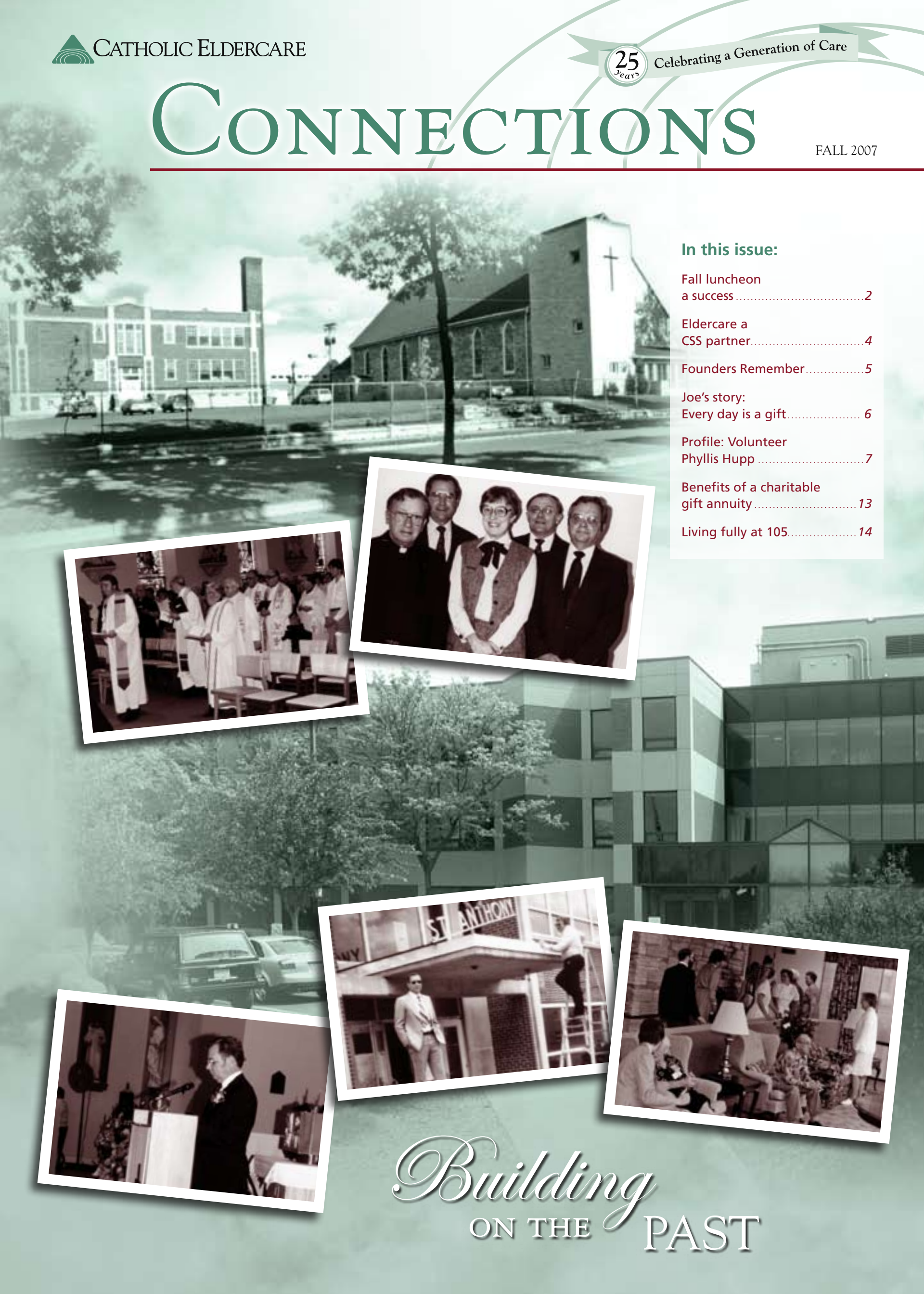


# CONNECTIONS

FALL 2007

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*Building*  
ON THE PAST

# Celebrating Lifelong Living Luncheon Draws Record Crowd to Support Programs, Help Close Funding Gap

*“While government reimbursement rates have grown by 4 percent since 2003, actual operating costs have risen 11 percent. Thank you for helping us close this gap with charitable gifts.”*

Mary Broderick, President & CEO



More than \$120,000 was raised at the Fifth Annual Celebrating Lifelong Living Luncheon on Sept. 13. More than 650 guests, Catholic Eldercare’s largest crowd ever, filled the Earle Brown Heritage Center ballroom for the popular event.

