

Comforting News...

...told with care

Webster Comfort Care Home

Volume XXVII

Spring, 2019

Executive Director Update



Volunteers are the heart and soul of WCCH. You have a tremendous impact on the lives of our residents and their families because you each bring a unique life perspective and personality to our home. Dying is a sacred time in a person's life. During that time, I have observed your compassion and understanding; respect for all ways of life, culture, customs and religious beliefs, an ability to listen and be comfortable in the silence and a keen understanding of personal limits.

When I'm out in the community sharing about WCCH, it is often asked; Isn't it hard/sad/depressing to do that work? My response goes like this; "Sometimes it's difficult but most times it's rewarding and humbling. WCCH is an amazing place filled with love and compassion. It is an honor and privilege to care for someone in the last months,

weeks or days of their life. Our volunteers and staff do an amazing job. When families come to us, we are strangers. Just think of the exceptional trust people need to have and the incredible leap of faith required to decide to move to our home. We often receive much more than we believe we give. It is very fulfilling to provide comfort and support to a resident and their family."

Since being involved here I have received many life lessons that have changed my perspective on life. A greater appreciation for life and understanding what is truly important, a deeper understanding and acceptance of the role of death in the process of life, and unconditional acceptance of every person and appreciation of their situation, an enriched understanding of family and the dynamics involved and a sense of fulfillment and contribution to our Webster community are just a few. Many of you have shared some of the same through your experiences with residents. Your desire to continually give your time and talents freely to those on the end-of-life journey emanates from a heart of compassion and a loving spirit of giving. The Board, staff and I are so grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

Au revoir, Faithful Servants



Two folks, Jo Zimmerman and Don Young will be retiring from the Board of Directors this month. Together they have served 18 years, the most time two people can serve. (The WCCH constitution states each Board member may serve a maximum of three 3-year terms.) After a year of rest and refreshment, a Board member may return if she/he chooses.

To list all the accomplishments of these two people would take more than one newsletter! The following is a list of a few highlights. Don states, "I knew I didn't have what it took to do resident care – so it felt good to serve in another capacity." For Don, it was everything to do with numbers. For 9 years he was a member of the finance committee. He learned the bookkeeping job from Bob Anderson and took on that role in 2014. (He will continue the bookkeeping responsibilities

even though he is retiring from the Board.) He reports financial information to the Board each month. Each year he assists in the audit of the Home's books. In a role he acquired because he is married to the editor of this newsletter, he types and photographs the contents of every newsletter – a fact for which his wife is forever grateful! 😊

Jo was on the committee that helped hire our current executive director (Good job, Jo!) In 2018 Jo was chair of the nominating committee. She was on the fund-raising committees for the fashion shows and wine tasting events. She helped plan the 10-year memorial service. She assisted Bob Nash with plant sales. And when our WCCH family gathered she was often at the grill making sure we all had perfectly done hot dogs and burgers. After “retirement” she will continue to work on the Fashion Show and Wine Tasting fund-raising.

Jo says, “We are so blessed to have this Home in our community. Our volunteers, our employees, and our Board are an amazing group of individuals that I have had the great privilege to be a part of. Thank you all for what you do.”

We have been blessed by Don's and Jo's presence on the Board. Rest well, friends.

New Resident

Having a new resident at our Home is not especially newsworthy as we have them quite regularly. But this resident does not require a bed, preferring to nest outdoors. Irene Jergensen, one of our

Lifetime Care Nurses, was the first to spy Mrs. Duck. Initially Irene was trying to get close enough to a beautiful lavender azalea plant surrounded by blue forget-me-nots to photograph them. Mrs. Duck hissed! Only then did Irene see both the duck and her seven eggs.

A google search tells us that a mother duck sits on her eggs for 28 days. (We're not sure when she began nesting, but our estimate is she has 2-3 weeks to go.) Shortly after the ducklings hatch she will lead them to water, probably the stream behind our Home. It takes 50 to 60 days for the ducklings to become independent, so with any luck we should be able to see the parade of ducks waddling across our yard toward their daily swim. Google cautions onlookers not to get too close to the “parade.” It might cause the mother duck to panic and abandon her brood. But what a delight to see them even if only from a distance. Happy Spring!



Early Bird Riser

When Cheryl O'Shaughnessy retired as a nurse from Rochester General Hospital after 32 years, and Strong Hospital after 10 years, just about anyone would have said, “Cheryl, you deserve a break.” But that was not part of her plan. She learned from Kathy Fulton that there was a need for

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Each Sunday morning she is up well before 6 AM so she can be at the Home by 7 AM for the early shift. Cheryl states that getting up that early is the most challenging part of her volunteer work. All of the other parts – carrying for the residents, meeting their families, and working with the other volunteers, she loves.

Cheryl and husband, Ed, together have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandson, and twins on the way this summer. In her spare time she helps friends and family with medical issues and care. She drives two people to appointments and to shop for groceries. She and Ed recently inherited a dog named Charley, so Cheryl is now a frequent walker.

Thank you Cheryl for getting up so early for so many years to work the morning shift. You are one of a stellar group of volunteers who have earned the Early Bird Riser Award.