratory therapy before he could go home.

"When Brian was brought to Good Shepherd his family was devastated to see the condition

24th
Annual



Clays Invitational SETS A



NEW



Congratulations

Good Shepherd scored its most successful Conrad W. Raker Sporting Clays Invitational on Friday, May 4, raising more than \$76,000 for the Long-Term Care Community Access Fund. The event at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays, Coplay, attracted 162 shooters who turned out to enjoy the beautiful weather, camaraderie and delicious food. The community access fund helps Good Shepherd's 159 residents enjoy greater independence by attending educational, cultural and recreational activities from dining out to family gatherings.

Our thanks to presenting sponsor Dr. David Yen and Specialty Physician Associates, all our sponsors and participants, and our volunteers from the local Boy Scouts, Williams Township Troop 31; Buckeye Partners, L.P., and Air Products Retirees. We couldn't do it without you.

to our Winners

**First Place
Men (100):
Joe Totenbier**

**Honorable
Mention:
Ricky Fung-A-Fat**

**First Place
Women (97):
Tylee Totenbier**

**Gold Squad (396):
Little Gap
Animal Hospital**

**Silver Squad (371):
H.T. Lyons**

**Bronze Squad (367):
Nazareth Ford**

Record



spletz Photography



Gala Chair Ron Donchez and his wife Lisa.

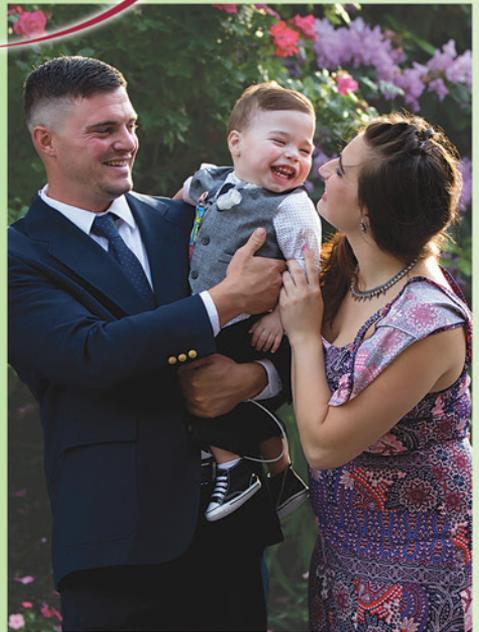


John Kristel, president and CEO, with his wife Monet.

Gala
in the *garden*
2018



Gala committee member Susan Bella Linski with her husband Dan.



Gala family honorees Russell and Lewy Schoenberger, and Jade Szukics.

James Boburka Photography

Gala in the Garden a Glittering Success

The Gala in the Garden held Saturday, June 2, in the healing gardens of Good Shepherd's south Allentown campus was an unqualified success raising more than \$318,000 for the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Emily Howatt Pliskatt Pediatric Unit in Bethlehem. More than 500 people attended the black tie and fun footwear event. The evening began with elegant cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a sit-down dinner under the tent. An array of mini-desserts and dancing wrapped things up.

This year's featured video told the heart-wrenching story of Lewy Schoenberger who was prematurely born and spent 202 days in the neonatal intensive care unit

of an area hospital before coming to Good Shepherd for four months of therapy.

Thank you to Lewy Schoenberger, his parents Russell Schoenberger and Jade Szukics, our gala committee and chair Ron Donchez of BB&T, our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, who made the event so wonderful.

Watch the video "Lewy's Story" on SweetCharityOnline's Facebook page or on the web.



The Gala in the Garden volunteer committee.



A League of His Own

continued from page 7...



Sheri Luther, respiratory therapist, came to love Lewy as did all his caregivers.

“It was a delicate circle that we had to watch very closely”

— Sheri Luther,
respiratory therapist

When this happened all therapy came to a halt slowing down the recovery process, says Sheri. The team also was careful not to push Lewy too much or run the risk of him breathing too rapidly and burning vital calories he needed to get through his daily therapies. “It was a delicate circle that we had to watch very closely,” says Sheri.

As Lewy's physical therapist, Erica Herzer focused on building Lewy's strength. “When Lewy came to Good Shepherd, our first goal was for him to be able to tolerate being in positions other than lying on his back without distress,” says Erica. “By the time he left he was smiling, starting to roll by himself and sat up with minimal assistance while playing with toys.”

