

ourtimes

Winter 2016



Merry Christmas, everyone!

SUE HAMM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUNSET MANOR & VILLAGES

Doesn't it seem like we were just getting used to writing and saying 2016? Now we're wrapping it up! My name is Sue Hamm and I am the Executive Director at Sunset Manor & Villages. I have been in my position for about a year and a half now and I just love being part of Sunset and doing what I do. Those of

you who know me, you know that I have worked in healthcare for almost all of my career, mostly in the nursing home setting. Working at Sunset is so fun for me, for a couple of reasons. The first reason is that every day in every way I see our residents and staff living out the mission of Sunset. I really

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CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

SHARON BROUWER

For more than 15 years, Sharon Brouwer gives thanks for Christ's birth by setting up 24 fully decorated Christmas Trees all throughout the Sunset Manor and Village campus. This annual labor of love provides joy to ALL, residents, family, and staff. With tears welling up in her eyes, Sharon recalled one special resident in hospice, who just turned 100 years old, asking that her door be left open so she could enjoy the tree just outside her room. **"It gives me a great sense of joy knowing that these Christmas trees give the residents a warm and cozy feeling,"** Sharon said.

You are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with us by enjoying Sunset's Christmas Tree tour.

Tuesday, December 6, 6-8PM

Enjoy entertainment, music, treats and tour our community!

RSVP to Marianne 457.2770 ext. 1113

**The first ten to RSVP receive a special gift.*

Stop in for 15 minutes or stay the whole time! Please enter Door A, off Sally Street.



Brookcrest

Nursing & Rehabilitation Care
Phone: 616.534.5487

Home Services

Home Health Care
Phone: 616.667.4663

Manor & Villages

Independent & Assisted Living
Phone: 616.457.2770

Meals at Home

Delivered Meals
Phone: 616.457.7777

Rose Garden

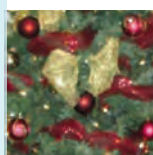
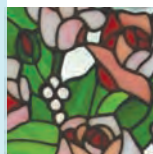
Assisted Living
Phone: 616.538.1914

Waterford Place

Independent Living
Phone: 616.667.1725
Assisted Living & Rehab
Phone: 616.667.6000

Emmanuel Hospice

Hospice Care
Phone: 616.719.0919



LOCAL • CHRISTIAN • NONPROFIT

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality services for senior adults
in a spirit of Christian love.

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2016

WHO CARES?

THE ANSWER WILL ENCOURAGE YOU.

This Christmas season reminds us of the blessing it is to care for others as well as to be cared for by others. I had just driven into the parking lot at Brookcrest and I noticed one of our residents sitting out in the sun reading a book. I've known this person for several years and had every intention of talking with her after making my other visits inside. My car hadn't even come to a complete stop before she started chasing me down in her electric wheelchair. The look on her face told me that she needed to ask me a very important question.

So, I took the bold approach and asked "What's up?" Her response was an immediate and passionate ***"What can we do to help our aides and nurses? They are working so hard and I'm worried that it will be too much for them."*** This question took me totally by surprise. I anticipated a complaint. But, instead heard **a passionate plea for a care giver from a care receiver.** She needed to know that I cared too.

I have been privileged to see the gift of caring being lived out in the lives of so many people and I am slowly, but surely, beginning to understand that caring is a two way street. God blesses each one of us with opportunities to care about, or to be cared for by, others. I have had residents show up at my door with a check to help cover the cost of care for their neighbor down the hall. At other times it is a staff member wanting to raise support for a co-worker who is going through a difficult period. Caring is lived out through the sharing of someone's time to serve on the board, deliver meals, or knit hats for newborn babies. But it also shows up through gifts of money and resources that allow others to serve as our hands and feet.

Sunset has been blessed with the privilege of touching thousands of lives each year. Praise God that he has surrounded our ministry with such a great cloud of witnesses who know what it means to care for our neighbors. I thank God each day for your faithful stewardship of God's grace.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



"God blesses each one of us with opportunities to care about, or to be cared for..."



FALL GALA

Thank you



to the 420 people who attended the 2016 Fall Gala, presented by Citizens Bank, benefiting resident benevolence. Dr. Dennis Swanberg, the evening's entertainment, had many attendees holding their cheeks because they were sore from laughing.

Thank you to the many who gave sacrificially and were Stewards of God's Grace by sharing your God-given gifts to serve and enrich the lives of older adults. Dr. Swanberg encouraged us with this thought; we all have the opportunity and responsibility to leave a godly legacy.

We are very pleased to announce the Gala raised **\$157,930** towards benevolent care.

Thank you for your partnership with us in service. We'd be honored if you'd share this story with your friends and family and covet your daily prayers that God will continue to bless Sunset's mission.



**"... use whatever gift
you have received
to serve others, as
faithful stewards of
God's grace ..."**

~ 1 Peter 4:10





Stewards of Grace



mean what I'm saying! It is refreshing and encouraging to be around such genuine people! Secondly, because I have a passion for healthcare, I see what is going on in the industry and am so pleased to be able to truly make a difference by seeing where healthcare is taking us and looking at what we've got going on at Sunset and figuring out what we need to do to accommodate our aging population.

As a non-profit Christian organization, Sunset is more concerned with doing the right thing, than maximizing profits. I am concerned about the pressure placed on healthcare settings to expedite the process and prematurely discharge patients from hospitals or skilled rehab settings when they aren't quite back to their normal selves. Sunset stands in stark contrast to those pressures to ensure seniors have what they need to succeed and they don't end up back in the hospital!

