

Sweet Charity

Winter 2016 Volume 109, Issue 4

A Good Shepherd Publication



Back From the Brink

Going the Extra Mile

Dear Friends,

We all have heard the expression “going the extra mile” when describing someone going above and beyond. In this issue of *Sweet Charity*, I think you’ll enjoy reading about two of our associates who literally went many extra miles for one of our residents, Brian Wright. Without giving too much away, I’ll just say that it was an experience of a lifetime for all involved and one that demonstrated just how much our associates are like family to our residents.

In ways big and small, Good Shepherd associates go the extra mile with our residents, patients and colleagues every single day. Certainly that was the spirit that motivated our founders, the Rev. John and Estelle Raker, to start Good Shepherd, and it’s a spirit that is alive and well 108 years later.

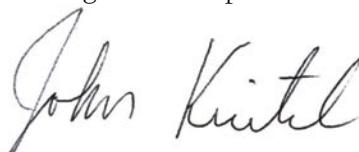
Another example of that driving spirit can be seen in the story, “Her Forever Home,” about the interment of the late Bonnie Stallman’s ashes by the Raker sculpture on our south Allentown campus. It happened because of the determination of our two chaplains who wanted to ensure that Bonnie, a longtime resident, had a permanent resting place here, the place she called home.

Someone else who has gone the distance is our Raker Spirit Award winner Bonnie Kuhns, administrative assistant. Bonnie has worked at Good Shepherd for 36 years and been a quiet ambassador for our mission through her service and volunteerism. Bonnie truly exemplifies the best of the Raker legacy of caring and generosity of heart. We are blessed to have her in the Good Shepherd fold.

Whether it’s creating a memorable and sumptuous ball for our residents or planning and sharing our residents’ talents in a Women’s Giving Circle fund raiser, our associates in partnership with volunteers and donors keep adding milestones on this amazing journey that makes Good Shepherd the extraordinary place that it is.

I thank you all for your support this past year and welcome your continued philanthropy as together we go the extra mile helping people with disabilities enjoy lives of greater independence.

Sincerely,



John Kristel, MBA, MPT
President & CEO



Back From the Brink

One day Irene Jones was fighting the flu. The next day she was fighting for her life. Read how the team at the Good Shepherd Specialty Hospital pulled her through.

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Cover photograph: Randy Monceaux



The Trip of a Lifetime

All his life Raker resident Brian Wright dreamed of visiting Niagara Falls. Finally, his wish came true with a little help from his friends.



A Pint-Sized Fighter

Baby Bryce began life with a struggle but now has an appetite to live thanks to the feeding therapy program at Good Shepherd's pediatric inpatient unit.



Her Forever Home

On All Saint's Day, Bonnie Stallman, a beloved Good Shepherd resident, was laid to rest in the place that was her home.

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The Hocus Pocus Ball

Good Shepherd residents from the Bethlehem home didn't collect any cobwebs as they danced the night away at their annual ball.



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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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GoodShepherdRehab.org • 1-888-44-REHAB

A photograph of an older woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing a bright red jacket over a white turtleneck. She is sitting at a dark wooden table, smiling and looking towards the right. Her hands are clasped together, holding a small stack of cards. On the table in front of her are several yellow cards laid out in a grid pattern. In the foreground, the hands and arms of another person are visible, also playing cards. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

Back From *the Brink*

Michael Jones couldn't wake Irene, his wife of 42 years. Not feeling well, she had gone upstairs to lie down. Now she was unresponsive. In a panic with his heart thundering, Michael dialed 911 and called his daughter Melissa who rushed to her parents' home in Perkiomenville about a half hour away.

"She didn't know who I was," says Melissa, recalling her mother's critical state. "Her eyes weren't following me. When the EMTs (emergency medical technicians) arrived, they couldn't get a reading on her blood sugar because it was so high."

Irene, 68, was rushed to Grand View Hospital in Bucks County that Thursday, March 17, 2016, and admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). She got progressively worse. "She had a heart attack in the hospital and that's when the doctor told us that things weren't looking so good and to get anyone close to the family in right away," says Melissa.

A priest was called and last rites given while Irene's grieving family watched in disbelief as Irene's life hung in the balance. How could this happen? her family wondered. Irene had been fighting the flu for a few days, but she was always so strong, so resilient, and now she was fighting for her life.

