



MILWAUKEE  
CATHOLIC HOME

# FOCUS

Volume 18,  
Issue 4

Fall  
2011

## TELLING OUR STORIES: HOW WILL WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF CARING?

As 2011 draws to a close, we look back on a year of exploring who we are as the Milwaukee Catholic Home community. We have highlighted residents, volunteers, and staff members who are furthering our mission and making a positive impact both within the organization and in the community at large. In this issue, we continue this exploration by featuring some of our generous donors and the projects they have supported throughout the year.

Of course, those we have highlighted are only a tiny fraction of the individuals who make up the MCH family and have contributed in countless ways to our mission. This fact is made even more apparent as we prepare to explore and celebrate 100 years of MCH history. As we approach our Centennial in 2013, we have the priceless opportunity to remember and celebrate those who have built our community and lived our mission, impacting and enriching the Milwaukee community in the process.

We are excited to share our plans for this celebration, beginning in this issue of *Focus*. In these pages, you can read about our "100 Years, 100 Lives" commemorative book and video, the new endowments we will be establishing to secure our most important programs, and just a few of the exciting events planned in the months ahead to share our Centennial story. As members of the MCH family, we look forward to celebrating with you.





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*Focus* is published quarterly by Milwaukee Catholic Home, a continuing care retirement community, and can also be viewed online at [www.milwaukeecatholichome.org](http://www.milwaukeecatholichome.org)

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# 100 YEARS, 100 LIVES

*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 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*

In the Winter 2011 issue of the *Focus*, we shared this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans. As we have reflected on it further, we realize that it says a great deal about Milwaukee Catholic Home and its 100 year history.



*The original location of Milwaukee Catholic Home at 544 Astor Street.*

In preparing to celebrate our Centennial, it is easy to focus exclusively on our mission and the services we have provided for older adults over the past century. However, the unique place MCH has held in the Milwaukee community is the result of much more than the work that goes on within its four walls. As we approach 2013, the most important thing to celebrate is the hundreds of men and women who have called MCH home. Each of these remarkable individuals has made a unique and irreplaceable impact on the community of Milwaukee. Some have been influential in the areas of politics, industry, or innovation. Others have lived out of the spotlight, but have made a contribution that is just as significant through raising a family, running a small business, or involvement with their local parish or school.

To mark our Centennial, we will be creating a commemorative book and video to celebrate the lives of just a few of these individuals and their impact on the community over the past 100 years. Through interviews, news clippings, and historic photographs, we hope to share their stories and, through them, the story of Milwaukee Catholic Home.

Many of you have remarkable memories of current or past residents, in the form of stories, photographs, or treasured keepsakes. We invite all of you to become part of our "100 Years, 100 Lives" Centennial celebration by sharing these memories.

*Please contact Director of Community Outreach Anne Catalane at (414) 220-3250 to find out more about this project, and to share your stories.*



# MCH ENDOWMENTS: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

An endowment is more than just a donation – it is an investment in our future. Creating an endowment fund allows the interest generated from that fund to be used for the ongoing needs of a specific program in perpetuity. As we have reflected this year on who we are, we have identified three key programs that merit the establishment of endowment funds to ensure their continuing impact on the lives of our residents for generations to come. Please consider supporting one of these worthy efforts.

## *The Franz and Virginia Bidinger Endowment for the Fine Arts*

This endowment, established by the Bidinger family, ensures meaningful therapeutic and recreational fine arts programming in both The Residence and the Health and Rehab Center.

Funding from this endowment supports regular music therapy sessions in large and small group settings, particularly for residents in our Memory Care unit. Countless studies have demonstrated the clinical effectiveness of music therapy in improving cognitive and physical functioning in older adults.

The endowment also supports our efforts to connect our residents to Milwaukee's cultural riches by bringing in some of the area's finest musicians, dancers, and other performers. In particular, the endowment funds Patio Pops, our annual summer concert series featuring biweekly outdoor music performances. Patio Pops enriches the lives of our residents and further strengthens the MCH community.

## *The Benevolence Fund Endowment*

As an organization founded on the values of compassion and service, Milwaukee Catholic Home has a responsibility towards those in need. Though some of our efforts are in the broader community, we cannot lose sight of those closer to home.

The Benevolence Fund Endowment was established to allow the MCH community to assist residents experiencing unexpected financial hardship. Although residents plan their finances carefully when preparing to move to MCH, circumstances beyond their control sometimes cause their assets to be depleted long after they have become part of our community. Our goal through this endowment is for these residents to remain in their MCH homes and to receive assistance in their time of need.

## *The Chaplaincy Endowment*

When asked what they value most about Milwaukee Catholic Home, most of our residents will point first to our pastoral and spiritual care programs: celebration of daily Mass and other sacraments, scripture study, communal prayer, and education. Even more important in our residents' lives is the pastoral care staff who are there to support them, pray with them, and share their journeys, both in times of loss and times of celebration.

The new Chaplaincy endowment provides ongoing funding for spiritual and pastoral care programming and staffing at MCH. Our identity as a Catholic institution, rooted in the traditions of the Church, are vital to who we are as Milwaukee Catholic Home.



