



# VILLA VOICES

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMER 2018

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR MISSION AND MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### :: 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.*



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2018 summer issue of Villa Voices. As we look back at all that happened in 2017 and early 2018, I am pleased to say that we have accomplished much in that span and look forward to the rest of the year—especially springtime and summertime when we show off our beautiful landscaped yard and gardens. We are most grateful to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) for their loving support of our annual John Hands Day event. The FCSLA provides funds and volunteers who help plant flowers to bring even more beauty to our grounds.

In the front yard, the Holy Family Statue was refurbished thanks to a donation from author and newspaper columnist, Regina Brett and family. The statue will receive a new garden as a result of a donation to the Villa from the Bulone family, in memory of their mother and former resident, Violet Bulone. Another special garden will be planted in the back patio, dedicated to our volunteers. This garden is supported by a donation from the Pannetti family in memory of their mother and former resident Ethel Szabo. A special thank you to Jim Funai, assistant professor of plant science and landscape technology at Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus and his students for submitting the two garden designs.

We also completed a number of capital improvement projects. Six apartments received a total makeover and new seating was added in a number of places throughout the building. We have new flooring, lighting and paint in the dining room, private dining room and grand parlor. The dietary manager's office was also refurbished. On the administrative side, Dennis Koher received his RN license and Kieran Patton joined our staff as director of admissions and marketing. We added three new members to our operations team and said goodbye to three members. Lastly, we bid a fond farewell to Dennis Giangiacomo, director of facilities, who has been with the Villa for eight plus years and is retiring in July. Residents, families and staff will gather for a farewell reception. While Dennis will be missed by all, we will welcome John Ivan as the new director of facilities.

We were blessed with fundraising efforts that exceeded \$240,000 thanks to our generous benefactors. This included grants from the SC Ministry Foundation, Sister Elise Grant to support chapel music and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Saint Ann Legacy Grant, to support our pastoral department and also our Seton Safety Net food closet program. We are truly grateful for these blessings and I am thankful to everyone who believes in our mission.

On behalf of the residents, families, staff, volunteers and board of directors, we give thanks to all of our generous sponsors and donors. May you and yours be blessed with good health and your paths be filled with light, joy and peace.

In faithful leadership,

*Elizabeth J. Hickle*

Elizabeth J. Hickle, MPA, LNHA, CDP *Executive Director*

LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

## RESIDENT CAREGIVER SPOTLIGHT



# An Unexpected Ministry *By Sister Mary Ann Flannery, SC*



*Jim Hensley and Sr. Helen, SC, prepare to check on her beehives*

One spring morning, five years ago, Sister Helen Therese Scasny, SC, [former executive director at Light of Hearts Villa] made an announcement at breakfast.

“I’m going to become a beekeeper.”

We were incredulous. “That’s a lot of work, Helen.”

“I know but I met a man at Light of Hearts Villa who was telling me how wonderful it is to raise bees. And, I have read that bees are on the decline and this is catastrophic for the environment. I can do my part to help,” she said.

Ross Oriti, the beekeeper she met, began teaching

Sr. Helen the rudiments of beekeeping. Ross was retiring from the business of beekeeping and donated his supplies and equipment to Sr. Helen, and spent the summer training her.

A fellow beekeeper in town, Jim Hensley, learned of Sr. Helen’s initiative and the two joined efforts in helping each other. On warm spring and summer days, Sr. Helen and Jim don their protective suits and work on the four hives she has at her home in Bedford, checking for production, providing water and noting any concerns.

“Bees are industrious and clever,” explained Sr. Helen, “they usually solve their own problems.”

Sr. Helen and Jim usually harvest honey in early summer and late fall, at the beginning of floral blooms and when they begin to fade. Harvesting honey is a major project. Once removed from the combs of the hives, it is placed in a large extractor to sift debris and impurities such as wax, pollen, propolis, and even bee wings and legs. This process takes place in the barn where jars are arranged to capture the honey. In addition to honey, Sr. Helen has created wax items for sale, like small wax candles.

Selling the honey happens at Light of Hearts Villa and other venues where Sr. Helen is asked to speak on beekeeping. Proceeds go to the Villa for the Sr. Helen Scasny, SC, Benevolent Fund, which assists residents who have outlived their financial resources.

The lives of bees have been a constant source of intrigue for many writers, including dissertations written on the bee imagery so prolific in Emily Dickinson poetry. But for Sr. Helen, at age 85, the message is simple: “I respect what my bees can







teach me. They are among the guardians of the environment and I love learning from them every day. They are remarkable creatures of God and I love telling people that.”

As a visitor timidly approaches the hives to observe the work in progress, a line from Dickinson’s poem, “The Bumble of a Bee,” seems appropriate: “If anybody sneer, Take care—for God is here—”.

