

connections

L I F E A N D N E W S F R O M W E S L E Y W I L L O W S

A Faith-Based Community

F A L L 2 0 2 0

Hello Dolly! Parade

On August 28th, the streets of Wesley Willows were filled with memories from the past. From vintage and classic cars to Dilly Bars and Goodie Cups, our residents got the opportunity to enjoy an hour-long parade from the comfort of their front lawns. Watching the parade come right down our street was a roarin' 20's blast from the past.

There were over 15 vintage cars, 10 classic cars, and five Corvettes alongside The Rockford Pipe Band, Viet Now, Rockford Police Department, Rockford Fire Department, Morrison Living, Heartland Hospice, Red Scooter Club, Wesley Willows Auxiliary, Starlight Theater and Mayor Tom McNamara (to name a few). Residents were waving and cheering them all on. Wesley Willows employees, our Indispensable Warriors, walked the parade passing out the traditional Box Office Benefit Dilly Bars and Goodie Cups. It was an event that brought surprises and great memories!

The Hello Dolly Parade was an alternative event for the Box Office Benefit, our largest fund-raising event for the Good Samaritan Fund. Typically, we have our event at Starlight Theater, but due to COVID-19 circumstances, we had to get creative while still adhering to the safety recommendations.



Each year, the Good Samaritan Fund serves an average of 40 residents, providing ongoing and personalized care to those who have outlived their financial resources. Gifts to the Good Samaritan Fund guarantee a lifetime of care to our residents. This commitment that we make to our residents provides peace of mind, understanding and confidence that they will be cared for the rest of their lives at Wesley Willows. We are proud to continue this tradition during these unprecedented times.

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Thank you 2020 Box Office Benefit Corporate Sponsors
Morrison Living, Zentz & Associates, Illinois Bank & Trust,
Guler Appliance, Advanced Window Systems, Scandrol Construction,
Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Northern Illinois Service





Bill Pratt, President & CEO

“We have so much richness because of the people that are part of the Wesley Willows family.”

Over the last eight or nine months of COVID-19, I have reflected more and more about the term “connections” and how that is the name of our quarterly newsletter. Mr. Webster defines connections as “a relationship in which a person or thing or idea is linked or associated with something else”. I think all of us would identify a loss of many connections including family, friends and organizations that we are involved in. This may be church, school, or even Wesley Willows. I am pleased that at least we can connect through our Connections Newsletter and share some of the wonderful things that have continued to happen at Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows during the past nine months.

During this time, I have probably seen only about 5-7% of the number of residents I would normally see on a daily basis pre-COVID-19. That is a loss for me. Spending time with residents is the very reason I work in Senior Living and have been for the past 46 years – those relationships and connections. I have recorded a number of videos that have been emailed to residents and I communicate with by e-mail and phone as ways to stay in touch. While that is not the same, at least it is some type of connection.

For many, maybe even the majority of people who receive the Connections Newsletter, I have no other means of communication and I miss that opportunity. As you read this issue and learn of the Hello Dolly! Parade that

took the place of our annual box office benefit, I hope it gives you a feel for how the day unfolded. I have to credit Paula Capone, Director of Fund Development, and her committee along with all the staff that were engaged to create and implement an extremely successful parade delivering an amazing experience for all participants.

In the beginning stages of COVID-19, we were feeling thrilled with the idea of our touchtown in-house tv channels. While we are waiting for the final pieces to fall into place, I remain optimistic about its upcoming kick-off and feel this will be another great way to stay in touch with residents on the campus. Although it doesn't help those of you who live elsewhere across the country you will hear more about it once it is live.

I invite you to visit our website on a regular basis and check us out on Facebook to see what's happening on our campuses with residents and staff – and sometimes families too. The article on the two brothers who volunteered to make a difference at Wesley Willows is a heartwarming story and inspirational as well. Acts of kindness like this are always appreciated and truly impactful in the lives of Wesley Willows residents.