A virulent infection had invaded Irene's respiratory system. She was put on a ventilator to help her breathe. Her brain was becoming oxygen deprived

and the possibility of permanent brain damage loomed large if she survived. "Every minute it was something," says Melissa. "We worried about the heart, then the lungs. Her blood sugar numbers were crazy."

Irene remained in the ICU at Grand View on a ventilator and a feeding tube for almost three weeks under the care of Dr. Evan Lenkowsky, an emergency medicine specialist. "He saved my life," says Irene.

When Irene had stabilized enough, Dr. Lenkowsky recommended Irene be transferred to Good Shepherd Specialty Hospital in Bethlehem where successful ventilator weaning rates are consistently better than those at similar facilities nationwide and the staff is known for its expertise in treating medically complex patients like Irene. Irene's husband Michael was confident this was the best place for his wife based on reviews his sister, Barbara Bracchi, had found in her research.

On April 4, Irene arrived at Good Shepherd. The team at Specialty is accustomed to



(Left) Playing a memory card game with her daughter Melissa; (above) Irene shares photos from her son David's wedding with (from left) Kari Keiser, occupational therapy assistant; Suzanne Zienkiewicz, physical therapist; Tara Gambler, speech language pathologist; and Talissa Slater, RN.

dealing with difficult cases and Irene's would rank right up there with the toughest.

"She had diabetes, high blood pressure, some chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), and a history of smoking," says Val Bond, a nurse practitioner working with Dr. William Gould who became Irene's primary care physician at Good Shepherd. "She developed acute respiratory distress syndrome, and that's pretty life threatening."

Irene's battle to survive pitted her against a drug-resistant bacterial staph infection that had invaded her respiratory system. Irene was put on an aggressive regimen of antibiotics administered intravenously. But a secondary infection further complicated Irene's case, making it difficult for her care givers to wean Irene off the ventilator.

"I was fighting for my life," says Irene. "I put on 60 pounds of fluid when I was in Grand View. My legs were so swollen I couldn't even pick them up in the bed."

Unable to breathe on her own, much less get out of bed, Irene required total care. She continued to get nutrition through a feeding tube. Physical Therapist Suzanne Zienkiewicz did what little she could while Irene was lying in bed. But Irene reached the point where the medical team needed to withhold the antibiotics.

"You don't want that to get too built up in her system," says Talissa Slater, RN, who became Irene's favorite nurse. "Once the levels get too high, we have to stop treatment to get to therapeutic levels."

The infection showed no signs of letting up. "It seemed to be getting worse and worse," says Talissa. "You could walk in the room and just smell it. It was wiping her out. We just couldn't get her off the ventilator. Our weaning trials were completely failing. It was sad to go in there and take care of her. The only thing I could really do was make her as comfortable as possible."

Unable to speak because of the tracheotomy, Irene became grateful for the little things that were the hallmarks of deeply compassionate care. "Talissa washed my hair and she put on real nice music. That means a lot when you're that sick," says Irene.

The prospect of Irene being ventilator dependent and living the remainder of her life in a long-term care facility was discussed between Good Shepherd staff and Irene's husband, daughter Melissa, and two sons, David and Christopher.

"They thought she was always going to have a tracheotomy," says Melissa. "That's when I told my mother, 'You're going to have to start fighting harder. We're looking for long-term care. You don't want this.' I think she felt defeated, but I told her she wasn't defeated. I said, 'You're not going to have this for the rest of your life. Get out of that bed.' She looked at me, and her eyes got wider."

One last attempt was made to help Irene with another round of antibiotics. This time, a high level of steroids was added to the mix. The combination of drugs along with something deeply motivating proved to be the turning point for Irene. It was like a light switch was turned on, recalls Suzanne. Under the medical guidance of pulmonologist Dr. Brian Burlew,

Good Shepherd's respiratory therapy staff weaned Irene from the ventilator, and within a couple of days, she was standing by her bed with Suzanne supporting her.

"I'm a tough old lady," says Irene. "I was determined because I wanted to dance at my son David's wedding."

Irene's first meal in weeks was a grilled cheese sandwich and chicken soup. No gourmet chef could have cooked anything better. Once out of bed, Irene began working with her therapists who needed to build her up enough to tolerate the three hours of daily therapy required at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown, the next stop in Irene's rehabilitation journey.

"No matter how tired Irene was, she always was willing to try something," says Kari Keiser, occupational therapy assistant.

