



# VILLA VOICES

## WISHING YOU PEACE THIS JOYOUS SEASON

### A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Villa is glowing in Christmas decorations and everyone seems to be a little more jolly and light on their feet. The residents and their families are bright with anticipation and hope. It is the season of joy and peace on earth. Our theme for this issue of *Villa Voices* is peace—the definition of which is defined throughout this newsletter.

The 28th anniversary of Fall Fest in October was a wonderful celebration. We are deeply grateful to the SC Ministry Foundation for being the event sponsor, and thankful to all of our generous sponsors and to those who donated items for our raffle baskets. Lastly, let me say thank you to the many volunteers, board members and staff of the Villa who, without whom, we would not have a Fall Fest.

I am happy to report that we have recruited two new members to the Light of Hearts Villa Board of Directors: Melissa Rogers and Mike Wisnor. We look forward to their guidance and wisdom as we move forward with the operations of Light of Hearts Villa.

I am happy to report some exciting enhancements over the year. We completed the installation of new boilers and water heaters, replacing equipment that was more than 50 years old. We also completed the renovation of the resident dining area, the private dining room, the grand parlor and the dietary administrative office. Our volunteer garden was begun and will be expanded over the years to honor our joyful volunteers, who help make the Villa such a beautiful place.

This year we welcomed several new members to our operations team: Christopher Sanders, accountant; Rosanne Drake, fund development manager; and, Tracy Reinoso, LPN, director of admissions and marketing.

Our mission lives strong as we continue to provide compassionate, faith-based care for our residents who call the Villa “home.” We are blessed to be under the steadfast guidance of the Sisters of Charity Health System and are thankful for their love and support. With grateful hearts, we recognize the generosity of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland for the grant that supports our pastoral ministry department.

We could not do all that we have done without the support of our generous donors. Every donation makes a difference and every gift matters to our residents. God loves a cheerful giver. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed envelope and send in your end-of-the-year contribution. Your ongoing fidelity and love make possible our ministry and support our mission throughout the year.

On behalf of the residents, staff and board, I wish you peace and joy for a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year season.

In faithful leadership,

*Elizabeth J. Hickle*

Elizabeth J. Hickle, MPA, LNHA, CDP

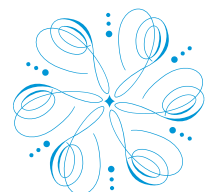
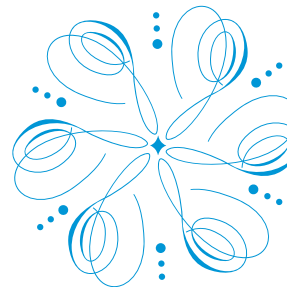
Executive Director

WINTER 2017

### :: OUR MISSION

*We are devoted to providing premier senior residential living and community outreach services. Through our faith-based values, we affirm the integrity of each person and encourage them on their journey of aging.*

*Lighting the way for senior care.*



LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

THE WORD PEACE APPEARS IN THE BIBLE MORE THAN 300 TIMES. WE'VE ADDED A FEW VERSES ON THE PAGES OF THIS ISSUE. THE MOST FAMOUS LINE COMES FROM JESUS CHRIST, WHEN HE SAYS:

*PEACE I leave with you; my PEACE I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. — JOHN 14:27*

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Veteran, Physician and Former Surgeon Takes a Walk Down Memory Lane



Pedro Vallejo, M.D.

**P**edro Vallejo, M.D., and his wife Erlinda moved into Light of Hearts Villa in March 2015. Both were familiar with the building, having sent their three daughters to Lumen Cordium High School, which was transformed into a senior care facility in 1989. Both came to know Light of Hearts Villa well in their 14 months living there.

“Being a doctor, I had been to many health care facilities. The Villa was different,” said Pedro, who is also known as Pete. “The first time I visited, I was impressed by the friendliness of the employees. I knew we would really enjoy it because we would receive exceptional care and have the freedom to do what we wanted.”

