



MILWAUKEE  
CATHOLIC HOME

# FOCUS

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## ED'S EXCURSIONS

Whether he was moving across Wisconsin with his family to open a bakery, flying B-17 planes over Germany, or making his way across Europe, Ed DePreter has left a footprint on wherever life has taken him.

Ed was born on January 30, 1925 to his Belgian parents in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ed's father was a baker and owned several different bakeries during his lifetime. For the first five years of Ed's life, he lived in Alma, Wisconsin before his parents decided to settle in Durand, Wisconsin, where Ed was raised with his sister, Madeline.

Ed attended Durand Public High School and when he wasn't attending school, he worked at the bakery with his father. Ed knew that he did not want to take over the family business and wanted to pursue engineering, which was introduced to him by his prom date's father. After high school graduation, 17 year old Ed, decided he would attend Marquette University and study civil engineering. He turned 18 at the start of his second semester of college and knew that he would be drafted sooner than later. He enjoyed school so much that he requested to not go into service until he completed his second semester. Ed joined the Army Air Corps on July 6, 1943, after his first full year of college.

After completing the Air Corp Cadet training, Ed became an officer and navigator. During his active duty, he flew thirty missions over Germany and even participated in the bombing of Dresden. Ed received five air medals for his dedicated service in the Air Corps. After the war was over, Ed stayed in England for a year before he was able to

come back home to the States. Officers needed seventy five points in order to go home and Ed missed the requirement by just one point. He was the last flying officer on the base.

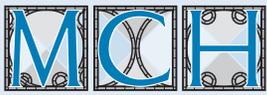


**Ed DePreter**

Ed was eager to get back to his engineering studies at Marquette. During this time he met his wife, Alice, who was a Marquette nursing student. The two soon realized that they were meant to be and they wed on Thursday, December 28, 1949. Thursday was sort of an odd day to get married, but because they were Catholic, they could not get married during Advent. Thinking back, waiting another week or two would not have been the end of the world, but they wanted to get their lives started as Mr. and Mrs. DePreter as soon as possible.

Upon graduation, Ed worked for Peter Kiewit Sons, Co. building the Garrison Dam in North Dakota. He worked long and hard for only a year before deciding to come back to Milwaukee, to work for Druml Company as a contractor. He worked there for twenty five years and played a large role in constructing the concrete piers for the Daniel Hoan Bridge. After his time at Druml, he moved on to CH2MHill as a project manager for the deep tunnel project in Milwaukee. Ed retired from there at age 65. However, he was not completely ready to stop working. After retirement, Ed served as an Arbitrator for the American Arbitrations Association and worked on four to six cases a year.

*(continued on page 7)*



MILWAUKEE  
CATHOLIC HOME

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**Editor:** Danielle N. Sands  
[dsands@milwaukeecatholichome.org](mailto:dsands@milwaukeecatholichome.org)



## FROM THE CEO



**David Fulcher,**  
CEO

As you read this fall edition of *Focus*, you will learn a bit more about who we are at Milwaukee Catholic Home. Individually, we are residents, family, friends, donors, staff, volunteers, board members, and partners who collectively characterize this great community known as Milwaukee Catholic Home. As we wrap up 2010, we look forward to beginning 2011 where we will focus on celebrating the individuals and institutions that make up who we are.

With the holidays fast approaching, we must remember the opportunity for giving during this season. I had the pleasure to attend the Partners of Philanthropy Luncheon where over 700 people were honored for their time, talents and treasure to the greater Milwaukee community. Our residents, Bill and Jean Farrell Jermain were recognized as a couple who exemplify outstanding leadership, volunteer service and financial contributions to nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee. It is people like the Jermaines and countless others who give so generously of themselves to this great community.

It is not often that we have the opportunity to serve and work with so many people who give of themselves not only through time and treasure, but also through talent and passion. Our resident programs are a very important part of allowing our staff to fully execute these talents and passions. Our many programs are funded through the generosity of our donors and often, if funding is not available or curtailed, the program may be at risk. For example, recently when our Director of Recreational Therapy learned that the Music Therapy program may be in jeopardy, my phone rang immediately, followed up with multiple emails, articles, and impassioned pleas. This was truly an effective campaign to appeal to a worthy program! Music therapy is one of the many vital programs that truly can engage our residents in the Health Care Center. Research has shown that music therapy reduces depression and agitation, assists in memory recall and language skills, promotes response from individuals in late stages of dementia, and increases energy levels through decreased stress and active participation in programming.