The luncheon is the main event to generate support for the Catholic Eldercare

Annual Fund. These gifts help sustain key programs that directly impact the quality of life for the adults living in Eldercare’s senior residences. “We are so grateful for our supporters. They enable us to offer programs that help elders live vitally, to pursue their interests, avocations, and their faith as fully as possible,” said President and

CEO Mary Broderick. “It is the quality lifestyle that we all desire for our later years.”

Broderick told the audience that charitable gifts are essential because they help lessen the financial gap between government reimbursement rates and the actual cost of the engaging programs and quality care provided for elders. While government reimbursement rates have grown by only four percent since 2003, actual operating costs have risen 11 percent, Broderick explained.

## Family Expresses Gratitude

The program speakers included Dan Dunn, M.D., whose mother, Rosemary Dunn, is a resident at RiverVillage. In his emotional presentation, Dr. Dunn said his family selected Catholic Eldercare after visiting several senior residences. “As a physician for 35 years, I understand what it means to take care of someone; the importance of quality care, a loving environment, and programs that give meaning to living. The dedicated staff at RiverVillage provides excellent care. Thank you for providing a safe, nurturing, stimulating home for our mother.”

Thirty-three program sponsors and 72 table hosts helped to make the 2007 luncheon a success. The Sixth Annual Celebrating Lifelong Living Luncheon will be held Sept. 11, 2008.



Sister Ruth Roland, center, with longtime friends Clay and Mavis Strandlie.

*“It’s just a fabulous place and it probably could not have happened without Sister Ruth. She was a real motivator.”*

## The Strandlie Love Affair With Eldercare

Clay and Mavis Strandlie have served as luncheon table hosts for three years, filling two tables with 17 friends for this year’s event.

The Strandlies’ love affair with Catholic Eldercare began when the nursing home was in the planning phase. Clay, a respected financial advisor with an investment firm, helped craft the municipal bonds financing package, working many hours with Sister Ruth Roland and the other founders. “Sister Ruth and I grew close. She was very much ahead of her time with her room design that afforded nearly the privacy level of a private room,” Clay explained. “It’s just a fabulous place and it probably could not have happened without Sister Ruth. She was a real motivator.”

Sister Ruth remembers Clay as an important, trustworthy resource who offered a steady hand and encouraging words during those formative months. “I know I learned so much from Clay, and he was always upbeat. Even at times when bad news came along—like 15 percent interest on bonds—he would exclaim, “Just puffy white clouds; they’ll blow away,” Sister Ruth related.

“Clay and Mavis are very good friends, and their continuing support has been fantastic,” Sister Ruth added.

Today, Clay calls himself “a little cog in the wheel,” who helped the founders bring Catholic Eldercare to life. “When you watch something come together, you want to stay with it,” Clay explained. “Today, great people are doing great things at Catholic Eldercare. It is a fabulous home operating in the true spirit of Christian love.”

## 2007 Luncheon Sponsors

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The Tom Glodek Family

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## Luncheon Table Hosts – Thank You!

*A special thanks to the 72 dedicated table hosts who made the luncheon event a success.*

Terri Ashmore

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Ken Baltus and Dorothy Elion

Carol Beauchane

Shirley Bever

Sheila Biernat

Mary Ann Blade

Toné Blechert

Peter Borman

Rev. John Brandes

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Patrick Zeman



*Program speaker Dan Dunn, M.D., whose mother lives at RiverVillage, expressed gratitude for Catholic Eldercare's quality, compassionate care.*

# Catholic Senior Services to Address Growing Senior Needs

## *Catholic Eldercare is a Founding Partner of Archdiocese-Sponsored Network*

Every parish in the twin cities is facing a growing human challenge: meeting the ever-increasing need for senior housing and care services by older adult parishioners. This issue is of great relevance for most families — if not now, then soon. Who will provide the specialized care and housing these friends and loved ones will need?

