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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESAN HEALTH FACILITIES

AUTUMN
2009

Bethany House
Adult Day
Health Care

Taunton

EldersFirst
Care Management
Program

Fall River

Catholic
Memorial
Home

Fall River

Marian Manor

Taunton

Madonna
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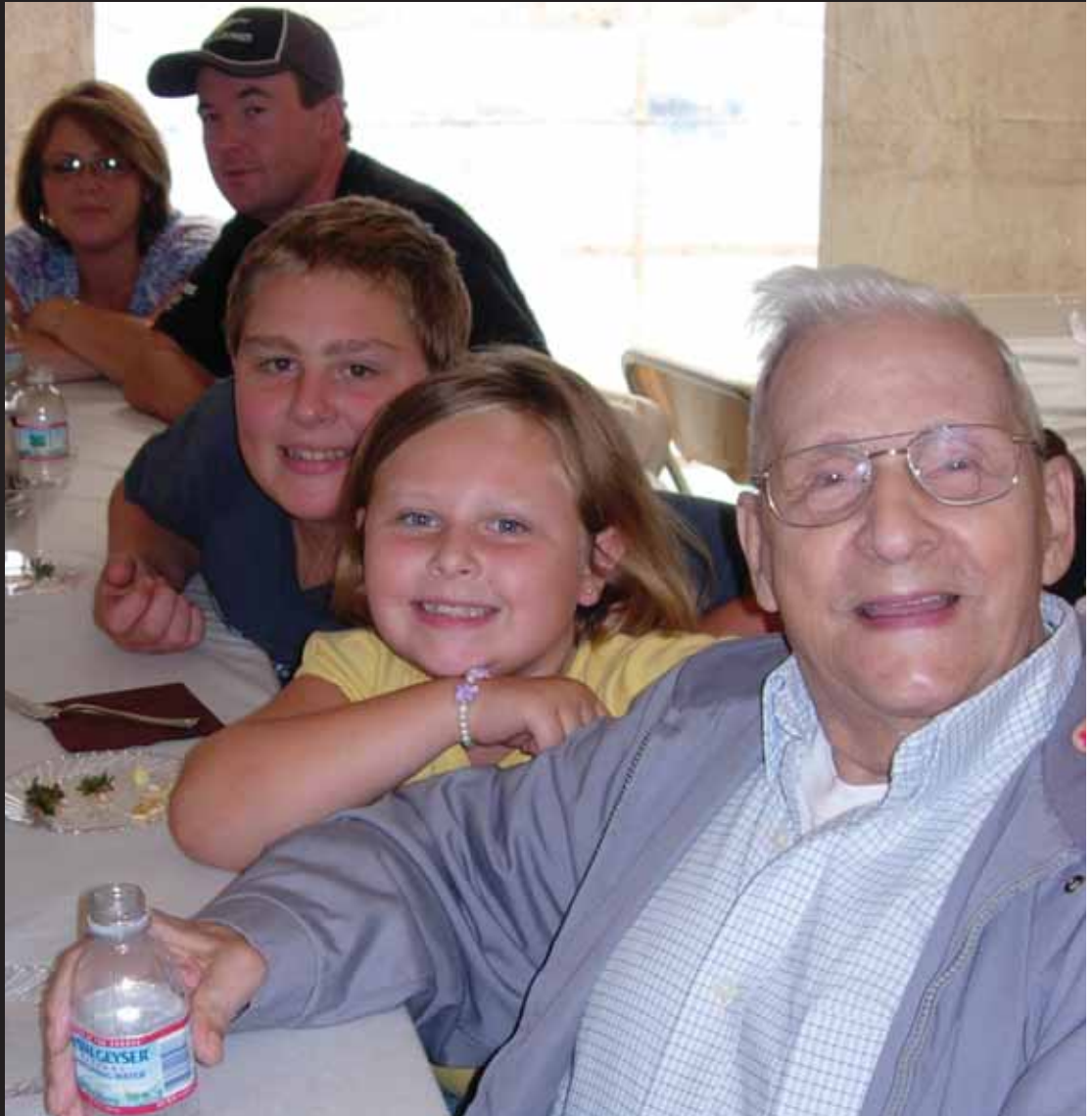
North Attleboro

Our Lady's
Haven

Fairhaven

Sacred Heart
Home

New Bedford



Families Celebrate Grandparent's Day At Our Lady's Haven

Each September, Our Lady's Haven hosts their annual Grandparent's Day Celebration. This family oriented event brings residents and their extended families and friends together for an afternoon of music, dancing and sing-a-long, along with delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Pictured Above: Our Lady's Haven resident John Andrews and extended family members enjoy the music at the Grandparent's Day celebration.

