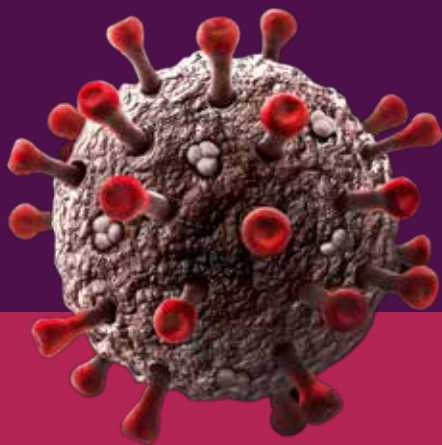


COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS





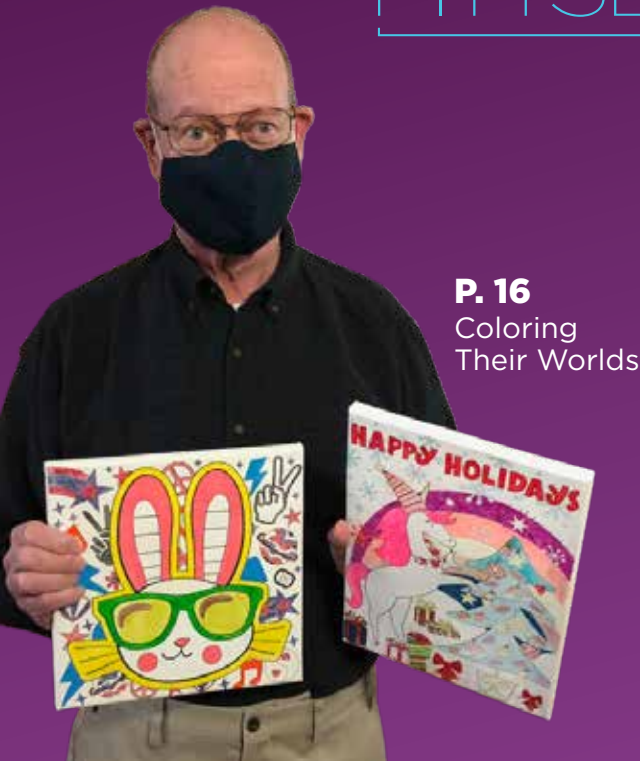
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Pictured on cover
Edith, Cathy, and Mary Lee
Sherwood Oaks

Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

Welcome to our Spring 2021 edition of *Community Connections*! We are so grateful for the support of the UPMC health system, our dedicated employees, our amazing residents, and our generous donors in our fight against COVID-19. Together we have been able to implement many successful initiatives. When you read about these efforts, from the vaccine rollout to monoclonal antibody infusions to the development of an incredible support network for providers of senior services in western Pennsylvania, we hope you, too, will see light at the end of the tunnel.



Additionally, this issue of *Community Connections* highlights some wonderful activities and occurrences across UPMC Senior Communities. Enjoy a fun look-back as our residents relive and recreate an earlier time of uniquely-Pittsburgh experiences. Meet a special pair of residents who, because of their move to UPMC Senior Communities, are building a new life together. Learn about the ways in which art has been an important diversion during this past year. Perhaps you'll be inspired to participate in our new Art Auction, featuring the work of the UPMC Senior Communities residents. And, of course, we extend a special thank you to the organizations and individuals who donated clothing, food, and other thoughtful items to brighten the lives of our residents and employees.

We are pleased to announce our 13th Celebrating Senior Champions event will take place on Thursday, October 14, 2021. You'll find our 2021 champions truly deserving of this honor. Features of the event include our exceptional silent auction, with more than 175 packages, a basket raffle with a daily basket winner throughout November 2021, and a 50/50 raffle which awards half of the proceeds to the winner. These opportunities will be open to everyone and do not require the purchase of an event ticket.

Regardless of what form it takes, please know what a difference your support makes to the many individuals who benefit from the UPMC Senior Communities Benevolent Care Fund, providing financial support to residents who may exhaust their financial resources. As the need increases, so does our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Mark Bondi
President, UPMC Senior Communities

Fighting COVID-19 on Many Fronts

It's been just over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic became an unavoidable and treacherous reality for all of us, particularly so for residents and staff of senior living facilities. These environments proved to be the most vulnerable in relation to COVID-19 transmission and infection, meriting an unprecedented response at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. UPMC Senior Communities has been at the forefront of the response from the onset, applying crucial leadership, research, and advocacy to the dissemination of urgently needed resources. These efforts have been critical to the present and future well-being of so many.

