

Volume 18, Issue 2

Spring 2011

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: BRUNO WOLFF

Congratulations to Bruno B. Wolff, Jr. for being named the Milwaukee Catholic Home's Volunteer of the Year. He accepted his award at MCH's Volunteer Luncheon on Thursday, April 14.

In the past year Bruno has held bridge games on Tuesday afternoons, dressed up as Santa at Christmas events, and given numerous lectures and presentations to educate residents. However, Bruno's longevity as an MCH volunteer is what truly sets him apart.

Bruno has had a long relationship with MCH. He first became acquainted with the Milwaukee Catholic Home when his frequent bridge partner moved into MCH and brought her game with her in 1979. Elizabeth Ewens and Bruno had worked together at Bruce Publishing Company, she as head of publicity and advertising and he as an editor. They played almost every lunch hour with a wide variety of other Bruce staff.

Bruno became even more involved when his wife, Maureen, came to MCH as executive secretary in 1985 and they became corporate members. Maureen asked him to teach and help facilitate bridge at the Residence when a resident suggested incorporating the game into the list of activities offered.

In 1994 Bruno retired; he then started a weekly bridge gathering at MCH on Tuesday afternoons that has continued since then. There have been up to four tables in play, welcoming new and regular players.



Volunteer of the Year Bruno Wolff celebrates his award with daughter Peggy Pascavis, wife Maureen Wolff, and MCH Volunteer Coordinator Mary Cherniack.

Expanding on his volunteer contributions at MCH, Bruno set up a marketing database system, made financial comparisons, and did competitive analysis for the organization.

Over the years, Bruno and his grandchildren were hits at the annual Resident Appreciation Week Variety Show with such skits as "Charlie Chan and the Missing Madonna," "The Jack Benny Program," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein—the Musical." Their first performance was "Who's on First" with his grandson TJ playing Costello to his Abbott.

Bruno stated that he is so busy volunteering, running a weekly game at the LX Senior Center and teaching that he has little time to play competitive bridge.

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Just as each of us has various parts in one body, and the parts do not all have the same function: in the same way, all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another. Then since the gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us: if it is a gift of prophecy, we should prophesy as much as



CEO David Fulcher

our faith tells us; if it is a gift of practical service, let us devote ourselves to serving; if it is teaching, to teaching; if it is encouraging, to encouraging. When you give, you should give generously from the heart.

- Romans 12:4-8

As we continue to reflect on who we are in preparation for our centennial, this passage from St. Paul seems especially fitting. Our organization involves hundreds of individuals – residents, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, all of these individuals make up Milwaukee Catholic Home. As we each contribute our unique gifts and talents to the mission of MCH, we represent Christ and his love to the community we serve.

This especially holds true as we recognize and celebrate the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make MCH not just great but remarkable. In 2010, MCH was blessed with 170 volunteers, 80 MCH residents and 90 community volunteers. In total, 8,100 hours of time and talent were donated. These are amazing statistics, and a testament to the spirit of generosity and self-giving that makes us who we are.



Volunteer Sue Erdmann (middle) helps residents Julia McKale and Mary Pat Kochanski with the MCH Community Quilt.

In a time of transition, it can be easy for an organization to lose

sight of the values and vision that underlie its everyday activities. A glance through this issue of *Focus*, including the enclosed 2010 Annual Report, shows that Milwaukee Catholic Home has come through its recent period of transition stronger than ever. Through the hard work and dedication of many individuals who mirror the generosity of our volunteers, MCH has emerged focused, financially strong, and well positioned to continue its much needed work into the future.



Three MCH Veterans take "Honor Flight" to Washington

Three World War II veterans who live at Milwaukee Catholic Home flew to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 16. Ed De Preter, Bernie Flatley, and Tom Goss participated in the Honor Flight program, a group whose mission is to fly veterans to see monuments and memorials.

Ed, Bernie, and Tom joined many other veterans at Mitchell International Field on Saturday, April 16, for a 7:00 a.m. flight. In Washington, D.C. they toured various memorials, highlighted by the World War II Memorial. The veterans returned to Milwaukee late on Saturday night.

The Honor Flight project began in 2005, one year after the completion of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Honor Flight has an expanding network with hubs around the country. Honor Flight has already served over 600,000 veterans nationally.

The three men have known each other for many years, attending Holy Family parish in Whitefish Bay and now living at MCH.

Ed, 86, volunteered for the draft in 1943. Later that summer he started his training to become an Air Corp Cadet in the Air Force. In January of 1945 he



MCH threw a great party the night before WWII Vets Bernie Flatley, Ed De Preter, and Tom Goss went to Washington, D.C. with Honor Flight.

was assigned to the 96th Bomb Group, AAF Station 138, at Snetterton Heath in East Anglia, England. He served as navigator on a plane that flew 30 missions to Germany and France. He was eventually promoted to first lieutenant.

Bernie, 87, was drafted when he was 17. He served as an engineer gunner in the 464th Bombardment Group in the 15th Air Force and was stationed in Italy. He flew in 51 missions; the normal limit is 30 missions. His missions mainly targeted German controlled oil fields in Ploesti, Romania. He also flew to Germany and other locations. He left the Air Force as a technical sergeant.

Tom, 87, joined the United States Marine Corps before World War II had begun. He was stationed in the South Pacific on Green Island. He bombed islands in the Philippines during his missions. He participated in dive-bombing missions during the Korean War using a new Corsair airplane. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Major.

