Community Connections

Stanley & Beverly Lysek were pillars of the Greenville business community for 40 years as the owners of a local grocery store. Today at the ages of 88 and 92, they are still giving back to the community, most recently as donors to St. Paul’s Resident Christmas Appeal.

Bev’s connection with St. Paul’s goes back to childhood. She attended school with several of the children living at the orphanage, and they became friends playing on the basketball team together.

Stan grew up about 85 miles south of Greenville in the small town of Russellton, Pa. He didn’t learn of St. Paul’s until many years later when he began supplying some of their food as a grocer.

Stan joined the Naval Air Corps during his senior year of high school, which is where he became good friends with Greenville native Joe Lininger.

Just a few years later, he would be moving to Greenville himself as the new meat market manager at Streamline Market. That began Stan’s lifelong career as a grocer. At the age of 20, he hadn’t been in the role long when he became the owner of the store.

Streamline is how he met his wife, whose mother was a frequent shopper there. They’ve been married now for 68 years and have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Bev was instrumental in the family business in the role of deli manager, through a location move and a name change to Lysek’s Valu King. In addition, all of their children worked in the store at one time or another.

Today their youngest daughter Sandi Landfried works in the accounting department at St. Paul’s as the Billing Specialist.

Stan is a longtime member of the Greenville Lions Club, where he got to know many St. Paul’s employees and residents, including Gerry Wickerham who served as St. Paul’s first director of development. They’ve also had countless friends who’ve lived and/or rehabbed at St. Paul’s.

It is a mix of all of these connections and the Lyseks’ giving hearts that lead them to continue to support St. Paul’s mission every year. “I was very connected to the community. It was part of the way I ran my business,” said Stan. “I wanted to give back. If I could help someone I did.” Even long after their retirement, that philosophy continues. Bev finds it particularly heartwarming to give to the Resident Christmas Appeal.

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Like the Lyseks, many of you selflessly gave to ensure the residents at St. Paul’s would enjoy a special Christmas.

288 of you in fact donated a total of $30,000, shattering the record set for the most money ever raised during the annual Resident Christmas Appeal.

Because of you, every resident at The Villas, The Heritage and The Ridgewood not only received a special Christmas gift but also cherished a holiday season full of moments of joy, comfort and peace.

You also are making wishes come true as we will be able to purchase several wish list items for residents to enjoy all year long.
Familiar Faces in Charitable Giving

With the retirement of long-time Vice President of Charitable Giving Diane O’Brien, some changes have been made to the Charitable Giving Department to grow the program and increase community support of St. Paul’s not-for-profit mission.

Dawn Hartman, who joined St. Paul’s in February 2017 as the Development Specialist, was promoted to the position of Director of Planned & Major Giving. She will focus her efforts on donor stewardship and cultivation with the goal to grow the major gifts and planned gifts program.

“We have so many generous donors at St. Paul’s who believe in our mission,” said Dawn. “I look forward to working closely with them to make a difference in the lives of our residents and shape the future of St. Paul’s for years to come.”

Dawn has a bachelor’s degree in communication from Clarion University and has worked in marketing and development at retirement communities for 17 years. She resides in Mercer, Pa.

Teresa Findley is a familiar face at St. Paul’s, working here for 11 years, previously as Lifestyle Specialist in the Marketing Department and most recently as the Administrator of The Ridgewood. She has now joined the Charitable Giving Department as the Director of Annual Giving. Teresa will be focused on the annual campaigns such as the Good Samaritan Appeal and Resident Christmas Appeal.

Born and raised in Greenville, Teresa is a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She is also a 7 year member of the Greenville Kiwanis Club.

Gail Fay of Greenville is the veteran of the Charitable Giving Department, expertly managing the administrative duties in her role as Administrative Assistant, which she’s held since 2015. Gail has a background in retail management and entrepreneurship with a bachelor’s degree in business management from Slippery Rock University.

“Working with people who share not only their generous financial support but also their compassion and vision is extraordinary,” said Gail. “I look forward to helping our generous donors continue to create meaningful moments for our residents.”

The Charitable Giving Department at St. Paul’s - Dawn Hartman, Teresa Findley & Gail Fay

“I am blessed to be here at St. Paul’s and am excited for my new position in the Charitable Giving Department,” said Teresa. “I knew from the beginning that St. Paul’s was a special place because of their mission, vision and core values. I look forward to working with our gracious donors who truly enhance life here at St. Paul’s for our residents.”

