



Notre Dame Fine Print

Volume 5, Number 4

Notre Dame Long Term Care Center

February/March 2004

New Education Center offers opportunities for staff

When “The Lake” was renovated to become Notre Dame du Lac, some “shell space” on the lower level in one wing was left unfinished for a future project. A child care center was considered, but the feasibility

study did not support the need and projected costs.

Nursing needs

For some time the current nursing shortage has been a primary concern of the Center. Educational workshops to aid staff’s climb up career ladders have been offered for some years. Tenth anniversary scholarships were awarded. Now we will have the Education Center. Its goal, according to Katherine Lemay, Administrator of NDLTCC, is “to be part of the

solution by educating our own nurses.”

The aim is to develop an “educational bridge” for staff to prepare to enroll in college programs, such as those offered by Quinsigamond College.

Courses in ESOL, English, Math, Biology, and Psychology will be available to enable individuals to pass entrance exams and to complete LPN or RN programs.

The Education Center program will focus primarily on staff members, and help to recruit and retain CNAs. Staff members of the Intercare Alliance will also participate. While the focus is on health care, advice and guidance for other careers will also be available.

Space prepared

The construction work is about finished. The design includes three classrooms; one room has a folding wall partition to provide for a larger gathering. The space includes a reception area, a computer room, and an open area for resources, study, and tutoring.

Founded for education, SNDs see this support for the needs of staff, and of the ND health and retirement centers, as carrying out their mission, “providing the tools for life.”

Transitions

Welcome to

Veronica Aukstikalnis
Sr. Margaret V. Donovan
Sr. Kathleen Doyle
James J. Dillon
Charles A. Estaphan
Sr. Margaret Flynn
Russell Hemenway
Elizabeth M. LaMarche
Robert Leslie
Ruth A. Ljungberg
Arthur H. Mallon
Helen Mallon
Bella A. Mason
Mary B. McCall
Richard W. Mirick
Katherine O’Loughlin
Rosaire J. Roy
Sr. Rose Mary Salviate
Helen G. Shaughnessy
Sr. Edwina Steinmeyer
Sr. Elizabeth J. Walsh

We wish continued improved health to

Sr. Patricia J. Barry
John Gale
Mary Morone
Sr. Marion J. O’Leary
Joseph Pandolf

who returned home or moved to an assisted living facility.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of

Joseph T. Ash
Eleanor Buckley
Anna Cravedi
Sr. Mary M. Cunningham
Sr. Justina Daley
Sr. Anne E. Egan
Sr. Catherine Hendren
Anne T. Jollymore
Francis T. Lind
Sr. Rose Paula Mace
Alban Maillet
Frank L. McNamara
Hazel McTighe
Sr. Elizabeth O’Leary
Sr. Mary C. Quigley
Sr. Anastasia Quinn
Catherine Rosata
Sr. Elizabeth Shea
DeVer Sholes
Leonard M. Tomaiolo
Harry Valentgas
Louis G. Valentzas

Grapevine



A simple **Blessing and Ribbon Cutting** ceremony for the **Education Center** was held Tuesday, Feb. 3. The group prayed that all who come will be received with kindness, encouraged to develop their gifts, and strengthened to share these gifts with others in the future. Those present thanked God for the many talents and skills that have made this new Center a place of learning, of hope, and of possibilities.

* * *

To begin the **Education Center Program**, a **Career Day** was held in January for close to 90 staff members who would be interested in career counseling and help with career goals. Representatives of **Work Source Partners**, who will be developing the Center's programs, arranged to be present at various times on two days so as to accommodate staff members on all three shifts. While focusing on health care, advice and guidance will be available for other careers as well. The response was enthusiastic.

* * *

Mark your calendars!

PAKACHOAG COMMUNITY
MUSIC SCHOOL OF AUBURN

will present

A Student Outreach Concert

at

NOTRE DAME
LONG TERM CARE CENTER

Monday, April 19, 2004

2:30-3:30 pm in the Chapel



Supported in part by a grant from The Worcester Cultural Commission

The **Artist of the Month** program continues. Each month a sister whose works are hung in the Center talks about her art and shows examples of it. Guest artists/photographers have been: October, **Sr. Madeline Carrabino**; November, **Sr. Ellen Gillen**; December, **Sr. Janet Mullen**; January, **Sr. Mary Jane Cavallo**, and February, **Sr. Jon Julie Sullivan**.

* * *

Events in **Pastoral Care Week** in October included a visit from **Bishop George Rieger** who celebrated Mass; a Mission Assessment of the Center, coordinated by **Sr. Marna Rogers**; and appreciation socials for staff and volunteers. **Monsignor John Dyer** and two priest companions offered the Sacrament of the Sick.

* * *

December was busy with Christmas activities. The **Residents' Choir** and all present sang carols as the crib figures

Education Center before...