Born in 1922 in the Philippines, Pedro was a medical student when he joined the Philippine Army in 1943 during World War II, fighting under the American flag as a second lieutenant in the infantry. After the war ended in 1945, Pedro returned to medical school. He went on to become a surgeon and met his future wife Erlinda, a nurse, in the operating room.

“The first time she assisted me, something clicked,” said Pedro. The two married in 1950, not long before he came to the United States for a medical residency at Syracuse University.

He came to Cleveland in 1952 to interview for a position at what he thought was the Cleveland Clinic. It turned out to be Polyclinic Hospital on Carnegie Avenue, not far from the Cleveland Clinic. He saw the

*You will keep in perfect PEACE those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. – ISAIAH 26:3*



opportunity to be part of a smaller hospital and chose to stay there as a general surgeon. Erlinda and their infant son Peter joined him in the United States soon after.

When Polyclinic Hospital closed in 1978, Pedro went to the former St. Alexis Hospital and later St. Vincent Charity Medical Center before retiring in 1991. He led a distinguished career, serving on the governing boards at Polyclinic and St. Alexis, and as the director of the outpatient clinic and director of family practice at St. Alexis. He founded a Filipino physician group, where he was affectionately known as the “godfather,” and served as the physician to the many Polish, Hungarian and Lithuanian families in Slavic Village for 40 years.

Pedro and Erlinda raised a son and three daughters while living in Bedford Heights, Ohio. After retiring, he went on several medical mission trips to the Philippines to bring medical supplies and perform surgeries.

While Filipinos fought under the American flag during World War II, it wasn’t until 1990 when their service was recognized by the United States. It took another 16 years before Pedro received veteran’s health benefits and eligibility to be buried in a national cemetery.

“Ms. Hickle [Executive Director Betty Hickle] was instrumental in getting my military service recognized. We didn’t care about receiving money. We wanted to be recognized because we did our job out of allegiance to the American flag,” he said.

After Erlinda passed away in April 2016, Pedro went to live with his daughter, Lisa Yokiel, in Solon. Lisa continues to volunteer at the Villa. Pedro returned to the Villa in September 2017 and said with fondness, “I’m home.” When asked to describe the Villa in one word, his response: “Excellent.” ♦

EDITORS NOTE: *Pedro passed away November 5 at the age of 96. This story was written before he passed away.*

## In Memoriam

*With sadness, Light of Hearts Villa announces the passing of beloved residents. We extend heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.*

Rose Grossenbaugh	12/27/16
Margaret Pajak	1/18/17
Fr. Dan Begin	2/18/17
Bernice Jacquays	2/21/17
Theona Hussell	3/2/17
Vivian Precario	3/4/17
Rose Pivonka	3/7/17
Camille Iliano	3/9/17
Steve Stasick	3/14/17
Fred Conti	3/18/17
Mary Iannicca	3/23/17
Eleanor Tibaldi	4/16/13
Robert Teague	4/19/17
Marie Bartnik	5/7/17
Patricia VanZale	5/7/17
Marie Angiocchi	6/1/17
Violet Bulone	7/8/17
Agnes Burke	8/5/17
Rita Deininger	9/13/17
Margaret Petrick	9/22/17
Susan Eagan	10/3/17
Rosemary Maye	10/17/17
Pedro Vallejo	11/5/17

*And the PEACE of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

– PHIL 4:7



# Ways to Give

There are many ways for individuals, companies and foundations to achieve their philanthropic goals through support of the Light of Hearts Villa mission of providing premier senior residential living and community outreach services in a loving, faith-based environment. A secure online donation form is available at [lightofheartsvilla.org](http://lightofheartsvilla.org).

Additional giving options, which may offer current or future tax benefits, include:

- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Bequests
- IRA charitable distributions
- Retirement asset and life insurance beneficiary designations
- Event sponsorships
- Grants

For more information about these or other giving options, please contact Fund Development Manager Rosanne Drake at 440.232.1991 ext. 560 or email [rosanne.drake@lightofheartsvilla.org](mailto:rosanne.drake@lightofheartsvilla.org).