(see more photos on page 6)

Marian Manor: The Base Of History

*By Ashley Lopes, The Taunton Gazette
(reprinted with permission of The Taunton Gazette)*

TAUNTON – Old photographs of Silver City past hang on the walls of Raymond McAndrews office.

To the residents – a group that included World War II veterans and centenarians – the building itself is a wealth of history. Many living there now have dear memories of the building, from a period long before its purpose was changed and the structure was renamed “Marian Manor”.

“They have incredible stories to tell,” said McAndrews, administrator at the skilled nursing facility. “You’re in awe sometimes.” While most locals may only recognize the Summer Street building by its current name, McAndrews said Marian Manor residents recall its former identity as the Taunton Inn.

Located in Silver City’s historic district, the hotel was built in the early 1930s and became a hot spot. During the downtown landmark’s heyday, many Marian residents spent defining moments of their youth at the former hotel. “A lot of residents worked here when it was a hotel”, he said. “Some had their wedding receptions here. There is a lot of history in this building. It’s exciting for them.”

Marian Manor is currently undergoing renovations, which McAndrews hopes will contribute to the nostalgic feel at the nursing facility. The lobby area is being redone to reflect the look of the original early 20th century inn – accentuating the building’s remaining historical features. The facility’s administrators

hope the changes will remind residents of days long past.

“We are trying to bring it back to the look of the hotel days”, said McAndrews, noting that crews have been working and are expected to finish by Christmas. Marian Manor is one of the five nursing homes and two community programs that make up the Diocesan Health Facilities. The community programs, Bethany House Adult Day Health Center and EldersFirst, are intended for “people who live independently, but need some assistance.”

Marian Manor houses 116 residents on three nursing units on the Summer Street grounds. One unit is dedicated to people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

In 1962, the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation, at the request of the Fall River diocese’s bishop at that time, transformed the former hotel into a nursing facility. In its early days, it was staffed almost entirely by the sisters, who provided both spiritual guidance and nursing services.

Though times and staffing have changed over the years, McAndrews said they still maintain their relationship with the order of sisters through its full-time pastoral care director. Marian Manor still maintains its long-held Catholic mission and offers prayer services and Mass in its chapel. While Marian Manor is a Catholic facility, its residents span all denominations, and the group truly embodies the meaning of the word family. Getting to know the residents is one of the perks of his job,

continued on the next page

During the downtown landmark’s heyday, many Marian residents spent defining moments of their youth at the former hotel.

said McAndrews. Another big piece of his job is offering support to residents and their families, many of whom hail from the greater Taunton area.

Residents are encouraged to bring in personal items – knick knacks, arm chairs, pictures – in order to help make their room feel like their own. McAndrews said that residents have even requested to bring their beds along with them. “It’s not an easy transition for people and we want to make it as easy as possible. As long as it fits and it’s safe we’re all for it. This is their home.”

Fostering family involvement and socialization through daily group activities are also two important ways Marian Manor adds to its home-like atmosphere. Part of a successful transition to life in a nursing home environment is making the resident feel as comfortable as possible. For most newcomers, who lived with their families prior to moving to Marian Manor, there is nothing more comforting than a familiar face. McAndrews and his staff hope to nurture and strengthen family ties through frequent activities and outings – open to all residents’ loved ones – because “residents do better if their family is involved.”

There are outings, cookouts, and daily activities for residents to participate in. Activities include cooking, music, arts and crafts, and projects with student volunteers Coyle and Cassidy High School. However, there is only one activity that residents mark their calendars for. “Bingo is the most popular. The Lions Club comes in once a week and runs a Bingo and the room is jammed to the gills”, said McAndrews.

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Just a stone’s throw away from Marian Manor, on Church Green, is Bethany House Adult Day Health Center, that is sponsored by Marian Manor. Opening its doors in 1995, Bethany House was created out of a realization that “there was a need in the community to help others who weren’t ready for a long-term nursing home, but needed some help,” McAndrews said.

At the adult day health center, open Monday through Friday from 7a.m. to 4p.m., clients can receive nursing and rehabilitation services and there is socialization through daily activities. Transportation services are also offered to clients attending Bethany House.

According to McAndrews, people who attend Bethany House are not as medically compromised as those in long-term care. A majority of their clients, who range in age from 30-90, live at home with a family member or in a group home setting.

