

FALL 2022



# *The Mirror*

*Reflecting Life at Saint Mary's Home of Erie*

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

### **Introducing 360Care**

A new on-site ancillary service for residents

### **Twice as Nice**

For couples, Saint Mary's is better together

### **Carriage Home Expansion**

Saint Mary's breaks ground on eight new Carriage Homes



## A Continuing Care Retirement Community

### Levels of Care

- Independent Living
- Residential Living & Personal Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Short & Long Term Rehabilitation
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Home Care
- Respite Care

### Services & Amenities

- On-site Nursing staff including RN's, LPN's & CNA's
- Catholic & Ecumenical Religious Services
- Social Services
- Support Services
- Nutritional Services
- Daily Recreational Activities
- Beauty & Barber Services

## Board of Trustees

- Christopher Coughlin**, Chairperson
- Ronald Seigley**, Vice Chairperson
- Shawn Emerson**, Treasurer
- Austin Brugger**, Secretary
- Allen Bonace**, President/CEO
- Bridget Power Barber
- Rev. Thomas Brooks
- Debbie Burbules
- Mary Candela
- Mary Drexler, SSJ
- Robert Ek
- Annie Frew
- Jane Kelsey
- Larry Roberts
- Andrew Schmidt, Esq.
- Colleen Stumpf, Esq.\*
- Mary Zenner

\*Non-voting Board Member and Legal Counsel

## Our Mission

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and operated in the Catholic tradition, Saint Mary's Home of Erie is committed to an environment of loving to care where primarily seniors, their families, staff and volunteers participate in fostering an atmosphere of community.



### Corporate Office

1781 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16508



### Main Campus

4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506



4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506

(814) 836-5300

[www.stmaryshome.org](http://www.stmaryshome.org)

A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Non-discriminatory in admissions, services and employment.



# A Message from the President

Even though the summer season has winded down and excitement for fall is growing, we've enjoyed every minute of the last few months at Saint Mary's! You'll see what I mean in the following pages as we reflect on all the fun we've had over summer.

Earlier this year we kicked off a major construction project. Site work on the Carriage Home expansion project is underway and construction of the eight new homes should begin soon. This expansion will help create some movement for those on our wait-list who have been patiently waiting for a home.

In other construction news, we've been paying close attention to the needs of today's seniors and are making plans to renovate and convert some of our existing Residential Living apartments into two-bedroom apartments with two bathrooms and a full kitchen. With more couples aging together and lifestyle being a key decision factor for seniors, we're excited to offer another senior living option. More to come on that over the next few months.

This summer the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved the first funding increase in nearly a decade within the 2022-23 state budget for Medicaid nursing home care. Additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was also approved for COVID-19 relief assistance to nursing homes, personal care homes and other long-term care communities. This is promising news for seniors and providers, who have been fighting for more funding for a longtime.

Not too long ago Saint Mary's held our largest fundraising event of the year, Saint Mary's Follies. It was a fantastic night and we are deeply grateful for all those who supported the event and helped raise nearly \$100,000. The stories of the Ageless Remarkable Erieites always leave me inspired by the love they have for giving and volunteering.

Those two things, giving and volunteering, are something we are all capable of in some manner. If you're looking for ways to make a difference, perhaps you'll consider the impact you can have on Saint Mary's. Whether it's making a donation in support of our mission or giving your free time to us every so often by becoming a volunteer, we are grateful for all the different ways you support our community and our residents!

Allen L. Bonace  
President/CEO



# Twice as Nice

## For couples, Saint Mary's is better together

Moving into a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) is a big leap no matter the circumstances. When a couple decides to take that leap together, it can help make the transition a little smoother.

**Being together was the goal and Saint Mary's was able to offer things we both wanted.**

- Don Kleckner

Donald and Helen Kleckner moved to Saint Mary's in April. Prior to their move, the Kleckner's were living at two different places because their

healthcare needs were different. Tired of being apart, Helen decided it was time to make the move to be together. They chose Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge because it offered everything they wanted when it came to amenities, apartments and the peace of mind gained from having access to a continuum of care. "Being together was the goal and Saint Mary's was able to offer things we both wanted," Don stated.

