

BROOKS-HOWELL SERENDIPITOR

The Life & Times at Brooks-Howell Home

Volume II, Issue I WINTER 2017

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We are pleased to announce that we have recently joined the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber offers opportunities for business networking, public advocacy, and community connection. Stayed tuned to our social media and Spring newsletter for the date for our ribbon cutting.



thankful *appreciate*
willing morale *performance*
recognition value
morale *grateful* good
positive behavior
stand out above and beyond

On Tuesday, November 29, the Global Day of Giving, the Brooks-Howell community gave thanks to staff members that had reached a milestone in their years of service. The dining room was transformed into a winter wonderland, and dining services provided a special lunch. After awards were presented, residents were invited to make a statement of gratitude to all staff. It was a heartwarming presentation that produced thoughtful tears and wonderful stories of dedication.

STAFF HONOREES:

Mary Harrin	30 years of service
David Carter	30 years of service
Sharman Hess	10 years of service
Irina Antyufeyeva	10 years of service
Melissa Harper	10 years of service
Natalya Zvarickensk	10 years of service
Joan Page	5 years of service
Wyndi Whitaker	5 years of service
Alycia Johnson	5 years of service
Bessie Robbs	5 years of service

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2016 draws to a close and we begin a new year, I have been reflecting on the relationships we've established in our community. Existing and new partners are enhancing our services and connecting us with others in WNC. We are appreciative of these opportunities.



Blue Ridge Pharmacy, our longtime medication provider, has recently developed a new program through Sona, their community pharmacy, called ACCES. It provides assistance to individuals regarding medication management and education. We have recently made this available to independent residents and appreciate how it complements the services provided in our health care unit. You can read more about it in the "Meeting the Folks that Make It Home" section of the newsletter.



Another new initiative we joined this year was the Healthcare Innovations Collaborative piloted by the University for North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA) and Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC). After a full semester of connecting medical engineering students with our residents, the pilot was recently completed with great success. Six Brooks-Howell individuals were the beneficiaries of assistive technology or adaptive equipment to support better mobility.



As we continue to expand our spectrum of health care services for all residents, we are reaching out to existing partners for new collaborations. We have developed a partnership with Givens Estates, another local United Methodist affiliated retirement community, to enable our residents to use Medicare benefits. Because we do not have Medicare certified beds, we can now offer residents the opportunity to be in the certified health care unit at Givens until Medicare coverage is exhausted and then return to Brooks-Howell. We are excited to offer this option to our residents.



We've also been working with RehabCare, our onsite therapy services provider, to develop new services for residents and staff. They will be providing aqua therapy in our newly renovated pool starting in 2017. We are also working with them on an Employee Wellness Program. We appreciate this longstanding relationship and look forward to expanding their presence here.



This coming year promises many exciting opportunities. I look forward to working with everyone at Brooks-Howell Home and all of our partners as we move into the future. *Brewier Welch*

MAINTENANCE

Ron Gowing

In October, we reopened our newly renovated indoor aqua therapy pool. Several upgrades were completed including new tile, new surfacing in pool and on deck, and a new lift for people with disabilities. We've also added tropical plants and tables and chairs to round out its new look. Residents and staff have enjoyed using it, and aqua therapy will begin in the new year.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Rebecca Brawn

We are delighted and disheartened to announce that Mary Harrin and Anna Sheley retired in December. Both Mary and Anna have been valuable employees and combined, have dedicated over 69 years of service combined.

In 1974, Mary began working at Brooks-Howell as a Food Service employee and remained in that position for 10 years. After a 2-year hiatus, she returned in 1986 and was an integral part of the Brooks-Howell community ever since.

Anna began working for Brooks-Howell Home in 1987 as a CNA. She has cared for residents in both health care units and has promised us she will be returning as a volunteer.

We wish them good health, good luck, and much peace in their retirement.

MARKETING

Cameron Kempson

November and December have been very busy around Brooks-Howell. We've housed both Deaconess/Home Missioner Candidates for Old and New Testament courses as well as Deaconess Applicants for Mission of Theology.