Irene left Good Shepherd Specialty Hospital on May 19, gaunt from having lost 30 pounds and still unable to walk on her own, and was admitted to the rehabilitation hospital where she stayed until June 7. Irene continues to get therapy for a dropped right foot at Good Shepherd's East Greenville site, only 20 minutes from her home, and is working on improving her memory, which was affected.

Irene's family has been a constant source of strength and support through her ordeal, especially her husband Michael who has taken on additional responsibilities at home. But Irene has come back from the brink, and greets each day grateful to be alive. "I'm doing good," she says. "I walk with a cane, but I can do a little cooking and a little laundry."

Best of all, Irene did what she set out to do; she danced at her son's wedding. "I had good people taking care of me," says Irene. "I'm alive because of them. Good Shepherd is my savior."



Love and support from friends like Carol Rhoades (left) and family like daughter Melissa Jones gave Irene the strength and motivation to get well.



The Trip of a Lifetime



Brian Wright had a dream. At age 80, he wanted to visit Niagara Falls. He longed to hear the thundering roar of the water and feel the cool spray of the falls on his face. And he wanted to take a boat ride on the famous "Maid of the Mist."

It was a trip denied Brian when he was younger because his cerebral palsy and mobility challenges made it too difficult for his family to take him with them on those excursions. Finally this past summer, Brian's dream came true, thanks to donor funding from the Long-Term Care Community Access Fund.

Mike Losagio, a recreational therapist, and Lori Kneule, Brian's care manager at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center, had the happy task of telling Brian about the trip. "His eyes just lit up and he started clapping and laughing, and he said, 'I love you guys and I love this place!'" recalls Mike. "And he gave lots of hugs."

Mike and Melinda Guffy, a recreational therapist, learned about Brian's dream during a survey of places residents wanted to visit using the Community Access Fund. The fund has been vitally important to the quality of life for Good Shepherd's 159 residents in Allentown and Bethlehem helping to fund such things as trips to concerts, the Philadelphia zoo, bowling and special events at the home. The generosity of donors has helped the fund grow making it possible for even more ambitious outings such as Brian's trip.

"When we were interviewing Brian, he brought up that his family was from the Buffalo (New York) area and he remembered that they used to go on trips to Niagara Falls but he was never able to go and that it would be the trip of a lifetime," says Mike.

So on Saturday, July 16, with Mike at the wheel of a Good Shepherd van, and accompanied by Alfred Ndah, a certified nursing assistant from the Cameroon, Brian was on his way to Niagara Falls. "I was so tickled pink to be going to Niagara Falls because I had heard so much about it," says Brian.

The trip was special for Mike too. He and Brian have formed a close friendship since Mike came to work at Good Shepherd in 2015. "The very first time we met Brian told me his life story," Mike says with a big smile. "I feel like I have a special connection with Brian and I wanted to be a part of this trip. He reminds me of my grandfather. They had similar personalities, easy going."

The relationship grew stronger with daily chats and insights Brian shared about growing up in the Buffalo, New York area, as the only boy in a large and loving family with six sisters. Reconnecting with three of Brian's sisters, two of their husbands and a nephew over lunch became another important part of the trip.

"It was very emotional when we met Brian's family," says Mike, noting that the visit could be the last time Brian will get to see his family because of their geographical separation.

That Monday, Brian, Mike and Alfred got in the van for the six-hour trip home, brimming with happiness at having created and shared an extraordinary memory. "It's one thing to go there and it's another thing to leave because of the memories," says Brian.

Asked what he would want to say to the donors who helped make his dream come true, Brian says, "Thank you very much. The good Lord willing, if I live that long, I will see all of you at Niagara Falls."

Just be sure to pack your rain coat.

Your gifts to The Good Shepherd Home make trips like Brian's possible as well as provide funding for assistive technology, nursing scholarships and so much more that enhances the quality of life for our long-term care residents. Won't you please make a gift today by using the envelope in this issue or on the web at SweetCharityOnline.org. Thank you!



(From left) Alfred Ndah, Brian Wright and Mike Losagio are all smiles at Niagara Falls.

Reflections

— by Chaplain Kelly Brooks

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known and recited psalms in the Bible. The psalm attributed to King David, who once was a shepherd, expresses the relationship that David has with the Lord. The shepherd theme is frequently used to describe God's abiding and loving presence. Psalm 23 is no exception to that, and at Good Shepherd it is a guide for a sustaining relationship with the Lord equally embraced by the residents, patients and staff.