From RRHCP to RCAT

In May of 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed into law legislation crafted by UPMC leaders Dr. David Nace, chief medical officer, UPMC Senior Communities; Deborah Brodine, president, UPMC Senior Services and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital; Dr. Mark Gladwin, chair, Department of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC; and Scott Baker, vice president, UPMC Government Relations, to address the crisis of outbreaks and transmission of COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities. The legislation, introduced by then-House Speaker Mike Turzai, provided \$175 million in funds via the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act for academic medical center

regional collaboratives with expertise in epidemiology, infection control, testing, training, and treatments to collaborate with the Pennsylvania nursing home industry in the fight against the pandemic.

Speaker Turzai reached out to UPMC experts for assistance because of the extraordinary efforts of staff across UPMC Senior Communities in containing the spread of the deadly virus. Hearings and testimony to this effect helped push the massive piece of legislation through in under a month's time.

Known as the Regional Response Health Collaboration Program, or RRHCP, the program provided clinical assessment and consultation, personal protective equipment (PPE), rapid response staffing and testing support, and training and

education for COVID-19 in long-term care facilities. April Kane, director for the western Pennsylvania RRHCP, has been coordinating efforts in our region under the direction of Dr. Nace and Deborah Brodine in partnership with 11 health care systems across the state as well as Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and its Departments of Health and Human Services (DOH and DHS).

"Our region includes one-third of the facilities in the state. That's more than 600 facilities total," explained April. "I can say with certainty this project saved lives. When a facility was in crisis and lacked the needed resources, having a member of our team go on-site quickly, assess the situation, provide guidance as to infection control and staffing, and simply show the facility staff that

they were not alone was crucial. Really, I am in awe. Without our phenomenal team, this might have looked very different."

Along with April, Deborah, and Dr. Nace, the regional team is an eclectic mix of registered infection control nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician consultants from UPMC Home Healthcare, Hospice, and UPMC Centers for Rehab Services, among others. Daily rapid response calls with PEMA, the National Guard, DOH, and DHS dictate where team members would be on-site within 24 to 48 hours. As April describes it, team members are medical detectives trying to solve why transmission of the virus was occurring and how to repair the break in the chain.

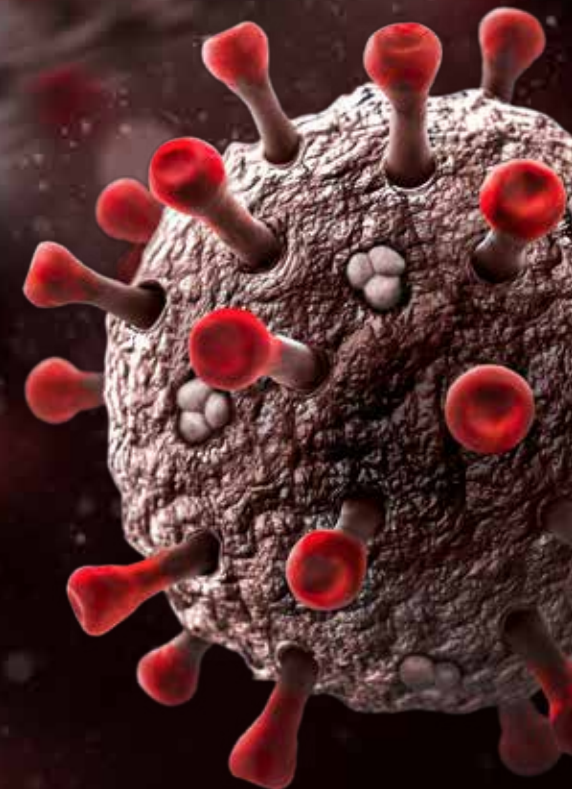
Nurse practitioner Heather Sweich has been serving as a UPMC infection control lead for RRHCP. "My time as part of this initiative has been some of the most rewarding in my career," says Heather. "One day in particular stands out. When I arrived to assess conditions at a personal care home to which the National Guard had