This newsletter highlights many other important programs, funds, and individual items that will directly benefit our residents' quality of life. As you plan to give back this season, please consider a gift to Milwaukee Catholic Home and be assured that your gift will be used toward making our residents' day-to-day life experiences greater. May you all have a very happy and blessed holiday season, and I look forward to continuing to celebrate who we are here at Milwaukee Catholic Home with all of you in 2011.

# MCH COUPLE HONORED FOR CHARITY, SERVICE



**Bill and Jean Jermain were honored for their lifetime commitment to charitable and philanthropic work at the 2010 Partners in Philanthropy Awards Luncheon.**

William M. and Jean Farrell Jermain were honored for their charitable and philanthropic work at the 2010 Partners in Philanthropy Awards Luncheon, November 8, at the Frontier Airlines Center. The Milwaukee event was sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) as part of a nationwide effort to recognize volunteers who provide outstanding leadership, volunteer service and financial contributions to nonprofit organizations.

The couple was recognized for their lifetime of support for Milwaukee Catholic Home (MCH) and several citywide charities. The Jermain and Farrell families have a long history of involvement and support with MCH, Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital, Marquette University, the Catholic Church and numerous local and national nonprofits..

Crediting their own philanthropy to the model set by their parents, the Jermain noted, "We just followed their lead; it was the way they would have expected us to do it."

What began in 1993 for Bill as filling an unexpired term on MCH's Board of Directors, led to a decade of Board service, including chairing the "Seasons of Life" capital campaign that raised the funds for the MCH Health & Rehabilitation Center. The Jermain moved to The Residence late in 2009.

Filling another unexpired term—this time with United Way—led to chairing Milwaukee's 1993 United Way Campaign as a loaned executive from AT&T. Bill was able to draw upon his experience as Chief Operating Officer with Telephone Pioneers, perhaps the largest volunteerism program in the United States and Canada. Other philanthropic and charitable leadership roles include terms as President of the Marquette University Alumni Association, Trustee for the Village of Whitefish Bay, member of the Board of the Salvation Army and District Chair of the Rotary's Polio Plus Campaign.

In addition to supporting Bill in his work, Jean Jermain volunteered as a pianist at area retirement communities and gave many years of service to the Meals on Wheels program.

Although he claims to be "mostly retired now," Bill is frequently seen in the MCH Activity Center repairing tape recorders for Talking Books for the Blind.

## MISSION STATEMENT

In an environment of Christian love and service, the Milwaukee Catholic Home is a continuing care community that provides older adults with an array of residential, health care, and spiritual services, respecting dignity, independence and individuality.

## OUR VALUES

**Compassion:** Awareness and empathy concerning the needs of others.

**Excellence:** A commitment to the highest standards delivered with competence and continuous improvement.

**Integrity:** Honesty, openness and sincerity.

**Benevolence:** The desire to do good through acts of kindness and generosity.

**Stewardship:** Responsible management of the resources entrusted to us.

# Christmas Wish List 2010

During this holiday season of giving and sharing, we hope you will consider a generous, tax-deductible gift to Milwaukee Catholic Home to make these wishes come true.

## *Campus-Wide*

### **Courtyard and Patio Fund**

Your gift will provide better lighting, audio wiring and electrical outlets for our many outdoor programs, special events and seasonal decorations.

### **Flower Fund**

Fresh flowers or plants welcome new arrivals and brighten spirits in the dining rooms.

### **Fine Arts Fund**

Your gift helps enrich the lives of residents campus-wide through art exhibits, dance groups, lectures like our Shakespeare series, and the popular Patio Pops concerts.

### **Library Fund**

The Residence has a large-print library; volunteers take the book cart to people in the Health and Rehabilitation Center.

### **Chapel/Pastoral Care Fund**

Gifts to this fund provide for our St. Anne's Chapel in The Residence and St. Joachim Chapel in the Health and Rehabilitation Center.

### **Recreation/Activities Fund**

When you support our Recreation program, you help provide a broad range of activities from our aquariums and aviaries to table games and Wii computer games.

### **Wellness Fund**

Your gifts to Wellness enhance the health and well-being of residents. The fund provides music therapy, art therapy, fitness classes (Tai Chi, Yoga, Stretch & Chair Exercise) and fitness center equipment.

## *The Residence*

### **Audio Visual System (Audio and Drop-down Screen) - \$7,500**

Help our residents enjoy the many educational and entertaining events in our large multi-purpose room.

### **Movie Theater Seating**

Comfortable seating is needed for residents to enjoy gathering to watch movies, programs or Packer games on our giant-screen TV.

## *Assisted Living and Health Care Center*

### **Barbecue Grill for the Health & Rehabilitation Center - \$1,000**

Residents enjoy picnics and barbecues on our beautiful courtyard. For your generous gift, you'll receive a personal invitation to our first cookout. Bring the scents and tastes of summer with your generous gift.

