

WINTER EDITION
2025-2026

The
RIDGEWOOD
AT Shenango Valley



Christmas in The Valley



Sally McKown
receiving her gift from Santa

The annual Resident Christmas Appeal ensures every resident at The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley experiences a little holiday magic. Each resident received a Christmas gift delivered by Santa and one of his elves. The goal this year was to raise \$6,000, and thanks to you, that goal was surpassed by more than \$2,000!

Sally McKown moved in in September, just in time for Christmas. Previously, she lived in Transfer and worked as a physical education teacher in Hermitage. She said that moving to The Ridgewood was the best decision. “Everything is taken care of for me by people who love me and lift me up.” She then went on to talk about all the things she liked, from the food to the activities and spiritual services, she finally decided there was just too much to be grateful for, “I am just so beyond blessed and I’m happy.”

Sally said she feels loved all year round, but Christmas was especially nice. “They are so good to us all the time and they’re always doing wonderful things. At Christmas time, Santa came around and gave each one of us a present. I got a box of chocolate and a container of hand cream,” she explained.



Virginia Careghini with her
stocking

Virginia Careghini worked at a credit union for 30 years and raised her three children with her husband, Louis. She’s been living at The Ridgewood since July and is celebrating her 102nd birthday in February.

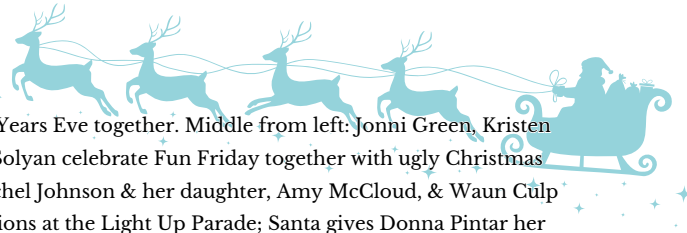
She was excited to spend Christmas with her daughter in Pittsburgh and to be back in time for Santa’s visit at The Ridgewood. “The place was beautiful. Sam did a wonderful job. It was a beautiful gift—a stocking with candy and some other things. I’m going to hang it [the stocking] on my door next year,” she said. Though she hasn’t been living here for long, Virginia said she has already made friends with the staff and residents and that she’s never bored. “They have a lot of wonderful things to keep you occupied, so you don’t ever feel lonesome,” she said. Then she added, laughing, “I used to hate bingo, but now I go three times a week!”



Katy Asafaylo and
Administrator Brittney
Williams during Santa’s Visit

The money remaining after Christmas gifts were purchased is going to be used in a few different ways. This money helps buy wish list items for residents throughout the year, but it also helps fund some of the special entertainment — the Elvis, Ventriloquist, and Little Canine Cruisers shows, the Penn Ohio Singers for Sweethearts at 90, and The Love Bug Therapeutic Horses.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this year’s Christmas celebration—and year-round enrichment—possible.



At left: residents celebrate New Years Eve together. Middle from left: Jonni Green, Kristen Knapp, Brandy Patrick, & Sam Solyan celebrate Fun Friday together with ugly Christmas sweaters; Brittney Williams, Rachel Johnson & her daughter, Amy McCloud, & Waun Culp show off the RWSV bus decorations at the Light Up Parade; Santa gives Donna Pintar her Christmas stocking. Bottom left: Pat Shaffer shows off her stocking. Bottom right: Amy McCloud and Anna Gross paint a snowman.



Holiday Highlights



The holidays brought plenty of activity across our community. Team members celebrated with a Christmas party, Fun Fridays were introduced and brought a little extra spirit. Residents and team members participated in the Light Up Parade, enjoyed holiday crafts, and welcomed a visit from Santa with presents for all. We wrapped up the season by ringing in the New Year together.



From Calling to Community



Pastor Rose Hilliard has recently joined the RWSV community, bringing with her a lifetime of stories, service, and a passion for listening. Though her path to pastoral care wasn't straightforward, it has been transformative. "I was called many years ago as a young adult," she shared. "But I ran from the ministry. I did not want to preach. I couldn't even stand in front of people to talk."

It wasn't until 2009 that she felt she could no longer avoid the calling. She attended Pittsburgh Seminary and graduated in 2011 as a commission-led pastor. Since then, she has served in various Presbyterian churches throughout Crawford County and currently pastors Linesville Presbyterian Church. Her experience working with diverse congregations and communities has shaped her approach to supporting older adults.

Long before joining RWSV, she ran a restaurant in Linesville called Rosemary's Restaurant, where she noticed a lack of attentive listening for older adults. "Some of the older men who came in to eat had so many stories to share. That's when I realized no one listens to older people anymore," she said.