Next issue: the finished "After"

were placed in the outdoor stable by staff members.

Many people—**families, friends, entertainers**—visited the Center during the holidays.

* * *

Among other charity drives coordinated at the Center by **Sr. Marna Rogers**, 250 pairs of sneakers were collected. Their soles will be re-cycled into safe gym floors for financially challenged schools and nonprofit children's programs. Congratulations to all!

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LONG TERM CARE CENTER
A Place of Welcome
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In a nutshell



“I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about a future full of hope.” *Jeremiah 29: 11,12*

Two things strike me in this passage: that God is interested in every aspect of our lives, and that God is never finished with us. There is always more! More to learn, more to experience. By allowing ourselves to grow, we become more confident; our improved self-esteem is a gift not only to ourselves, but to others as well.

Reflecting on these words of Jeremiah, we are reminded of our life's journey. Look how God has opened new doors. So many opportunities and experiences have come our way because we listened to God's invitation.

St. Julie Billiart, foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame, clearly understood this when she told her first sisters to teach the children for life. Having begun a Jubilee Year on February 2, 2004, the Sisters of Notre Dame are celebrating 200 years of this educational tradition. It is an appropriate time to begin the Education Center; it will enable staff members to climb the career ladder of health care, and benefit the Long Term Care Center as well.

We ask God's blessing on all those involved, so that Christ's healing ministry here will be greatly enriched by this new project.

Sr. Mary Jane Cavallo

The Education Center and Notre Dame's Year of Jubilee

The Sisters of Notre Dame were founded in 1804 to educate young girls and to train teachers. Through the past 200 years their ministry has expanded to include formal education for girls and boys from pre-primary tots to college students, and has interpreted education in its broadest sense, from the early days of lace-making to today's virtual school and adult education centers.

Here in Worcester, Notre Dame's loving care of their frail and elderly sisters has expanded to welcome others to both Notre Dame du Lac (for assisted living) and to Notre Dame Long Term Care Center. In all their works, the sisters aim to make known God's goodness.

Touching Base *Katherine Lemay*

The Education Center is an exciting new venture here at the Long Term Care Center. The program is consistent with the educational mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame. It also ties in with our Mission Statement which commits us to “retain and support qualified and competent personnel committed to this ministry.” The program will better enable us to recruit and retain valuable staff members.

News of the Education Center program has raised the staff's level of interest in education, as well as their awareness of its importance.

When some courses were offered last year, people who hadn't studied for years found they enjoyed learning, and grew in self-confidence and enthusiasm. The more education we offer our staff, the more interesting and fulfilling they find their work. They realize with pride the significance of what they do and look forward to coming to work each day.

We will hold an Open House for the Education Center on May 13, 2004.

(Katherine Lemay is the Administrator of the Long Term Care Center.)

Correction

Susan Stauffer's name was misspelled on page 1 of the last issue of *Fine Print*. We regret the mistake.

Notre Dame Fine Print is published quarterly by the Notre Dame Long Term Care Center to inform and educate the residents' families and friends and the wider public about the lifelong process of aging and to suggest ways to respond creatively to health needs.

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Inside the Notre Dame Long Term Care Center

Here at the Center we have an endless supply of wonderful residents and staff members. We continue to introduce you to some of these valued members of our community.

Sr. William Marie Darmody, Resident



Mary Barbara Darmody was born in Salem, MA and attended Notre Dame schools there. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in August 1947, taking the name William Marie after her father and mother. She made her first vows in January 1950, and obtained degrees from Emmanuel College and St. Michael College, VT.

All her active religious life Sr. William taught piano lessons, classroom music, choral singing, and church choirs. She found it hard to adjust when she came to the Center; her hands were not good, and music seemed out of reach.

But the Activity staff located a keyboard for her, and she practiced and blossomed. Then a donated piano was placed in the East Wing; she plays it almost every day. Sr. William also plays for teas and sing-a-longs in the Activity Room, and accompanied carols at the Crib Ceremony.

In addition to music, Sr. William loves cats: "There were always cats at home."

Elaine Donahue, Staff



Elaine is one who has explored options and made the most of opportunities in her life. She left a career as a supervisor and computer trainer at a point in her life when she wanted to give back to others. She helped her mother when she was sick, and went on to be certified as a CNA.

From 1995 when Elaine came to the Center, she has lived by her belief that "if you don't try it, you won't grow." She became a preceptor, teaching coworkers routines practiced on the floor, and took courses given here through state grants. When the opportunity to assist with staff development was offered, Elaine began to give orientation to non-nursing staff and CNAs. But she still spends a few nights a week on duty as a CNA, so she can interact with the residents.

Elaine says education is the best investment; she has seen how it increases confidence and enhances a self-image. She is delighted with the opportunities the Education Center brings.