



Touching Lives

IN CENTRE COUNTY

Fall 2011

CELEBRATE!

October is...

Health Literacy Month
 Long-Term Care Planning Month
 National Book Month
 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October:

1: International Day of Older Persons
 10: Columbus Day
 22: Make a Difference Day
 31: Halloween

November is...

Family Stories Month
 National Family Caregivers Month
 National Home Care Month
 I Am So Thankful Month

November:

6: Daylight Savings Time Ends: Fall Back
 11: Veterans Day
 13: World Kindness Day
 15: America Recycles Day
 20-26: National Family Week
 24: Thanksgiving

December is...

National Tie Month
 Learn a Foreign Language Month

December:

6-12: National Handwashing Awareness Week
 10: Human Rights Day
 21: First Day of Winter
 25: Christmas
 31: New Year's Eve

Staff Team Recognition Event



ALSM held a dinner on September 29th to recognize the accomplishments of numerous staff team members from throughout the organization. This red carpet themed event, held at the UVA Club in Altoona, honored milestone anniversaries and winners of the newly introduced "Team Choice Awards".

Patricia Savage, President and CEO of ALSM, shared her feelings about the event and evening. "We hold our staff team recognition event each year so that we can express our formal thanks to each of our staff members who work diligently every day to serve those in our care. ALSM not only celebrates the milestone anniversaries of our staff but we celebrate each of the skills and talents that our staff shares with each of those persons entrusted to us. This year we introduced new staff awards that relate to each of our values of Christian calling, integrity, improvement, quality, caring, and dedication. We also introduced a leadership award for the person who exemplifies respect and outstanding leadership with their respective staff. A planning committee, made up of staff team members of each of our programs, works hard to create a theme of recognition and celebration. It is a great evening filled with warm fellowship, good food, and entertainment. ALSM is truly blessed to have such wonderful staff team members who are committed to our mission to serve."

Employees celebrating 5 years of service with ALSM:

From The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg, Richard Eger and Vickie Locke; from The Lutheran Home at Johnstown, Nichole Beppler, Anita Chuha, and Vanessa Gustkey; from The Oaks at Pleasant Gap, Nichole Kerschner; from Head Start, Amy Clark, Lori Foor, Trinette Guenther, Lorienta Hengst, Bettie Lieb, and Shella Weaver; from Child Care, Brooke Burket, Jill Mock, Jordan Weeks, and Linda Young; and from the Senior Daily Living Center, Susan Smith.

Employees celebrating 10 years of service with ALSM:

From The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg, Claudia Hale and Karen Hoover; from The Lutheran Home at Johnstown, Kristin DeVico, Tammy Ressler, and Susan Walkowsky; from the Corporate Office, Russ Lykens; from Head Start, Tammy Crawford, Stacey Feaster, and Rebecca Lazor; from Child Care, Sherry Wentz and Linda Krajec; from ALSM at Home, Vikkie Walk; and from the Senior Daily Living Center, Lanette Richards.

Employees celebrating 15 years of service with ALSM:

From The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg, Leanne Jenkins; from The Lutheran Home at Johnstown, Rachael Budzina; from the Corporate Office, Pat Savage; from Child Care, Melissa Burnheimer, and from ALSM at Home, Philip Gardill and Darlene Skorupa.

Traci Feist of The Lutheran Home at Johnstown celebrated 20 years of service with ALSM and Robin Litzinger of The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg along with Wayne Conway of The Lutheran Home at Johnstown celebrated 25 years of service with ALSM.

Three employees celebrated an impressive 30 years of service with ALSM:

From the Lutheran Home at Johnstown, Patricia Zimmerman; from Child Care, Denise Steele; and from ALSM at Home, Salley Lenz.

The Team Choice Award winners were:

- Leadership Award - Dave Arnold, Environmental Services Manager for The Lutheran Home at Johnstown and Sally Lenz, Senior Services Advisor for ALSM at Home
- Christian Calling Award - Kathy Partsch, Certified Nursing Assistant of The Lutheran Home at Johnstown
- Caring Award - Sandy Varner, Personal Care Assistant for The Lutheran Home in Johnstown
- Quality Award - Jessica Petrunak, Home Care Aid for ALSM at Home in Cambria County
- Integrity Award - Lori Adams, Executive Assistant for the Corporate Office
- Improvement Award - Karen Walters, Home Care Aid for ALSM at Home in Cambria County
- Dedication Award - Mike Stock, Head Cook at The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg



From the Administrator's Desk

by Nichole Kirschner, Administrator

Greetings!