Her work with Women's Services—helping domestic violence survivors, sexual assault victims, and older adults—further deepened

her appreciation for the wisdom and resilience of seniors.

When the opportunity at RWSV opened, Pastor Rose immediately felt drawn to it—but she also had practical concerns, like health insurance. As she drove home after her first visit, she shared, "I was praying and asking God what He wanted me to do... and then I saw a rainbow. I knew in that moment that this was meant to be."

Since joining RWSV, Pastor Rose has found joy in connecting with residents in meaningful ways—from coffee chats to Bible studies, and even singing duets during lunchtime performances. She appreciates the flexibility of her role and the opportunity to shape her ministry to meet residents' needs. "I just know God opened this door, and I love it. When I pull in and look at the building, it feels like home," she said.

Beyond her work at RWSV, Pastor Rose's life has been full of adventure and care. She raised two sons, welcomed foster children into her home, and once owned a restaurant above her living space. She enjoys traveling, hiking, and has a soft spot for Lexington, Virginia, and Virginia Beach. She even used to own a British sports car, a maroon 1975 MGB, which she proudly maintained herself.

When asked what she hopes residents and their families know about her, Pastor Rose was clear: "I do actually care. It's not fake. My heart is in it. I want to serve others as we're supposed to. Jesus showed us how to serve, and I try to follow that. I want them to feel loved and know that I'm real."

With Pastor Rose at RWSV, residents can look forward to genuine, compassionate support, faith-filled conversations, and a leader who listens as much as she leads.

Movement Matters

One of our newest activities at RWSV is Exercise with Rob Saunders from VNA! Each week, Rob, a PTA with VNA, leads residents through a fun, low-impact exercise class focused on movement, strength, and flexibility.

The class has quickly become a favorite, with residents enjoying both the physical benefits and the time spent staying active together. We are grateful to VNA for partnering with us and bringing this wonderful program to our community.



Sweethearts At 90

Seventeen of our incredible residents, ages 90 and older, were honored this year at our annual Sweethearts at 90 celebration. The group gathered around a beautifully set, special dinner table where they enjoyed a delicious meal and one another's company. The afternoon was made even more memorable with live a cappella music from the Penn Ohio Singers, who serenaded our sweethearts and presented each of them with a rose. Laughter filled the room as they shared stories, posed for a special photoshoot, and celebrated this remarkable milestone together.



Donna Pintar



Patricia Shaffer



Carl Fette



Anna Krankowski



Barbara Holder



Anna Gross



Lucille Sickafuse



Elaine Canon



Leroy Canon



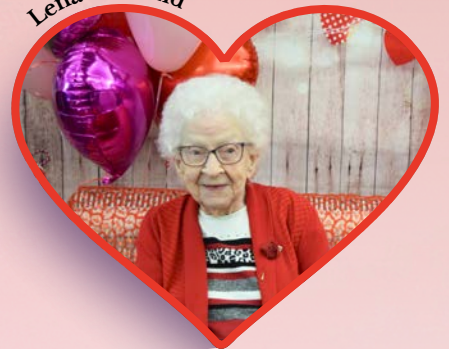
Don Osborne



Virginia Careghini



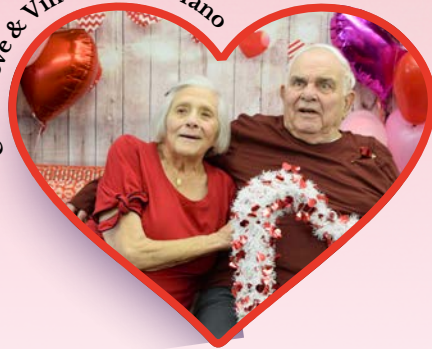
Lena Gilliland



Rosemary Harakal



Genevieve & Vincent DeStefano



Iris Layman



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ginny and Amy McCloud posing for Sweethearts at 90

GINNY CAREGHINI

Ginny Careghini grew up in Farrell as one of nine children, learning early the importance of family, cooperation, and caring for others. She later married her husband, Louis Careghini, and the two made their home in Hermitage. Married for more than 70 years, they raised three children together. Ginny proudly shares that her daughter Patty is her jewel. She is also a grandmother to three grandchildren and has one granddaughter-in-law.

In her younger years, Ginny loved to dance and often attended dances during World War II, where she helped entertain servicemen.

A proud Italian woman, her favorite food is pasta, and if she could travel anywhere in the world, she would choose Italy.

Ginny has many talents, including knitting, playing the piano, and sewing. If she could have a superpower, she would choose the ability to help everyone get along, communicate better, and help one another. When asked which resident she would trade places with for a day, Ginny chose Dolores S., describing her as kind, friendly, helpful, and considerate.

Her advice to the younger generation is thoughtful and direct: to stop thinking only of yourself and trust that God will always help you.