Saint Mary's offers Residential Living and Personal Care apartments that range in size and floor plans from studio style apartments to one-bedroom suites and soon-to-be newly renovated two bedroom apartments. While residents add their own personal touch to make their apartment feel like home, it doesn't take too long for most to realize that the entire campus is their home. With so many different areas to explore and a full calendar of events, meeting new people and socializing with other seniors in the community often comes naturally.

"We've had a lot of fun getting to know other residents. We have really enjoyed the activities and social aspect of being here," Helen said. They spend time after most meals hanging out in the lobby to read the newspaper and chat with fellow residents. "Everyone is just so welcoming."

About six new couples have moved into Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge already this year. CCRC's like Saint Mary's can be particularly beneficial for couples like the Kleckner's, who may have different healthcare needs but who want to be together. Couples can continue living together in a Residential Living and Personal Care apartment and gain peace of mind knowing that should one or both of their needs change, they can still see each other every day and be together in the same community while receiving care.



Helen and Don Kleckner enjoy a summer afternoon together outside the front entrance.

"It's so nice seeing people come into Saint Mary's and find a sense of community," said Elizabeth VanHoozer, Director of Social Services. "Seeing couples find that community together makes it that much sweeter."



## 360Care: Bringing care to YOU

Saint Mary's is excited to announce we have selected 360Care as an ancillary provider for Dental, Vision and Audiology services for our long-term care residents and those living in Residential Living. 360Care brings these services directly to the facility and provides them on-site, eliminating the need for the resident to go out to an appointment. This saves time, makes access to care easier, and ensures that residents needs are met by providing preventative treatment.

### What services will 360Care provide?



#### Optometry

Diagnose and treat eye disease and discomfort through eye exams, eye glasses ordering, fitting & adjusting, diabetic evaluations



#### Dental

Professional dental care including exams, cleanings, diagnostic x-rays, fillings, dentures (new or replacement)



#### Audiology & Cerumen Removal

Hearing testing, Hearing Aid fitting & repairs, assistive listening devices, Removal of cerumen (earwax)

**360Care also offers an insurance program** that offers additional care, products and services at a reasonable monthly rate. For our Medicare residents, there is no additional cost for the insurance.

All clinical teams providing patient services have received specialized training specific to the residents of senior care communities. Temporary clinics are established on-site and treatment is provided using advanced equipment specifically selected for our residents. Detailed treatment notes are provided to keep the community staff informed and compliance needs met. A Patient Portal is available to residents, families and the facilities as well.

**How do I enroll?** Please call our 360Care representative, Eric Kopay, at 412-477-0280 or Debbie Baer, Saint Mary's Compliance Officer, at 814-836-4384, with any questions or to get more information on how to enroll.

# Men's Club

## Fostering friendship among the men of Saint Mary's

Staying social while being a resident at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge is a big benefit to prospective residents and their families who are worried about social isolation. Saint Mary's offers a full activity calendar seven days-a-week for our residents and features a variety of activities to reach everyone's interest.

In many senior communities, women often make up the majority of the resident population. While activities are always geared toward the interest of both men and women, women tend to gravitate toward certain activities more.



An afternoon spent playing classic card games.

see them come to the Men's Club activities, have a snack and bond with their peers."

Men's Club aims to meet a few times a month and provides an opportunity for the men at Saint Mary's to engage with each other in a way that's fun, familiar and purposeful.

"Sometimes you just need guy time," stated Bill Bloomstine, a resident of Asbury Ridge. Whether that guy time is spent at a game of poker, hitting the putting green or sitting under the gazebo and sharing stories, it's always nice to see the "guys" of Saint Mary's together. Sorry ladies, no women allowed!



Sharing stories and songs under the gazebo.



Taking a turn practicing on the putting green.

It became clear that having a dedicated place for the male residents at Saint Mary's to get together would benefit them socially and mentally as well as provide a natural way to foster new friendships.

"These guys really needed a space where they could come together," said Tammy Pelinsky, Activities Coordinator for Residential Living. Tammy introduced the idea for Men's Club – which began in the late spring of this year – so that newer gentleman could get to know those who have been here longer. "It's just so nice to

# Carriage Home Expansion

## Saint Mary's breaks ground on construction of eight new homes

Saint Mary's Home of Erie officially broke ground on the expansion of the Carriage Homes at Asbury Ridge in Millcreek Township on May 11, 2022. The Board of Trustees approved the addition of eight new Carriage Homes to help combat the demand and waitlist of the current 26 homes.