Each verse directly connects us with the shepherd who watches over all of us.

“The Lord is my shepherd” implies a personal relationship with God who sees and accepts each of us for who we are.

“I shall not want” reassures us that God will provide all that we need.

It does not say that He will give us everything we want but He will offer us much more than we can imagine including forgiveness and grace.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, he refreshes my soul” delivers us to places of rest and renewal.

“He guides me along the right paths” directs each of us to live righteous lives as we journey through our own ups and downs.



“The shepherd theme is frequently used to describe God’s abiding and loving presence.”

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me” supplies us with God’s unconditional love, mercy and protection for when we need to face the challenges in our lives. God is a safe and constant presence in the midst of joys and sorrows.

“You prepare a table before me” reminds us that we are cherished individuals in God’s eyes.

God showers us with blessings beyond our comprehension is reflected by the verse, **“My cup overflows.”**

God gives each of us gifts to share with the world and people to help us understand and use them. **“He anoints us”** by calling and claiming each of us by name.

“Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” sustains us with all that God can offer.

“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” helps us to grow in our relationship with the Lord.

Psalm 23 is a song of trust, hope and faith. Not only is it a reminder of God’s protection and love for us, but it is a song of thanksgiving for God’s almighty work within and through each of us. Even simplified versions

for children convey the same connection with God’s graciousness.

Although Psalm 23 is frequently used for funeral occasions, it is also used for moments when we need to be reminded of God’s peace and blessings. The residents, patients, their families, and staff at Good Shepherd have long found stability and reassurance in the psalm’s words. It is such a favorite scripture that if you begin reciting the psalm out loud at any occasion, you will quickly hear many residents and staff joining in with you. It is no wonder this psalm is written in various places around the Good Shepherd Network. It is obvious that Mama and Papa Raker felt the same way as David; the Lord is my Good Shepherd.

*“Psalm 23
is a song
of trust,
hope and
faith.”*

Golf & Tennis INVITATIONAL

Good Shepherd chalked up another great fund raiser for children at the annual Golf & Tennis Invitational on Monday, September 12 at Lehigh Country Club. The invitational and Celebrity Bartender fund raiser on Thursday, September 8, raised more than \$167,000 for the Good Shepherd Pediatrics Program where no child is ever turned away because of a family's inability to pay.

Paul Emrick, a Good Shepherd board member, chaired the all-volunteer committee and was lead sponsor along with his wife Lisa. There were 104 golfers, eight tennis players and new this year, a pickleball tournament attracted eight players. The event also included a live auction with Todd Donnelly, president of Todd Donnelly Enterprises, keeping the bidding lively.

This year's tournament was played in memory of Bob Ford, a long-time volunteer whose involvement dates back to the late 1980's. Bob, who passed away in January 2016, was deeply devoted to Good Shepherd's mission, but his memory and contributions live on in the Bob



Ford Volunteer Leadership Award. This year's award was given to Juli Gerancher, an occupational therapist in the outpatient Pediatrics Program. For several years, Juli has led the charge among Good Shepherd associates in getting departments to create and donate themed gift baskets that are raffled off at the Celebrity Bartender event. Juli also has been a committed member of the Golf & Tennis Invitational committee. Juli received the award from Bob Ford's widow, MaryElaine, who attended the event along with son Jeffrey; daughter Christine Belejo and her husband Romo; and daughter Charmaine Thomas and husband Brad.

Good Shepherd extends its deepest thanks to all our participants, sponsors and volunteers for their generosity and congratulates all the winners.

Fund raisers like the Golf & Tennis Invitational help Good Shepherd invest in training and technologies so children with disabilities become as independent as possible. Watch the video and read how donor gifts like yours benefit children like Anna Faurer in Girl Power. Look for it on the web in SweetCharityOnline under Past Features.