Awww...how bittersweet it is to see the end of yet, another summer. Gone for another year is little league baseball, summer picnics, parades, and the hot sun. However, ahead of us we have cool nights, shorter days, football games and the ever changing leaves of autumn. The never-ending cycle of the seasons...

I would like to take this time to mention a few items for this upcoming fall. Our annual holiday dinner will be on Sunday November 20th. For those of you who are not familiar with this event, we are always eager to meet new family members and friends as we all sit down to enjoy a wonderfully prepared meal, each year. This occasion is a large scale celebration of the holiday season, when residents are welcome to invite a limited number of loved ones to join us. Please keep an eye out for your invitation, with more detailed information, in the upcoming month.

In closing, I would like to remind each one of you of our mission at ALSM, "to serve people through a ministry of love, compassion and mercy, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ". Be kind to one another, help one another and enjoy the wonderful fellowship this caring community has to offer. I have said it before and I will say it again: we are the best kept secret in Centre County!



I am looking forward to the improvements and new opportunities we have before us....thank you.

Warmest Wishes,

Nichole

Getting to Know

Paul and Violet Schaeffer,

The Court Apartments

Names: Paul & Violet Schaeffer

When moved in: June 12, 2010

Resident of (what area of The Oaks): The Court Apartments

Hometown: Paul was born in Salona, PA & Violet was born in Woodward, PA; They lived in Bellefonte

Former occupation(s): Paul: Equipment Operator for HRI Construction;

Violet: Payroll Secretary at Car Dealership & Hospital

Hobbies: Paul: wood working; Violet: crocheting & needlework

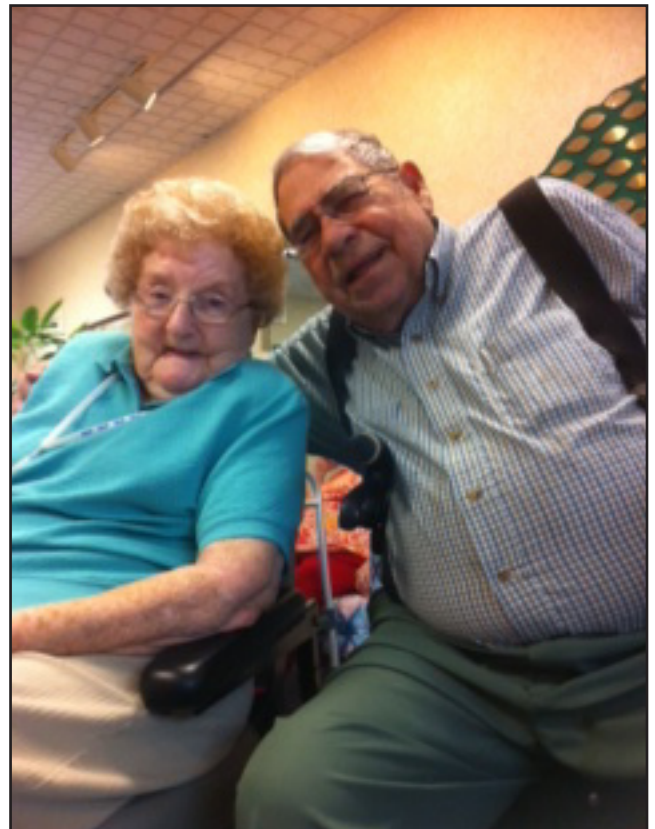
Volunteer work: Violet: Sunday School Teacher; Paul: BINGO caller & Together they volunteer at RSVP events

Favorite restaurant: Ponderosa & Red Lobster

Favorite childhood memory: Hanging out at the Bellefonte Spring where they got fresh water out of the "TIN CUP" that the community shared. When the Bellefonte Fountain was built, they remember dressing up in nice outfits for gatherings

Advice for younger generations: Paul: Listen to your elders, they have experienced things before and can help you prepare.

Violet: Enjoy the life you have that is close to home. Adventure is temporary but family is FOREVER.