On December 11, 2017, Lewy went home to his parents' cozy home in Lehighton for the first time since he was born. He had successfully been weaned from the ventilator circuit with its complicated air flow settings to one that Jade and Russell could better manage themselves. Now a little over a year-and-a-half old, Lewy has blossomed into a chubby-cheeked, happy baby who loves to laugh, play in his bouncy chair and be smothered in kisses by his parents. Perhaps best of all, Lewy no longer needs to be on the ventilator during the day and is slowly being weaned from it at night.

Russell marvels at his son's miraculous outcome and has discovered that teachers and heroes can come in very small sizes. “He definitely taught us the value of life and the will to survive,” says Russell. “He's definitely a fighter. I actually learned a lot from him and look up to him for that because I think I would have given up with everything he's been through.”

Watch the video “Lewy's Story” on SweetCharityOnline's Facebook page or on the web.

Scholarships Benefit Nursing Education

Donors and nurses were celebrated at the fifth annual Oberly-Allen Nursing Awards ceremony held Wednesday, May 9, at DeSales University. Through the generosity of donors, seventeen scholarships supporting continuing education were awarded to Good Shepherd nurses. Sam Miranda, senior vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer, said, "Tonight is one of my favorite events of the year. Nothing makes me happier than joining together to celebrate excellence, the excellence that is embodied in our talented, dedicated nursing staff."

Other honorees included Brianna Trumbauer, RN, CRRN, who received the DAISY Award for Exceptional Nursing; and Joseph Shadid, RN, MSN, MBA, NHA, administrator of Cedar Brook Senior Care & Rehabilitation Nursing, who received the Chief Nursing Officer Certificate of Achievement. It also was announced Joe and Brianna joined an esteemed group of colleagues when they were inducted this year as Clinical Nurse Leader members into Sigma Theta Tau International and the local chapter, Theta Rho. The induction ceremony was held in April at Cedar Crest College in April.

The Oberly-Allen Nursing Education Endowment was started in April 2013 with an initial pledge of \$20,000 from a donor. The endowment has grown to more than \$755,000 in gifts and pledges.

For a complete list of scholarship recipients and to watch a video about the impact of the endowment on our nurses go to GoodShepherdRehab.org/nursescholar.



Brianna Trumbauer



Joseph Shadid

Nursing award recipients with (far left) Sam Miranda, senior vice president, patient care & chief nursing officer, and (far right) John Kristel, president and CEO.