*This article originally appeared in the spring 2018 issue of Intercom, the quarterly magazine of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, and has been edited for space. ♦*



*Sr. Helen opens the beehives to harvest honey*



## VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR THE HEART AND SOUL

Studies have shown that volunteering can be good for both the body and mind, and we couldn’t agree more. Light of Hearts Villa relies on many dedicated volunteers, both individuals and groups. And, the benefits go both ways. If you are feeling a little down and need a purpose or change in life, volunteering can change lives for the better, both yours and the life of somebody else.

We are grateful for the support all of our volunteers provide—whether it’s once a year or multiple times a week—because no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. A special thank you to the following groups for their volunteer service:

- Bedford High School Band
- Church of the Resurrection
- Gesu Church
- Gilmour Academy High School
- Lumen Cordium Santa’s Elves
- FCSLA – First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
- Notre Dame College
- Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union
- Sr. Helen Scasny, SC, Volunteers for Cozy Corner Resale Shoppe
- St. Albert the Great Church
- St. Dominic’s Church
- St. Joan of Arc Church
- St. Mary Christmas Singers

Please call Anne Messer, director of life enrichment at 440-232-1991 ext 514 or email her at [anne.messer@lightofheartsvilla.org](mailto:anne.messer@lightofheartsvilla.org) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.



# Where the Heart Feels at Home

*By Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC, Director of Pastoral Ministry*

L'Arche means "The Ark." God seemingly has a sense of humor when he directs Noah to gather two of every known animal for the unknown journey that Noah will have to navigate. Today, society places great emphasis on power, advantage, authority and a "better than" attitude that is the opposite of navigating with great diversity. In the Cleveland area and around the world, L'Arche is a social services organization that ministers to persons with developmental disabilities and counters the prevailing norm.

Sister Anita Maroun, SC, is the eastern U.S. regional leader for L'Arche USA. Sr. Anita, who previously was a teacher at Lumen Cordium High School (which now houses Light of Hearts Villa), has been connected with the organization since 1972 when she met the founder of L'Arche in Cleveland. Not long after, she became the board president of the recently formed L'Arche community in Cleveland.

L'Arche celebrates the unique value of every person and recognizes the human need of one for another. Today, L'Arche has 151 communities in 37 countries and 14 projects-groups in the founding process.

Sr. Anita is enthusiastic as she describes the organization's mission. "L'Arche communities are made up of people with and without developmental disabilities, sharing life in communities that belong to an international federation. We share community life through a wide network of mutual relationships, united in the same mission and spirit. Our large international family is located throughout the world and it calls us to solidarity with our world's brothers and sisters and to welcome diversity."

As the eastern U.S. regional leader, Sr. Anita logs many travel miles crisscrossing much of the Eastern United States by car and plane.

"A primary difference from other homes serving the same population is that relationships between the



*Sr. Anita Maroun, SC, cuts the ribbon to open another Cleveland area L'Arche community; (bottom photo) Sr. Anita pictured with Jean Vanier, who founded L'Arche in France in 1964*

caregivers and the residents are what L'Arche is about," she said. "It is our belief that it is in these relationships that we are transformed—that we become more human and enable others to become more human."

"L'Arche is the place where my heart feels most at home," Sr. Anita added.

*This article originally appeared in the spring 2018 issue of Intercom, the quarterly magazine of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, and has been edited for space. ♦*

# THANK YOU 2017 DONORS

*So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win human admiration. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing. Your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. – MATTHEW 6:2-4*

## VINCENTIAN SOCIETY

*The Vincentian Society recognizes individuals who make a lasting gift to Light of Hearts Villa through a will commitment.*

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*Spring is all around us, as shown in this striking photo of a Shoulder Hawk perched on top of St. Francis that was captured by Diann from the Light of Hearts Villa Life Enrichment staff.*

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Nicholas Seekely	6/4/18

## 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
- Retirement asset and life insurance beneficiary designations
- Bequests
- Event sponsorships
- IRA charitable distributions
- Grants

For more information about these or other giving options, please contact Fund Development Manager Rosanne Drake at 440-232-1991 ext 560 or [Rosanne.drake@lightofheartsvilla.org](mailto:Rosanne.drake@lightofheartsvilla.org).