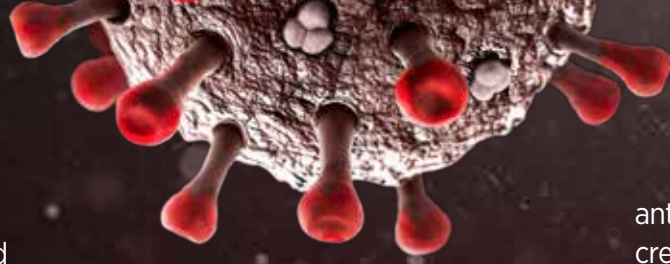
already been dispatched, I found myself in a situation more serious than we anticipated. Because many staff were sick, we ended up coordinating with local hospitals and alternative care sites to relocate 10 residents until such time as it was safe for them to return. Leadership from all points made themselves available. In fact, Dr. Nace was on the phone with me until 1 o'clock in the morning. While COVID-19 has brought heartache in its wake, for me, RRHCP marked this time with moments of triumph and hope. It's been a privilege to be part of this team."

The RRHCP officially concluded at the end of 2020, but the work continues under the state's Long Term Care Task Force which includes Regional Congregate Assistance Teams (RCATs) to meet the ongoing needs of staff and residents in senior living facilities.

Dr. Nace feels the impact of these collaboratives will continue to transform and improve care for seniors in long-term care, even beyond COVID-19. "There is so much we can build upon, and I am very

optimistic about the coming year and the future in general. We now have a model for collaboration in which we can deploy similar resources to address things like falls and pressure ulcers. We can apply these lessons to make life better for our seniors. Distance is no longer a barrier. Out of the chaos came creativity, and with it, a tremendous sense of progress."





Recovery Units

Two of our skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, Canterbury Place in Lawrenceville and Seneca Place in Penn Hills, transformed space within their facilities into recovery units for patients who had stabilized enough to leave the hospital but were not yet ready to return home. Both were established to support hospitals and other facilities in the region in their ability to transition patients from acute care and provide a safe “landing zone” for recovery to continue. The 33-bed unit at Seneca Place opened in November 2020 expressly for COVID-19 patients. The 17-bed unit at Canterbury Place opened in January 2021 for COVID-negative patients in need of additional short-term recovery and stabilization prior to returning to their former level of care. Both units have maintained

dedicated, separate space and staff in caring for these patients. To date, these units have combined to provide care for 246 patients in need.

Mark Skelly, regional administrator for UPMC Senior Communities, has observed throughout COVID-19 that staff recognize their training has positioned them to succeed in responding to a crisis. Says Mark, “We know we can get through anything together. Additionally, we have had tremendous support from Senior Communities leadership and from the entire UPMC system.”

Monoclonal Antibody Infusions

One of the most promising treatments in the fight against COVID-19 is the use of monoclonal antibodies (MAB). These are

antibodies that scientists have created in a lab to mimic the antibodies produced by our own immune systems when a virus or bacteria enters our bodies. Recognizing something foreign, antibodies attach themselves to the virus to keep it from entering cells, and they help to destroy the virus.

As Dr. Nace explains, “In the case of COVID-19, when your immune system is compromised, administering MAB as a treatment is doing something that your body isn’t able to do well on its own. It’s proven helpful in the early course of the disease and is approved for use in the first 10 days of infection in mild to moderate illness with people who are not hospitalized. Although these antibodies are being developed specific to COVID, the technology has existed already

in the treatment of things like cancer, arthritis, and Crohn’s disease, among other illnesses. It’s really the wave of the future.”

The treatment has been used with good result in almost all our skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities at this point. The logistical challenge is to administer the treatment easily and efficiently. Staff have been provided additional training and support to become proficient. The RCAT program is now working to expand and deliver MAB at a much larger capacity.

Vaccination

The day that vaccine arrived to our UPMC Senior Communities will be remembered as a day of great hope and relief. “There was such excitement in the air among residents and staff. Finally, we had something that would save lives and really make a difference in bringing this pandemic to an end,” recalled Dr. Nace.

The all-hands-on-deck work ethic that has characterized so much of this fight applied to the vaccine rollout as well. Staff did anything and everything they could to help organize the effort and support the residents and each other, even in instances of nervousness or uncertainty. With an appreciation for the historic moment, facilities treated the occasion auspiciously and with a sense of celebration.



