

RIVERSIDE IDYLL

News from The House of the Good Shepherd September 2020



River Walk

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Thoughts from Sue

Hard to believe that Fall is just around the corner! What happened to Spring and Summer of 2020? Like most of us, it is a blurry memory.

In August, we completed an important survey of our Independent Living residents, our Administrative Staff, and our Board of Trustees to gain some insight on what our next steps should be on the HOTGS campus in terms of future development. Many of the upgrade or expansion scenarios that were considered earlier this year are just too costly and the housing/health care market has also changed much in the last five years and for that matter, in the last five months! We want to remain true to our mission and maintain our excellent reputation so the feedback we received is vital. The Strategic Planning Committee of our Board of Trustees will be meeting as well as the Full Board to discuss what should happen next. Thanks to all of you who participated!

Our River Walk project has really taken off! Part II and Part III were done at the same time to take advantage of all the equipment being on site. The finishing touches are being put in place so keep an

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Living well along the Musconetcong River in Hackettstown, New Jersey



— from previous page

eye out for the final product and enjoy the fall season on that special pathway!

We are continuing to monitor the Covid-19 situation around NJ and of course, in our area. Our goal is to keep everyone safe on our campus, so we do appreciate everyone’s efforts of personal responsibility: social distancing, mask wearing and for those who get out, being safe on outside visits. We are aware that it is not easy, and we are all tired from the restrictions.

Fall brings the beginning of the Flu Season which could collide with Covid-19, potentially a nasty situation. The best protection for you as we wait for a vaccine for Covid-19, is to check with your doctor and if recommended, please get your flu shot! CVS will be offering a Flu Clinic again in Sept and October onsite for anyone interested in getting a flu shot.

We are continuing our outdoor visitation schedule so you can visit with your loved ones. Just call the Recreation Department at (908) 684-5731 to schedule.

A big thank you to our staff who are now back to doing weekly testing for Covid-19. It is not anyone’s favorite idea to get tested so frequently, yet the staff has been amazingly adaptable to whatever comes our way with Covid-19. Thank you for your patience!

Enjoy the Fall season at our magnificent river location!

Sue Lanza, CEO and President

From the Editor

Do you have an idea for a story? Reach me at scarty@hotgs.org or ext. 5931 and share your thoughts. Thanks for reading the *Riverside Idyll*.



The Rev. Shawn Carty, *Editor*

Deadline for next issue: Sept. 29

Jennifer Brown, R.N.

Jennifer Brown, R.N. joined us Aug. 10 as our Staff Development & Infection Control Nurse. Welcome, Jennifer! - Ed.

This is quite a time to take a job in infection control, isn't it?

It is! I have worked in healthcare all my career. I studied nursing at Penn. State and I have been an R.N. since 2011. Preventing infections is always part of the work of nursing.

Tell us about your position here.

In addition to infection control, I oversee staff development and education, which is a strong interest of mine. I enjoy teaching, so when this position became available, I knew it was a good match. It's so important to make sure our staff are up to date on skills and that we meet ongoing education



requirements. A big part of my work is to keep all of our staff on a calendar of education and learning.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

The best part is when I get to see things “click” with others as they learn something new. With teaching, it is never the same. There is always something else to learn and different people learning, so it's always new. At the same time, continuity of care is essential. That means the care we give is consistently high quality and based on the needs of those receiving it.

With the Covid-19 pandemic these days, what advice do you have?

Follow the best practices of basic infection control: Wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance from others. We easily become afraid of what we do not understand. Learning more helps you make informed decisions and reduces the anxiety of the situation. Infection control is all about breaking the chain of infection.

What's the best advice you have received as a medical professional?

Everyone is “somebody's somebody.” We can be very task-focused in medical care and we need to remember that we are working with people who deserve our respect and care as a person.

What do you enjoy away from work?

I am fascinated with sharks. Growing up on Long Island, I have always been interested in marine life.

Kristina Partika

Kristina Partika is our new Director of Admissions as of Aug. 3. She assists families and residents coming for skilled nursing care and complete personal care. Welcome, Kristina! - Ed.

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in Mount Arlington and went to York College in Pennsylvania. My husband and I live in Frelinghuysen Township with our two children.

What led you to work at the House?

Most of my career has been helping people in long-term care, starting out as an aide, then serving as a director of activities, and most recently as a director of admissions for a care center about an hour south of here. When the position at the House opened, it was a good opportunity. I live in the Hackettstown area and I know the quality reputation of the House. I'm excited to be part of the team here.

Have we lived up to our reputation?

You have! People have been very friendly. Everyone knows each other's names and they care for each other. My previous workplace was a smaller center, so my first impression of the House was that it was a bigger place with a wider range of services offered. Even with that, it has a very friendly feel that you would expect in a smaller place. The staff know each other and everyone works together to meet the needs of our residents.