“Having friends all around.” — MR

# Life at the Villa



Celebrating Mardi Gras

*Light of Hearts Villa provides supportive, secure residential living with exceptional care through a range of services—all designed to make each resident’s lifestyle carefree, convenient and fulfilled. Following are just some of the good things residents have to say about life at the Villa and photos of residents enjoying a variety of activities.*



*A dancer entertains residents by performing a traditional dance from India*

“There is always someone who will take the time to talk to you.” — CR

“The care is super here. The Villa has a holy feel about it.” — DN

“The staff cares about us and they are very friendly.” — AT

“The food is very good. And when we participate in activities, it’s like family is here.” — JF

“The friends that I have made here.” — RJ

“There is tenderness from the staff and friends as Jesus intended.” — BE

“People are willing to help without making you feel bad and when you can, you help others because we are all in this together.” — LSJ



*Art class*

“Being able to go to Mass and not have to leave the building. A church to pray in whenever you want.” — CL

*Bedford Mayor Stanley Koci presents a certificate of congratulations to resident Freda on her 90th birthday.*



*Bedford Vice Mayor Paula Mizak presents a certificate of congratulations to resident Naomi on her 98th birthday.*



*Bedford Councilman Vic Fluharty presents a certificate of congratulations to resident Theresa on her 95th birthday.*



*Easter egg coloring*



*Monthly men’s club gathering*



# NEWS *and* NOTES

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*Pictured at the Donor Mass and Reception are Dr. Robert and Mrs. Eve Kalayjian, Dan Konfal, Bishop Nelson Perez, Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC, Father Thomas O'Donnell and Reverend William O'Neill*

## BISHOP NELSON PEREZ CELEBRATES MASS WITH RESIDENTS AND DONORS

The Villa held its third annual Donor Appreciation Mass and Reception in late May, with Bishop Nelson Perez celebrating Mass with residents, employees and donors. A reception for the bishop and members of the Light of Hearts Villa Board of Directors and donors followed Mass. “What is so special about Light of Hearts?” asked the bishop as he began his homily. Companionship, good care, faith, love and wonderful residents were a few of the answers. The Gospel was the story of the fish and loaves. Bishop Perez told everyone just as the fish and loaves were multiplied, so too are the gifts and work of those at Light of Hearts. From the caretakers to the donors, to the residents who look out for each other, their gifts are multiplied.



*Fr. Thomas O'Donnell, Bishop Perez (middle) and Reverend William O'Neill celebrating Mass*



*Pictured with the bishop are sisters from the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis*





*Join Hands Day with hard-working volunteers and Light of Hearts staff*



*Bingo with FCSLA members*



*FCSLA members make blankets*

## JOIN HANDS DAY A BIG HIT

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) and Girl Scout Troops #70131 & #70424 for their help planting and weeding flower beds, making blankets and playing bingo with residents during Join Hands Day 2018, which is observed the third Saturday in May.



*Girl Scouts helped plant and weed flower beds in the Lumen Lane Patio.*

## NATASHA WEST HONORED BY PEERS

The Making God's Love Visible Mission Award is the highest honor given to a member of the staff and is based on nominations from fellow employees. Natasha West, STNA, was presented with an award plaque at the annual Missioning Service held in January. Here are just a few reasons her peers gave for nominating Natasha for the award: "She always has a smile on her face." "She has a gentle approach toward the residents no matter what her day brings." "Personally, she is always 'present' when she is with the residents."



*(left photo) Natasha West (middle) pictured with her husband, board members and Executive Director Betty Hickle after receiving the Making God's Love Visible Mission Award*

*Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC, blessing the hands of employees and volunteers at the annual Missioning Service*



## LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

283 UNION STREET  
BEDFORD, OHIO 44146  
440 232 1991  
[lightofheartsvilla.org](http://lightofheartsvilla.org)

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# UPCOMING *events*

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

**September 27** *The Feast of St. Vincent de Paul*

**October 14** *Our 29th annual Fall Fest dinner fundraiser. Dinner, raffle, craft fair and more. For more information, call 440-232-1991.*

**November 2** **7:00 p.m.** — *Mass for deceased Lumen Cordium alumnae*

**November 7** **6:30 p.m.** — *Mass of Remembrance for our deceased residents*

**December** *Christmas wafers (Oplatky) available at the front desk*

**December 1** **10:00 a.m. – noon**

*Christmas decorating day; families and friends welcome; pizza lunch; please RSVP by Nov. 23 to Anne Messer at 440-232-1991 Ext 514.*

**December 8** **1:00 p.m.** — *A Christmas Celebration. Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for residents; Mass follows at 4 p.m.*

**April 10, 2019** *Ethics of Medical Marijuana Use in Health Care — Dr. Jim Collins; 3 CEU Seminar*



*Pictured with Bishop Nelson Perez are several board members*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ::**

*Carol Szczepanik, Board Chair  
Bruce Swartz, Vice President  
Victor DeMarco, MD, Secretary  
Robert Smolko, Treasurer  
John Horrigan  
Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA  
Kevin McCarthy  
Jean Metzger  
Jeremy Perse, DPM  
Melissa Rogers  
Mike Wisnor  
Adam Gockowski  
Elizabeth Hickle*



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