Thousands of vaccinations have been administered thus far to staff and residents. The decline in the number of COVID-positive cases has been affirming. “Of the many success stories emerging from this period, this is a big one,” said Dr. Nace.

Additionally, the conference center at Cumberland Woods Village, our

independent living facility in Allison Park, is holding vaccination clinics three days a week for qualifying residents in the community at large. Just under 400 people received vaccines the first day the clinic was operational. They are hoping to scale capacity as supply allows.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

The coronavirus pandemic has confined many people to their homes during the last year. Residents at UPMC Senior Communities have been among the most isolated group, adjusting to quarantines and restricted visits.

One item that has been notably missing from the lives of the residents is live theater. In light of the pandemic, Pittsburgh Public Theater produced a virtual play reading series called "Public PlayTime Presents: Classics N'at." Public PlayTime is a live-streamed reading of a play that occurs once a month through Zoom. The actors perform from the safety of their homes through technology, allowing them to perform in real time with the other actors in each production.

Pittsburgh Public Theater collaborated with UPMC Senior Communities to provide entertainment for residents during social isolation. "Each month, we produce a virtual reading of a play written by rising and nationally-acclaimed Pittsburgh playwrights. Most of the stories are adaptations of classic works," Katina White, group and entertainment manager for the Pittsburgh Public Theater, said. "This is a new enterprise for Pittsburgh Public Theater, but we're taking this foray into virtual shows as we are unable to have in-person productions." Katina creates DVDs of the monthly performances and delivers the recording to each UPMC Senior Communities facility for the residents to watch on their internal building television channel in their apartments.

Through the Pittsburgh Public Theater virtual productions, UPMC Senior Communities residents have been able to connect with others and experience the joy of theater once again. Marya Sea Kaminski, artistic director for Pittsburgh Public Theater, explained the genesis. "Bringing PlayTime to UPMC Senior Communities was actually my mom's idea. She has been enjoying our weekly readings from her home in Phoenix, Arizona and suggested that more seniors might benefit from accessing these on-line events. That's when I called my sweetheart's parents, Pete and Carolyn Broeren, who are residents at Sherwood Oaks. One thing led to another, and now we have been streaming monthly play readings to our UPMC Senior Communities partners for nine months!"

The absence of live theater has been hard on UPMC Senior Communities residents. "The arts in general can improve one's overall wellness, provide opportunities to connect, and create joy," Katina said. "We truly hope to serve your residents by combating social isolation through providing extra enjoyment and entertainment in their lives!"

PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
THEATER



A Love Story

For one special couple at Cumberland Woods Village independent living in Allison Park, the year 2020 was defined by something other than the pandemic. It was the year they fell in love.

Mike and Cheryl met on December 30, 2019; they both remember the precise date. Mike was serving in his capacity as member of the Welcome Committee when Cheryl attended a gathering for new residents. After their initial meeting, they met on Saturday mornings by the fireplace in the common area at Cumberland Woods Village to talk and to see if they were compatible. Meanwhile, Cheryl used this time of discernment to ask around the community about Mike, as an independent woman would; everyone conveyed to her that Mike was a wonderful person.

When Mike first asked Cheryl out for a date, it just so happened that

Cheryl already had plans for dinner with her family on the night Mike was hoping to take her out. She asked if he wanted to join, not certain he would be game for the challenge. But Mike did not shy away, so their first date was in the private dining room at Cumberland Woods Village with the whole family in attendance. The next morning, Mike left a plate of cookies at her apartment door.

Mike describes Cheryl as very smart, very witty, and funny. "She's attractive," he adds with a grin. "We get along well together and have a lot of common interests." Mike recalls his own delight when she invited herself to sit down with him at what was previously an all-male table in the dining room. For her part, Cheryl describes Mike as "patient, chivalrous, and very loving."

Mike proposed to Cheryl on October 30, 2020. "I planned to ask her at

Christmas, but I couldn't wait," Mike confesses. They went to a jewelry store together that morning and left with a ring. When they got back to Cumberland Woods Village, Mike got down on one knee and formally proposed. Cheryl sent a text to her daughters to convey the news. One daughter asked, "Did he get down on one knee?" and the other, wife to Ray Smith who works in maintenance at the facility, teased, "Is he still there? Does he need help getting up?", implying that they could call upon Ray for an assist if need be.

