

# focus

## Clare Gardens Now Calls the Catholic Ecology Center Home

In the spring of 2015, Milwaukee Catholic Home launched the Clare Gardens project, a sustainable, organic, farm-to-table-program utilizing land that the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption BVM Province own in Burlington. Now, just six years later, Clare Gardens has a new permanent home at The Catholic Ecology Center.

Located on the former Camp Winding River Girl Scout Camp in Neosho, The Catholic Ecology Center is part of the Laudato Si' Project. Established in 2016 in response to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: Our Care for our Common Home*, the Laudato Si' Project seeks to deepen the faith and foster stewardship through hands-on encounters with the natural world.



▲ Mount Mary University – Dietetics Program students helping out at the Farm. Students learn the fundamental principles of sustainable and organic farming practices.

Their mission involves working primarily with schools, parishes, and families through education programs, retreats, stewardship service projects, and recreational outings.

Their new property in Neosho will allow the Laudato Si Project to establish a central location, the Catholic

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## US World News Rating

U.S. News & World Report is the global leader in quality rankings that empower people to make better, more informed decisions about important issues affecting their lives. For the past 11 years they have been rating Skilled Nursing and Short-Term Rehabilitation facilities. They base their ratings on overall care, fall and illness prevention, and staffing ratios. Milwaukee Catholic Home received top rating of High Performing for both Skilled Nursing and Short-Term Rehabilitation. We are so honored to be recognized with this prestigious rating, and we commend the exceptional staff who helped make this distinction possible. ■



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— *from the CEO...* —

## Pillars of Whole Person Wellness

MCH has a rich history of offering an array of programs in support of each of the Five Pillars of Whole Person Wellness: Social Engagement, Cognitive Health, Physical Health, Nutrition, and Spiritual Wellness.

Not only is this being done on our East Side campus, but it is also seen in our relationships with faith-based partners, such as Mount Mary University, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and the Catholic Ecology Center. This issue of the Focus illustrates our ongoing commitment to supporting those we serve in every aspect of their well-being and explores the good work being done at Milwaukee Catholic Home, Trinity Woods, and Clare Gardens.

The way we did things in 2020 looked a little different. As the world coped with the COVID-19 pandemic, MCH's A Life Engaged team worked tirelessly to engage residents in meaningful ways. Virtual family visits, live concerts in the parking lot, and countless experiences designed to be safe as well as joyful, helped to support and strengthen our community throughout this challenging time.



Thankfully, as more staff members and residents become fully vaccinated, the focus is on safely and intentionally building on the strength and resilience of our community as we return to some sense of pre-pandemic normalcy. Keep reading to see some of the on-campus spaces that are now hosting socially distanced events and comfortably accommodate quiet conversation and connection.

If Milwaukee Catholic Home's innovative programs, projects and partnerships interest you, please reach out to me, so we can discuss how you can personally support our mission. Our organization is always looking for new advocates of the vital work we do to serve older adults in Milwaukee and beyond. Thank you for your past and future support. ■

**David Fulcher, CEO**

# Resident Experiences

The Health and Rehabilitation Center renovation at 2330 N. Prospect Avenue first began in late January 2020, and was completed in January 2021, despite the COVID-19 challenges. Features of the project, which are spread throughout the second and third floors, include larger dining rooms, a music room, the William Jermain Jr. Nature Room, an enhanced chapel, and a new art studio.

With restrictions recently lifting and visitation being reintroduced, these spaces are coming alive again and are available for residents to enjoy. For the first time since March 2020 these new and enhanced spaces are open to residents to further expand their



▲ New Year's Eve bonfire and pizza party on the patio at The Residence at 2462

sense of home. Not only can a resident explore their creativity in the new art studio, but they can also visit the peaceful space offered in the William Jermain Jr. Nature room and nurture their love of the environment. A year ago, a resident attending an in-person Brain Fitness class in the private dining room or participating in the Fitness Fusion exercise program with MCH Recreation Therapy Intern Karla Genett would have been hard to imagine.

We are grateful to have these new spaces as a wonderful resource for both residents and their families to create meaningful memories.