The retiring members of the baby boom generation are creating an age wave that will wash over the culture with increasing impact. This aging generation, the largest in history, will put unprecedented pressures on social services, medical systems, and housing needs in the decades ahead. Many older adults are ill-prepared for old age and the changes it brings. An estimated one-third of baby boom seniors will not have adequate resources for retirement and another third will be living at or near the poverty level.

### **Catholic Senior Services**

To address growing senior care needs, Catholic Eldercare has become a founding partner of Catholic Senior Services (CSS), the new umbrella organization created by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to meet the housing, care, and spiritual needs of the community's older adults in a more comprehensive way.

CSS represents a continuum of Catholic-sponsored senior housing and services that will serve older adults of all economic levels. It will collaborate with parishes, Catholic long-term care and other organizations, always looking to develop additional community partnerships. Serving as a resource, CSS will draw Catholic entities together in a more organized way to meet the expanding needs of seniors and to increase opportunities for elders to stay connected to their neighborhoods and church.

“No vulnerable older person should be left alone whether in our parishes or in our community,” said Archbishop Harry J. Flynn in the formal August announcement.



Archbishop Harry J. Flynn



Mary Broderick

CSS, which will operate as a financially and legally independent entity with its own governance structure, will cover the Archdiocese's geographic area of 12 Minnesota counties.

Initially, the CSS network will offer coordinated long-term care and housing referrals through its founding Catholic affiliates:

- Catholic Eldercare of Minneapolis
- Franciscan Health Community of St. Paul
- St. Therese New Hope
- St. Therese Southwest, Hopkins.

While these affiliates will maintain their separate and distinctive identities, together they currently provide 1,800 independent and assisted apartments and skilled-care beds, employ approximately 1,600 people, and have a combined operating budget of \$75 million.

“We are honored to partner with the Archdiocese for such an important community mission. The well-being of our older loved ones, friends and neighbors is an issue of great personal interest in every parish,” said Catholic Eldercare President and CEO Mary Broderick. “The goal of CSS is to bring together community resources to strengthen the availability of affordable housing, quality care and services for older adults. We want to ensure elders live dignified lives and remain engaged in the wider community, to the greatest extent possible.”

The Archdiocese has raised approximately \$1 million in donations to launch CSS, and fundraising to sustain the new nonprofit entity continues. CSS has a 12-member board of directors composed of Twin Cities community leaders. Board Chair is Bishop Richard Pates, auxiliary bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Initially, CSS will be headquartered in the archdiocesan Hayden Center in Saint Paul.

### **For More Information**

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

## **Catholic Senior Services CEO Gannon Brings Expertise and Commitment**



Dan Gannon

Dan Gannon has been appointed chief executive officer of Catholic Senior Services (CSS) by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

“I am very honored and blessed to be selected to lead this historic outreach to enhance the quality of life, physically and spiritually, for our community's older adults, and prepare for the coming wave of aging baby boomers,” Gannon said. “The CSS mission is to carry out Christ's command to “love one another” in a very concrete way for our elderly neighbors, and to follow our biblical mandate to honor our mothers and fathers. Toward this end, CSS and its partners will develop new affordable housing and care options, as well as provide greater access to Catholic pastoral and spiritual care,” he added.

Gannon, who previously served as a director in new product development at Eagan-based Thomson-West, has extensive experience in business development, product development and management.

Gannon holds an undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of St. Thomas, a juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law and is presently obtaining a master's degree in theology. He is completing his third year in the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. Dan and his wife, Lisa, live in Prescott, Wisc. with their four children.

## Founders Remember

*“We must always ask ourselves, are we doing enough?”*

Tom Glodek

Co-founder Al Hofstede remembers the early challenges as the Catholic Eldercare project envisioned in plans and blueprints became a brick-and-mortar reality in the early 1980s.

“Looking back it was a very tough struggle, it was uncertain. We faced 18 percent interest rates when we first started, and everybody said it couldn’t be done. But Sister Ruth always said trust God, and we did. We went forward and from that everything blossomed,” Hofstede said.

Hofstede, who served as board president for most of the past quarter century, said the founders were driven by the serious human need they saw in Northeast Minneapolis.