I have set out this past year to answer two questions: 1.) What resources do we have and what do we need to ensure we can accommodate our population as they age and don't have to leave their homes for support services?

2.) What modifications should be made, so our staff can provide higher levels of care than what has been traditionally provided on this campus?

We have begun focusing on wellness by looking at a variety of different offerings for our residents to help them live healthier lives. We are using the services of IPC (physician group) so that our residents do not have to go off site to access medical care. On the structural side

The most common reason residents choose the Manor is because of Sunset's reputation for excellence.

of things, we are focusing on renovations in the Manor that will promote healthier living. The Manor is currently staffed 24 hours a day by nurses, med techs and resident assistants to meet the needs of the residents who reside there. As needs increase, we want to be able to continue to accommodate these residents. However, our bathrooms are not set up to accommodate staff and equipment to assist in transfers. For residents who need extra help we are renovating two bathing spas on the second floor of the Manor to accommodate

the adaptive equipment necessary for safe transfers. Currently, we are renovating two of our three second floor spas to meet this need. We will also need to purchase the necessary equipment to assist our staff with safe transfers.

In addition to the inside, we're planning to update the outside; the façade and entryway. The most common reason residents choose the Manor is because of Sunset's reputation for excellence. Excellent service include maintaining our buildings. The Manor still has original windows and the car port is not accessible for residents who come and go by ambulance or bus. We need to fix this problem. We will be looking at updating the façade in 2017 so that we can not only look appealing to those who invest in us, but also accommodate those who need us.

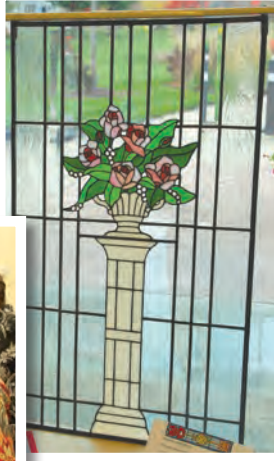
In doing all of this, my hope is that those who currently live on the Sunset campus, as well as those who will come to live here, know we will do all that we can to ensure that they will stay healthy and comfortable in their chosen home for as long as possible and hopefully forever!



Life at Sunset!

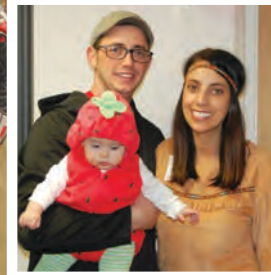
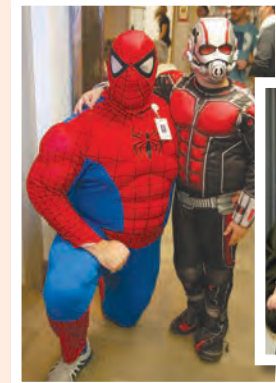
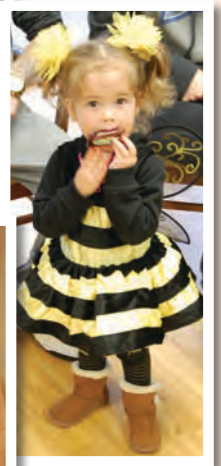


Fine Art Showcase



WATERFORD PLACE

BROOKCREST: TRICK OR TREAT!



CRAFT BAZAAR!

SUNSET MANOR & VILLAGES



VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION



SUNSET MANOR & VILLAGES



Read more about Betty Epperly on back page!





Sunset Association
725 Baldwin Street
Jenison, MI 49428

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With the help of our amazing donors, wonderful things have happened at Sunset. We've been able to help resident benevolence, give nursing scholarships, and lives have been enriched. You can help by gifting through the enclosed envelope, online at SunsetCommunities.org, or call 616.457.2770, ext. 1117. Thank you!

If at any time you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please call 616.457.2770, ext. 1116, or contact us through our website at SunsetCommunities.org.



WINTER & SPRING SEMESTER: WELLNESS CLASSES PRESENTED BY SUNSET HOME SERVICES

DATES:

- **January 19:** Exercise and Wellness (Jen Edwards, PT)
- **February 16:** Bladder and Digestive Health (Stephanie Smit, PT)
- **March 16:** Emotional Wellness (Mary Bollman, RN)
- **April 20:** Continuum of Care Seminar (Sunset Panel of Experts)

TIME: 10:30-11:30am

LOCATION: Georgetown Connections
7096 8th Avenue, Jenison

RSVP: 616.457.1170

There are many activities scheduled for residents & their family members – too many to note. Please contact the Life Enrichment staff at each community for further details.

Blessings are God's loving, caring, underserved gifts that enable us to do His will by sharing His blessings with others.

Sunset has been blessed with talented people, like Angelyn Keegstra, who continue to be a blessing to others. Angelyn, wrote a devotional, "Twelve Baskets of Leftovers: Recycling God's Blessings" that revealed her intimate relationship with her heavenly Father. After her passing, her family published her life's work demonstrating that God's blessings endure. Copies of Angelyn Keegstra's devotional can be ordered through Amazon, with a portion of the proceeds going to Sunset's resident benevolence fund.



Author Betty Epperly (right) with her mom & Sunset resident, Jennie Kuperus. Inspired by her mom's humble stories during WWII, Betty set out to capture real stories from America's "greatest generation." For Sunset's Veterans Day Celebration, Betty released her book, "A Time to Serve: Remembering World War II," which chronicled 25 Sunset resident's during WWII. Betty's passion and love for her mom and her generation has provided us, through her book, with the benefit of their living perspective, helping define our values while inspiring us for something greater. Thank you Betty and God Bless You!

calendar OF EVENTS