



Villa St. Joseph

A Sponsored Ministry
of the Sisters of St. Joseph

A View From

the Villa

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Summer 2014

Villa St. Joseph Breaks Ground to Expand Outpatient Therapy

Villa St. Joseph broke ground May 2 for a building addition to expand its outpatient therapy department and café.

A. Gary Chace, President of the Villa St. Joseph Board of Directors, welcomed approximately 100 individuals to the ground breaking ceremony, which took place near the statue of St. Joseph in front of the facility. Attendees included residents, staff, family, and board members of the Villa as well as community dignitaries, project representatives, and Sisters of St. Joseph.

The 2,500-square-foot expansion project will allow Villa St. Joseph to meet the growing need for outpatient therapy in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The outpatient therapy department, located on the second floor, helps individuals achieve optimal function to live life fully. The new space will provide physical, occupational, speech and neurological music therapy services for adults to meet the needs of persons in our local community.

The first floor café also will be enlarged to serve more people and provide a new gathering space for residents, families and staff. The area will be redesigned so that it may be used to offer wellness education programs for the community.

The groundbreaking ceremony opened with a song, "We are Called," which was led by the Villa Resident Choir under the direction of Brigette Sutton, Director of Music Therapy, and accompanied by flutist Kimberly C. Pardi, a physical therapist at the Villa.



Villa Rehabilitation Therapy staff members, with personalized shovels, help break ground for building expansion.

Mary Murray, Executive Director, said the building addition is the latest example of the Villa's desire to broaden its mission outreach. "It continues our tradition of rehabilitation excellence and extends our compassionate care to persons with rehabilitative needs in our local communities," she said.

In addition to Mrs. Murray, remarks were made by Sister Mary Pellegrino, Congregational Moderator for the Sisters of St. Joseph; Yvonne Simon, Director of Rehabilitation Services; and Paul Winkler, President and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare. Also participating in the ceremony were Laurie Grant, Director of Food and Nutrition Services; Jill Miller, Director of Admissions; and Sister Michelle Prah, Motherhouse Administrator for the Sisters of St. Joseph and the first Administrator of the Villa.

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Villa St. Joseph Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

Villa St. Joseph is a place of healing committed to excellence in compassionate care serving the health needs of older adults, as well as those in the wider community in need of our expanding services.

As a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, all that we do witnesses to a profound love of God and love of neighbor, without distinction, with deep respect for the sacredness of human life, and the dignity of person.

For Your Information

The *View from the Villa* is published regularly for residents, families, employees and friends of Villa St. Joseph. Please address all correspondence to:

View from the Villa
Villa St. Joseph
1030 State Street
Baden, PA 15005-1346

Dear Friends of Villa St. Joseph,



Mary M. Murray

The expansion of our café and outpatient therapy areas represents a transition into the future for Villa St. Joseph. The future of health care includes more emphasis on providing services in the community, such as outpatient services. Villa St. Joseph must be ready to meet future community needs, and this expansion is our first big step in this direction.

We are pleased to report that our construction is making steady progress. The cement blocks are being put in place, and the building shell is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. There will then be a lot of work completed inside the building's four walls to get ready for our grand opening later in the fall.

Similarly, much work is happening behind the scenes to prepare for these expanded services. While this is a big step into our future, Villa St. Joseph's mission of "excellence in compassionate care" will continue to flourish in this new location for community services.

Stay tuned to hear more about the details of these new services – and future directions for Villa St. Joseph. As always, thanks go to our wonderful supporters who make these future steps possible.

With warmest regards.

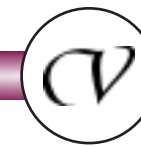
Mary M. Murray, MPH, NHA
Executive Director

Letter from Friends

Dear Villa Family,

We'll never be able to say all we feel about the Godly ministry you have at Villa St. Joseph. We know Mom was certainly blessed when the Lord made a place for her with you. Your kindness to Mom and your encouragement and comfort to all of us were so precious. We love Mom so much and are so thankful for all you did for her and all of us. All areas of the Villa were so wonderful.

- Wayne and Susan Boggs and Family



Following a prayer led by Sister Carolyn Wiethorn, Director of Pastoral Care, the Rev. David Scharf, Chaplain, blessed the grounds and guests.

During the ceremony, eight persons turned the soil, using four shovels that were used in previous ground breakings on the campus of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The earliest shovel dates to 1923 when the Sisters began the building of their chapel, and the most recent was used in the 1995 ground breaking for Villa St. Joseph, which was opened two years later by the Sisters.

The opportunity to break ground was particularly poignant for Bill DiCioccio, a former rehabilitation resident and outpatient at the Villa. He and his wife, Carla, credit the Villa staff's "expertise and patience" for helping Bill recover from a serious accident and gain the ability to walk again. The couple, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the day of the groundbreaking, praised the Villa staff for its "compassion, dedication and commitment."



Carla and Bill DiCioccio

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mrs. Simon presented each member of the rehabilitation services staff with a bright red souvenir shovel bearing each one's name and the date of the groundbreaking. Together, as a team, they, too, dug into the dirt.