On the Peterson Meadows campus we continue to be amazed at the incredible value the Dick and Pat Nyquist Family Chapel adds and how it is used by residents and staff. A volunteer stepped forward to make a cross for the chapel – again making a difference in the lives of residents and staff exemplifying our faith-based connection.

I was privileged to join a couple of other staff at a farewell luncheon with Dr. Craig Rogers and his wife, Debbie, as we celebrated his 42 years as our Medical Director at Wesley Willows. That 42-year connection and relationship is one more incredible story that details his dedication and commitment to Wesley Willows. We wish him and his wife, Debbie, the very best as they make the move to Texas to be closer to their family.

In closing I want to thank all of you who, over the years, have been part of our donor base and the planned giving programs at Wesley Willows. Hopefully, the article on planned giving and the Robert E. Ash Legacy Society will be an inspiration for you to give to an organization you are fond of – one that is meaningful and important to you. Perhaps that might include Wesley Willows. Clearly, it is those types of connections that make nonprofits succeed in accomplishing programs/projects that otherwise might not happen.

It is good to connect with you and I hope this newsletter will give you a glimpse of how life goes on at Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows even during the likes of COVID-19!

Bill Pratt

Bill Pratt President/CEO

Hello Dolly! Parade *(continued from page 1)*

All the detail and planning that went into organizing this parade was well worth it. COVID-19 may have halted our original plans, but we carried on and the outcome was grand. Our Corporate and resident sponsors made it happen, and for that, we are forever grateful.



Until next year! *“You’re looking swell Dolly, I can tell Dolly. You’re still glowin’, you’re still crowin’, you’re still going strong.....”*



touchtown, an In-House TV Channel for Wesley Willows

Wesley Willows has long considered having its own In-House TV channel. That consideration became a priority with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the work started on the mechanics, equipment and training to make it a reality – followed closely by creative thought about how the channel could most positively impact the lives of residents.

The pandemic created two needs: ensuring residents had information regarding safety measures for COVID-19 in a timely manner and finding ways to keep residents engaged when they were unable to meet and join activities in traditional ways. This information, traditionally shared through printed materials distributed to residents; e-mail information; and video calendars throughout the campus contains information on campus updates, maintenance of grounds/building notices, activity programming (i.e. outings, presentations, events, fitness, volunteering, etc.), and notes from the Chief Operating Officer/CEO.

With the **touchtown** In-House TV channel all of that information and more can now appear on a TV channel in each resident’s home or apartment. The only requirement is that they have cable services through COMCAST – the provider of services in

Willows Health and Rehab Center, Hunt Terrace, Willows Arbor and Willows Suites as well as many of our Willow Ridge Homes.

The In-House TV channel through **touchtown**, also provides Wesley Willows with the opportunity to offer activities such as chapel services, exercise classes, educational programs, movie nights, and more – all of which residents can enjoy from the comfort of their home. This availability will likely encourage and allow residents to participate in a host of new activities they have not tried before because of this convenience – and it supports COVID-19 safety protocols as well as social distancing.

We are so proud to introduce **touchtown** to the Wesley Willows campus. Thank you to the Kott Memorial Charitable Trust for awarding us \$10,000 to purchase the much-needed equipment and begin implementing this new opportunity!

The logo for touchtown features a stylized orange roofline above the word "touchtown" in a teal, lowercase, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the word.

Conversations with our Chaplain

“TAKE HEART”



“...in Me you have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but take heart, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)

Some may remember the popular nursery rhyme written in the late eighteenth-century called Humpty Dumpty. The rhyme in its mid-twentieth version states:

*“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall; Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;
All the King’s horses, and all the King’s men, couldn’t put Humpty together again.”*

There is much debate to what or to whom the rhyme referred. What is for certain, the character Humpty Dumpty fell, broke into many pieces and could not be put back together. What a tragedy! For a person to fall, to be broken, and left in ruin. This rhyme highlights a spiritual truth about humanity apart from God; fallen, broken, and many believe it is a world that has been forsaken.