WINNERS

1st Place Gross

John Yurconic Agency: John Yurconic,
Mike Fisher, Jim Rodgers Jr., Todd Kahn

1st Place Net

PenTeleData: Jaime Mendes,
Scott Massenheimer, Ed Kiss, Chip Solt

2nd Place Net

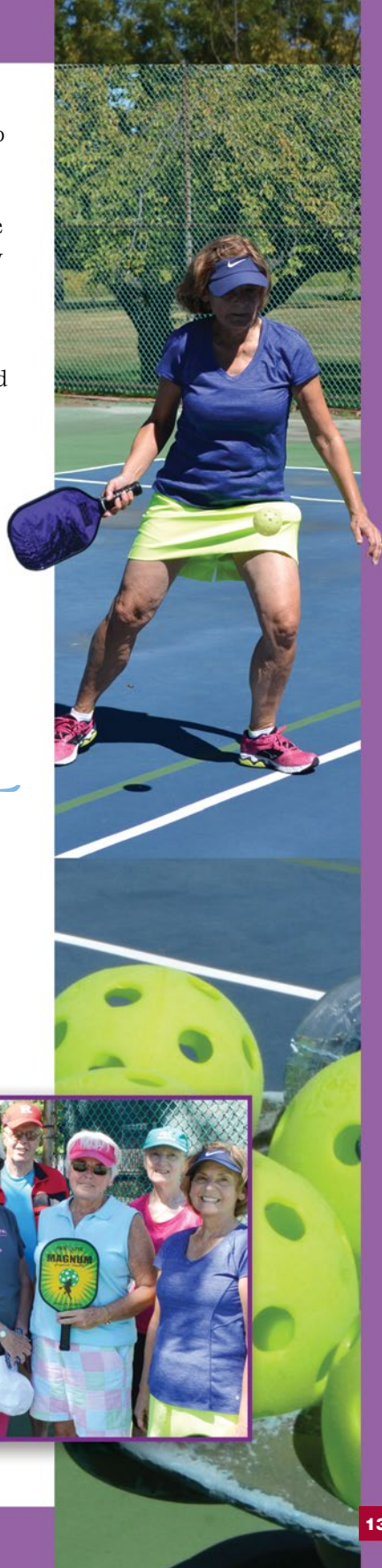
Bob Yapsuga, Gary Clewell,
Bridget Gallagher

Tennis

Men's: Gary Davidowich, Wells Fargo
Women's: Ina Nechita

Pickleball

JoAnne Bergandino,
Dale Inlander



Left: Bob Ford Volunteer Leadership Award winner Juli Gerancher (center) with MaryElaine Ford (left), daughter Christine Belejo (background) and John Kristel, Good Shepherd President & CEO.

Right: The invitational's first pickleball competitors.



A Year-End Matching Gift Opportunity Benefiting Our Residents

Join Our Family of Donors

At Good Shepherd we're all about family. This is especially true for our 159 long-term care residents in Allentown and Bethlehem who call Good Shepherd home.

For the families of our residents and all of us at Good Shepherd, it's so important that the quality of life for those who call this home be the best it can be. That's why we're asking you to be a part of our family of donors and take the **Year-End Matching Gift Challenge by making a gift before December 31, 2016.**

Your donations will go to the Long-Term Care Community Access Fund making it possible for our residents to enjoy special events, and go on outings and trips like the one Brian Wright took this summer to Niagara Falls (see his story on page 8).

Here's the exciting news!

Once again, several resident families have agreed to match donations made to this fund by the end of 2016 up to \$25,000.

Won't you please take our Year-End Matching Gift Challenge by sending a tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25 or even \$100 before December 31st so your gift can be doubled too?

Visit SweetCharityOnline.org to donate or use the envelope in this issue noting your gift is for the Year-End Matching Gift Challenge.

On behalf of all our residents, thank you and have a blessed holiday.

*Thank
You!*



The Association of Fundraising Professionals,
Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter

National Philanthropy Day

November 9, DeSales University



They Won!

*St. Thomas More School,
Allentown*

Special Project of the Year Award

Read the story in the summer issue at
SweetCharityOnline.org



*Congratulations
Joe and Rita Scheller*

Lifetime Achievement Award

A Pint-Sized Fighter



Kelsie, Reese and Bryce

About 15 weeks into Marissa's pregnancy, an ultrasound showed that while Bryce was developing normally, one of his twin sisters was not. The images showed twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome between the two girls. The syndrome occurs when the shared placenta contains abnormal blood vessels connecting the umbilical cords and circulations of the babies. The common placenta may also be shared unequally, and one twin may have a share too small to provide the necessary nutrients to grow normally or even survive.

When Marissa Shannon holds her baby Bryce, she's holding more than her child, she's holding a pint-sized fighter. A triplet born at just 29 weeks, Bryce had more obstacles to overcome than his sisters, Reese and Kelsie, and spent five weeks in the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Emily Howatt Pliskatt Pediatric Unit learning how to do something that comes naturally to most babies: eat.