“We still had a home with an outhouse over by the river, some homes had a dirt floor; that’s just how some people lived,” Hofstede explained. “They were just beginning to live longer and the community had a responsibility to help care for them. And when they got older, they didn’t have much to live on. Their kids tried to take care of them, but their kids had big families and were struggling, too. It’s one thing to take care of the young, but the old were suddenly forgotten, and that was unforgivable. It was just hard to imagine how that atmosphere existed a mere 25 years ago. We’ve come a long way.”

### Common Good

In those early days, Sister Ruth often called Hofstede “Saint Al” because of his willingness to do good. “I don’t think I have ever known a person who is so willing to help anyone in need,” Sister Ruth says. “And he doesn’t hesitate to ask others to help.”

It was an ever-growing sense of community and Christian obligation that drove the success of Catholic Eldercare, she explains. “We all grew in our experience of togetherness, common values directed towards a common goal. We had that sense of your good is my good, so together we worked towards the common good.”

### Bob Hannah Remembers

Co-founder Bob Hannah, who served as treasurer for Hofstede’s Minneapolis mayoral campaigns, recalls visiting one area nursing home. While residents were well cared for, he noted, their day-to-day lifestyle lacked the vibrancy elders today enjoy. “At that time they had little if any activities for the people. The ladies put on their hats every day and just sat in chairs around the rooms.”

It was a sober, galvanizing moment for Hannah. “They were old people and there was just nothing for them to do.”

Once Catholic Eldercare opened in August 1983, it did not take long to fill the residence to full occupancy. “At one point, I think someone estimated it would probably take us three years to fill the nursing home, but in five months it was full,” Hannah said. “This was a godsend for the elders. We’re all very proud of it. It was a place that was needed, and it had good support from the neighborhood and the other parishes here. We just couldn’t fail,” Hannah added.

Hofstede agrees. “The idea wasn’t just to provide a Catholic service, it was to provide a Christian kind of setting; to ensure that



Founders left to right: Tom Glodek, Al Hofstede, Sister Ruth Roland, and Bob Hannah.

everybody, no matter who you were, no matter your age, could live in dignity. I think over the years we’ve tried to maintain that and we’ve done a good job.”

### Parental Example

Co-founder Tom Glodek’s long-time commitment to Catholic Eldercare grew out of values instilled early by his parents, Frank and Sophie Glodek. “My parents taught us four kids that we have an obligation to help others. You don’t need to be wealthy to make a difference,” Glodek says.

“My Dad, who was born in Poland, worked as a Teamster driver, delivering milk to Northeast homes, and Mom stayed home and ran the household,” Tom explains. “Both my parents were very bright. Being unable themselves to attend college, and knowing the importance of education, their focus was on educating their children. We never had much money growing up, but we were taught there were always ways to help the people around us and give back.”

After college, Tom met Al Hofstede whose father, also a Teamster, delivered fruit to the corner grocery stores. Tom and Al became fast friends. Later, their friendship with fellow co-founder Bob Hannah generated the early discussions about the need for a Northeast nursing home.

“Being young and not having a lot of money ourselves brought challenges. With God’s help and the help of Sister Ruth Roland and the many others who have contributed and helped in so many ways, we are now able to see the fruits of our labor,” Glodek said.

After Glodek and Hofstede lost their first wives to cancer, they launched the Elaine Glodek and Barbara Hofstede Scholarship Fund for Catholic Eldercare employees who wish to strengthen their professional skills.

Glodek says Catholic Eldercare is one of his greatest philanthropic passions. “Catholic Eldercare delivers quality care to help other people, and that’s what it’s all about. We’ve just stepped forward to give back some of what God has given us. And, we must always ask ourselves, are we doing enough?”

## JOE'S STORY

### Every Day is a Gift, Live It Well

*Living fully, at any age, is the essence of vital living. Just ask Joe Cavaleri.*

More than 60 years ago, MainStreet Lodge resident Joe Cavaleri was regularly given a hand by friends in Twin Cities night spots as he earned his way through the University of Minnesota.



