

Hidden Smiles... MMH volunteers/residents Deanna Creeger and Dortha Radabaugh enjoy daily hallway walks. It is a joy to greet elders walking around campus again!

The Vine

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear Fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." - John 15:4



WHAT MHCO MISSES ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS

This Spring edition of *The Vine* Newsletter shines a spotlight on MHCO volunteers and the unique impact they provide to the MHCO community. Recently a few MHCO volunteers shared what they miss most about not being able to volunteer at MHCO. The most prevalent responses were focused around "interrupted relationships, missing out on being with friends, lamenting not being able to help out, and having to cancel in-person worship services". Volunteers have been a part of MHCO's DNA since our founding, it is part of the community fabric in each facility. Over the years volunteers, residents and MHCO team members have joined together to help with resident events, activities, outings, worship, and celebrations. This past year, these life-enriching routines have not been able to happen or have just not happened in the same way due to COVID-19.

Since late 2020 we are thankful for the incremental steps and improvements which have allowed some things to move forward. The first volunteer activities to kick off were virtual Bible studies with the support of Pastoral leaders from area churches. These bi-monthly Bible studies via zoom have continued for residents at Maple Crest. Initially, we imagined all communities would want to be active but Zoom meetings are not appreciated by everyone. In late October '20, the Our Daily Bread Mobile Meals program in Bluffton and Pandora restarted with nearly 30 volunteer drivers. More recently the Volunteer Medical Transport program was renewed in late March '21. With each program restart we are hopeful and look forward to when volunteers might be able to return to

more traditional indoor activities. For more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities at MHCO, stay tuned to our website and Bluffton ICON for a listing of volunteer opportunities as our campus situation allow.

We do our best to document volunteers, hours, and activities in our volunteer program. Our records for 2020 highlight a drastic reduction of volunteers and hours from the previous year due to COVID-19. In 2019 569 people served 9,299 hours, while in 2020 we had 323 volunteers serve 3,857 hours. The reduction of hours also reflects a decline in the quality of meaningful engagement and relationships between residents, volunteers and MHCO team members.

Residents shared they miss interacting with volunteers when they go out for medical transport or are on a wheelchair trip to the hair salon. Both elders and staff mentioned how much they miss in-person entertainment, especially piano playing and singing. Volunteers are invaluable to MHCO and help make this place special. We are hopeful and look forward for the next volunteer program restart at MHCO. Volunteers, know you have been greatly missed and we look forward to when you can come back! ■

For more information about upcoming volunteer opportunities at MHCO, stay tuned to our website and Bluffton ICON for a listing of volunteer opportunities.



A WORD FROM DAREN

This year, perhaps above any in recent memory, the renewal and life that comes with Spring arrived with great anticipation. With recent changes in COVID-19 guidelines, we sense an eagerness for a return to “normal”. We are looking forward to a renewal of relationships with volunteers, family members and residents whom we have not been able to have regular contact with over

the last year. There appears to be an increase in hopefulness and a sigh of relief across our communities. Smiles and conversation are increasing. We are holding on to these bright spots and renewed relationships as we continue the work to ensure the future of MHCO and the care for our residents and children provided in your communities.

With ongoing and changing news concerning the resurgence in COVID, please continue joining us in slowing the spread of COVID by wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, washing hands often and considering a vaccine based on the recommendation of your health care professional.

The following is an adapted prayer from “Every Moment Holy: Volume 1”. May these words and thoughts pervade our hearts and minds:

Lord, we are gathered here, unique individuals designed to be at this point in history. May your purposes be accomplished among us. Tune our hearts to hear the voice of your Spirit. Awaken us to be present to you and to each other in the time we are given.

You have gathered us in this time and place. You alone know our hearts and needs. There are those who are experiencing pain and sorrow. May those experiencing joy find grace to enter the sorrows of others. Among us are those experiencing joy, good health and prosperity. May those in sorrow find grace to embrace the joy of others.

Let us prize these moments and care for one another deeply – for each of us, and our relationship to one another, are precious and fleeting. Let us prize these moments and care for one another deeply – for each of us, and our relationships to one another are precious.

Grant each of us a place to humbly receive and to faithfully serve, that we might know in this brief gathering a foretaste of that greater communion yet to come.

Be at work even now, O Lord. May your will, in us, in these hours, be accomplished. Amen.