"When Bryce first came to us, his biggest barriers to feeding success included respiratory fatigue, and he had a hard time being handled by his nurses and therapists, and transitioning from being asleep to awake and awake to asleep," says Stefanie Braun, a speech language pathologist. "He frequently showed us that he was hungry and wanted to eat orally, but was working so hard to breathe that he often fell asleep before finishing a bottle."

Bryce's journey to Good Shepherd began with the happy news that his parents Marissa and Brad were going to be parents of triplets. It was one week before Thanksgiving 2015 and the first-time parents embraced the news with nervous excitement.

Marissa was referred to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where the diagnosis was confirmed. Bed rest was ordered and for the next two weeks Marissa stayed in Reading Hospital. Marissa then returned home to Lehighton but as the babies struggled within her she needed to be admitted to Lehigh Valley Hospital for several more weeks of close observation.

It was a time of great anxiety for Marissa and Brad, not knowing whether the littlest baby, who they named Reese, would live.

"We didn't think she'd make it," says Marissa. "Brad was great. He kept me sane. He's super dad."

Reese became increasingly distressed as her heart rate dropped dangerously low and her blood flow reduced. Marissa was running out of options. If all three babies were to have a chance at making it, they would need to be delivered by Caesarean section.

On April 7, 2016, the triplets came into the world. Reese, "the littlest peanut," weighed

1 pound, 6 ounces; Kelsie weighed 2 pounds, 2 ounces; and Bryce clocked in at a whopping three pounds, the biggest of them all.

The triplets were rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit, and needed breathing tubes to aid their tiny under-developed lungs. Then, the unexpected happened. Reese was the first to be weaned off the oxygen. "She's our miracle baby," says Marissa. Kelsie was next. But Bryce still struggled to breathe on his own making it impossible to bottle feed him. While Bryce's sisters were able to go home after a few weeks, Bryce required a feeding tube. Specialized therapy was needed, and Bryce was transferred to Good Shepherd's inpatient pediatric unit in Bethlehem where he was admitted into the pediatric feeding therapy program.

"We used a lot of strategies to help Bryce develop and compensate for his deficits such as swaddling to support his muscles for breathing and pacing to help him learn how to coordinate swallowing and breathing," says Stefanie.

But then Bryce's health took a turn for the worse. His breathing became more labored and he was rushed to the emergency

room. "When we got there, he didn't even look like himself," says Marissa. "It was the scariest thing in my life. He was swollen and gasping for air, and his eyes were protruding."

The cause was a urinary tract infection and high fever. After a week's hospital stay, Bryce returned to Good Shepherd ready to go, and that's just what he did. "He just took off like a rocket," says Marissa.

"He was like a different baby," says Stefanie. "He was much stronger and more awake which led to more successful feedings."

Bryce was soon free of his feeding tube and after a month at Good Shepherd went home on August 26. "His parents have been exceptional," says Stefanie. "Despite their hectic schedules and learning to be parents, they were always active participants in Bryce's care and they learned so fast."

"The staff at Good Shepherd has just been great," says Marissa. "I learned to go day by day and I'm just going to go with the flow."

Stefanie Braun, a speech language pathologist, gives coaching tips to Marissa Shannon as she feeds baby Bryce.





Hocus Pocus Ball





The Royal Court

Halloween arrived a bit early for residents of the Good Shepherd Home-Bethlehem who attended the Hocus Pocus Ball on Friday, October 14 at the Best Western Lehigh Valley. About 165 people turned out; residents with their dates and family members, as well as staff and some family members of their own, all decked out in grand Halloween style for an evening of dining and dancing in an elegantly spooky setting.

Costumes ran the gamut from the scary including witches and ghouls to the whimsical, such as Alice in Wonderland, the Cheshire Cat, and the Cat in the Hat. There were pirates, jail birds, and cops and robbers. One resident came dressed as a Christmas tree. Michael Jackson made an appearance as did Fred Flintstone. The 1960's made a comeback with at least two costumed party-goers and Carmen Miranda was seen keeping company with a sailor.

The ball is planned and organized by the recreational therapy team with lots of behind-the-scenes help to make the event so special. Among those who gave so generously by donating their time and talent was Cheryl K. Reph of CK Designs who hung the draperies at the grand entrance and behind the awards table, helping to create a beautiful atmosphere.

We are also deeply grateful to Rockin' Remaley who did all of the jaw-dropping uplighting in spooky purple hues, making the ballroom fabulously colorful with just the right amount of eeriness.