This year for our Annual Open House, we extended invitations to our community partners. A great time was had by all with delicious food, holiday music, and delightful conversation.

Speaking of community, I am spending more time visiting professionals and organizations in North Carolina, not only to build awareness but also to develop new referral partnerships. If you know someone who might be interested in connecting or collaborating with Brooks-Howell, please email me at ckempson@brookshowell.org. I am also more than happy to email digital packets or send a hard copy via postal mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WINTER 2017

January 23

“This is Her Life:
Mrs. C. Clifford
Cummings”
Presented by
Barbara Campbell
Media Room
3:30pm

January 28

Violin Concert
Chapel
3:30pm

February 6

Beach Party!!
Similar to our
State Fair—staff,
residents, families,
and community
partners invited

March 1

Ash Wednesday
Service
Chapel
10am

March and April

Fridays
Media Room
Great Decisions
presentations

RESIDENT NEWS

While the holidays may be over, we are still sharing smiles around here about our Annual Resident-Staff Variety Show. If you've never attended, you are missing an afternoon of great entertainment.



The Show is hosted by The Liberace Sisters (our own Director of Resident Services, Tracey, and her sidekick, Debbie, resident and active deaconess). Not only do they emcee the event, but they also perform on their dueling pianos.

Residents and staff took turns delighting the audience with humorous readings, holiday sing-alongs, and instrumental numbers. We even had a surprise visit from Santa Claus (LeGrand, a retired missionary) and Frosty (Bev, a retired deaconess and CCW).

Also this season, our chaplain, Alycia, and the worship team celebrated Advent with the Lessons and Carols chapel service and a Christmas Eve service the Thursday prior to Christmas. We typically broadcast Central UMC's service on December 24.

We rounded out the days before Christmas with our annual Children of Staff Christmas Party with a visit from Santa and gifts for all the kids. What a joy to have these voices fill our halls with excitement and laughter. Santa also visited our Health Care Unit on December 23 to deliver gifts, and the independent residents went caroling on our Health Care Unit halls on Christmas Day. All residents who were interested celebrated afterwards with breakfast in our Dining Room.



We have appreciated friends, family, and community folks who have come out to share this special season with us. We look forward to 2017!

HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS COLLABORATIVE COMPLETES FIRST SEMESTER PROJECTS

"I have an appreciation for what it's going to be like when I get older," says Nathan.

In December, our collaboration with UNC Asheville and Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) ended the semester with a presentation of the assistive technology projects for the students' final exam. After three onsite meetings with six of our residents, students developed various biomedical designs to improve mobility. Projects included:

- Lengthening/reshaping footplates on motor scooters
- Engineering a seat lift for a motor scooter to assist with standing
- Developing additional braking system for a rollator walker to prevent traveling too quickly on a slope
- Designing a footplate lift so someone can get out of a wheelchair without tripping

Even though students were only asked to create designs, they were so moved by their visits with residents that all groups actually constructed the equipment. The UNCA professors will return to Brooks-Howell in January to assist with installation of the new adaptive equipment.



Jim and Gail Hipkins worked with students on their scooter footplates.



Students with the model for Jim's new footplate. They included design work to match a wall hanging he obtained as a missionary.

UPDATE ON PUBLISHED BIRTHDAYS FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF

Residents, family, friends and staff,

Some concerns have been brought to our attention regarding listing individuals' birthdays in a public mailer and on our website. We appreciate that in the age of technology, we expose ourselves to easy accessibility which can create privacy issues.

We know you understand our desire to protect the privacy of both residents and staff and appreciate your working with us on this. We will no longer reference names with birthdates in our public media, written or online. We understand that people enjoy sending cards to our residents, UMV groups in particular, and we want to support that outreach. If you would like to request a list for your group, please email ckempson@brookshowell.org and note your name, email address or mailing address and group affiliation. You will receive a comprehensive list and will be updated every 6 months. We will also post them on the resident bulletin board here at BHH. ~Alycia, Cameron, Rebecca, and Tracey

MEETING THE FOLKS THAT MAKE IT HOME

BROOKS-HOWELL STAFF: PATTI

Patti has served Brooks-Howell Home for over three years. She began as a landscaper & gardener and now serves as Maintenance Supervisor and Safety Coordinator.