The \$975,000 project will be funded by grants, private donations and other revenues. The building addition was designed by Rothschild Doyno Collaborative and is being built by Mistick Construction Company. The project is expected to be complete by November 2014.

Prayer at Groundbreaking Ceremony

Dear God,

You break into our lives like spring rain with untold grace and healing.

As we break ground on Mother Earth in order to serve your people, pour your own compassion and love through us so that we will continue to be your instruments of healing, beauty and of companionship.

Always, we ask this in your name, the name of Christ your Son,

Amen.

- Sister Carolyn Wiethorn, Director of Pastoral Care



Gala Event to Benefit Benevolent Care, Music Therapy

Villa St. Joseph will present *Young at Heart 2014*, its signature fund-raising gala, on Friday, September 19, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency at Pittsburgh International Airport.

With a theme of "home is where the heart is," the event begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception featuring music by the Center for Young Musicians, which will be followed by dinner. Also performing is local singer Mario Cafarelli.

Special guest is The Most Rev. Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, who will offer grace. Sister Patricia Phillips, vice president of the Villa St. Joseph Board of Directors, is the emcee.

At the event, Eugene A. Giotto of Sewickley will receive the 2014 *Partner in Caring* award, which honors individuals, groups or organizations who help promote the mission of the Villa. Mr. Giotto, a trial attorney, completed nine years of service on the Villa board this past June.



"We are thankful for Gene's wise counsel over the years, and his steadfast diligence in support of our mission of excellence in compassionate care," said Mary Murray, Executive Director of the Villa.

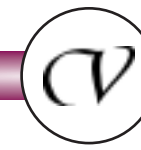
Joe and Bonnie Makarewicz of Economy Borough, longtime volunteers at the Villa, are co-chairpersons of this year's event that raises funds for Music Therapy and Benevolent Care, which provides approximately \$400,000 annually to more than 60 percent of the Villa residents. An array of silent auction items will be offered in addition to a live auction by Johnson Auction Service, Inc.

Tickets for *Young at Heart 2014* are \$125 per person. Tables of eight are \$1,000. Opportunities for sponsorship, advertisements and contributions of auction items range from \$50 to \$10,000. Deadline for sponsorships is August 15; deadline for reservations is September 5. Online registration is available at: www.bit.ly/YoungatHeart2014.

Young at Heart offers an opportunity for community members to celebrate Villa St. Joseph's mission of providing excellence in compassionate care to elderly residents in the loving tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph who founded the Villa in 1997.

Villa St. Joseph offers residential nursing care and rehabilitation services, both in-patient and out-patient. It has a 15-member board of directors, 210 employees and 80 volunteers and auxiliary members. The staff cares for as many as 120 residents at a time and provides medical and therapeutic services for more than 450 individuals over the course of a year.

For more information about *Young at Heart* sponsorships or to make reservations, contact Ray Niedenberger, Director of Development, at (724) 869-6321 or ray@villastjoseph.org. Visit Villa St. Joseph online at www.villastjoseph.org.



'Country Kitchens' Receive National Recognition

Villa St. Joseph has received the 2013 *Promising Practices Award* from the Mather Lifeways Institute on Aging for transforming its dining areas into "country kitchens."

Mather LifeWays recognizes organizations that strive to serve older adults in "original and exciting ways." The award highlights organizations working with older adults that are "moving away from conventional practices by developing and implementing new and innovative approaches." The Villa also received a 2011 Certificate of Recognition from Mather LifeWays for its work in developing country kitchens.

The implementation of country kitchens in each of Villa St. Joseph's three resident neighborhoods offers the sights and smells of a home-like dining experience. The renovations promote an atmosphere of hospitality, resident socialization and improved nutrition. The dining experience also was restructured to include more menu choices, increase resident-staff interaction and design a "walk to dine" restorative therapy approach.

"The biggest win from this is that our residents' weight loss has been below state and national averages, and our resident and family surveys consistently rate the dining experience highly," says Mary Murray, Executive Director of the Villa.

Volunteers Honored for Service to Residents, Staff

Residents, volunteers and family members gathered for a dinner and an awards ceremony on May 8 in the Sisters of St. Joseph Dining Room to honor a faithful group of Villa volunteers. Christine Gebhart, Activities Director and Volunteer Coordinator, expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to the volunteers for their dedicated service.

Volunteers were encouraged to reflect upon the personal qualities they bring to the Villa by writing the traits on maroon-colored hearts that were placed on a "mission board" in the shape of the Villa's "V" logo. By the end of the evening, the board was filled with phrases like joyful, bringing smiles, helping others and sharing Jesus' love.

Recognized for five years were Harry Muders, Victor Spinelli, Jerry Tharp, Petroula Vlahous and Kathleen Wycoff. Ten-year honorees were Frieda Dolde and Lillian Ulizio, and 15-year honoree was Marilyn Kalish.

Villa St. Joseph volunteers enhance the lives of residents in many meaningful ways by assisting with activities and programs, helping with holiday decorating, escorting residents and more. The Villa welcomes those fourteen years of age or older with clearances to volunteer in our neighborhoods. For more information or to download a volunteer application, visit www.villastjoseph.org and click the "Volunteer" tab.