Reflections

— by Chaplain Paul Xander

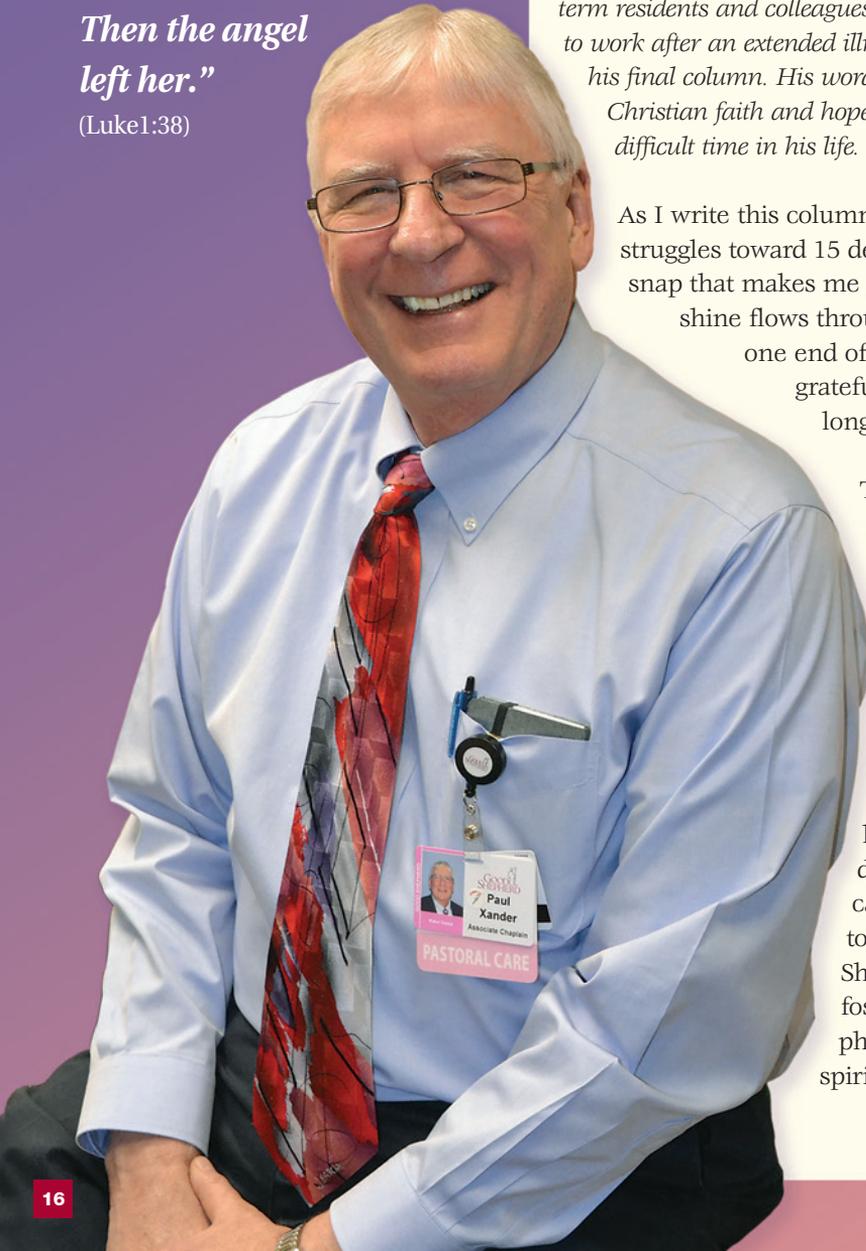
“Then Mary said, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.”

(Luke 1:38)

Editor’s Note: It is with profound sadness we report the sudden passing of Chaplain Paul on April 21. A beloved spiritual leader and counselor to many of Good Shepherd’s long-term residents and colleagues, Chaplain Paul briefly returned to work after an extended illness last winter and wrote this, his final column. His words are a moving testament to his Christian faith and hope that sustained him during a difficult time in his life. (See In Memoriam Page 26)

As I write this column, the temperature outside struggles toward 15 degrees during a prolonged cold snap that makes me yearn for spring. But the sunshine flows through the sliding glass doors at one end of our living room and I am grateful to be home after a prolonged hospital stay of 41 days.

The day after arriving home, Kelly Brooks, associate chaplain and colleague, emailed me asking if I felt well enough to write this issue’s Reflections. It was my turn after all. I realized that what Chaplain Kelly was doing was inviting me to participate in the calling to which I had responded with a “yes” decades ago. The invitation carried with it the opportunity to return to my life at Good Shepherd in a way that would foster the healing I needed physically, emotionally and spiritually.



*“How comforting
it is to know that
Mary has been
and always will be
in that family of
faith for me
and for you.”*

During the early part of my hospital stay there is a portion of time, perhaps a week, of which I have no total recollection. Some who were with me during that time have said it was God’s abiding presence that brought me through it. I, in the meantime, have been able to reach out to family members and those with a deep and abiding faith relationship with me to experience ongoing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

Mary the mother of Jesus has been one of those in my family of faith, and it is in her story I find echoes of my own faith journey. The gospel of Luke portrays Mary as an active, faithful, thoughtful person. When the angel Gabriel asked her to accept a radical transformation of her life to serve the purposes of God, she said, “yes.” She embraced God’s unexpected plan for her life.

My longtime friend and spiritual director is a Jesuit priest. He and I have spoken often about Mary, not as a hard stone statue or admired memorial, but rather as part of the cloud of witnesses that guides us on our faith journey because of her faith journey. The point about Mary wasn’t that she was larger than life, or that she was a virgin, or that she was free from the stain of original sin. The point is that Mary’s “yes” to Gabriel was, above all else, the response that Jesus wanted from his disciples and that God wanted from believers. “Come and see,” Jesus said, go out and serve, stay awake a little while,

don’t be afraid, make disciples; each of those a command that required a “yes.”