Jesus stresses to his disciples that amidst the troubles they see and will face in the future, they are overcomers. Jesus’ promise calls for us to trust Him and “Take Heart!” Yes, this world is fallen but we are not forsaken; Jesus can and still puts broken lives back together. In Jesus, we are given the power to transcend the fallenness of this world “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies,” (2 Cor 4:7-10).

What a blessed hope that Jesus can take our brokenness and give us wholeness. In the midst of a chaotic and sometimes cruel world, Jesus is the Christ who still beckons all to come that He may give us His peace and power that is able to heal our brokenness and put us back together again (Psalm 147:3). Take heart my brother! Take heart my sister! In Jesus - we are overcomers!

Wesley Willows & Peterson Meadows Chaplain Ministry

Rev. Thomas DeWitt, M.Div, BCCS; thomasd@wesleywillows.org

Rev. Allen J. Shuler, Jr., M.Div; allens@wesleywillows.org

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OUR MISSION

We promote active secure lifestyles for Seniors through ongoing personalized care.

OUR VISION

Wesley Willows will be the leader in providing exceptional programs, services, and amenities for Seniors.

Ray & Arlene Pederson from our Peterson Meadows Campus



The Dick and Pat Nyquist Family Chapel at Peterson Meadows will celebrate one year since the grand opening in October of 2019. We are beyond thankful for all the monetary donations that have made the Growing Together campaign a success. As we have utilized this beautiful addition over the past twelve months, there have been numerous opportunities for residents

to donate, particularly with their time and talents.

Peterson Meadows resident, Ray Pederson, approached staff soon after the Dick and Pat Nyquist Family Chapel opened and asked if he could make a cross for the Chapel. Ray and his wife, Arlene, built a home at Peterson Meadows in 2018, complete with a woodshop in the basement so that Ray could continue to work on his projects. Ray and Arlene felt that making the cross would be an opportunity for a beautiful addition to the Dick & Pat Nyquist Family Chapel.

The cross serves as a daily reminder of God's blessings we have received at Peterson Meadows as well as the roots we have as a faith-based community.

"We are so thankful that we moved to Peterson Meadows and are able to give back to the Community. Sharing my hobbies with others is a delight for me and I am glad that our fellow residents are able to enjoy it too", says Ray.

Give-Avalanche of Good Campaign

Residents at Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows saw how much our committed employees continued to work with care, dedication and without complaints during the summer months of the pandemic. Many residents continually asked what more can we (the residents) do to encourage our staff, also known as INDISPENSABLE WARRIORS, to thank them for their efforts. The "Give-Alanche" of Good was created.

This was an opportunity for residents of Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows to give to an employee fund at both locations and will be used to give special recognitions, ranging from t-shirts to cash prizes. Management staff determines the applicable designation. We have 330 INDISPENSABLE WARRIORS (staff) between our two locations, who continue to work over and beyond the call of duty. **Thank you to all who donated to the Give-Alanche of Good; \$10, 959.00 was raised!!!**

Robert Ash Legacy Society – Planned Giving

Generosity comes in many forms, and it is often the best way for you to support important causes that matter the most to you. When you give to the Wesley Willows Good Samaritan Fund, you help us make a difference.

Did you know there are many different ways you can support the Good Samaritan Fund without giving a monetary donation right now? When you include a gift to the Wesley Willows Good Samaritan Fund in your estate or financial plans, this will allow us to continue to care for our residents who need it most in the future.

No matter the type of gift you choose, you will become a member of the Robert Ash Legacy Society. Suggestions for planned giving:

- * Donate all or part of your entrance fee (popular)*
- * Include Wesley Willows in your will or living trust (most popular on campus) *
- * Designate Wesley Willows as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy *
- * Create a gift annuity *

A common myth about planned giving is that it's only for the wealthy; but in reality, it's for everyone! No matter your age or income, all you need is a plan. When you take time to plan, you create a secure future for yourself and the places you love.

So, why make a planned gift? It's simple – not only is it easy to do, but your gift will be deferred until after your lifetime, so your current income is never affected. Don't worry, with many planned gifts, you have the right to change your mind at any time.

