

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XXIV

Spring, 2018

Executive Director Update



Spring is traditionally a busy time for WCCH, and this season is no exception. Volunteer Recognition and fundraising events are the main focus. In addition the board has approved a number of improvements that you will be seeing throughout the summer and fall. The first week of June the administrative staff was trained to use a new database offering new opportunities for fundraising. A new phone system will be installed in July. There are plans being formulated to upgrade the kitchen counters. Mary & Sharon's office will be re-designed with new furniture.

Thanks to all of you we have had an incredible spring!



Veteran Volunteer



Fourteen years ago Webster Presbyterian Church member, Carol Walck, saw a call for help at WCCH in her church bulletin. Watching the Home being constructed had already aroused Carol's curiosity, so it was an easy step to find out more about the Home's needs. Now, more than a decade later, she is a real veteran in her role as provider of both physical and emotional support for residents and their families. She volunteers each Monday from 11-3 PM with her long-time fellow volunteer Deede Stathis.

Carol's current volunteer work was preceded by another job involving resident care. For 7 years she was a Long Term Care Ombudsman advocating for nursing home residents at Kirkhaven and Hillhaven.

A native of Cornwall, NY, Carol attended Rochester Institute of Technology graduating with a BS in Business Administration. She and husband, Hank, have two grown children and 4

grandchildren. Her current busy life includes delivering Meals on Wheels, Women's Bible Study, two book clubs, and Zumba classes at the YMCA.

A memorable time for Carol at the Home was caring for resident Pat Menz. She says, "Pat imparted so much love and wisdom – never to be forgotten." Very likely Carol has that same influence on others. It's called the angel effect. Thanks so much, Carol, for your years of dedicated service!

A Nurse's Reflection



Each person who spends time at WCCH has a unique experience, and nurse Peggy Felipe is no exception. Twelve years ago Peggy had been retired for about a year when she answered an ad in the Penfield Press to be a part time nurse at the Home. "When I walked into the Home I got such a warm and comfortable feeling. I had worked previously at a hospital and this

was much different. The pleasure of sitting and talking with the residents and their families was, and is, delightful. I also was in awe of people giving their time and effort to care for strangers.”

After graduating from Eastridge High School Peggy attended the Isabella Graham Hart School where she attained her LPN degree. Years later she returned to college to earn her RN at Monroe Community College. She is married to husband Mauro and they have one son, Mauro, a graduate of Potsdam State Teachers’ College. In her spare time she enjoys swimming at the Webster Athletic Club, reading (“I’m never without a book”), cooking, baking, and travel. She and her husband also belong to the Italian American Sports Club.

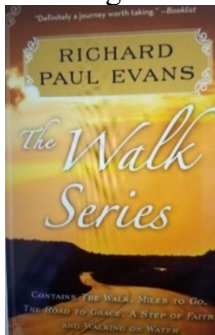
Peggy’s once in a lifetime memory at the Home involves a Jewish gentleman resident. One day the resident’s Rabbi came to visit him. They met in the living room next to the decorated Christmas tree. After the Rabbi left, the resident proclaimed, “Peggy, this is the only place a nice Jewish boy can be visited by a Rabbi while sitting next to a Christmas tree.”

Thank you Peggy for sharing that delightful memory with us. It brings a smile to all of our faces remembering that moment right along with you.

Book Review – The Walk Series

All in one week Alan Christofferson lost his soulmate to a horse riding accident, his business to a crooked partner,

and his house to the bank. In order to force himself to continue living, Alan started walking – heading to Key West from Seattle because it was the farthest point he could travel on foot. The series is based on how life intersects with his plan; the people who cross his path and the emotional growth he goes through.



How we deal with grief is such a personal process. Grieving is much like living in that we aren’t born with instructions. My favorite piece of advice from author Richard Paul Evans is “Life is not a sprint. It was never meant to be. It is just one step after another.”

(Reviewed by Mary Barnhart)

Night Angel



Some people have such astute instincts! Our night aide, Loretta Patterson, is one of those people. Knowing instinctively that the first day for a new resident can be fraught with anxiety, she drops by the House in the afternoon of

their first day and introduces herself. She tells them she will return in the evening to care for them throughout the night. “I don’t want to be a stranger to them when I meet them at 11 PM.” Loretta interrupts her own sleep hours to make someone else’s sleep more peaceful. How special is that!!

After spending most of her growing up years in Rochester, Loretta graduated from E.E. Smith High School in Fayetteville, NC. Back in Rochester she took several courses at RIT. On Nov. 19, 1960, she married Marvin Patterson, and together they raised 3 children; Marvin Jr., a Rochester police department investigator, Brian, a retired Rochester police chief, and Monika, a chaplain assistant in the US Army. After 49 years of marriage, Loretta became a widow in 2009.

Her zest for life nurtures a love for travel; she has been to the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, The Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Jamaica, Israel, Germany, France, and India. In 2016, 44 family members sailed together on a cruise of the Caribbean. Closer to home she enjoys socializing each Tuesday at the Montgomery Senior Center, lunching with the Red Hats Society, and visiting shut-ins from Joy Community Church where she is a member. Bless you, Loretta, for being the Night Angel in our Home.

“God not only sends special angels into our lives, but sometimes He even sends them back again if we forget to take notes the first time.”

Eileen Elias Freeman