Mike and Cheryl have set a date to wed in July of this year and are working through wedding planning. Their happiness in one another's company is evident to all and a gift to behold against the backdrop of an otherwise challenging year. ❤️



LIVING PITTSBURGH HISTORY

Longtime residents of Pittsburgh know how it is – when the roads are “slippy,” you put your lawn chairs in the street to save a parking spot for your buddy when he comes over to watch the Steelers game!

These kinds of Pittsburgh originals are woven into the genetic makeup of everyone who has called “the Burgh” home for any length of time. Our residents are participants in Pittsburgh history. We asked them to describe some of their experiences and impressions of vintage Pittsburgh.

Terry and Frank - Sherwood Oaks



James - Cranberry Place

ANDY WARHOL

“I saw his unique art in New York City with my daughter-in-law.”

Pauline, Seneca Manor

“He is a legend and an inspiration to Pittsburghers.”

Sheila, Sherwood Oaks

EAT’N PARK

“When I was dating my husband, we’d go to Eat’n Park on the way home from our date. We had been dating for quite a while and we wanted to get married, but he kept saying we didn’t have enough money and we couldn’t get married. So one night in August, I said, ‘You know, I think we can make it, and we should get engaged.’ So he said, ‘Fine. Will you marry me?’ ”

Marilyn, Asbury Heights



Marta - Sherwood Oaks

FRED RODGERS

“My kids would be glued to the television watching him. He was such a gentle man. He taught the kids well.”

Marilyn, Asbury Heights

All photos taken before universal masking and social distancing guidelines.



Edith, Cathy, and Mary Lee - Sherwood Oaks

INCLINE

“Around 1945, you paid 25 cents to ride the incline all day, and we did!”
Joan, Seneca Manor

Evelyn (L) Sheila (R) - Hampton Fields Village



HEINZ

“I remember the original ‘pickle pin’ was made of a piece of wood that was attached to a pin.”
Jean, Cumberland Woods Village

“I took tours of the factory with school groups and the Boy Scouts. We always got free samples at the end of the tour. The last sample was a cup of vinegar. I never went back after that, but I still have my pickle pin!”
Jack, Cumberland Crossing Manor



(L to R) Pat and Shirley, Hampton Fields Village; Naomi, Cranberry Place

KAUFMANN’S CLOCK

“I met my date under the Kaufmann’s clock. I took the streetcar to town to meet him. He brought me the most beautiful gardenia corsage. We went to the 7th Avenue hotel for dinner and dancing. He asked me if I wanted to go on another date, and I told him no because I figured out he dyed his hair blonde. I was worried what people would think about me dating a man that dyed his hair.”
Dorothy, Asbury Heights

KENNYWOOD

“Growing up in Mt. Lebanon, I would take the streetcar all the way to Kennywood. The streetcar had to stop to change the rails and the top streetcar cable because this was not a normal route. I remember getting sick on hot dogs from Kennywood. Roller coasters and hot dogs don’t mix!”
Jean, Cumberland Woods Village



Top Row: Marian and Linda Lighthouse Pointe
Middle Row: Loretta and Annetta Hampton Fields Village
Bottom Row: Carol and Benina Cranberry Place



Norbert and Mary - Hampton Fields Village

PARKING CHAIRS

“Parking in Pittsburgh is serious business. We went to deliver presents to a less fortunate family in Mt. Washington one Christmas Eve. It was something my wife always liked to do. When we came out from delivering packages, there was a man screaming at me for taking his spot.”
Al, Vanadium Woods Village

POTHOLES

“When I was growing up, potholes did not exist because we had cobblestone streets. The horses weren’t too polite back then, so we stayed away from them.”
Jack, Cumberland Crossing Manor



Maryann - Lighthouse Pointe Village

SPORTS

“I was in the barbershop and there was a guy in front of me who turned out to be Mike Lange, the announcer for the Pittsburgh Penguins. My kids and I were big Pens fans, and I asked him for an autograph for my grandkids. He left the shop and I thought, ‘Oh, well,’ but then he returned with a photo for the grandkids which he signed ‘Scratch my back with a hacksaw!’ It was really great!”
Dick, Hampton Fields Village