See a video of the Hocus Pocus Ball in the video library at SweetCharityOnline.org.



Queen: Jackie Nikischer

Lady of the Court:

Kimmie Boyle

Lady of the Court:

Eileen Bolish



King: Ryan Savage

Lord of the Court:

Bob Kisatsky

Lord of the Court:

Tanian Racine

HER *Forever* HOME



Bonnie Stallman, a beloved resident who called Good Shepherd home until her passing on July 16, 2014, was laid to eternal rest on November 1 at the base of the bronze sculpture in which she was immortalized being held high in the arms of the man she thought of as her father, the Rev. Dr. Conrad Raker.

Bonnie's ashes in a blue box, her favorite color, and decorated with white butterflies and flowers which she loved, were interred in a moving committal service led by chaplains Kelly Brooks and Paul Xander, held appropriately on All Saint's Day. With help from Chaplain Xander, the interment was the fulfillment of a promise Chaplain Brooks made to Bonnie's niece that her aunt would be properly and respectfully laid to rest.

The sculpture that Bonnie was so proud of was inspired by a photo taken many years ago depicting a young Conrad Raker, then administrator of The Good Shepherd Home, raising up Bonnie as a little girl, crutches in hand. Sculptor Karel Mikolas was commissioned for the project by Good Shepherd during its 100-year celebration in 2008.

The placement of Bonnie's ashes on the Good Shepherd campus is especially poignant given Bonnie had no immediate family and no family burial plot. Good Shepherd was Bonnie's home and the residents and staff came to be Bonnie's family.

The service concluded with the prayer, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep," which had been taught to Bonnie and many Good Shepherd residents by Conrad Raker, and Bonnie's favorite song, "You Are My Sunshine."

Godspeed Bonnie. You are the sunshine that will live in our hearts forever.

All AROUND

We like to keep things hopping for our residents at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center in Allentown and this summer and fall has been no exception. Two special events revolved around music with residents enjoying the musical talent of others and sharing some of their own.

On Friday, August 6, residents were rocking and rolling at the fifth annual **Raker Stock** music fest. The day-long event kicked off with Mike Evans playing keyboard followed by The Large Flowerheads and wrapped up in the evening with Uncle Mozee. This event has become a favorite with the resi-

dents who don their Raker Stock tee-shirts and get their groove on. Funding for this event was made possible through the donor-supported Community Access Fund. Pictured: Resident Jim Skelly belts one out with Greg Geist of The Large Flower Heads; Tammy Santee rocks.



Good SHEPHERD

Then on Wednesday, October 6, it was time for the residents to give back in **Raker's Got Talent**. The evening began with a donor reception and art show in the Health & Technology Center with resident art offered for sale. The party continued at the Raker Center where residents performed several songs and one comedian kept the audience in stitches with his "sit down" comedy act. The event was a fund raiser for the We'll Care Fund benefiting long-term care and was organized by the Good Shepherd Women's Giving Circle.

Pictured: (Right) Rita Tunnhoff singing "Paper Roses;" Carrie Kane, administrator, Good Shepherd Home-Bethlehem, helps Anna Gerber sing "Amazing Grace" in tribute to her late father.



THE 31ST ANNUAL RAKER MEMORIAL AWARDS



A heart-warming and uplifting service of gratitude marked the 31st Annual Raker Memorial Awards on Friday, November 4 at Grace Lutheran Church in Allentown. The service honors those who demonstrate the Raker family legacy of caring by giving of their time, talent and treasure. This year's recipients of the Raker Memorial Award were Jim and Gail Miller of Coopersburg, Pa., and Naples, Fl., and Carolyn Volk of Allentown. The recipient of the Raker Spirit Award was Bonnie Kuhns of Whitehall, an administrative assistant at Good Shepherd.

Jim is a retired chairman and chief executive officer of PPL. He and Gail became involved with Good Shepherd in 2012 as chairs of Gala in the Garden, a fund

(Above) Bonnie Kuhns receiving the Raker Spirit Award from Good Shepherd President & CEO John Kristel. (Below) Raker Memorial Award honoree Jim Miller accepting on behalf of himself and his wife Gail, who was unable to attend. Behind Jim, a life-size cutout of Good Shepherd board chair David DeCampi and his wife Pam stood in for the couple who were out of town.



raiser for the pediatric inpatient unit. The Millers also chaired the Raker Vision from 2013 to 2015, a group of philanthropists supporting Good Shepherd's mission. The Millers' generosity as volunteers is matched by their benevolence as donors and enthusiasm as ambassadors for Good Shepherd's mission.