*Joe Cavaleri, a believer in making the most of every day, exercises regularly.*

No, he wasn't a singer, dancer or comedian. Joe was part of a remarkable hand-balancing act. He and his teammates would—seemingly effortlessly—become a tangle of legs and arms as they balanced against each other, displaying amazing athletic prowess and coordination. He even participated in the Mr. Minnesota contest.

In time, Joe graduated from college, married, started a family, and worked as a physical education instructor

and elementary school teacher. Always willing to be a helpful, positive role model, Joe shared his physical fitness philosophy with students and others who felt the magnetism of his positive outlook and kind spirit. "I think we are expected to live a full life, to do as much as we can," Joe tells a visitor. "Did I help somebody today? I hope so," he says with a gentle nod and warm smile.

Joe's positive outlook continues to serve him well. At age 88, he regularly exercises at a Minneapolis health club. He climbs aboard an exercise bike and quickly punches a series of buttons to get the high-tech cycle activated. He spends 20 minutes on the bike and never grows breathless.

"It's easy to say what's the use, I'm old, I'm not going to live much longer," he says. "Well, none of us know that. Age is a factor, but it certainly isn't a barrier. I feel better every time I work out."

"We need to make the most of our time that we have. Just lying back and waiting for the ultimate to happen is wasteful, it can be painful, and it certainly doesn't help your state of mind. Keep going. Don't give up; don't talk yourself out of it. Try it, do a little more."

Joe's positive attitude, enthusiasm, and encouragement are contagious. So much so that he is compelled to share it. Once a week, he dons his hat and drives across town to volunteer at another senior campus.



*Joe visits with a friend during one of his volunteer visits to another senior care campus.*

"Good to see you," Joe says as he greets Shirley, a nursing home resident enjoying the view out of a sunroom window. Joe quickly notices a book in her hand. "You read a lot don't you," he asks taking her other hand in his. "I do," she says with a smile. "I've read myself all over the world." "Keep doing it. You're wonderful," Joe exclaims. He kisses her hand and hugs her goodbye. "He's wonderful," Shirley whispers as Joe heads for his next visit.

Joe shakes hands with friends as he walks the halls, offering words of encouragement, and promising to bring communion next time. "It's a big uplift to be able to help somebody. They're so appreciative of what you do," Joe explains. "We understand one another, we understand what aches and pains are, we understand what it means to have faith. It's a good feeling to do this. It gives me a sense of accomplishment. I'm being rewarded. To me this is living, being active and not dozing."

Joe moved to MainStreet Lodge after his wife, Patricia, died to avoid a stressful decision for his children later when he entered the inevitable frail period of life. He enjoys the lodge's friendly atmosphere and his abundance of friends. "I love it here," Joe says. "From the day I got here I thought this is going to be wonderful. The food is great, I made friends right away, and the church is next door."

A devout Catholic, Joe explains that his faith grows stronger with age, a factor that contributes to his overall well-being and positive frame of mind. "I don't think there's anything more important than faith. If you haven't got faith it's a pretty sad life. I've found that so many more things are happening to me that I thought could never happen – good things."

Joe, who was a competitive swimmer until only a few years ago, says life gets fuller and richer with each year. His children and grandchildren are nearby and visit often. Joe now uses a cane to help him maintain balance, but he seldom seems to need it, usually choosing the stairs over the elevator. "I don't really think of it as aging. It's just being with people, loving them and being loved in return. That just grows."

Living fully, regardless of age or health challenges is the essence of Catholic Eldercare's philosophy of vital living, and Joe Cavaleri is a beautiful example.

## Open House and Blessing Cap Catholic Eldercare On Main Remodeling Project

An open house for the newly remodeled Catholic Eldercare On Main nursing home was held July 10, 2007. More than 100 guests took the opportunity to walk through the public areas of the residence and admire the new furnishings and color schemes.

Father Earl Simonson, pastor of St. Clement's Catholic Church in Northeast Minneapolis, officially blessed the remodeled residence.

The renovation was funded, in part, through private gifts to the ongoing Renewing the Spirit Capital Fund Drive.