Please join me in welcoming new members to the MHCO leadership team and the many volunteers highlighted in this edition. 2021 is full of promise and possibilities. Your continued support through prayer, gifts of time and monetary support are appreciated and vital to the success of MHCO. Thank you for your support. ■

God's blessings to you,
Daren Lee

For the most recent information on MHCO and our COVID-19 response please visit:
<https://mhcoliving.org/covid19>

MHCO Board Members

Elizabeth Kelly, *Chair*
Ed Basinger
Brice Brenneman
Cliff Harmon
Ross Kauffman
Jared Lehman
Myrna McCurdy
Kevin Nickel
Lorrinda Smith
Bob Stahl

MHCO Fund Board Members

Brice Brenneman
Stan Clemens
Ross Kauffman
Nancy Yeager

Contact Information

Mennonite Memorial Home

410 West Elm Street
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-1015
Kimberly Piña, *Executive Director*
Teresa Lewallen, *Home Health
& Senior Services*
Daren Lee, *MHCO COO*
Barb Gossard, *Activities Director*

Willow Ridge

101 Willow Ridge Drive
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-1015
Kimberly Piña, *Executive Director*
Barb Gossard, *Activities Director*

Maple Crest

700 Maple Crest Court
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-1015
April Mangett, *Executive Director*
Joan LoBianco, *Life Enrichment
Assistant*

Hilty Home, Pandora

304 Hilty Drive,
P.O. Box 359
Pandora, OH 45877
419-358-3218
Sherrie McClure, *Executive Director*
Dee Steffen, *Activities Coordinator*
Amanda Dettrow, *Hilty Preschool
& Child Care*
419-384-3220

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MHCOLiving.org

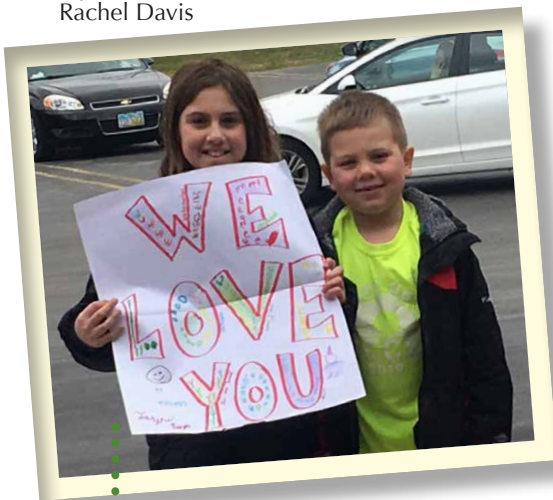
2021 MHCO VOLUNTEERS

Hilty Home • Mennonite Memorial Home • Maple Crest • Willow Ridge

Mustaq and Becki Ahmed
Chuck and Janice Amstutz
Connie Anderson
Anonymous
Trudy Baber
Carolyn Barnes
Todd Barnes
Don and Ruby Basinger
Ed and Diane Basinger
Harlan and Pat Basinger
Janice Basinger
Winford and Elaine Bauman
Ellen Beach
Deb Beer
Sarah, Benji, Ellie, and Josiah Bergstrand
Marilyn Bishop
Ruth Anna Bixel
Phyllis Bixler
Bluffton Boy Scout Troop 256
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Presbyterian Church
Bluffton University
Jeff Boehr
Duane Bollenbacher
Brice Brenneman
Roger Brodman
Gloria and Richard Bucher
Deborah Buck
Judy Buller
Marian Busick
Tim and Brenda Byers
Dorothy Cassidy
Stan Clemens
Don Clinger
Laura Coburn
Mary Coletta
Everett Collier
Columbus Grove Leo Club
Greg and Edna Conkling
Dorothy Couch
Becky Cox
Bill Croft
Rita Dietrich
Joyce Daniels
Rachel Davis

Pastor Thomas Dearth
Mary Diller
Gary Dipnarine
Butch Donaldson
James Dray
Anne Marie Duval
Ebenezer Mennonite Church
Valerie Eikenbary
Don Ellerbrock
David and Karen Emans
English Lutheran Church
Ron and Sue Epp
Judy Evans
Bob and Sue Fett
Dave and Mary Fett
Denise Fett
First United Methodist Youth Group
Sharon Flemming
Free Christian Church
Judy Frey
Mahlon Geiger
Ronald Geiser
Ralph and Melba Gerber
Harold Gerten
Paul Gesler
Liana Gott
Del Gratz
Arman and Sue Habegger
Crystal Hanna
Cliff Harmon
Elaine Harris
Jeannine Hartman
Rhody Hartman
Hazel Hayden
Ronald Headings
Chris Heffner
Ruth Hefner
Gloria and Bill Herr
Gary and Dena Herr
Jill Hilty
JoAnn Hilty
John Hipp
Brigette Hoff