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

# A NOTE OF THANKS

*At this special time of the year I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to a number of individuals who are an integral component of the success of Light of Hearts Villa.*

*I would like to thank the Light of Hearts Villa Board of Directors for governing our important ministry. You faithfully demonstrate a strong commitment to our mission by your generous donations of time, talent and financial resources. Thank you for showing our residents, staff and fellow contributors that the Light of Hearts Board of Directors is 100 percent committed to the ministry.*

*On behalf of the board, I would also like to thank our donors, staff and volunteers for their faithful service and loyalty to our ministry. Together we can be assured of the success of Light of Hearts of Villa now and in the future—and we should all be proud of that success.*

*May you and your families be blessed with a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!*

## CAROL SZCZEPANIK

*Chair, Light of Hearts Villa Board of Directors*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Carol Szczepanik, President/Chair*

*Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA,  
Vice President*

*Robert J. Smolko, Treasurer  
Sr. Margaret Mach, SC,  
Secretary*

*Dr. Victor DeMarco*

*John J. Horrigan*

*Kevin McCarthy*

*Jean Metzger*

*Dr. Jeremy Perse*

*Melissa Rogers*

*Bruce Swartz*

*Todd R. Turner*

*Adam Gockowski, Ex-officio*

*Elizabeth Hickle, Ex-officio*





## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

# Former Mayor of Bedford Maintains Close Ties to the Villa



Christine and Dan Pocek

Since he was a young boy, Dan Pocek, former mayor of Bedford, has had a connection to Light of Hearts Villa. Dan's family moved to Bedford in 1955 and he attended St. Mary School in Bedford, being taught by the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Bedford, who later established Lumen Cordium High School.

He was a member of the Bedford City Council when Lumen Cordium High School was converted to a senior care facility in 1989. He was elected mayor in 2000 and served for 13 years. During that time, he participated in many meetings and events at the Villa, including coming to monthly birthday parties for residents. His wife Christy served on the Light of Hearts Villa Board of Directors for nine years and remains active with Fall Fest and other activities.

The connection doesn't end there. Dan's mother-in-law became a resident of the Villa in the spring of 2017 at the age of 93. There wasn't a question about where she would go. Dan said, "Light of Hearts Villa stood above any other facility."

*"Light of Hearts Villa is one of the crown jewels of the city. The grounds and architecture are beautiful, and they are really part of the community. Over the years, they've hosted city meetings, opened their doors to community members and much more." — Dan Pocek*

He said from day one, the staff has been able to get her involved in activities and make her feel at home. "The facility is really nice, but the way everyone is treated is what's so special. There's a sense of community that you don't see in other places. We're very happy because we know she's receiving exceptional care."

Although Dan and Christy technically no longer live in Bedford—after searching for years for land in Bedford they built a home on two acres in Walton Hills in 2013 just outside city limits—they're both still very involved with the city and the Villa. Dan is currently the president of the Southeast Chamber of Commerce and is extremely proud of a recent honor the city received.

*Architectural Digest* named Broadway Avenue in Bedford one of "The 15 Most Beautiful Main Streets Across America" in July 2017. Dan was instrumental in beautifying downtown, calling it out as a priority in his inaugural address in January 2000 and then empowering his city manager to make it happen.

"I was thrilled to see we were number eight on the list. Downtown is unique and historic. We might live just outside the city limits—21 seconds to be exact—but we're still very close to the community and all the things that make Bedford such a great town," he added. ♦

# NEWS *and* NOTES

## RESIDENT RECOGNIZED FOR 45 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE



Adeline Trzaska

Resident Adeline Trzaska was recently recognized for a remarkable achievement—45 years of service as a volunteer at Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights. Adeline, a busy mother of three when

she began volunteering, felt she was being called to “do something extra.” Encouraged by friends, she joined the Marymount Hospital Guild and later became its vice president. She also spent many years volunteering in the hospital gift shop, where she priced merchandise, stocked shelves, created floral arrangements for sale and made welcome bouquets for incoming patients. Adeline’s dedication to others even inspired her to work from home, making thousands of bows for welcome bouquets. Adeline shared some wise advice from her years as a volunteer: “Keep your eyes open and your ears open, and always do your best to help others.”