The doors of Milwaukee Catholic Home are also opening at The Residence at 2462. Residents are thrilled to experience a return to live and in-person entertainment in The Astor Room, and daily Mass for

in-person attendance. Resuming in-person events and dining has created a fresh and renewed energy throughout the community as residents joyfully (and safely) share experiences together once again.

With modern entertaining amenities to elevate the experience, our newest space at The Residence is The Center for A Life Engaged. Perfect for small to mid-size gatherings, this beautiful, light-filled room plays host to presentations, celebrations, meetings, conferences, movies, specialty-themed programs and a variety of other events intended to connect and build community.

While all our main campus spaces in both The Residence at 2462 and newly renovated Health and Rehabilitation Center have begun hosting these daily events and more, perhaps the experience that we are most excited about is the return of the Patio Pops and Backyard Beats!

After taking a hiatus last summer, these popular, outdoor summer concert series are back and better than ever, with some of Milwaukee's finest musical acts ready to entertain our residents. Visit [alifeengaged.org](http://alifeengaged.org) to learn more about this year's performances.

We thank you for your prayers and support this past year. We look forward to continuing to create life enriching opportunities for our residents and welcoming YOU back to Milwaukee Catholic Home very soon. ■



▲ MCH staff help make MCH resident Catherine Misesy's 100th birthday extra special.



## Trinity Woods Receives Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Grant

**The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has awarded Trinity Woods its prestigious Green Infrastructure Partnership Program grant.**

Every year, the MMSD invites both public and private sector organizations who plan to install green infrastructure strategies on their properties, to submit applications for partnership funding. Trinity Woods, the new intergenerational living community adjacent to Mount Mary University and scheduled to open in Fall 2021, was selected and awarded funds totaling \$1.3 million for design projects that promote green infrastructure on the site.

Green infrastructure, defined as a cost-effective and resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts in a community, will be present at Trinity Woods in the form of porous pavement and bioswales. Porous pavement, unlike traditional pavement, provides pore spaces that store and let water pass through the surface. Bioswales are landscape features that collect stormwater and filter out the pollution. Bioswales are similar to rain gardens but are designed to capture more runoff coming off larger areas, such as parking lots and streets.

The environmental benefits of the porous pavement and bioswales present at Trinity Woods are extensive. Porous pavement helps protect our streams and Lake Michigan from pollution, while bioswales reduce the risk of flooding and draining problems. Since many bioswales feature vegetation, they also improve air quality and provide a suitable habitat for

- ▲ Construction is progressing at Trinity Woods, MCH's new intergenerational living community scheduled to open this fall.

pollinators and birds. The MMSD recognized that the green infrastructure at Trinity Woods includes robust economic and social benefits, eliminating substantial maintenance costs with these design components. Educational and research opportunities for Mount Mary University students in environmental science courses will significantly increase.

Trinity Woods, the housing development by the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province, Mount Mary University, and Milwaukee Catholic Home, will provide a vibrant living environment for Sisters and seniors, and an educational and supportive housing option for single mothers who are students at Mount Mary University. The new community will be comprised of 52 private residences for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, 24 dormitory units for single mothers enrolled as students at Mount Mary University and their young children under the age of 12, and 90 market-rate, independent living apartments for individuals over age 55. Milwaukee Catholic Home, which currently manages the care provided to the School Sisters at Notre Dame in Elm Grove, will continue to serve the sisters and manage the day-to-day operations at this new location.

To learn more about Trinity Woods, call 414-225-8252 or visit [trinitywoods.com](http://trinitywoods.com). ■

## Clare Gardens, Continued...

Ecology Center, that will enable the organization to further its mission of integrating faith and a love for nature.

Executive Director Joe Meyer says, “We are humbled to be the next generation of stewards caring for this very special land. We look forward to the opportunity to get more people out into nature, fostering a love, curiosity and care for our common home.”

Previously occupying 6 acres of the Burlington property, Clare Gardens will now be triple the size, totaling 18 acres. Thanks to the increase in size, Clare Gardens will expand its offerings to include an orchard and perennial fruits, hosting of beehives, and the continued composting of food waste generated by the Clare Gardens share partners. The Gardens will also continue to provide produce for senior communities that have purchased shares for use at their retirement communities. Not only is the food being grown using organic principles and practices, but the people enjoying the food have intimate knowledge of where and how their food is grown.