MCH held a lively send off party for the men the night before their trip. A few honor flight participants from outside of MCH were honored at the event, as well. The party featured MCH's Choir singing patriotic songs.

Tom's son Tim created a great video documenting the three men's war histories. The video can be seen on www.milwaukeecatholichome.org. Scroll over the "News" tab and click on "Videos."

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Milwaukee Catholic Home's annual volunteer luncheon took place on April 14. The "Magic of Volunteerism" themed luncheon honored MCH's 175 volunteers, including Volunteer of the Year Bruno Wolff. The event, held during National Volunteer Week, recognizes the countless hours volunteers give to Milwaukee Catholic Home by performing services such as assisting with the aviaries, working in the Emporium, helping with special events and activities, providing companionship, and teaching crafts and activities. Lunch was followed by a fun



Trudy Klapperich (center), (left to right) Mary Kay Bertha, Phyllis Babb, Jean Jermain, Mary Alice and Bob Regner, Bill Jermain, and Sharon Lynch.

musical performance from Tim and Jack Burr, who had the volunteers singing along to many favorite songs. Magician Kirk Patrick also entertained the honorees. Thank you to all of our volunteers for everything you do!

JUNE CELEBRATION TO HONOR DONOR CIRCLE MEMBERS

All donors who gave MCH a gift of \$100 or more during 2010 are invited to attend our Donor Circle Event on Sunday, June 26.

The event will begin with Mass at 10:30 a.m. in St. Anne's Chapel at The Residence, 2462 N. Prospect Ave. A delicious brunch will follow immediately. Donors may bring a guest.

"By celebrating the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist, we are able to recognize our donors in the context of our sacramental life," said CEO Dave Fulcher.

Invitations will be sent to those who made gifts of \$100 or more in 2010. If you made a gift but aren't sure of the amount, please contact Richard Lowe, Development Director, at (414) 220–3214 or email rlowe@milwaukeecatholichome.org.

Double Your Gift to MCH

One of the smartest ways to give is through a matching gift program, where a company will match donations to charitable organizations. These matches are often dollar for dollar, which doubles your charitable donation.

One in ten donors is eligible for a matching gift. About 50% of Fortune 500 companies have matching gift programs, as do many Milwaukee area and Wisconsin companies. Most firms match gifts for retirees as well as for employees.

Thousands of community-minded companies will match charitable gifts from their employees and even retirees. If you're not sure about your employer, we'll be glad to find out. Whether it's \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever amount you're able to give, there's a good chance your employer will match it.



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Milwaukee Catholic Home gratefully acknowledges our generous benefactors. Gifts of cash, property, securities, bequests and other gifts assist us in providing outstanding retirement and health care services for our residents. We encourage gifts in memory or honor of a loved one. We will be happy to notify the individual or family member of your generosity.

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: BRUNO WOLFF (continued from page 1)

"It's a matter of following the Constitution of the United States," he said. "I must preserve domestic tranquility."

Each year, residents and employees anticipate seeing Bruno as "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" during the Christmas season. He also joins the MCH Carolers, leading carols in three languages.

"There was a time when I didn't need a pillow to fill out the red suit," he said. "But the last couple of years I have had to resort to a little padding."

Recently Bruno has been giving lectures at MCH on a number of subjects including Greco-Roman Influence on Western Civilization, Lattimer Massacre, Edgar Allan Poe, and the influence of bridge on President Eisenhower's life.

Bruno graduated from Xavier University Magna Cum Laude with a degree in classical languages and literature. Bruno served in the US Army Reserve from which he resigned as a captain.

"My military career was rather inglorious," he remarked. "The toughest combat I was engaged in was at Camp McCoy fighting the flies for my lunch." He later earned a Master's in English from Marquette University. His professional career included nine years at Bruce, 23 years at UWM, and three years at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Bruno and Maureen have six children. "We did it the easy way; she had three and I had three. We were a Brady Bunch family." At one point in the year the ages of the six are each one year apart.

"I think that people giving of themselves is the most important thing we can do to contribute to society's well-being. There's no greater reward than to know that you have helped somebody, cheered them up, or made their life better in some way."

Thank you to Bruno and Maureen Wolff for their contributions to this article.



OPEN HOUSE TO KICK OFF PATIO POPS

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, May 25th to kick off our 10th annual Patio Pops concert series. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and tour apartments and community areas such as St. Anne's Chapel, Emporium, dining room, solarium, exercise room, craft room, and more in The Residence beginning at 5:30 p.m. Visit with residents who have decided to make Milwaukee Catholic Home their home. A performance by "Bobby Way and the Fabulous Wayouts" will follow at 7:30 p.m. The band is a fan favorite at church festivals, weddings, and community events. Please RSVP for the Open House to Linda at (414) 220–3216.

Follow Milwaukee Catholic Home on Facebook and Twitter! Search for "Milwaukee Catholic Home" on Facebook and "mkechome" on Twitter.

UPCOMING PATIO POPS PERFORMANCES:

May 25: Bobby Way and the Fabulous

Wayouts

June 8: Milwaukee Metropolitan Voices

June 22: 4 Guyz in Dinner Jackets
July 6: Robin Pleur and Friends

July 20: Warren Wiegratz and Friends

August 3: The Shinigans August 17: 5 Card Stud

August 31: Carolyn Wehner and Friends:

"From Opera to Broadway"

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on The Residence outdoor patio, weather permitting, and are free and open to the public.



Don't miss an evening of hors d'oeuvres, apartment tours and a performance by Bobby Way and the Fabulous Wayouts!









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