Volunteers stand at the site of the new Light of Hearts Villa Volunteer Garden at a special volunteer appreciation celebration in June.

## NEW GARDEN FOR VOLUNTEERS SHOWS APPRECIATION

The many volunteers who share their time and talents with residents, families and staff are a key part of our ministry, which is why we like to show our appreciation throughout the year. A number of volunteers enjoyed a special volunteer appreciation celebration in June with a sundae bar and cake, as well as the unveiling of the new Light of Hearts Villa Volunteer Garden. Director of Admissions and Marketing Tracy Reinoso, the maintenance team and Sister Regina Kusnir, SC, set up the area for the garden with a special plaque and two trees that will bloom in the spring. Stay tuned as the garden gradually fills with beautiful plants and flowers. Thank you and sweet blessings to our wonderful volunteers for their years of dedication and love for the Villa.

## TWO EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE BY OHIO ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION



Anne Messer



Robert Evans

Congratulations to Social Work Coordinator Robert Evans and Director of Life Enrichment Anne Messer for receiving Ohio Assisted Living Association (OALA) Honoring Excellence Awards. Each year, OALA recognizes the efforts of staff from its member communities who do an excellent job. Thank you both for living the mission of Light of Hearts Villa.

*The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with PEACE. — PSALM 29:11*





Volunteers served more than 375 meals at Fall Fest.

## FALL FEST MARKS 28 YEARS

October 8 marked the 28th anniversary of Fall Fest, the Villa's annual fundraiser. Once again, the Villa was filled with good friends, joy and delicious food. The pumpkin patch, crafters and volunteers all helped to make this year's Fall Fest a special day. More than 375 meals were served and the basket raffles and drawings were a big hit. Proceeds from Fall Fest benefit the Sr. Helen Scasny, SC, Benevolent Fund, which provides for those residents who outlive their financial resources. A big thank you to the Fall Fest committee and the fabulous volunteers who helped make the event such a success and to the dietary staff for making a delicious meal. Thank you ALL for your loving support and generous hearts.



## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Raymond and Margaret Hlavaty were married on July 18, 1946, and have made the Villa their home for the past three years. Please join us as we say, "Congratulations and Best Wishes" with much love!

## LUMEN CORDIUM CORNER



**Reunion Meeting: January 25, 2018 7 p.m.**  
at Light of Hearts Villa. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Save the Date! April 21, 2018 6:30 p.m.**  
All-Girls Lumen Cordium High School Reunion at Light of Hearts Villa



Veterans and Bedford High School band members

## HONORING VILLA VETERANS

Light of Hearts Villa celebrated Veterans Day November 10 with a special pinning ceremony. We are grateful to all veterans for the service to our country. Thank you to the Bedford High School band, who performed well-known military songs for residents, staff and special guest Mayor Stanley Koci.



## RESIDENT OUTINGS

Regular outings offer residents the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities outside of the Villa, including satisfying their sweet tooth with milkshakes or donuts and coffee.



## HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

Under the guidance of Sr. Regina Kusnir, the Villa raised \$250 for hurricane relief efforts and gathered supplies to donate to the "Fill the Truck to Houston!" Hurricane Harvey relief drive sponsored by B'Nai Jeshurun Congregation in Pepper Pike. The Villa donated Bibles, wheel chairs, walkers, shower chairs, clothing and other items. Thanks to Sr. Regina, Vince, Dennis and Betty for being good citizens to the world.

# CHRISTMAS LIGHT

*By Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC*



An obscure Light  
Rises in the sky every Christmas  
Illuminating winter's darkness  
Carving visions bathed in light.  
The Christmas Light glows from within  
Outshining the lights  
Homes and trees display.  
Its radiance  
Gleans the lumens of ages  
Embracing hopes and dreams  
In hearts of every age.

Expansively the Light casts its rays  
Capturing the imagination  
Of a world where peace  
Lives in the hearts of all people  
Where greed and competition  
Transform into generosity and love.

A simple stable houses the Light  
That welcomes shepherds and kings  
Those drawn by the Light  
Those willing to follow its way.