## VOLUNTEER PHYLLIS HUPP

# Serving the Greatest Generation With Kindness and Friendship

*“When you get older, you want the time and attention of others. You don’t need things, you need people.”*

Every Monday is laundry day for volunteer Phyllis Hupp and her friends in Catholic Eldercare’s laundry department. And there’s plenty to wash, mend, label, and fold when you have 150 residents living under one roof. Phyllis has always liked doing laundry, so when she decided to volunteer in 1999, laundry was a logical choice. “I’ve just always enjoyed wash day at home,” she says with a laugh.

Phyllis also keeps busy documenting the hours of service provided by nearly 200 volunteers on Catholic Eldercare’s two campuses.

Life’s transitions led her to Catholic Eldercare. Her mother was a resident of MainStreet Lodge and later the nursing home briefly, before she died in 1997. Two years later, when Phyllis retired, she decided that volunteering would be a wonderful way to serve the community and be with special friends, between the visits with her children and grandchildren. “I really enjoy the volunteer work. I’ve made a lot of friends here among the residents, volunteers and staff. They are all very kind, caring people, very compassionate,” she says.

### Life as a patchwork quilt

She quickly discovered that Beth Wizik, therapeutic recreation and volunteer director, also enjoys quilting, one of Phyllis’ passions. “I just love quilting, using my mind to be creative by using colorful swatches to create something beautiful. It’s like our lives, each swatch is a person or experience, and they all come together to make this quilt of a life.”

Phyllis’ quilting passion took on profound importance when the Dignity Quilting Group was organized, with Beth Wizik’s help. More than half a dozen quilts have been busily working on three quilts, one for each floor of the nursing

home. These quilts will have a very special use; when a resident dies, one of the quilts will be used to cover their beds until family can remove personal belongings. “We felt it was a measure of dignity we could offer to honor the resident and respect the family,” Phyllis said. “No one wants to go into an empty room after a death and see that stripped down, unmade bed. It’s just too cold and stark.” The quilts also will be used to cover the resident’s body when the funeral home representative removes them from the nursing home. “The quilt covers them as they leave Eldercare, their home. Each patch represents an aspect of life. It’s our way of extending a simple kindness to honor them.”

So far, the Dignity Quilting Group team has completed two quilts and is currently working on a third.

Phyllis says it’s always difficult to see a resident die, but she takes comfort in the long, full lives most have enjoyed. She also remembers the more profoundly painful realities of serving this World War II generation. She remembers Maria, a Polish nursing home resident who lost seven of her nine children in the dark horror of a concentration camp. “I remember wondering how could she go on after that? Such strength, so much resilience among that generation; they are an example for all of us.”

Phyllis is devoted to volunteering, recognizing the value of the friendship and the attention for the elders. “When you get older, you want the time and attention of others. You don’t need things, you need people. You want to visit and laugh. Every time I come here, I strive to be more attentive and friendlier.”

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Beth Wizik, therapeutic recreation and volunteer manager, at 612-362-2417.



*Phyllis Hupp shows one of the quilts made by the Dignity Quilting Group for a very special purpose.*



*Phyllis Hupp, center, has served as a volunteer for eight years, making many good friends along the way, including laundry staffers Jannie Merchant, left, and Polly Balko.*

# GENEROUS FRIENDS

The excellent care and services Catholic Eldercare brings to the community's elders is possible through the generosity of many supporters. We acknowledge their friendship, support, and ongoing commitment.

These gifts represent gifts and pledges from May 1, 2007, through Sept. 30, 2007.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy.

If you see an error or omission, please contact the Office of Development at 612-379-1370.

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## LEAVE A LEGACY

# Your Family Benefits with a Gift Annuity

When doing year-end tax and estate planning, consider a Catholic Eldercare charitable gift annuity. The concept of a gift annuity is simple: A person wishing to support this important mission makes a gift to Catholic Eldercare. Catholic Eldercare reinvests the assets and agrees to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life (and, if desired, for another beneficiary's lifetime). Upon the death of the last beneficiary, the funds are available for Catholic Eldercare's use to help fund its vital work.

### How You Benefit

The annuity rate determines the dollar amount returned to you annually as a percentage of the value of your gift, and these rates are related to the ages of the recipients. The contract specifies the frequency of payments and the date of the first payment.

You benefit in a number of ways. You receive substantial tax benefits, are able to support Catholic Eldercare's important mission, and ensure your own loved ones' financial security.