Branita Holbrook-Bratka
Joyce Hostetler
Brittany Howe
Diane Huber
Thomas Humphreys
Julie Hunt
Larry and Jerry Hurley
Jane Inniger and Hannah Davis
Jason, Kim, Adam, and Max Fritsch
Joan Jones
Ross Kauffman
Randy and Karen Keeler
Neil Kehler
Carole Kelley
Elizabeth Kelly and Ray Person
Connie Kempf
Nicki Keuneke
Donna Kidd
Doreen Knepper
Emily Koogler
John and Sue Koontz
Melissa Lawrence and Harley Cheney
Jared Lehman
Gwendolyn Lemmon
Sandra Liechty
Lima Baptist Temple
Ron and Alice Lora
Lorrinda Smith
Marcia Lugibihl
Oliver and Pat Lugibihl
Cindy Luginbill
Donita Luginbill
Doug and Paula Luginbill
Greg Luginbill
Lynn Lukehart
Phyllis Macke
Maple Crest Elders
Becky Marshall
Maleah Martin
Paula Massillo
Brendon Matthews
Barb and David McClurg
Lois McCullough
Myrna and Robert McCurdy
Abbie Meyers
Dave Miller
Jeanne Miller
Lynn and Linda Miller
Kevin and Debbie Mohr
Jenny Moser
Larry and Ginny Moser
Jack and Deb Myers
Ruth Naylor
Nancy Neff
Kevin Nickel
Joanne Niswander
James and Debra Oberhaus
Pam Oglesbee
Ottawa Missionary Church
Pandora-Gilboa Local Schools
Kristen Parkins
Barbara Plaughter
Pleasant View United Methodist Church
Alida Pletcher
Ernie Porzelius
Gregg and Peggy Powell
James Raabe
Todd Radabaugh



Hilty Home Child Care students get in on the fun for window visits this Spring. Dorothy Moser raises her hand in passing along greetings.

While in person visits were not possible during extended months this past year, messages of hope and love endure. Thank you for reaching out to loved ones. Resident visits are now possible. Please contact the campus where your loved one is located and schedule a visit.

Mary Ramseyer
 Diane Reichenbach
 Steve Reichenbach
 M. Jean Reichenbach
 Joyce and Jack Reigle
 Marilyn Reigle
 John and Carolyn Rich
 Kelly Ridge
 Mary Ann Ring
 Jon and Basilda Rockhold
 Hazel Rodabaugh
 Teresa Romick
 Joanne Ruen
 Della Salter
 Teri Sato
 Terry and Beth Schey
 Canda Schmutz
 Phyllis Scott
 Jane Seibert
 Earlene Sellers
 Service Group
 Patti Shank
 Diane Sharrock
 Pat Sheidler
 Elizabeth Bauman Shelly
 Doug Smith

Jim and Jane Smith
 Lorrinda Smith
 Susie Smith
 Linda Sommer
 Jude Spallinger
 Spectrum Salon
 Jim and Becky Sprunger
 St. John's Mennonite Youth Group
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 Bob Stahl
 Betsy Steiner
 Bill and Joan Steiner
 Pat Stelzer
 Joy Steman
 Jessica, Noah and Victoria Strahm
 LuAnn Stuckey
 Kiera Suffel
 William and Mary Ann Suter
 Larry and Marge Tabler
 Theresa and John Davis
 Richard Theice
 Nancy Thomas
 Robert Town
 Union Chapel Missionary Church
 Ralph and Nancy VanMeter
 Jen Vastano

Laura Voth
 Annette Werling
 Gary and Lois Wetherill
 Nancy Williamson
 Amanda Wischmeyer and Jay Tuttle
 Kerry Wright
 Ed and Nancy Yeager
 Jennifer Yost

Thanks to all our volunteers!

We endeavor to provide accurate names that include all volunteers. We also appreciate additional individuals volunteering on behalf of their church or community organization who may not be named in this list. Please contact Chris Moser at 419-358-1015 ext. 263 for any corrections, oversights or if you prefer not to have your name listed in the future.

THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2020 - GOALS FOR 2021

We are thankful to the hundreds of families, churches and businesses with relationships and connections to Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio who support our mission and work. Your gifts and prayers sustain us.

Gifts and investments toward MHCO programs totaled more than \$212,000 in 2020. The majority of these funds are used to support our traditional programs linked to Benevolent Care and Endowment which provide resources to MHCO for programs and care of older adults who have outlived their resources. (Did you know that reimbursement for nursing care costs provided by Medicaid only covers approximately 2/3 of the cost of care per day?)