"We have a large number of people on a waiting list, wanting a home," stated Allen Bonace, President/CEO of Saint Mary's. "These eight additional homes will help meet the needs of seniors who still want an independent lifestyle but who also want to be part of a retirement community."



Left to right: Christopher Coughlin, Board of Trustees Chairperson, Sister Mary Drexler, President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Allen Bonace, President/CEO of Saint Mary's, and Robert Orton, VP of Operations of Saint Mary's.

In 2006, Saint Mary's Leadership debuted the idea of the Carriage Homes to extend the continuum of care offered at Saint Mary's. The independent living homes help begin the transition into the CCRC lifestyle, offering residents a supportive community of neighbors who value their independence yet want the ease of maintenance-free living and priority access to more support as they age.

The eight new homes will be built in one of the three model designs that already exist on campus. These models, known as The Derby, The Preakness and The Belmont, range in size from 1,440 to more than 1,950 square feet of living space. Every home features a spacious living area, a four-season sunroom, an attached two car garage, a master bedroom with a walk-in closet and bathroom suite, a guest bedroom and a full bathroom, and ample closet and storage space. Carriage Home residents also have use of campus amenities and activities as well as priority access to all of the services at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.

"We're very excited to complete this project and to be able to offer this service to more seniors," Bonace said. "We want the community to know that Saint Mary's is expanding and that we are not going anywhere."

Site work has been ongoing since the groundbreaking in May, with official construction expected to begin this fall. The homes are expected to be completed next year.





# Love is here to stay

## Event honors four remarkable Erieites, raises nearly \$100,000

Saint Mary's Follies made a return this year with its 9<sup>th</sup> annual fund raising event held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by chair couple **John and Bridget Barber**, the night was filled with entertainment and good company. The event raised nearly **\$100,000** for seniors at Saint Mary's through sponsorships, donations and ticket sales.

This year's event hosted **415** attendees at the Bayfront Convention Center. The Ageless Remarkable Erieite awards, presented by past recipient and Mistress of Ceremonies **Noel Burgoyne**, were given to **Rev. Charles Brock, Joseph and Anita Salvia, and Rena Wierbinski**. The honorees were chosen based on their work, service and volunteerism in the Erie community while being over the age of 75.

In addition to drink and dinner, live musical entertainment, inspired by the works of George Gershwin, was performed by local talent including **Sherree Beltz, Charles Corritore, Gretchen Kerr, Jean and Michael Malthaner, Kate and Patrick Thiem, Rich Tryzbiak, and Brandon Vogt**.



Read the full stories of the honorees and view photos from the event at [www.stmaryshome.org/charitable-giving/saint-marys-follies](http://www.stmaryshome.org/charitable-giving/saint-marys-follies)

*Pictured left to right: Allen Bonace, President/CEO of Saint Mary's, Joseph and Anita Salvia, Rena Weirbinksi, Charles Brock, and Bridget and John Barber, Saint Mary's Follies chair couple.*



# Thank you to our Major Sponsors!

## — Grand Finale Sponsors —



**John & Bridget Barber**

## — Encore Sponsors —



## — Standing Ovation Sponsors —



**Atty. James & Barbara McNamara**



## — Opening Act Sponsors —



**The Loftus Family**  
**Russell & Susan Forquer**  
**Gretchen & John Brugger**  
**William H. Motsch & Son, Inc.**  
**Allen Bonace & William Gonda**



# The Friends of Saint Mary's

## Become a volunteer, make an impact

The Friends of Saint Mary's are volunteers who give their time to assist the Activities Department in providing our residents with meaningful experiences and opportunities for socialization. The work our volunteers do and the friendships they form are invaluable to our residents.

There are a wide range of year-round volunteer opportunities including:

- Facilitating games and group activities
- Assisting with arts and crafts projects
- Serving customers and residents in the gift shop
- Helping to organize and run special events and parties
- Attending community outings
- Assisting with transporting residents to activities
- One-on-one visits that offer moments of friendship and companionship



Many of our Friends have been volunteering for a number of years. Friends are recognized for their volunteerism annually and those who achieve 100-hours of service are given special recognition. Pictured is Allen Bonace, President/CEO, with volunteers Kathy Hagendorn (left) and Irida Sangemino (right), who both achieved 100-hours of volunteer service this year.