Contact Paula Capone, Director of Fund Development to learn more about the Robert Ash Legacy Society. Ph. 815-316-1512 email: paulac@wesleywillows.org



Thank you Dr. Rogers!

42 years of experience, 2,100 visits and 33,600 residents - those are just three significant numbers in Dr. Craig Roger's career at Wesley Willows. Dr. Rogers was our Medical Director for 42 years and during his time here, averaged 50 visits per year and 16 residents per visit. This doesn't even begin to cover the residents and staff he also saw in his office.

Dr. Rogers started his career at Wesley Willows in 1978 at the urging of his father, who at the time, was part of the original group of individuals that conceived of and started Wesley Willows. Though Dr. Rogers had a long stint in practice at a local health system, he often stated Wesley Willows was a very important part of his career and took great pride in working here. His care for Wesley Willows went beyond our residents – it extended to our staff as well. During rounds and phone calls, he took pride in providing education and resources to our nursing staff.

Dr. Rogers was always here to see residents-some years he even scheduled his vacations around his weekly visits. We sincerely wish him the very best in retirement and will fondly remember the immense contribution he made to Wesley Willows residents and staff. He will be missed dearly by many.

WELCOME HOME

We are excited to have new individuals* in our growing communities! (Mar. 2020-Sept. 2020). We welcome them to our Wesley Willows and Peterson Meadows families where they will experience active and secure lifestyles for Seniors. It is a blessing to have them join us!

WESLEY WILLOWS

Edwin & Liz Stirling
James & Jayne Tarr
Sally Viederis
Robert Anderson
Maureen (Mary) Crowe
Dennis & Catherine Moresco
Marcia Sattelberg
Mary Lynn Flood
Gary & Rebecca Tague
Mary Trevillian
Neva Risley
Mildred Bridgeland
Loyd Wollstadt
Arlen & Irene Lehrke
Susan Morris
Janet Nelson
Maria Himmler
Neita Webster
Bob & Donna Basick
Barbara Benson
Carol Benson
Francis Webb

PETERSON MEADOWS

Karl & Peggy Larson
Thomas Anspaugh
Tom & Ann Badaluco
Susan Chambers
Corinne Reddy
Aronson & Norma Loring
Jeanice Clevenger
Murlin Clark
Dorothy Smith
Paul & Judy Letourneau

**This list does not include residents who wish to remain anonymous.*

HIGHLIGHTS

To learn more about events that are happening at Peterson Meadows or Wesley Willows, find us on Facebook at [WesleyWillowsSeniorLiving](#), [PetersonMeadowsSeniorLiving](#), or visit us on the web at www.wesleywillows.org to see our Full Community Calendar.



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For more information on how to make Wesley Willows your home, please call 815.316.1500

It Is All About the Heart! Community Reaching Out to Wesley Willows

Brothers, Brad and Josh Mecum, are fine examples of young men with the heart to care for others. We could all learn something from these boys who know certainly know what it means to give generously.

Every week, Brad and Josh each save \$1.00 from their allowance, and at the end of the year, they choose to spend their saved-up money on a good cause. This year, they chose Willows Arbor because their beloved grandmother, Dolores Shank, is a current resident there.

With the boys' saved dollars, they bought jigsaw puzzles for the Arbor and used their 3D printer to print hearts for the residents. Everyone was so happy to receive their heartfelt gifts.

"It is so important, during the COVID-19 pandemic especially, to feel the love and acceptance of those around us. Having Brad and Josh give to our residents in this meaningful way is truly an inspiration to our residents, staff and family members. Their act of kindness comes from the heart and that is what makes it extra special", says Erica Figurin, Director of Wesley Willows Experience.

Willows Arbor at Wesley Willows is a residential facility that has individual apartments which offer assisted living for residents who want independence but appreciate more personalized care as their circumstances change. Of the 700+ residents at Wesley Willows, 100 live in Willows Arbor.