What do you enjoy about admissions?

I really enjoy speaking with individuals and families to help them make decisions about what is right for them. For many people, it can be an emotional decision involving lots of details that can be overwhelming including finances and



medical needs. Covid has made it even more difficult, of course, and I miss being able to give tours and meet face-to-face with families. Even still, helping people sort through those things and make the best decision for them is very satisfying.

What do you enjoy away from work?

I love spending time with my family. My husband and I have young children ages 7 and 4. We are a very outdoorsy family and we love hiking and biking.



A Stitch in Time

Betty LeClair came to live at the House 14 years ago. When her husband Lee became ill, he came to our healthcare unit to recover. Betty remembers that she made Lee a quilt for his bed. It had a bear in the middle because Lee was a



hunter who had once gotten a bear. The recreation director at the time, Agnes, saw the beautiful quilt she made for Lee.

After receiving a donation of 20 large square quilt pieces ready to be

assembled, Agnes asked Betty if she would complete the quilt. Being the avid and talented quilter that she was, she agreed. When it was done, it was hung up to be displayed in Recreation Room One. Betty would see it there whenever she came to visit her husband.

Betty has made a personal quilt for each of her three children, eight grandchildren, and soon-to-be nine great-grandchildren! That is no small feat! This beautiful lavender and pink quilt that Betty finished was recently presented to Betty to keep in her family.

Betty is known by so many people at the House as she is always found walking and chatting with people.

We love you Betty! May God's blessing be on you and all your family.

— Toni Melone



It's time for our **Employee Spirit Day** **September 9** with a patriotic theme.

Join the fun!



Next Spirit Day: Oct. 30 (Halloween)

I would like to send out a shining star for nurse **Katie Kresge**. During a recent discharged survey from a sub-acute resident they could not speak enough about Katie's amazing nursing care. This resident stated that Katie treats you as if you are her only patient. He said she went above and beyond and deserves to be recognized.



— Shannon Morgan
Director of Recreation

Have an idea for making the House an even better place to work? All frontline staff are invited to bring your thoughts, concerns, and ideas to share at an **Employee Morale Meeting** on Sept. 17 at 1:30 p.m. No managers will be present and staff will be encouraged to speak freely. Questions? Contact Gina Arnone in Human Resources.

New Employees

A warm welcome to new employees who have started at the House since Aug. 1.

- **Jennifer Brown, R.N.**
Staff Educator & Infection Control
- **Leah Ombati, R.N.**
- **Kristina Partika**
Director of Admissions
- **Lillian Rossi**
Dietary Aide
- **Sophia Sanchez**
Dietary Aide
- **Makayla Singh**
Dietary Aide

Know someone who might make a good member of the team at the House? Employees can receive a bonus for referring new employees. Job openings are posted near the Second Floor receptionist, on the First Floor by the ATM machine, and online. For more information talk with Gina Arnone in HR.

<https://www.hotgs.org/employment.php>

Bingo!



Many thanks to Brad Kenney for his gifts of two bingo pendants to be awarded as prizes to our best bingo players of September. Good luck!

T House of The Good Shepherd Full Campus Virtual Tour 1

Copy link

Welcome to
The House of The Good Shepherd
Campus Virtual Tour

MORE VIDEOS

Exit full screen (f)

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YouTube

Have you taken the virtual tour of the House of the Good Shepherd? This video is a great way introduce others to the House and the beautiful setting we enjoy. Look for stunning aerial videos of the grounds and the Musconetcong River. Watch online: <https://www.hotgs.org/virtual-tour.php>



Just for Fun

Autumn	Pencil	Y O D P T S Y G N S A E C B Q
Betty LeClair	Quilting	A R L A Z M S X C N P S Z Q M
Bingo	Riverwalk	D I H L U N C H B O X T J V X
Chalkboard	Sharpener	R T Y N P J O T A S H L E Y P
Jennifer Brown	School	O R P Y F O S H A R P E N E R
Kristina Partika	Sharks	B Q U I L T I N G R K U N S Z
Labor Day	Video Tour	A K I T R A P A N I T S I R K
Leaves		L L O C S B F Z V O Y E F Z U
Lunchbox		X R G P A Y S G P J R V E I W
		W V N D C H A L K B O A R D V
		L R I A L C E L Y T T E B O R
		A R B K X I P E N C I L R M F
		R L L Z N R V I D E O T O U R
		E K L A W R E V I R T N W C R
		A C D T H X T A U T U M N H S

Have ewe found my friends?



Baa! This issue has 5 lost sheep. Did you find them all?

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- | | |
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