Through Milwaukee Catholic Home’s A Life Engaged programming, educational and social experiences for residents at Milwaukee Catholic Home, Trinity Woods at Mount Mary University, and others in the community, will be enhanced to include regular farm-to-table dining at Clare Gardens, with educational experiences to expand understanding of composting, no-till farming practices, and the effective use of cover crops. These common and proven methods of farming have eliminated the need to use herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides on the food grown at Clare Gardens.

In addition to our seniors enjoying Clare Gardens, Mount Mary University Students in the Dietetic Program are introduced to organic farming principles and practices through regular classroom and field experiences.



▲ Marquette University High School Students helping to plant the new orchard.

Anna Metscher, Farm Manager for Clare Gardens, says, “What’s so exciting about our new home at The Catholic Ecology Center is not only producing wholesome food, but the educational opportunities for teaching people of all ages about growing food and living sustainably.”

Learn more about Clare Gardens at [milwaukeeecatholichome.org/community-life/claregardens](http://milwaukeeecatholichome.org/community-life/claregardens). ■



## Bipolar Ionization Units Installed at MCH

MCH has installed Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization units in all its air handling units in the Health Care Center. In addition, the units were placed in the common area ventilation system of The Residence at 2462, which includes the main dining room and Flatley’s Club Lounge.

These units, acting together with the HVAC and filtration systems, have been proven to purify the air by significantly reducing airborne particulates, odors, and pathogens, including the COVID-19 virus. They produce a large amount of positive and negative ions that travel through the air into the occupied spaces, cleaning the air everywhere they go, even in spaces unseen.

These are the same type of ions found abundantly in forests, ocean shorelines and high mountain elevations. These ions and the technology creating them are completely ozone-free and safe for humans and the environment.

The new Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization units at MCH reduce the east side campus’s carbon footprint and energy consumption by up to 30%. This revolutionary system is also currently installed in a wide range of environments, including The White House, Harvard University, and the Mayo Clinic. ■



# 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. To learn more about giving opportunities, please contact Caitlin Eiftman at 414-220-3213.

The following gifts were received between April 30, 2020-May 31, 2021

♦ Indicates a donor who is deceased at the time of publication.

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*Thanks* to our sponsors for the continued support of our newest campus, Trinity Woods

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## Milwaukee Catholic Home Partnership Event

The Milwaukee Catholic Home Partnership Event, at the School Sisters of Notre Dame's Central Pacific Province, is on Saturday, July 24th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Visit our website for further event information and to request an invitation by mail!

# To All of Our Staff and Volunteers—We Thank You!

The extraordinary dedication, compassion, and generosity of the MCH team never ceases to amaze. A global pandemic didn't stop countless staff and volunteers from coming into work with a relentless commitment to make the lives of every resident better. Their selfless devotion to our mission is truly what makes MCH the exceptional, loving community that it is. Thank you for the good work you do—you are appreciated more than can ever fully be expressed!

## Our beloved residents echo this expression of gratitude:

- You guys have done such a great job of keeping everyone safe and healthy and providing opportunities to have fun and be active! Alice and I feel so lucky and grateful to be here! – Jim Stollenwerk*
- Thank you for all of the wonderful programs and opportunities you offer. Dr. Crain's Ireland series*
- and the Leahy Brothers performance was the perfect fit for March and had me in the St. Patrick's Day spirit all month long! – Joan Lucke*
- Just wanted to let you know how much we have appreciated you and your staff and the work you continue to do to help keep all the MCH residents healthy, happy,*
- alive and vibrant. We have appreciated everything you have done to help make our dad comfortable and we know sometimes it is very challenging.*
- Thank you for your incredible dedication to my Mom and all of the dear ones on the 3rd floor. It has been a challenging year to say the least. You*
- seem to have managed it all with such grace and professionalism.*
- Congratulations on the wonderful accolades from U.S. News....especially in this pandemic. The facilities cases of Covid 19 that have been reported is a testament of the dedication the staff have in providing outstanding care to the residents and patients!*



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