Plans are underway to complete funding for a new handicapped accessible van with additional support in 2021. A special thanks goes out to the Service Group, area Churches, Everence (providing matching grants) and area businesses. Designated gifts were also received to support special needs in our COVID-19 response. We are thankful for your generous support! ■

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31



MHCO Brighter Lives Charitable Giving	2020 Gifts	2021 Goals
MHCO Benevolent Care/General Fund	\$110,870	\$124,000
Endowment Fund	\$ 24,090	\$ 40,000
MMH Handicapped Accessible Van	\$ 29,490	\$ 6,000
COVID -19 Response and Other Designated Funds	\$ 36,450	\$ 24,000
Hilty Child Care/Flower Fund/Other	\$ 11,990	\$ 10,000
Total Giving	\$212,890	\$204,000



Church members from the Free Christian Church in Continental helped make the bug station for Hilty Home. Elder Shirley Taylor receives a well-deserved hug from a family member.

TR Steiner, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Bluffton campuses (far left) provides a recertification for volunteer medical transport drivers David McClurg, John Rich, Gerald Webri and Dave Miller (Richard Bucher and Barb McClurg not pictured.) We are pleased the



MHCO volunteer program is coming back to serve the community. In the coming months MHCO will host additional trainings for new or additional drivers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact MHCO at 419-358-1015 and ask for our volunteer coordinator at ext 263.

DEAR MHCO VOLUNTEERS . . .

Help us reach out to you!



It has been a difficult year to preserve meaningful volunteer engagement and participation on MHCO campuses. You have been greatly missed! We are hopeful in the coming weeks or months we might gradually invite volunteers back into relationship with elders and MHCO team members. Currently COVID-19 vaccines are not required for entering MHCO facilities, but we encourage volunteers to obtain your vaccination prior to returning to volunteer activities. We invite you as a current and/

or prospective volunteer to fill out the short survey and return it using the enclosed envelope or go to the survey monkey QRCode above using your smart phone. MHCO is moving more toward communication via email and cell phone. We would appreciate an update of your contact information and volunteer preferences. This will help us reach you when we are able to invite volunteers back to MHCO. (All contact information you provide to MHCO is confidential and used exclusively by MHCO.) ■

MHCO VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Do you or your organization have a preferred MHCO community where you volunteer?

- MMH Maple Crest Willow Ridge Hilty Home Hilty Home Child Care
 Any of the Above

Do you or your organization have a preferred volunteer activity for the future?

- Worship or Bible Studies Events or Excursions Playing Games Visitation Music
 Helping Outside with Seasonal Activities, Plantings & Landscaping etc. Storytelling
 Medical Transport of Residents or Mobile Meals Leading a Volunteer Team
 Help as needed per request by Activity Director Other: _____ (Specify)

What have you missed the most about not being able to volunteer at MHCO this past year? _____



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Bluffton, OH 45817

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MHCO LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

We are pleased to introduce Leadership Team members who have transitioned into new positions in the past few months. For more details on each team member please visit <https://mhcoliving.org/mhco-leadership-team-update/>.

Mennonite Memorial Home and Willow Ridge —

Kimberly Piña, LNHA has served as the Executive Director of Hilty Home since July of 2019. On March 18th of this year, Kimberly transitioned into the Executive Director position at Mennonite Memorial Home and Willow Ridge.

Hilty Home — Sherrie McCluer

Filling the open Executive Director position at Hilty Home (due to Kimberly Piña's move to Mennonite Memorial Home and Willow Ridge) is Sherrie McCluer, RN, LNHA. Sherrie is a familiar face at Hilty Home, as she served as Director of Nursing there from January 2019 until she began her Administrator in Training program at MHCO in 2020.

Mennonite Home Health & Senior Services —

Teresa Lewallen

Filling the position of Director of Home Health & Senior Services is Teresa Lewallen, RN. Teresa has been a nurse for over



*From Left to Right:
Kimberly Piña, Sherrie McCluer, Teresa Lewallen, April Mangett*

20 years, and has served in various capacities including skilled nursing, MDS, Passport Care Manager, and of course home health!

Maple Crest Senior Living Village — April Mangett

With Daren Lee's recent promotion to Acting Chief Operations Officer (COO), the Executive Director of Maple Crest position has been filled by April Mangett. April has more than 17 years of experience in the senior living field, with a background in sales and marketing for skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living, and home health. ■