Upcoming Events

Oct 10 - 1-3pm:
The Oaks is hosting an Olli class about a missionary trip to Rwanda

Oct. 13 - 10am:
Trip to Penn's Valley Historical Museum



Oct. 27 - 2:30pm:
Annual Teddy Bear Tea featuring Linda Davis' bears. New this year: Stuffing Town, USA bear kits available

Nov. 13 - 3pm:
Coburn Brass Band

Nov. 20:
Annual Oaks Holiday Dinner



Dec. 6 - 7pm:
Little German Band

Fun at The Center

Hawaiian Luau

On August 18th the participants and staff at the Senior Daily Living Center had a day of fun with a Hawaiian Luau. Tinsel palm trees hung from the ceiling and flowers decorated the walls. Everyone was presented with a flower lei and an "Aloha!" greeting when they arrived. During our craft session our participants made their own unique leis to take home. Staff wore grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. Hawaiian music wafted through the activity room. "Tiny Bubbles" was a favorite that everyone remembered hearing before. We reminisced about past trips to the Hawaiian Islands, played Island Bingo, and



Rose Marie Burkey and Elizabeth Kennedy enjoy the Hawaiian Luau together at the SDLC.



drank delicious homemade virgin pina colodas. During our daily trivia fun session we learned that: the wettest spot on Earth is located on Kauai, there is snow skiing on Hawaii from December until March, over 40,000 soldiers were stationed on Maui during WW II, and almost 3,000 humpback whales visit the Hawaiian islands every year.

Everyone enjoyed spending a day filled with a little bit of Hawaiian tastes, sounds and stories. We will definitely have another luau next year and maybe we'll even learn to hula!

Pet Visits

Are you a dog lover? Or maybe you're a cat person. Over the past few months the participants at the SDLC in State College have had visits from some very sweet-natured, friendly dogs, Skylar and Little Bear. These lovable, laid-back canines enjoy being petted, talked to, loved and fed biscuits. All of the participants enjoyed meeting and getting to know them. Center County PAWS will be bringing some cats and kittens to visit the SDLC. We're really looking forward to the visit and will be sure to take some photos to share in the next issue of *Touching Lives* this winter.

Left - Harrison "Sonny" Tressler is looking festive with his Hawaiian lei and tropical drink in hand at the Hawaiian Luau.

State College Senior Daily Living Center Welcomes New Staff

The State College Senior Daily Living Center is delighted to welcome our newest staff member, Michelle (Micki) Hartranft. Micki will be the LPN on our staff. She has been an LPN for 7 years and previously worked at Centre Crest. Micki and her husband, John, live in Centre Hall with their sons, LJ and Andy and an adorable Shih-Tzu named Buster. Micki enjoys reading and walking her dog.

Elizabeth Kennedy is another wonderful addition to our staff. She lives in Bellefonte with her mom and step-dad and her laid back dog, Little Bear. Elizabeth recently completed a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance at Mansfield University. This fall she will be doing her student teaching in the music departments of Lemont and Houserville Elementary schools and State College Area High School. Elizabeth will have to leave us for a few months to complete her student teaching, but she'll be back in January for more fun activities and sing-a-longs. All totaled there are four new staff at the Senior Daily Living Center. This has created lots of changes for our participants, but we are all getting to know each other a little bit more every day. The future holds lots of exciting ideas for crafts, baking, music, exercise, and new games that everyone will enjoy. If you know someone who would like to be a part of our fun, give us a call or stop by. We'd love to see you.



Rose Marie Burkey and John Knisely visit with a furry friend, Little Bear.

Dates to Remember

(Please clip and save)

Thursday, November 24 • Thanksgiving

SDLC is CLOSED and will re-open on Nov. 25

Monday, December 26

SDLC is CLOSED in observance of Christmas Day

Monday, January 2

SDLC is CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day



We apologize for the delay in getting the fall issue of *Touching Lives* to you. We hope you will enjoy reading the information in this publication and will look forward to receiving the winter issue in January. We wish you a great autumn and upcoming holiday season.



Do you have any ideas or suggestions for The Oaks at Pleasant Gap or Senior Daily Living Center? We are constantly striving to meet the needs of residents, participants and families. Please fill out the form below, mail it to us, or drop it off. You can also email us at info@alsm.org. Thanks!

Contact Us

The Oaks At Pleasant Gap

200 Rachel Drive
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
814.359.2782
the.oaks@alsm.org
- Personal care at Schreffler Manor
- Independent living in The Village Cottages & The Court Apartments

Senior Daily Living Center

2364-2368 Commercial Boulevard
State College, PA 16801
814.237.8101
alsm_adap_sc@netzero.com
- Daily care of aging adults
- Structured activities and exercises
- Social interactions

www.alsm.org • 800.400.2285

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**ALLEGHENY
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We Touch Lives

OUR MISSION

To serve people through a ministry of love, compassion, and mercy in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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CENTRE COUNTY SERVICES
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Pleasant Gap, PA 16823