The Gift of Wisdom

St. Paul’s values life-long learning and offers a variety of opportunities for education throughout the year to care partners.

We were blessed to have two donors in 2018 who made significant gifts for staff education. Ed & Mary Langbein of Downers Grove, Ill., continue to give in memory of Ed’s mother Helen Langbein who lived at St. Paul’s from 1996-2009.

The Helen Langbein Memorial Education Fund provides access to education and training equipment for The Ridgewood staff. Thanks to their generous donation Ridgewood employees had training last year from certified educators in diabetic management, CPR and first aid, as well as multiple Relias trainings on topics such as dementia care, medication administration and performing personal care. Relias is an online learning tool which identifies opportunities to improve resident care.

Dick Jones of St. Marys, Pa., also made a donation for staff education, specifically on Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia. His wife Patti resides in Jones Serenity Circle.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela
It's All About Heart

There's something different about St. Paul’s. Whether you work here, live here, have a loved one here or volunteer here, you've probably had this thought. That something special is a culture that has been shaped and built over decades by countless hands and hearts and is based on a philosophy of care called the Eden Alternative.

The goal of the Eden Alternative is to create a meaningful life for the people who live and work at St. Paul’s. What defines a meaningful life? That’s different for everyone, but there are some core tenants - the chance to build healthy relationships, the encouragement to grow and learn new things, the opportunity to give as well as receive care and the excitement of variety and spontaneity in daily life.

Donors support these efforts by directing gifts to the Eden Alternative. On February 1, we kicked off our first ever crowdfunding campaign “It’s All About Heart” on St. Paul’s Facebook page. Crowdfunding is a newer form of fundraising that seeks to raise small gifts from a large group of people via the internet.

“It’s All About Heart” will raise funds for the Eden Alternative to support the making of special moments like these ...

As a result of Dick’s gift, renowned Certified Dementia Practitioner and Certified Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Trainer Lori Dierolf came to St. Paul’s in September and offered a Lunch and Learn for the public on “Understanding Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease,” as well as three sessions for the staff.

Lori will return on March 13 & 14 to talk about “Decoding the Challenging Behaviors of Dementia.” The community is invited to attend a Lunch and Learn from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on March 13 at The Heritage. Please RSVP to Jennie Kather at 724-589-4646 by March 4 if you would like to attend. Five sessions for the staff will be held on March 14.

This donation also funded training at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pa., where staff from The Heritage and The Ridgewood learned from America’s leading Alzheimer’s and dementia educator, Teepa Snow, on July 17. The training provided effective strategies for screening, assessing and treating individuals living with dementia with the least number of unintended side effects and negative outcomes. This information will help staff improve the quality of care and outcomes for those living with dementia.

“I really enjoyed the training with Teepa Snow and would like to attend another one in the future,” said Heritage Personal Care Aide Katie Hrdlicka. “The education gave me a better understanding and perspective of a person with dementia and how I can try different approaches to decrease the levels of frustration that they might have. This enables me to provide the best care to each individual resident with dementia.”

I took a resident to go see his wife about an hour away. She wasn't doing well. As soon as she knew her husband was coming, she got up, got dressed, ate and drank. They held hands, reminisced and laughed. Her sons and aides were so amazed at how clear-minded she was. Their visit was so amazing. At the end, they hugged goodbye and kissed. She passed away two days later. I was so happy that St. Paul’s and I were able to make this special moment happen.

My favorite memory is when we made a bunch of snowballs and had a snowball fight with the residents. The residents had the greatest time. It was so fun to watch their eyes light up and then see the spark of fun. It brought back such great joy of childhood for me. I hope it did the same for them.

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For the first time since 2012, the American Council on Gift Annuities has announced an increase in the charitable gift annuity rates! Now is the perfect time to cash in with this unique giving option at St. Paul’s.

A Charitable Gift Annuity offers the best of both worlds. It’s a way to make a meaningful gift to St. Paul’s while providing you with an income for life at the same time! To get started, you make an investment of at least $1,000 in cash or through the transfer of securities. You will then receive these benefits:
1) A Fixed Income for Life
2) A Safe and Secure Investment
3) Savings on Your Taxes
4) The Satisfaction of Knowing You are Leaving a Legacy that Supports St. Paul’s Mission

To find out more, please contact Dawn Hartman, Director of Planned & Major Giving, at 724-588-9613 ext. 1214 or dhartman@sp1867.org.

Here are the NEW RATES you can take advantage of now and a sample illustration of the benefits you’d receive from setting up a $10,000 charitable gift annuity.

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