An attractive fixed interest rate provides you with guaranteed annual payments for life.

### Sample Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

One Life		Two Lives	
60	5.7%	60/65	5.5%
65	6.0%	65/70	5.7%
70	6.5%	70/75	6.1%
75	7.1%	75/80	6.6%
80	8.0%	80/85	7.3%
85	9.5%	85/90	8.4%
90	11.3%	90/95+	10.1%

For more information on charitable gift annuities and other giving options, please contact Vice President for Development Tom Cierzan at 612-379-1370.

## Online Donor Resources

1. Go to [www.catholiceldercare.org](http://www.catholiceldercare.org)
2. Click on "Giving."
3. Select from a comprehensive list of resources on the left side of the page.

The Catholic Eldercare website, [www.catholiceldercare.org](http://www.catholiceldercare.org), includes comprehensive information that can help individuals explore and evaluate charitable gift annuities and other giving options. Just click on GIVING to explore the latest, continually updated donor content.

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## GIVING

### Planned Giving

**Breaking News**  
The Rubeira Emergency Relief Act of 2009, signed into law Sept. 23, provides the opportunity for a taxpayer to claim, as an **income tax deduction**, qualified charitable contributions of cash made from Aug. 28, 2009, to Dec. 31, 2009, up to **100 percent** of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. This law now applies to gifts made to most non-Rubeira-related charitable organizations, such as Catholic Eldercare. For more about this new law, please contact your legal or tax advisor.

**Golden Strategies: Bright Ideas for Senior Citizens**  
Unearth Golden Strategies through a simple Q&A forum. Golden Strategies has answers to questions relevant to today's seniors and their families. [More...](#)

**Using the Uniform to Increase Income**  
A defined gift plan called a uniform can unlock the income power of your investments and provide tax benefits, as well as supporting the important work of your favorite charitable organization after your lifetime. [More...](#)

**Discover Valuable Lessons With Our Free eBrochures**  
If you have any questions about wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities or any other of a wide variety of estate planning topics, our free brochures have the answers. [More...](#)

**Give and Receive: The Benefits of Year-End Giving**  
When you make a charitable gift by Dec. 31 to Catholic Eldercare, you are entitled to significant tax benefits while helping support our mission. [More...](#)

**Convert Tax-Heavy Assets into Tax-Free Gifts**  
Making a gift from your individual retirement account (IRA) or qualified retirement plan offers you a tax advantageous opportunity to make a charitable gift that may help you reduce taxes and generously support Catholic Eldercare. [More...](#)

**Q & A: Estate Tax Quiz**  
How much do you know about estate taxes? Take our quiz to discover if you know the answers. [More...](#)

**Other Giving Options**  
[Annual Fund](#)  
[Capital Fund Drive](#)

**Planned Giving Resources**  
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## Creating a Beautiful Life—At Age 105



The art bug bit Bernice Whalen McDonald in her late 90s when she discovered a new creative gift—painting—after joining the Creativity & Spirituality Program.

The August birthday party for RiverVillage resident Bernice Whalen McDonald was a lively, celebratory affair – after all, she turned 105. As Catholic Eldercare’s most senior resident, Bernice has an amazing zest for life, wanting to do as much as she can, pausing only to slip an occasional nap into her active schedule.

“It’s a wonderful life, a nice life. You don’t miss anything, you want to experience all you can, especially with family,” Bernice says with a smile.

“She’s still got a great sense of humor and just likes to party and hates to see us go,” says son Jerry Whalen, who knows he is blessed to still have his mother in his life at age 73.



At Friday entertainment, Bernice often enjoyed her lifelong love of dancing.

supported the war effort on the home front working at Honeywell as a coil winder. Later, she exchanged her coveralls for more refined attire and worked in various gift shops.

She moved to Catholic Eldercare in 1998, after trading her apartment for an assisted-living unit which offers the daily assistance she requires.

“Mother always makes the best of life, and she loves to laugh and spend time with family,” says daughter Shirley Bever, one of Bernice’s three children.

“She loves to have family around. She’s fun to be with.”

