After the Tinsel

The Christmas festivities have long been over. The decorations are packed away. The homemade treats were savored and are gone. What remains are the photographs that captured the joy and fun that was experienced; the memories that were made for the staff, residents and their families; and the gifts that will continue to be enjoyed in the days ahead.

Thank you for giving to the Resident Christmas Appeal in 2017. You helped raise $21,000 that was used to ensure every resident at The Heritage, The Ridgewood and The Villas received a special Christmas gift. The funds left over are being used to purchase Resident Wish List items that will benefit residents throughout the year.

So far this has included the purchase of three milkshake machines, like the kind used in an ice cream shoppe - one for The Ridgewood, one for The Heritage and one for Jones Serenity Circle. Who doesn’t love an old-fashioned milkshake as an afternoon treat?

With spring almost here, The Ridgewood will be using their wish list money to purchase new patio furniture for residents and visitors to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Additional wish list items will be purchased at all three buildings in the days ahead.

Pies and Presents

“People will forget what you said. They will forget what you did. But they will never forget how you made them feel.” - Author Maya Angelou

It’s been more than ten years since Jim Kohlmeyer’s parents Ken and Lucille passed away at St. Paul’s. He and his wife Cheri still have not forgotten how St. Paul’s made them feel. They continue to give to the Resident Christmas Appeal each year to help pass on those feelings to others.

Lucille first came to St. Paul’s after a hospital stay, shortly before The Villas was built. Later both she and Ken moved into The Heritage.

“‘They both enjoyed The Heritage,’” said Cheri. “Lucille was more social at St. Paul’s than any other time in her life. She loved the ladies she sat around the table with and played games in the common area of her floor.”

Eventually, Ken moved into The Villas, after an aneurysm and subsequent surgery left him paralyzed.

While at St. Paul’s, the Kohlmeyers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
Pies and Presents (continued)

Lucille was a young widow with two sons when she first met Ken. She was working at the Moo Shop Restaurant in Penn Hills, a suburb of Pittsburgh; and Ken, a technician for Penn Hills Electric, was a frequent lunch customer.

They married June 15, 1957 and the same year purchased the Shepherd of the Hills restaurant, motel and gift shop in Rockland Township, Venango County.

Lucille had a real talent for cooking, and the restaurant became well-known for her delicious food and delectable pies. With both of their sons grown and out on their own, the Kohlmeyers sold the business in 1968. Ken then started working for the Cranberry School District where he remained until retiring, and Lucille worked for the next ten years at the old glass plant in Oil City.

In 1999 with both facing health issues, the Kohlmeyers moved from Emlenton to Greenville to be close to Jim and Cheri. Their next move was to St. Paul’s.

“We felt that the care was outstanding,” said Cheri. “We knew Ken was a difficult patient [after he had his aneurysm], but he still received great care. The staff really liked Lucille. The facility was always clean, and the staff was always so nice!”

Jim and Cheri support the Christmas Appeal because it has a special connection to his parents. They remember how Ken and Lucille enjoyed Christmas at St. Paul’s and were impressed with how everyone received a present.

“We always gave them Christmas presents, but they made it a point to tell us that Santa brings gifts to everyone, even the ones that don’t have family,” said Cheri. “Jim and I have never forgotten that comment!”

Jim and Cheri are so thankful for everything St. Paul’s did for Jim’s parents and continues to do for their residents.

“We know that no one wants to be in a nursing home,” said Cheri. “But St. Paul’s is a great facility, and they are so good to the residents.” That is why Jim and Cheri continue to give, even after a decade has gone by.

Raise the Roof

In the last edition of Giving & Gratitude, you heard about our Raise the Roof campaign with the goal to construct porticos at The Heritage, The Villas and The Ridgewood. Several of you responded by sending in a gift. Thank you so much for your generosity!

We are happy to report that to date, 414 people have given to the Raise the Roof campaign, raising a total of $537,000. The project is currently out to bid and will hopefully begin construction in April.

We couldn’t have done it without you!
Food for Friends

It’s been one year since Patti Jones moved into Jones Serenity Circle in The Heritage. Since that time, her husband Dick Jones has been overwhelmed by the loving care both he and Patti have received from the staff at St. Paul’s. In appreciation, Dick recently decided to give a special gift to The Heritage employees.

With the help of good friend and Vice President of Charitable Giving Diane O’Brien, Dick presented four large food baskets, full of goodies from the Cheese House in New Wilmington and Daffin’s Candies, for the staff to enjoy.

“I wanted to somehow say THANK YOU to the staff at The Heritage for their loving and compassionate care of all the residents they are responsible for, especially those in Jones Serenity Circle, where my wife Patti is cared for,” said Dick. “A very small gesture of gratitude for very great people giving of themselves every day.”

Blended Gifts

A blended gift is a combination of an outright gift made today and a planned gift, like a bequest, to be made in the future.

Why consider making a blended gift? Making a blended gift can give you the ability to give a larger gift than you would be able to otherwise, increasing the impact of your giving. You also have the opportunity to see your dollars at work in meeting current needs, as well as supporting St. Paul’s mission into the future. Other benefits are tax savings and preserving wealth for you and your family.

What are common types of blended gifts? Common ways to make the outright gift portion is cash, appreciated stock or IRA distributions. The planned gift portion could be a bequest in your will, charitable gift annuity, life insurance or charitable remainder trust.

Example: During the Keeping the Promise campaign, Jane decided to give $25,000 by gifting stock. Although she believed in the importance of the benevolent care fund, she was nervous about giving more assets right then, not knowing her future needs. Instead she chose to make an additional $25,000 gift as a bequest from her estate. Jane was recognized for her $50,000 blended gift to the campaign.

Everyone who makes a planned gift becomes a member of St. Paul’s Legacy Society.

For more information about making a blended gift, please talk to your financial advisor or contact Vice President of Charitable Giving Diane O’Brien at 724-588-9613 ext. 1237 or dobrien@sp1867.org.
We ♥ Our Donors!

Whether you just made your first gift or have been a long-time supporter, we love hearing from you! Please don’t hesitate to contact us at 724-588-9613 or by email if you have any questions or comments.

It’s now super easy to give online! Check out our brand new website at www.stpauls1867.org.

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Mark Your Calendar

Our Ask an Expert series continues this year with free educational programs on topics of interest for older adults.

Talking to Your Adult Children about the Future - Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

VA Benefits - Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The Ins and Outs of Estate Planning - Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to 724-589-4667 or gfay@sp1867.org.