I am convinced that Mary, the mother of our Lord, a woman who was tough and resilient, was guiding me on my medical odyssey through a time I still cannot recollect and toward a time of healing. It was she who brought me to the healing heart of Jesus in which all healing can flourish. She came into my life at that dark moment as I am convinced she comes into the dark places of many lives, to be and give birth to the promise of new life, light, and peace.

I will continue to reach out to family members and those with a deep and abiding faith relationship with me to experience healing in all its fullness. How comforting it is to know that Mary has been and always will be in that family of faith for me and for you. All we have to say is “yes.”

good NEWS

PPL Donates Charging Station

At Good Shepherd, many of our patients and staff are technology driven. Ruth Aragon is no exception.

Ruth, a secretary in Good Shepherd's neurorehabilitation program and also a spinal cord injury patient, is seen here recharging her cell phone at a charging station recently donated by PPL Electric. The charging station is centrally located in the Health and Technology Center. It will be a welcome convenience to patients of all ages, family members and staff whenever they need a jolt of juice for their cell phones, iPads, tablets, and laptops. Ruth is wearing the Ekso GT™, a wearable robotic device that allows people with lower extremity paralysis or weakness to stand up and walk. With Ruth is Nicole Yenser, a physical therapist.

“I use my cell phone a lot and can quickly drain the battery. This charging station is a wonderful convenience for a quick recharge and keeps me connected with all my social media.”

&
great

Volunteers Honored

Good Shepherd's dedicated team of volunteers was honored at a sports-themed recognition dinner and lunch on April 17 and 18 at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center. Eleven volunteers were given certificates of appreciation recognizing hours and years of service. Good Shepherd's patient ambassadors were recipients of the 2017 Conrad W. Raker Volunteer of the Year Award. There are seven ambassadors trained to help ensure patients have a positive experience at Good Shepherd. Duties range from non-medical orientation on hospital services for new patients to spending time listening to those who need an understanding ear. Pictured below right are ambassadors Fay Mackey and Lee Godfrey.

Project SEARCH received the 2017 Conrad W. Raker Business of the Year Award. Since 2008, Good Shepherd has partnered with Project SEARCH providing on-the-job training and employment opportunities for graduating high school students with intellectual challenges. Several Project SEARCH graduates have found work at Good Shepherd in areas ranging from maintenance to central supply. Christopher Weiss, pictured below left with Kim Pulli, his supervisor, is a 2017 Project SEARCH graduate now employed by Metz Food Services at its Good Shepherd site in Allentown.



GIFTS

Gifts of Love

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IN HONOR OF the 89th Birthday of...

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DONATED BY...



We thank the generous families and friends who honor their dear ones with memorial gifts and living gifts of honor. These gifts help support Good Shepherd's mission of service to people with disabilities, many who otherwise could not afford the therapies or long-term care they need.

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Gifts were received from October 18, 2017 through March 11, 2018.

Being Brian Again

continued from page 9...

he was in," says Jamie Ciabattari, physical therapist. "He needed the help of two people just to change clothes. He had lost mobility in his arm and neck, and he was very weak and lethargic with very little eye contact."

The first goal, says Jamie, was getting Brian out of bed and into an activity chair similar to the one he had been using at home. The speech therapists also wanted to re-engage Brian with his iPad which was a big part of his daily life. "Everyone wanted to get him back to being Brian," says Jamie.

Brian's love of music, especially the guitar, became a motivational tool. His talented family brought their instruments and played and sang when they visited. Brian's grandfather, Angel Marrero, performed many of his original faith songs. Brian loved stroking the strings on his grandfather's guitar, his face lighting up with joy and laughter. A guitar was kept in Brian's room for continued inspiration.

With the therapy team's expertise it didn't take long for the Brian his family knew and loved to emerge. Within two weeks Brian was laughing at his favorite television shows and using his iPad. And he was ready to start exploring the unit. But Brian's movement was limited to a few steps by the length of the respiratory support tubing he still needed to help breathe. Eventually Brian was able to use a portable oxygen tank giving him more freedom. Then, it was off to the races.