Ginny says the best thing about living at The Ridgewood is the friendly and considerate people. She feels truly at home here, and we are grateful to have her as part of our community.

OF THE QUARTER

TEAM SPOTLIGHT



Ava and her sister at the family picnic



AVA JOHNSON

Ava Johnson thrives in a life full of creativity, curiosity, and activity. The youngest of six children, she grew up in a busy household and continues to embrace a full and vibrant life, which she shares with her pet bird, Willow.

Her days outside of work are filled with creative pursuits. She enjoys reading comic books, crocheting, painting, and playing video games. She surrounds herself with the things she loves—animals, all things purple, trinkets, and Batman—while also taking in the beauty of music, from “Angel” by Massive Attack to “Gymnopédie No. 1” by Erik Satie. Favorite foods are harder to pin down, but the pepper steak her mother makes always stands out.

Ava has big dreams and imagination. If she could have any superpower, she

would choose dimensional travel, allowing her to explore any time, dimension, or reality. She also notes a unique talent she has carried throughout her life: she is forever her mother’s favorite child.

Ava hopes to one day see some of the world’s wonders, from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel to the quiet, cold beauty of space.

But for now, her focus is right here at The Ridgewood, where the residents and her work bring her joy. She finds fulfillment in making them happy and loves the connections she has built with the people around her.

THANK YOU!

For Supporting the Ridgewood at Shenango Valley in 2025!

Patricia Berthold
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Joellen Cain
Ronald & Barbara Cake
Sandra Carangi
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William Clarke
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Chris & Hilary Wright

How donations were allocated in 2025:

- Staff Appreciation 1.7%
- Good Samaritan Fund 6.6%
- New Building Landscape 8.3%
- General Support 11.1%
- Courtyard Project 33.7%
- Christmas 38.7%



The following tribute gifts were received in 2025:

In Honor of:

VIRGINIA CAREGHINI
Chip & Shirley White

SUE DYDEK
Karen Dydek

JANET GOSNELL
Ann Wiles

DOLORES JANOSKO
Brian Janosko
Karen Sciortino

IRIS LAYMAN
Lloyd & Lori Laughlin

RWSV STAFF
Lorraine Gee

JOSEPHINE WHITE
Chip & Shirley White

In Memory of:

**LEONARD & LORETTA
HEASLEY**
Clydene Stokes

SHARON HENRY
Russell Henry

ANNE JOHNSTON
Randy & Mimi Mentrek

ANDREW LUKE
Stephen & Robin Knight

CECILIA MACRI
Gerald & Deborah
Smock

PATRICIA MEISE
Maple Grove Commons
Home Owners Assoc.
Karen Hoovler

JOAN BUCKLEY
Bob & Jacki
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SALLY CLARKE
Robert Clarke

MARIAN DANNER
Dr. James Danner

JAMES DRASKOVIC
Katie Gargiulo

FELMA DYLL
Nadean Glaven

JOYCE GEE
Darlene Muszik

ARNIE & LIZ MORRIS
Cindy Long

GLADYS MURPHY
John & Elaine Tuttle

**CATHERINE "KAY"
PAVLICK**
Gregory & Debra Cross

IRENE PORANDA
Thomas Joseph

ETTA ROBINSON
Tom & Laura Robinson

DENISE ROBB RUFFO
JoLynn DeVries

BETTY STAFFORD
Brian & Martha
Stafford

CONNIE A. TENNANT
Jane Rodgers



Polished Moments

LTI Cosmetology students spent time with our residents, offering manicures and plenty of conversation along the way. From Left, Elaine Canon relaxes while a student carefully shapes and paints her nails, enjoying a bit of well-deserved self-care. At right: Sally McKown, waves at the camera and shares smiles and stories with her cosmetology partner as her nails get a fresh new look.

The
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AT Shenango Valley

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Hermitage, Pa. 16148
www.rwsv.org



We hope this finds you well! In 2026, The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley is looking for new ways to keep you connected and informed about the happenings in our community. To make it easier for you to stay up-to-date with our latest news, publications, and upcoming events, we'd love to start sharing more information via email.

If you would like to receive updates directly in your inbox, please provide us with your email address. Simply give us a call at **724-589-4646** or email us at **marketing@sp1867.org** to share your contact details. You can also scan the QR code on the left to visit our website and complete the online form.

This initiative is also a more eco-friendly choice and will reduce costs. Thank you for being a part of our extended family. We look forward to keeping you informed and engaged!

HOLIDAY HARMONIES

The Hubbard Lyric Club visited us during the holiday season to share an afternoon of caroling with our residents. Familiar songs filled the room as residents sang along, clapped, and enjoyed the music together. We're thankful they took the time to spend part of their season with our community.