## Get Involved! Become a Friend of Saint Mary's

We are seeking and welcome new volunteers, including student volunteers, to join the Friends of Saint Mary's! We ask that you are able to commit to 25 service hours per year or one activity per month.

To become a volunteer, for the safety and well-being of our residents, you must complete:

- Volunteer Application
- PA Criminal Background Check
- Volunteer Orientation
- Medical Requirements (on-going annual basis): Flu Vaccine, Mantoux (TB) Test, and be up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines \*Flu vaccine and TB Test are offered at Saint Mary's free-of-charge.

The onboarding process may take a few weeks but the rewarding experience is well worth it!

**Contact:** If you would like to begin the process or if you have any questions, please contact LeeAnne Pukylo, Activities Director, at (814) 836-5358 or lpukylo@stmaryshome.org.



# Around Our Home

## A glance at our active and dynamic community



### In Bloom!

Residents took some time this summer to work on their green thumb while decorating pots and planting flowers.



### TREC Field Trip

Residents explored the exhibits and learned a little more about our area at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on an outing in June.





### Off to the Races

Residents celebrated the Kentucky Derby in style by decorating fancy hats and making a mocktail version of the Derby's signature drink, the Mint Julep.



### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Residents from Skilled Nursing who attended an Erie SeaWolves baseball game were visited by the team's friendly mascot – C. Wolf!



### A One Man Show

Musician and performer, Rick Bruening, performed for the residents of Skilled Nursing. Rick's show was based off the most popular songs and trivia from the year he was born, 1952.

### To the Beat of Their Own Drum

Who says exercise can't be fun? Residents tried a new way to get their upper body workout done – all while practicing their rhythm – during a drum exercise class.





### Aloha from Saint Mary's!

Residents and employees across our campus had a fun time learning how to Hula, enjoying musical entertainment, and gathering for a Luau dinner.

### Musical Memories

The two-person group known as Musical Memories performed for residents and even inspired a few residents to get up and dance.



### Erie Gives Day

Saint Mary's Home of Erie received nearly **\$14,000** from **78** generous donors on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> during Erie Gives! All donations made on Erie Gives Day support the mission of Saint Mary's and make an impact for the nearly 500 residents we serve annually. Thank you to all who took the time to support our work and who made a donation on Erie Gives Day!



### Summer Solstice Party

The Summer Solstice was welcomed with a party where residents gathered for drinks and trivia.



### Serving Smiles & Sweets

Smiley's Ice Cream Truck stopped by Asbury Ridge to serve residents some tasty treats that brought smiles to their faces on a sunny, summer afternoon.





**Saint Mary's Home of Erie**  
*A Continuing Care Retirement Community*

**1781 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16508-1256**

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ERIE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 163

The Mirror is published quarterly for the residents, families and friends of Saint Mary's Home of Erie, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

**Emma Berkstresser**

*Director of Marketing & Development*  
eberkstresser@stmaryshome.org

**Brookelynn Nageotte**

*Marketing & Development Assistant*  
brookenageotte@stmaryshome.org

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Saint Mary's invites you to share your stories, anecdotes and thoughtful moments of the part we've played in the lives of you and your loved one. If you are interested in sharing your story, please send to Saint Mary's (Attn: Marketing Department) or email us at [marketing@stmaryshome.org](mailto:marketing@stmaryshome.org).

Please let us know if you have a change of address; the addressee is not at this address; you are receiving more than one newsletter; or you would like to be removed from the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please notify us by calling our opt-out voicemail at (814) 836-5431 or emailing [optout@stmaryshome.org](mailto:optout@stmaryshome.org).

**Learn more at [stmaryshome.org](http://stmaryshome.org)**

Find us on 

*Find Us on Facebook*

There's always something going on at Saint Mary's. Want to catch what's happening Around Our Home and more in real time? Give us a follow on Facebook to stay up to date!

Find us on 

@SAINTMARYSHOMEOFERIE