(L to R) Jim, Guido, Marilyn, Henry, Sally, Bob - Lighthouse Pointe Village



Oneta - Hampton Fields Village

ROSIE THE RIVETER

“When we were younger during the war, they used to have metal drives and rubber tire drives. The kids would go out and pick up the metal for the war effort. I remember going down to my uncle’s; his car was up on blocks. It didn’t have tires anymore – the kids had turned them in.”
Ken, Asbury Heights

Ruth - Sherwood Oaks



SOPHIE MASLOFF

“When something needed to be done, she made it her job to get it done. A great person for the city of Pittsburgh.”
Sheila, Sherwood Oaks

Willard - Sherwood Oaks



VIC, THE DANCING COP

“He was always Downtown on the corner, smiling and dancing.”
Audrey, Hampton Fields Village

Almost every Pittsburgher has their quintessential Pittsburgh story. And with it being such a dynamic city, the stories vary as much as the town itself. For some, it’s Mr. Rogers neighborhood. For others, it’s the ketchup capital of the world. For our residents, it’s where home and history intersect.

Coloring their worlds



One of the best things about working in a UPMC Senior Communities facility is that anyone, no matter their role, can make a difference in the lives of the residents. Hannah Sugden and Lia Llewellyn work in the dietary and housekeeping department of Seneca Manor, the assisted living residence in Penn Hills. Hannah and Lia are lifelong friends and now coworkers at Seneca, putting their imaginations to good purpose to ease what has been a difficult time for the older adults who call UPMC Senior Communities home.



With the safety restrictions to visitation and group activities made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, this past holiday season was markedly different for many residents. It was approaching Thanksgiving when Hannah noticed one of the residents in particular withdrawn and in bed, missing his family and the usual joys of the season. She began to think about what she could do to engage him. She was out shopping when she came upon a canvas and paint set with a Thanksgiving theme. Hannah brought it to the resident, who set to the task with enthusiasm, producing a vibrant painting in which he took great pride.

Hannah knew she was on to something. She and Lia approached Deanne Thomas, activities coordinator, who secured additional sets while the two friends approached other residents about participating in this activity. Six residents responded, and the kits were distributed along with a timeline during which the residents could complete their projects. As Hannah described it, some residents finished their projects immediately and others

took their time; they would show Hannah and Lia their work as they progressed. All produced colorful canvases. "Color just makes people happy," observed Hannah. Hannah and Lia worked with Deanne to put their creations on display for all to enjoy over the winter holidays.

Together, Hannah and Lia bring a positive spirit to their work and a genuine affection felt by the residents. Deanne says, "The pandemic has brought out the best in many, and thanks to people like Hannah and Lia, this is evident at Seneca Manor. Many residents comment to me that the youth of the dietary department is a highlight of their lives here."

Another budding artist at Seneca is Dolores Montemurro, who resides at Seneca Place, our skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility on that campus. Jeannine DeLuca, activities coordinator, explains, "We started passing out daily chronicles in March of 2020 to keep the residents engaged during the pandemic. The packet consists of

a newsletter with trivia and fun facts, a puzzle or brain game, and a coloring sheet. Dolores always looked forward to receiving hers. She currently has 286 completed coloring sheets on her wall. She said she's keeping the coloring up until her walls are completely filled or the quarantine ends!"

Jeannine continues, "We didn't think this would go over as well as it did. There are many residents who look forward to receiving their daily packet. We gave everyone a four-pack of crayons with their first packet. Dolores used her first yellow crayon out of that pack until it was reduced to yellow dust! She and others have since moved on to bigger and better boxes to color their world!"





The residents and staff of UPMC Senior Communities have benefited from an outpouring of generosity from families, organizations, and local businesses during the time of COVID. The gifts, keepsakes, and meals bestowed upon them as a “thank you” for the challenges they’ve endured were most appreciated.

Generosity

Takes Many Forms

Fleet Feet Pittsburgh and **Feetsures** donated 1,044 pairs of high-quality running socks for the employees of our personal care, assisted living, and skilled nursing communities. This effort (known as “Sock It To COVID”) provided our busy caregivers with the comfort and support they need to care for those residing in our communities.

“Everyone who received a pair of socks really enjoyed the surprise,” said Christa Magness, activity director for Canterbury Place, which received more than 65 pairs of socks for its staff.