### **Laptop Computer with Web Camera**

Thanks to internet videoconferencing and your generosity, families will come together even when distances and responsibilities keep them apart.

### **Spa Center for Assisted Living**

Residents in Assisted Living benefit greatly from sensory processing—soft, plush towels, fragrant scents, soft lighting, and soothing music. Your gift will help us keep the relaxation amenities fresh and stimulating.

### **FM System for Hearing-impaired Residents: \$7,000**

It's difficult to stay interested in programs or conversations that you can't hear. With your gift, residents will hear discussion leaders, guest speakers or performers through a personalized amplification system.

### **Therapy Dog - \$2,650**

Studies have shown that therapy dogs decrease loneliness, isolation, and depression while improving strength and balance. Your gift of any amount will help meet this cost for training, vaccinations, and neutering. The dog (probably a golden retriever) will live primarily in the special care wing but will be a regular visitor to all areas.

### **Nu Step - \$3,595**

This ergonomic exercycle is ideal for seniors who need physical therapy, rehabilitation and senior fitness. Smooth and natural semi-recumbent stepping action simulates the natural walking motion through its variable step length. Comfortable swivel seat at the correct height swivels 90 degrees to either side for safe and easy transfers in Generations Day Care

### **Electric Recliner for Center - \$600**

For participants with limited mobility, being able to reposition themselves while seated can bring both physical and mental relief.

### **Craft Supplies and Games for Generations Day Center**

Participants in our adult day program enjoy the many craft projects that keep their minds and bodies active.

**Grant a wish; share the joy of Christmas. Using the postage-paid envelope, please specify to which fund or item you would like your gift applied. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Lowe at (414) 220-3214.**





# 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.

**The following gifts were received between July 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010:**

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Wieber  
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Milwaukee Catholic Home sincerely appreciates your gifts. Every effort was made to acknowledge all donors correctly. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and call the Development Office at (414) 220-3214 so we can correct our records.



## FALL BAZAAR A SUCCESS!

The Milwaukee Catholic Home Fall Bazaar was held on Thursday, October 21st, and was once again a great success. The Bazaar is held each fall to raise money for resident activities and programs. It features crafts that are handmade by the residents, decorative household items, books, baked goods, raffle, and a “boutique” of finer items. Various vendors from the community also exhibited items including homemade chips and toffee, jewelry and scarves and handmade cards.

MCH residents and volunteers worked diligently to prepare for and carry out this year’s Bazaar. The event was well attended by residents, MCH employees and community members, and raised over \$5,000 that will be dedicated to resident programs and entertainment.



**MCH resident Julia McKale volunteered her time at the Bazaar by selling crafts that were handmade by residents.**

## ED’S EXCURSIONS *(continued from page 1)*

Ed got the itch to travel in eighth grade when he had the opportunity to go to Paris, France with his father on an American Legion National Convention Pilgrimage. They continued their travels to Lourdes, France and then made a stop in Belgium to visit with family and friends. They arrived back in the United States after a two-month journey. Since then, Ed has been to every country in Europe with the exception of Ireland, and plans on crossing this off his list in the near future.

Ed and his wife, Alice, lived on Sheffield Avenue in Shorewood for 30 years where they raised their late son, Peter. Ed has two grandsons and two great-grandsons. After much research by his grandson, they realized that the five of them make up the only DePreTERS in the United States.

Ed is still a very active member of the east side community. He serves mass at Holy Family Parish every Tuesday and Friday morning. Ed also plays in three different bridge clubs, which he has been a part of for the last 13 years. Ever since a talk he gave about his trip to Europe in the eighth grade, Ed has had a passion for public speaking. He continues to speak about his experience in WWII at various organizations in the community. His next speaking engagement is scheduled for December 7.

Ed always said, “If I ever had to move to a retirement home, Milwaukee Catholic Home would be the place.” Just three months ago, Ed decided it was time to make a move and now calls MCH his home. He has many friends here from Marquette University and the Shorewood community. In fact, his first dinner at MCH he knew all eight people at the table. He thought it was nice that MCH had organized the table with some of his life long friends. Turns out it was a coincidence! Immediately, Ed felt even more comfortable with his decision to move to a place where he would share his days with good friends, just like old times.

# RING IN THE HOLIDAYS AT MCH



Join Milwaukee Catholic Home for an afternoon of holiday festivities on **Thursday, December 16th**, in The Residence. From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., stroll through apartments decorated for the holidays, treat yourself to home-baked cookies and cider, visit with Santa and enjoy Christmas music. This fun afternoon will be sure to put you in the holiday spirit!



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

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