Carolyn Volk is the mother of a daughter Krista who has been a resident at Good Shepherd since 1984. Carolyn is active with the resident council at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center where Krista lives and helps with many resident events. Carolyn also has long supported Good Shepherd as a loving and dedicated donor supporting fund raising initiatives that make a meaningful difference in the quality of life for Good Shepherd's long-term care residents.

Bonnie Kuhns has worked at Good Shepherd for more than 35 years running various support groups and organizing a never-ending list of meetings, special outings and fund raisers. Bonnie, who was nominated by her peers and chosen by a panel of former Raker Spirit Award winners, was recognized for her joyful spirit and commitment of personal time to myriad fund raisers in the community. As one colleague wrote in her nomination, "Bonnie is truly an example of what Dr. (Conrad) Raker stood for. When you read our mission you cannot help but think of Bonnie."

A very special thank you to the touring choir of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts, soloist Amy M. DePuy, MD, organist Samuel Miranda, and David Lyons, Dr. Pamela Shields and Bob Williams for sharing their musical talents.

(From left) Raker Memorial Award winner Carolyn Volk smiles at John Kristel; the touring choir of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts under the direction of David MacBeth; Raker resident Jennifer Pyle delivering the scripture reading.



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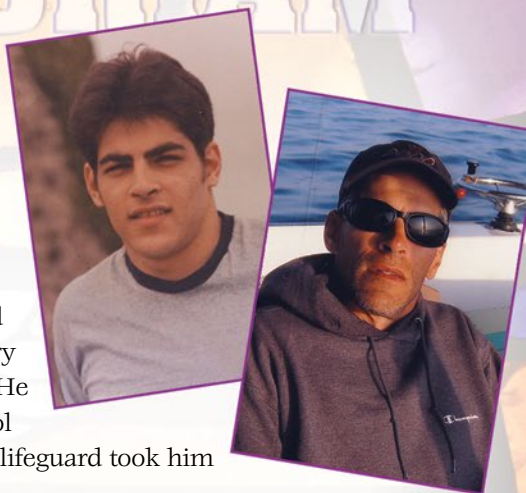
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Gifts were received from May 23 through September 4, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Tagliavia

When Jim Tagliavia was about five years old, someone dared him to jump off the diving board at the Waldheim Park municipal pool in south Allentown. It was a dare Jim took, bold, unflinching and not unlike the life he lived until complications from multiple sclerosis took him from those he loved and those who loved him on July 18, 2016. "Jim was very active as a little kid," recalls his older sister Diane. "He was a handful. They kicked him out of the baby pool because he was too active for the little kids. Then a lifeguard took him under her wing and taught him how to swim."



Jim always wanted to be one of the big kids and used to wear an oversized sweatshirt that spilled down around his ankles. Over the years, Jim channeled his restless energy into sports. He played Little League baseball and wrestled, then at Salisbury High School was a standout football player. And as one of four children – sisters Diane and Mary, and brother Mike - there was always fun to be had. Mary remembers them all sledding down Sixth Street in Allentown when the street was closed after a snow storm.

Jim's handsome Italian good looks made him a favorite with the ladies of all ages, including those at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center where Jim came to live in 2011. "The girls were after him when he was little," says Diane. "They were calling him! His eyes were gorgeous, a unique color, like hazel. They all loved to see his eyes at Raker too, although he wore sunglasses because the light bothered his eyes."

Jim served in the U.S. Navy as a 3rd class petty officer on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence from 1980 to 1984, and worked as an interstate truck driver until he began having difficulty seeing. By his early 40's, Jim was diagnosed with progressive MS. But rather than sink into self-pity, Jim accepted his situation saying he had a good life and had nothing to complain about. "Those were really his special words for getting through everything," says Diane.

Pleasant, soft spoken and inclined to be a tease on occasion, Jim is remembered by his brother as someone who was "loyal, loved kids and was a hard worker." Jim treasured his family, including his son, James Jr., and gatherings that more often than not revolved around food. Jim loved to cook, rack of ribs being a favorite, and he was never happier than when everyone met for a big meal. "We always had Sunday dinner with my mom's parents," says Mary. "And when Jim lived with our parents later in life, he wanted the same thing, everybody together. Family was important to him."



Sweet Charity

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