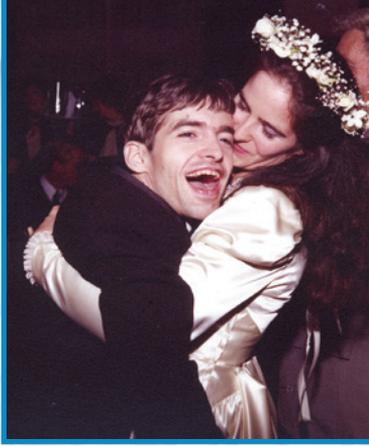
Brian with his family, from left, father Luis, step-mother Gina Sanchez, and grandfather Angel Marrero.

"He wanted to move more," says Jamie. "When you walked with him he would run and gallop down the hallways. One of the biggest challenges was getting him to sit back down in his chair!"

As Brian progressed his need to socialize propelled him even further. "He'd visit the day room and the nurses' desk to see what was going on," says Jamie. "It was a driving point for him and motivated progress with his therapy."

On Monday, February 5, 2018 Brian went home to continue with outpatient therapy. He still had a feeding tube and a trach but no longer needed supplemental oxygen. Perhaps best of all, Brian celebrated his 21st birthday on February 13 surrounded by loved ones. "We had faith in God to bring him through," says Luis. "The whole (Good Shepherd) team is beautiful. Brian reached his goals thanks to you. You guys are always going to be his family."

Watch the video "Brian's Serenade" on the web at SweetCharityOnline.org



Dancing at Ann's wedding

Woods Talman

Woods Talman may not have been able to speak, but he knew how to give an order. When Woods was about eight years old, he realized that if anything happened to his parents, there would be no one to look after him. For a bright child with cerebral palsy that was a frightening thought. So Woods went on a campaign urging, in his own way, his parents to have a second child. When Woods' sister Ann was born their mother wrote

on a Polaroid picture of the new baby, Woody's Order! It was the start of a destiny binding brother and sister in a lifelong bond. Ultimately it inspired Ann, a professional actress, to write a one-woman show, Woody's Order!, which led to an award-winning documentary of the same name.

Woody, as Ann calls him, passed away in her arms on January 29. A resident of the Good Shepherd Home-Bethlehem, he was 69. Woody was born in Bessemer, Alabama, on July 22, 1948, to Woods Garth and Martha Elizabeth Talman. Woody was not expected to live past the age of 12. But his parents were pioneers in mainstreaming and inclusion, and did all the right things to help Woody thrive. "They were groundbreakers for their time," says Ann, noting that they adapted toys and clothes better suited to a child with a disability. "Woody was a Cub and Boy Scout. He went everywhere with us on vacations. My parents never hid him away."

There were summer vacations in Ocean City, New Jersey, visits to the zoo, and trips by planes, trains and automobiles to family events near and far. When the family moved to Pittsburgh, Woody became a Pirates fan and thanks to Bob Prince, KDKA'S Voice of the Pirates, was allowed to sit in the dugout.

Woody moved to the Good Shepherd Home in 1964 when he was sixteen. Living so far from his parents and sister was hard, but Woody adjusted. He became a devout member of Grace Lutheran Church in Allentown, and he enjoyed attending the annual resident ball and sports outings. Passionate about politics and the news, Woody was an avid viewer of CNN and CNBC, and participated in resident discussion groups about current affairs. "He cared deeply about the issues of the day," says Ann.

The bond between brother and sister became even stronger after Martha was tragically killed in an auto accident in 1977. About five years later, Alzheimer's disease took Woods Sr. "Woody was the one person in the whole wide world who loved me unconditionally and had my back," says Ann. "He took care of me. I had major depression as dad was dying and Woody is the one I felt helped me get through it."

IN MEM

Linda Breitenbach

If you were to ask Linda Breitenbach where to find a little bit of heaven on earth, there's a good chance she would have pointed you towards the Delaware shore where she shared a camper with her life partner Rob Hawkey. There the couple spent many happy vacation days feasting on a bounty of fresh-caught crabs, flounder and clams hauled from the briny deep. For Linda, it was an escape from her job as a regional manager for True Value hardware, a job that kept her traveling up and down the East Coast until a neurological disease sidelined her career.

Linda, a resident of the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center in Allentown, passed away on Sunday, March 4, leaving behind her beloved partner of 18 years, Rob, and dog Dozer, as well as many friends and a caring staff at Good Shepherd. Born May 16, 1965, in Middletown, Delaware, Linda knew Rob since childhood. Their lives took them in different directions until they reunited at the campground where they first met and continued to spend vacations.