May the Light of Christ  
Fill your welcoming heart  
Enlighten your life  
Guide your journey into a Peace-filled New Year





HOW  
DO YOU  
SAY  
PEACE?

FREIDEN  
(German)

::

MIER  
(Slovak)

::

PACE  
(Italian)

::

КАРАПАРАН  
(Filipino)

::

PAIX  
(French)

::

BÉKE  
(Hungarian)

::

POKÓJ  
(Polish)

::

МИР  
(Russian)

::

PAZ  
(Spanish)

::

MIR  
(Croatian)

# WHAT PEACE MEANS TO ME

Residents, staff and board members had this to say about peace:

*“Peace can be harmony in the world among people and tranquility.”*

*“Peace is living in a state of tranquility that is absent of strife from the past, present and future.”*

*“Peace to me is a world without hate and violence.”*

*“Lack of conflict and problems. The beauty of the world, like trees and the forest; formations in the Grand Canyon. Peace among people in their hearts.”*

*“The feeling you have of contentment. If you can find the place that makes you feel this way, it’s where you need to be.”*

*“Everyone getting along.”*

*“A content state of mind where everything goes right.”*

*“Peace happens when people are at peace, and with everything else, when there is peace and unity in the world.”*

*“Peace is harmony in my relationships with others and prosperity in my actions and interactions with all of God’s creations.”*

*“Peace is knowing that I can endure all of life’s trials and tribulations thanks to the love and mercy of Christ.”*

*“Peace is flowing like a river, and it flows through you and me.”*

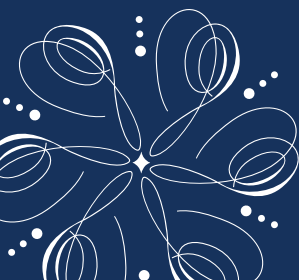
*“Peace of mind.”*

*“Feeling very calm and serene.”*

*“Things are going all right.”*

YOU WILL KEEP IN  
PERFECT PEACE THOSE  
WHOSE MINDS ARE  
STEADFAST, BECAUSE  
THEY TRUST IN YOU.

— ISAIAH 26:3





## LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

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# UPCOMING *events*

*Light of Hearts Villa provides independent and assisted living, respite and memory care. Below are some of our upcoming events. For more information call 440.232.1991.*

**December–January** *Christmas Angel and International Nativities Display; Christmas Wafers (Oplatky) – available at the front desk.*

**December 25** **9 a.m.** – *Christmas Mass celebration*

**December 28** **1:30 p.m.** – *Peace prayer for the New Year of 2018; come, join in a time of prayer for peace in anticipation of a new year*

**January 1, 2018** **9 a.m.** – *New Year's Day Mass, Feast of Mary the Mother of God, World Day of Prayer for Peace*

**March 24, 2018** **10 a.m. – Noon** – *Easter Egg Hunt*

**April 21, 2018** **6:30 p.m.** – *Lumen Cordium All-Girls High School Reunion*

**April 25, 2018** **9 a.m. – Noon** – *Human Trafficking: What Every Health Care Professional Needs to Know. Dr. Jim Collins; 3 CEU Ethics Seminar*

**May 22, 2018** *Major donors Mass with Bishop Nelson Perez; reception following*

**October 14, 2018** *29th Annual Fall Fest*



*For God is not a God of disorder but of PEACE as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.*

– 1 COR 14:33

## SETON SAFETY NET HELPS SENIORS IN NEED

There are many reasons why seniors end up in need of a helping hand: a large medication bill, hospitalization, a cut in disability payments or other situations beyond their control. Since 2005, the Light of Hearts Villa Seton Safety Net for Seniors has assisted seniors in the local community who experience a food shortfall.

In 2014, the Seton Safety Net served 66 people. In 2016, the number jumped to 177. The program relies entirely on donations. Most recently, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch S533 presented the Safety Net with a \$600 matching grant for a holiday basket raffle. **To learn more or make a donation to help provide for seniors in need, contact Sister Regina Kusnir, SC, at 440.232.1991 ext 506 or [regina.kusnir@lightofheartsvilla.org](mailto:regina.kusnir@lightofheartsvilla.org).**



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