Fox’s Pizza Den

Thanks to the wonderful people of Fox’s Pizza Den stores throughout our area, employees at each of our communities enjoyed a pizza party in January. Local stores prepared and donated an incredible 2,100 pizzas for our staff as a gesture of gratitude for their work during the challenge of the pandemic. Participating Fox’s Pizza Den locations included Brookline, Franklin, Greensburg, Mercer, Monroeville, Oakmont, Penn Hills, Robinson, and Zelienople.

Bring Out the Best (BOB) Project

Penn Hills middle and high school students and parents introduced some color to the exterior doors and windows of Seneca Manor assisted living facility as part of a charity effort, the Bring Out the Best (BOB) Project. The students created colorful scenes



for residents to view from the inside. They painted butterflies, hearts, fish, birds, a sunrise and other images on the exterior windows and a patio door.

Balloon Buddies

Jessica Garda, owner of Jessica Garda Events, and more than 100 supporters of her “Send a Smile” program (part of the national Adopt a Grandparent campaign) helped bring smiles to residents throughout the Asbury Heights campus with colorful Balloon Buddies. The goal was to bring a little joy and encouragement to the residents after months of being separated from their loved ones. Support for this program came from seven different states!

The residents of Seneca Manor were the recipients of many blessings from those around the community during the holiday season.

Flowers in the Attic, a florist located in Penn Hills, delivered dozens of poinsettias to the Seneca campus—one for each resident. The plants helped enhance the holiday spirit throughout the community.

Valentine’s Day Cards

The residents of Seneca Manor and Seneca Place received lots of love from UPMC Mercy Hospital



Mission Council Committee who sent a unique Valentine’s Day card to every resident on campus.

“We wanted to do something for [the] seniors who have needed to be so isolated this year due to the pandemic,” said Patty Ross, committee member. We designed a card on the computer and made 200 copies.”

Lighthouse Pointe residents received various gifts from **Ms. G.**, a one-woman ministry who believes in giving back to the community and taking care of one another. Ms. G. gave watches to the men, bracelets to the women, and married couples received an additional gift. She also provided sandwiches, cookies, and chips for the residents’ holiday party.

The community’s ongoing support helped remind us that we are, and have been, in this together from the start. The time, talent, gifts, and meals shared by the businesses, organizations, and individuals encouraged all of us to keep going. These generous and thoughtful actions have provided invaluable reassurance in the face of adversity.

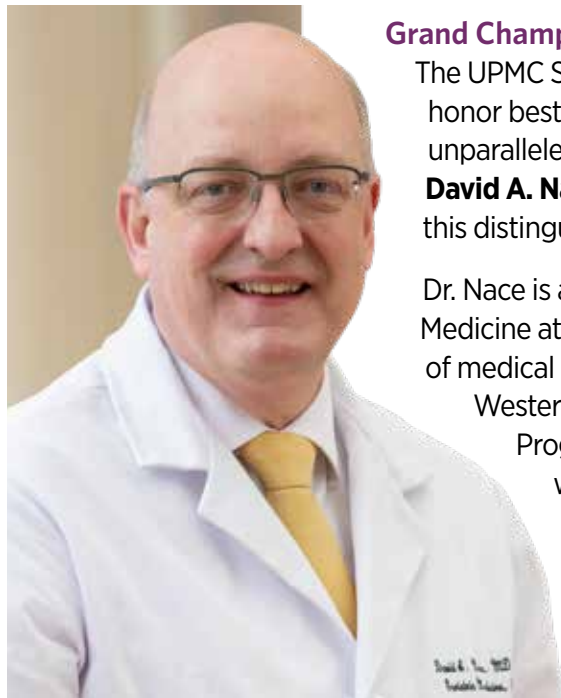


13th Annual SENIOR Celebrating CHAMPIONS October 14, 2021

Creating a Better Life for Seniors

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 14, 2021** and join the celebration!

The **13th Annual Celebrating Senior Champions Dinner and Auction** will honor distinguished individuals and organizations for their outstanding accomplishments in creating a better life for seniors. The celebration will blend favorite elements from previous years and add a new raffle, including 30 lavishly-themed gift baskets. The highlight of the evening will be honoring the Champions who have made it their life's work and compassion to serve the senior population in our region.