Sister Judith Maroni, Director of Mission Integration; Christine Gebhart, Activities Director and Volunteer Coordinator; volunteer Rita Zalenski; and staff member/volunteer Ron Offen mingle at dinner.



Your Support of Music Therapy Enhances Residents' Care

by A. Gary Chace

Not-for-profit boards of directors are in a leadership position to help advance the mission of their organizations. It is not always clear, though, what are the right opportunities for advancement, or what is in the best interest of the persons who are served.

Seven years ago, the Villa St. Joseph Board of Directors made the right decision during our *Building on God's Great Love Campaign* to initiate a Music Therapy program to help improve the lives of the residents who are entrusted to our care.

Board members decided that funding for the program would come from outside sources – the generosity of individuals, grants from foundations, and proceeds from fund-raising events. We are grateful to the friends, donors and foundations who contributed to our campaign in support of Music Therapy since 2007. For the past four years, proceeds from the Young at Heart gala also have helped to sustain Music Therapy, which has an annual budget of \$57,000. Like many non-profits, it has become increasingly more difficult for the Villa to raise funds for this program that has become part of our person-centered care and creative arts culture.

The Music Therapy program at Villa St. Joseph touches the lives of more than half of our residents each week as Brigette Sutton, our board certified music therapist, provides them with meaningful activity, joy and socialization. Residents participate in neighborhood music groups, the Bell Choir and the Villa Voice Choir under the caring and personal interaction of Brigette.

Brigette combines the best technical skills as a music therapist with a kind and compassionate heart. It is not enough to be technically skilled; to reach those who are fragile and vulnerable, one must have brains and heart. Brigette clearly has both and the residents respond to her wonderfully because of who she is, both as a therapist and as a human being.

- Rosetta Perri, family member of a former resident

The Villa now offers neurologic music therapy in conjunction with rehabilitation therapy for some of our short-term residents who require that additional service. Other areas of music therapy are being explored to align with our commitment of excellence in compassionate care for our residents.

Contact Ray by phone at 724-869-6321 or by e-mail at ray@villastjoseph.org to arrange for a visit to experience Music Therapy or to make a donation to support the program.

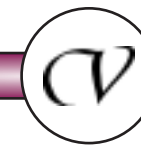
Not-for-profit boards of directors have opportunities to help advance the mission of their organizations – and that makes our volunteer work at the Villa all the more worthwhile.



A. Gary Chace
Board President



Brigette Sutton, Director of Music Therapy, shows Villa resident, Justine Antkiewicz, right, how to play the triangle as Sister Barbara Sandor enjoys the demonstration.



Help Us Provide for Our Residents Today and Tomorrow

Donate through the United Way

You can support our Benevolent Care Fund by designating all or part of your United Way contribution to Villa St. Joseph. This fund helps support the care for Villa residents with limited or no financial means. Designate **United Way Agency Code 4916, Combined Federal Campaign Code 87806 for federal employees, or State Employee Appeal Code 4611-0031 for state employees.** Your gift helps us live out our mission of compassionate care to those in need.

Leave a Legacy

You can leave a legacy of love by making a bequest in your will to Villa St. Joseph. For more information on this and other donor opportunities, please contact Ray.

Participate in Young at Heart

The *Young at Heart* 2014 dinner and auction will take place Friday, September 19, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency at Pittsburgh International Airport with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. We are pleased to announce Eugene Giotto, a long-time member of the Villa Board of Directors, will receive the *Partner in Caring Award* at the event. Proceeds from *Young at Heart* support Benevolent Care and Music Therapy. You can participate in several ways:

- Attend the event as a guest: \$125
- Consider a program advertisement or sponsorship: Levels range from \$75 to \$10,000
- Be a *Young at Heart* Friend (\$50), Patron (\$150) or Benefactor (\$300)

For more information on how you can support *Young at Heart*, contact Ray.

A Word of Gratitude

Thank you to our 116 donors who contributed more than \$15,000 to our annual parents' appeal. We are grateful to you for your donations that support the benevolent care of residents who have little or no financial means.

A Loving Tribute

If you wish to remember or honor a loved one with an engraved paver in our outdoor garden area, a limited number of opportunities is available. To complete the third memorial square, there are only seven larger (8" x 8" pavers) and 30 smaller (4" x 8" pavers) available for inscription in our rose garden!

Wanted: Gently Used Wheel Walkers

Can you donate a gently used wheel walker for our residents?

Send Us Your E-mail Address

As we transition from less printed and more electronic forms of communications, we want to continue to keep in touch and share news of Villa St. Joseph with you. To help us keep you informed, please send your name and e-mail address to Ray at ray@villastjoseph.org.

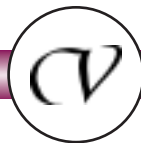
For more information, call Ray Niedenberger at 724-869-6321 or email him at ray@villastjoseph.org.



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Members of the Beaver Valley Artists Association visited the Villa for an afternoon of “plein air” painting in our tranquil rose garden. “Plein air” is French for “in the open air.” Residents welcomed artists Marge Gardner, seated, and Irene Ackerman to the courtyard and enjoyed talking with them.