A staff that McAndrews considers second to none cares for all clients and residents at both facilities. A team whose members – many having worked for years at Marian Manor and Bethany House – “are dedicated to residents and clients and to the overall mission of both elder care facilities.”

Just as books shouldn’t be judged by their covers, Julie Cayer, director of marketing and development for the Diocesan Health Facilities, feels the reputation of these facilities should stand on its own. “The value is the quality of care you are getting, not whether there is a grand piano in the hallway,” Cayer said.

Second Annual Diocesan Health Facilities Golf Classic Was A Big Success!

The Second Annual Diocesan Health Facilities Golf Classic was held on September 24, 2009 at LeBaron Hills Country Club in Lakeville, MA. This year's tournament was a huge success and raised over \$55,000.

The proceeds from this year's golf classic will go toward the continuing development of Special Care Rooms at our five skilled nursing and long term care facilities.

Thanks to the generosity of tournament sponsors, participation of golfers and the support of committee members, the event was a great success. See you on the course next year!



Top Photo: Rick Kelleher, Jeff Kirsh, Julie Lariviere and Jay Asiaf

Bottom Photo: Rick Hamilton, Laura Mitchell, Bill Gady, and Jack Hulls



Annual Southcoast Business Expo

The annual Southcoast Business Expo took place at White's of Westport on October 21st. Sponsored by the New Bedford and Fall River Area Chambers of Commerce. There were ten seminars scheduled throughout the day that covered such topics as business growth, developing Southcoast, saving money on energy costs, advertising, financial management, what businesses can do to prepare for the flu, and the Southcoast rail project update.

Over 117 diverse businesses, including the Diocesan Health Facilities, participated with booth displays and representatives there to educate the public and network with other exhibitors.

2009 Pain Management Symposium – DHF And Saint Anne’s Hospital

The Fourth Annual Pain Management Symposium, co-sponsored by Saint Anne’s Hospital and the Diocesan Health Facilities, was held on September 30 at Rachel’s Lakeside in Dartmouth. The day offered the 82 attendees educational presentations from five speakers with a broad scope of experience in the field of pain management. Nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, social workers, chaplains, pharmacists and nursing home administrators attended and received approved educational credits for attending the symposium.



Photo: Committee members Kris Walker, MS RN, Saint Anne’s Hospital; Anne Marie Kelly, BSN, Catholic Memorial Home and Julie Cayer, Diocesan Health Facilities at the Fourth Annual Pain Resource Fair:

New Rehab Rooms And Dr. Mills Help Get Folks Back On Their Feet!

Catholic Memorial Home is pleased to announce the addition of newly renovated rehabilitation rooms. The rooms, with accommodations for two residents, include a private handicapped-accessible bathroom, access to cable television, wireless internet and phone service, and pleasant interior designs that are specially suited for a rehab resident’s needs.

Renovations on two other rooms for rehabilitation residents, with each room accommodating two people, are in progress and the second of the three rooms is nearing completion.

These rooms will improve residents’ rehab experiences and increase Catholic Memorial Homes’ desirability as an inpatient rehabilitation destination after elective surgeries, as well as for patients recovering from fractures.

In addition to the physical amenities offered in the renovated rooms, Dr. Shawn P. Mills, orthopedic surgeon, is consulting at Catholic Memorial Home to provide rehab patients with individualized programs. Dr. Mills relationship with rehab residents allows for closer follow-up care with visits to the residents’ rooms, as well as in the physical therapy and occupational therapy areas.

This combination of special care rooms and availability of an orthopedic surgeon on site creates an environment that eases the transition from the hospital environment to the home following rehabilitation. For information on rehabilitative services and accommodations at Catholic Memorial, call the Admissions Department at 508-679-0011.

Autumn Activities At Our Homes

Autumn is a special time of the year when the Diocesan Health Facilities homes celebrate life with their residents. Here are some scenes from activities that brought smiles to the faces of our residents, friends, volunteers and staff.



Celebrating Grandparent's Day at Our Lady's Haven



Pastoral Care Week at Marian Manor



Celebrating a birthday with family and friends at Grandparent's Day



Mission Mass at Catholic Memorial Home



Sacred Heart Home spaghetti dinner



Senior Sweethearts perform at Catholic Memorial Home



Our Lady's Haven holiday craft fair



Santa was a busy man at Madonna Manor's Christmas Bazaar in November



Alzheimer's Memory Walk

The Annual Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk took place on September 13, 2009. Each year the Diocesan Health Facilities team is one of the major fundraisers, and in past years has been recognized by the Alzheimer's Association for the team's fundraising successes.



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Editor: Julie Cayer Website: www.dhfo.org
Sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River

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