Some days you might find Patti in our greenhouse. You see, Patti has a passion for plants, especially orchids. Prior to coming to Brooks-Howell she worked for several greenhouses specializing in these delicate flowers. She likens her work with plants to our residents' devotion to their call.

"I went into agriculture because that's my life's passion. I relate to the residents because they took jobs not for the money but because they wanted to live out their passion every day. I love and respect them for that."



COMMUNITY PARTNER: SONA



We strive to keep our customers at home, independent and healthy. Our staff's dedication to customer service and patient well-being means we are an effective medication management partner.

-Andria, SONA ACCESS Pharmacist

We have been connected with Blue Ridge Pharmacy for many years as our long term care medication dispensation service. Their personal touch in our health care unit attracted us to a new program they are beginning through their community pharmacy and clinic, SONA. The new program, ACCESS, will provide education, consultation, and direct service to individuals living independently and seeking solutions for medication management.

We've met with the ACCESS team and know their compassion and commitment to care will be no different than what we've experienced with Blue Ridge Pharmacy. We are so grateful that we are enhancing our relationship with Blue Ridge Pharmacy and appreciate the local support they offer us.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In Advent, our chaplain, Alycia Johnson, shared a message about Mary's song or the Magnificat. Here is an excerpt of that sermon that speaks to who we are as people of faith in our world today.

And what a song it is! It is a prophetic song. It is a song that envisions a very different world. Mary sings with joy of a world where there is justice, a world where the arrogant and proud will be brought low, and the hungry will be fed; a world where the tables will be turned and the poor will enjoy plenty and the rich will find themselves empty-handed. And she sings as if this promise of God has already been fulfilled – even before the baby she is carrying is born!

We long for a time when suffering will end and everyone will have enough, when race and skin color won't be an excuse for hate, when desperation won't lead to suicide and terrorism, when peace becomes a reality, when all that divides us will instead become the reason to rejoice together in our amazing diversity.

Are we able to envision God's future as already here?

Mary could sing of God's justice because God gave her that song.

God gives each of us a song to sing: a song of justice, a song of righteousness, a song to save the world – or at least a song to save our corner of the world!

Don't be afraid. Don't be overwhelmed with all that is painful and unjust.

Listen to the song God gives you. Find the community that can help you sing your song. Support each other, and become pregnant with the expectation of what God will do. Act as if God has already brought God's justice to your corner of the world.

Listen for the song God gives you – and SING!

SAVE 
DATE

The Historical Mary Goes to Church

April 28-29, 2017

Brooks-Howell Home

Asheville, North Carolina

Brooks-Howell Home of Asheville is partnering with the Jesus Seminar on the Road program to look at the surprising history behind one of Christian history's most controversial figures, Mary Magdalene, led by guest scholars Shelly Matthews of Brite Divinity School and Perry Kea of the University of Indianapolis.

For more detail and registration:
westarinstitute.org
(Under Jesus Seminar dates)

Guest accommodations
at Brooks-Howell:
828-253-6712
Please mention event name.

thank you!

Thank you staff and residents for making this year's Open House warm, welcoming and memorable for everyone in attendance. We were delighted to have representatives from these groups share the spirit.
~Cameron

- MAHEC
- Hospice
- Blue Ridge Pharmacy
- UNC-Chapel Hill M.D. Residency Program
- Christians for United Community
- WCI, Inc. (our Human Resources consulting firm)
- Land of Sky Area Agency on Aging
- Blue Ridge District UMW President
- BHH Advisory Board members
- Former BHH Executive Director and Administrator
- Skyland, Mills River, & Black Mountain UMW
- UNC-Asheville
- SONA Pharmacy



Want to keep up with our daily life at Brooks-Howell?
FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT @BrooksHowellHome

newletter from
Brooks-Howell Home which is
owned and operated by the
United Methodist Women

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