Bernice was born in Northeast Minneapolis in 1902 to pioneer parents who moved the family west for several years. Bernice later returned to Minnesota, was married and started a family. During World War II, she

Until just a few years ago, Bernice was a regular dancer at Catholic Eldercare’s Friday afternoon entertainment, something she had to give up as she grew more frail.

“Oh, how I loved to dance, I lived on the dance floor when I was younger,” Bernice says. “I could dance anything. Years ago, I lived at the PROM (ballroom). I was there all the time.” Bernice grows quiet and she looks away, momentarily lost in thought. “Everybody laughed and had fun,” she says, returning her gaze to the visitor. “We were always happy.”

“It’s been perfect for her at Catholic Eldercare,” Shirley explains. “She is very content at this stage of her life. She is comfortable, and she’s come full circle, back to the neighborhood of her youth.”

“She’s getting the best of care, and we all appreciate it,” adds Jerry.

### Budding Artist

Years ago, as Bernice was approaching age 100, she discovered painting. Encouraged by Pastoral Care Director Peggy Thompson, Bernice joined the Creativity & Spirituality Art Program, which encourages elders to discover and develop their creative gifts. In short order, Bernice was producing beautiful water colors, mostly landscapes, which reflect her love of nature.

“I love to draw, I draw everything. I like to crochet and do embroidery too. I like all that stuff women like, then I go home,” Bernice says with a robust laugh.

During the summer of 2007, Bernice’s watercolors were displayed in the art gallery at RiverVillage. At her artist reception, visitors marveled at her creativity, and Bernice sold several of her paintings to admiring fans.

“Bernice is a great artist. She’s independent, feisty, and she has her own sense of color and strong sense of design,” says Peggy Thompson, the developer of the art program. “She is a testimony to creativity for all of us. Talk about courage and perseverance, the willingness to take a risk and try new things. Bernice is our teacher.”

“She’s amazing,” daughter Shirley adds. “To be productive is so important for us all. It gives life meaning and satisfaction. I tease her that she’s hanging on until my husband, Dan, and I are living here, too. And, who knows, it may happen,” she exclaims with a laugh as hearty as her mother’s.

To support the Creativity & Spirituality Program, which helps elders discover new creative gifts, please contact the Development Office at 612-379-1370.



## Late Fall Opening Planned for New Atrium Library

Catholic Eldercare on Main resident Jim Kellen and volunteers Jean Turgeon and Carol Graczyk are seeing the dream of a library come true. Kellen, a former university librarian and lifelong literacy advocate, embraced a recommendation from CEO Mary Broderick for a library that could serve as a resource for residents. More than 700 books have been donated by Kellen, Turgeon, staff, family members, and a local business. Catholic Eldercare purchased the bookcases. Kellen's team is currently organizing the library and building romance and large print collections (hardcover books only). Books from the diverse collection are expected to be available for checkout later this fall.



*Resident Jim Kellen is coordinating development of the new library in the Catholic Eldercare on Main atrium.*

## Summer Petting Zoo A Hit!



**Return Service Requested**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 26****Elder Enrichment Series**Poetry: Classics in English, 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m. MainStreet Lodge  
To register, please call 612-362-2450.**November 30**

Minnesota Sinfonia, 2 p.m.

**December 9**Resident/Family Holiday Open House 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m.  
Catholic Eldercare on Main**December 10****Elder Enrichment Series**Nonviolent Peaceforce, Gandhi's dream of a peace army comes true to resolve conflict and bring a witness of peace. 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.  
MainStreet Lodge  
To register, please call 612-362-2450.*For the latest upcoming events, please visit [www.catholiceldercare.org](http://www.catholiceldercare.org)*

## CREDITS

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[www.wingategroup.com](http://www.wingategroup.com)**PHOTOGRAPHY:**John Wingate  
Bob Benson**GRAPHIC DESIGN/PRINTING:**

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## Catholic Eldercare Communities

**Catholic Eldercare on Main**  
Skilled Nursing Care  
817 Main Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
612.379.1370**MainStreet Lodge**  
Assisted Living  
909 Main Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
612.362.2450**RiverVillage North**  
Independent Living  
2921 Randolph Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612.605.2501**RiverVillage East**  
Assisted Living, Memory Care  
2919 Randolph Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612.605.2500**Catholic Eldercare By Day**  
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