*Archbishop Timothy Dolan celebrates Mass in the St. Anne's Chapel, with Fr. Tim Kitzke, Monsignor John Donovan and Bishop William Callahan.*

## NEW ADDITION IS A HOLE-IN-ONE WITH RESIDENTS

Earlier this year, MCH resident and avid golfer Jack Poehlmann came to MCH staff with an idea: to install a small, 6-hole putting green on the MCH grounds. Jack knew that many MCH residents who enjoy golfing would be excited about having one of their favorite activities available right at their doorstep.

MCH staff were excited about the idea too, and decided to collaborate with Jack and other residents in moving the project forward. To support the fundraising effort, MCH "teed off a great night" by hosting an evening of dinner and entertainment. The highlight of the night was a tasting and presentation by Guy Rehorst of Great Lakes Distillery. Guy shared the history of distilling in Milwaukee, and provided samples of distinctive Rehorst liquors. Guests then enjoyed a steak dinner prepared by MCH executive chef Chris Reinheimer and the music of the Tom Sorce Jazz Trio.



*Resident Jack Poehlmann enjoys the new MCH putting green.*

Through this event and the generosity of many donors, the funds were successfully raised and the putting green was installed in November. Although winter weather is now upon us, Jack and other residents are eagerly anticipating the return of spring so they can grab their putters, step outside and enjoy a round of golf surrounded by the comforts of home.

## RESIDENCE BALLROOM GETS NEW NAME AND LOOK

In 2010, the Sanfellipo family made a generous lead gift towards the renovation of the Ballroom, one of our most important community spaces in The Residence at MCH. The Ballroom is used for everything from music and dance performances to educational speakers to daily exercise class, and was beginning to show some wear and tear.

Through the kindness of the Sanfellipos and many others, renovations are now completed, and the Ballroom has a fresh and welcoming new look. In addition to updated flooring and new, more comfortable seating, the space now includes a beautiful bar and hospitality area for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. To celebrate the new look, the room is being renamed the Astor Room, in honor of the original Milwaukee Catholic Home location at 544 Astor Street. We enjoyed welcoming many of you into the Astor Room for the first time on December 1st at our Donor Circle Event.

## WELCOME ANNE!

As a member of the MCH community, you probably know Anne Catalane. Anne has served for over ten years as the Director of Leisure Services in The Residence, and has brought fun, culture, and her own special flair to the rich schedule of outings and events she has planned every week for our residents. We now welcome Anne into a new role as Director of Community Outreach for the entire MCH campus. Anne will take the lead on fundraising and outreach efforts, including a special focus on planning for our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2013.



*Anne Catalane*



## A CALL TO DO MORE

Throughout its history, MCH as an organization has been committed to engagement with our community through social accountability and service to those in need. However, it is often our employees who remind us of this commitment and provide leadership as we find new ways to strengthen it.

Bonnie Anderson's work in the area of breast cancer education has been highlighted many times in the pages of *Focus*, and her leadership in serving the underserved has inspired many other employees to get involved in these efforts. This fall, MCH participated in the "Pink Glove Dance" Competition sponsored by Medline Industries to increase breast cancer awareness and raise funds for research. Although we didn't win any prizes, dozens of employees had fun supporting a worthy cause in a new way. The video is available on our website or Facebook page, so be sure to take a look.



*Staff and residents do the "Pink Glove Dance" to support breast cancer research.*

MCH has now made the decision to commit in a more specific way to collaborating with Bonnie in her work, building partnerships between MCH and organizations such as After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. We look forward to exploring these partnerships over the coming months and discovering new ways to serve.

We are also recommitting to our work with Three Holy Women Parish and their community outreach programs. For the past several years, MCH has sponsored the Parish Nurse program at Three Holy Women, which provides free holistic nursing outreach for wellness and early screening, counseling, and referral, especially for those whose circumstances make it difficult for them to receive help within conventional health care systems.

These ways of living out our "call to do more" are vital to who we are as Milwaukee Catholic Home. We look forward to partnering with each of you as we continue to build a positive presence in our community.

## JIM WUDI RECOGNIZED BY LEADING AGE

This fall, MCH nominated resident Jim Wudi for the Celebrate Age Competition for Leading Age's 50th Anniversary Conference. The competition recognizes seniors who are actively giving back to their communities through generosity and service. Staff and members of the community were interviewed about Mr. Wudi's involvement with the Padre Serra Club, his position as volunteer coach of the MCH softball team, and his service as a volunteer in our Health and Rehab Center. We are delighted to announce that Mr. Wudi was recognized with a well-deserved Honorable Mention.

The nomination video is available on our website, and is well worth a look. Congratulations to Mr. Wudi on this honor!



# 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, 2011 and September 30, 2011:*

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# RING IN THE HOLIDAYS AT MCH

Join Milwaukee Catholic Home for an afternoon of holiday festivities on Thursday, December 15th, in The Residence. From 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 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!



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



## SAVE THE DATE!

January 8th, 2012

Archbishop Jerome Listecky will be joining us on Sunday, January 8th for a 10:30 am Liturgy followed by brunch. All are welcome!

January 26th, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the MCH corporation will be held on Thursday, January 26th at 4:30 pm. Please contact Director of Community Outreach Anne Catalane for more information.

February 18th, 2012

Singers of United Lands will be bringing their unique blend of international vocal music to MCH on Saturday, February 18th at 1:00 pm. Please join us for this unforgettable cultural experience!



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

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