Shore life was where Linda and Rob refreshed their souls. "It was all about the beach for us," says Rob. "We were beach trolls." Long leisurely days were spent on Rob's 16-foot boat. "Linda was a great fisherman," says Rob. "She won a few tournaments in her time fishing for flounder."



The couple loved their seafood so much at one time they had 73 pounds of crab meat in the freezer, says Rob. On one occasion Linda prepared 85 shish-kebabs with mahi-mahi, tuna, shrimp, and scallops, and added cherry tomatoes and peppers fresh from the garden. All their campground neighbors were invited to the feast.

Linda's culinary skills weren't limited to seafood. "Linda was a great cook," says Rob. "Her chicken and dumplings were to die for and her Italian love cake with ricotta cheese...She got me real fat real quick."

In 2012, Linda was diagnosed with neurosarcoidosis, a neurological disease affecting the nervous system. The disease began robbing Linda of her vision, motor skills and ability to walk, eventually landing her in a manual wheelchair. Linda lived in a nursing home for two years before coming to Good Shepherd in 2014 where a motorized wheelchair gave her greater independence and enhanced her social life.

Linda's sense of humor and sarcasm were among the hallmarks of her outgoing personality. "I fell in love with the whole package," says Rob, whose daily visits to Linda were also enjoyed by many residents on her floor. "She could make me laugh, she could make me cry. She was fun to be with."

Paul Xander

It was never hard knowing when Chaplain Paul Xander was in his office. Inevitably there would be music pouring out. Loudly. Rock. Classical. Spirituals. Jazz. Paul's musical tastes were eclectic and he embraced it all with the same gusto he embraced life and ministering to the spiritual needs of Good Shepherd's long-term care residents and colleagues.



Paul passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 21, at his home, quietly enjoying one of his favorite pastimes: reading. Compassion, humor and a commitment to living out his faith were among the hallmarks of his ministry.

"Ministry was his passion," says Susan, his wife of 39 years, "and he absolutely had a passion for chaplaincy. He grew a lot from the Good Shepherd staff, and the work with the residents was his love."

A keen sense of play was never far from the surface and Paul exercised it with robust delight, his hearty laugh as memorable as his broad smile and twinkling eyes. He delighted in doing funny sketches at volunteer recognition events and portrayed Willy Nelson, Lou Costello and most recently Tom Brady in a deflate-gate parody.

"We did some pretty crazy stuff up here," says JoAnn Frey, volunteer coordinator and special events manager, whose office was adjacent to Paul's. "He became a really good friend and mentor. Out of everything I miss his laugh the most."

A lengthy illness last year kept Paul away from his beloved ministry, but he was determined to return to work, which he did in February. "His drive to get back to work was singular," says Susan. "He knew that's where his healing would take place...that work in humanity is where everyone is healed. God is a healer and he believed we can probably help each other if we talk about healing and figure out a way to heal together."

Matilda Sunnygard

We were sad to learn recently of the passing of Matilda Sunnygard, at home in Fairfax, Virginia, on June 23, 2017. Matilda was the daughter of the late Hannah (Ely) Jacks Raker and step-daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Conrad Raker, former administrator at Good Shepherd and son of our founders the Rev. John and Estella Raker. Matilda was a graduate of Hood College with a dietetics degree. She worked as a dietitian in Allentown before moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she worked in the same capacity with the state until her retirement around 2002. Survivors include three children: Kristin Ehrler, Fairfax, Virginia; Melissa Sunnygard-Couse, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and John C. Sunnygard, Denver, Colorado; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM



Sweet Charity

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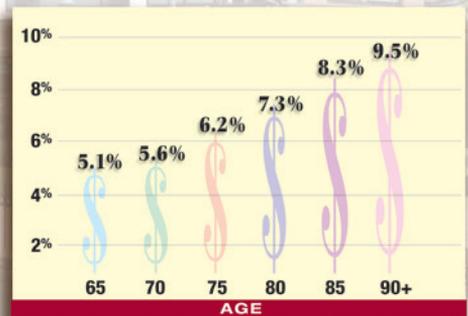
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