Grand Champion

The UPMC Senior Services Grand Champion Award is the highest honor bestowed annually to an individual who has provided unparalleled leadership in improving the lives of seniors. **David A. Nace, MD, MPH, CMD** has been selected to receive this distinguished honor.

Dr. Nace is an associate professor and clinical chief of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He also serves as the chief of medical affairs for UPMC Senior Communities. Dr. Nace leads the Western PA COVID-19 Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP), now RCAT, a public-private partnership with the PA Department of Human Services that provides on-site evaluation and COVID-19 assistance to 600 nursing, personal care, and assisted living facilities in western PA. He also served as a member of the White House Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes.

Tickets on Sale Now!
\$175 Per Ticket
\$1,700 Per Table of 10

To reserve your ticket, contact Debra Panei, Director of Development for UPMC Senior Services, at **412-864-3524** or **PaneiD@upmc.edu**.

Dr. Nace is the president of AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. He is an appointed member of the PA Department of Aging's Long-Term Care Council, the PA Department of Health's Advisory Health Board, and the PA Department of Health's Long-Term Care Work Group.

Community Champion

The UPMC Senior Services Community Champion Award, given annually to recognize exceptional organizational leadership to improve the lives of seniors, goes to the **Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP) of Western Pennsylvania**.

Three partners of the program will accept the award on behalf of the group: Dr. Emily Jaffe, , vice president and executive medical director, Home and Community Services for **Allegheny Health Network**; Nancy Zions, chief operating officer, **Jewish Healthcare Foundation**; and A.J. Harper, president, **Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania**.

RRHCP launched in Pennsylvania in July 2020 to support the state's long-term care system by offering COVID-19 readiness and response services. Since its launch, the program has successfully leveraged expertise and existing resources to provide 24/7 clinical, operational, and educational guidance and intervention to 127,000 residents in 2,000 long-term care facilities.

Several sub-contracted partners assisted with implementation throughout the region. Excelsa Health, Penn Highlands Healthcare, and St. Clair Hospital provided ongoing support for the region with their expertise and proximity to the areas in need. Additionally, three COVID Alternate Care Sites were established by ManorCare Health Services - Greentree, part of ProMedica Senior Care, Vincentian, and UPMC Senior Communities, offering dedicated units to assist hospitals with managing patients ready for discharge but needing extended care. All of these organizations played key roles in the success of the program.

Caregiver Champion

The UPMC Senior Services Caregiver Champion Award recognizes an extraordinary individual who champions for the well-being of seniors through innovative efforts to influence care and awareness of seniors and their caregivers. **The Rev. Gaea Thompson, M.Div.** has been selected to receive the honor for her outstanding devotion to the spiritual wellness of seniors and their families.

Gaea has been in health care chaplaincy for more than 25 years. She served as chaplain at Canterbury Place and director of pastoral care for UPMC Senior Communities.

When asked how she bears the multiple annual losses that come with serving in long-term care, particularly this past year, she replies, "Love is always worth the risk, and I trust God is holding us in the end."

Regional Response Health Collaborative Program of Western Pennsylvania



Bid on remarkable works of art that have been generously donated by talented residents of UPMC Senior Communities. Many of the pieces were created during a time when residents were isolated from family and friends throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Be part of our inaugural virtual art auction.

Bidding for this fun event will begin on May 1 and continue through May 14. View the art by visiting 2021ART.givesmart.com. Enjoy and bid high!

Proceeds will support a cause near and dear to the hearts of these wonderful artists. The auction will benefit UPMC Senior Communities Benevolent Care Fund and will assist elderly residents who have fallen upon financial hardships.



The Road Ahead

Do you have a car or truck that you no longer drive?

Donating it to the UPMC Senior Communities Benevolent Care Fund is an easy solution and helps others at the same time. Proceeds from the sale of your vehicle help support residents of UPMC Senior Communities in need of financial assistance.

Annually, UPMC Senior Communities provides more than \$10 million in uncompensated care and charitable relief to residents who have outlived their financial resources. As the number of residents in need continues to increase, a donation of this nature can have a big impact.

For more information on this seamless process, contact Debbie Panei, director of development, at **412-864-3524** or paneid@upmc.edu.



Our Champions

January 1 - December 31, 2020

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