

Good News Headlines!



**SAFE RETURN TO WORK
AND DAY PROGRAMMING
MARKS MOVEMENT
TOWARDS NORMALCY**

**RESIDENTS GIVE BACK
BY VOLUNTEERING**



**RESIDENTS GET CREATIVE
WITH FUN ACTIVITIES**

Bestever GHH Golf Outing



NO COVID CASES, SO FAR



**FINDING MANY OCCASIONS
TO LAUGH OUT LOUD**

*Friendships
Continue to Grow*

**OUTDOOR FAMILY PARTIES
REVIVE SPIRITS**

*"Brothers & Sisters"
Bond in the Homes*



GOOD NEWS!



*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation.... ~ Isaiah 52:7*

It seems that every day we are hit with a boatload of bad news. COVID-19 continuing to be a serious threat. An extremely divisive political atmosphere. Civil unrest. Natural disasters. Economic uncertainty.

I won't go on. If you're like me, you want to stay informed about current events, but you can only take so much of the bad news before you feel a need to turn it off!

It can be a challenge to also listen for the good news. There actually is a lot of it out there, and a lot right here at Georgetown Harmony Homes! This newsletter is dedicated to acknowledging the good news and the myriad of blessings we are enjoying as an organization.



Art Opperwall,
Executive Director

Here are just a few pieces of really good news!

- Nothing can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38). Period! That's reason to feel hopeful and at peace when it's so easy to sink into feeling fearful or anxious.
- While we know that more challenging days still could be ahead, to date we have had no residents or staff test positive for COVID-19. We thank God for His protection!
- Residents continue to grow in their relationships with their "brothers and sisters" in our homes, and to be actively engaged in their community.
- Most of our residents, most of the time, are shining examples of how to look on the bright side and demonstrate the fruits of the spirit. They can be both humbling and inspiring!
- Our amazing staff continue to show their dedication to our residents, choosing love over fear.
- We raised more money from our August golf outing than ever before, thanks to both repeat supporters and many new ones!
- Memorial gifts, legacy gifts, church offerings, individual and business generosity, and foundation support continue to encourage us. Thank you!

The cooler temperatures and shorter days remind us that Thanksgiving and Christmas—my two favorite holidays—are just around the corner. Those are two special occasions to thank God for his goodness, and to celebrate the best-ever "Good News!"

We appreciate all of the different ways of giving:

Memorial gifts Many people have designated GHH as the recipient of gifts in memory of their loved ones.

Supporting our events Businesses and community supporters sponsor our three main fundraisers.

In-kind giving Donations of products are given in many different ways throughout the year.

Volunteering We are blessed by all of the volunteer hours given by so many.

Once a month giving The consistency of monthly giving is beneficial to our organization.

Church giving The support of our area churches is crucial to our budget.

Legacy gifts Giving in this way prepares GHH for the future.

10th Avenue Women's Home Update

The ladies of 10th Ave wanted to volunteer but there were limited things that we could do. Our home got connected with Family Futures to help staple packets together for the organization. It took about a month and we had accomplished the project. Family Futures staff was happy with the work the 10th Ave ladies did and asked if we could switch gears to stuffing envelopes. It wasn't long before we had all of the envelopes stuffed. The Family Futures coordinator let us know that every child that is born in Kent county will receive these packets for the families to fill out. Becky, a 10th Ave resident shared about her volunteer experience: "It helps us to learn how to get along with each other and work together in the home." I believe this to be the case. The other day I heard laughing on the other side of the home. When I came on the next day the staff had left a note that Becky was trying to pack the envelope, but she was doing it upside down so Julie was trying to correct her. They were all laughing while teaching Becky how to do it properly!

-Cara Kuiper, 10th Avenue Women's Home Manager

Sagerose Men's Home Update

We have had some great times in the waning days of Summer and early days of Fall! Although there are many activities we wish we could do, but cannot because of COVID-19, we've been focusing on what we can do instead. We have been able to take advantage of the beautiful weather by spending time outdoors going for walks and bike rides. We were also able to volunteer for Hand2Hand Ministries by filling snack bags for them. A few of our residents have learned how to bake! They've been making all sorts of sweet treats like cookies, cheesecake and cinnamon rolls! And of course, the residents have loved having sports back on TV! Go Lions!

-Brandon Folkert, Sagerose Men's Home Manager

High Meadow Women's Home Update

At the High Meadow Women's home we have been very excited to return to school and day programming again. Of course that looks a bit different these days, but the ladies are embracing the new normal with smiles. We have really enjoyed checking out the local parks' walking trails and seeing how different each park is. We have been able to try out some new puzzles and working on some fun beading projects. Our garden has given us lots of yummy food this year, like green peppers, tomatoes and beans. We also really enjoyed the garage picnic we were able to have with our families. We got to enjoy dinner, trivia, and ice cream! We are looking forward to the fall weather and all the fun things that will bring us, like decorating pumpkins and of course the candy!

-Amanda Reitsma, High Meadow Women's Home Manager

High Meadow Men's Home Update

The High Meadow men have enjoyed returning to work and day programming. The men have enjoyed getting a sense of 'normalcy' while we're still going through this pandemic. Each resident has adjusted well to wearing a mask and following safety protocols while out in the community. The men have also enjoyed having social distance gatherings with the other homes. Their favorite gathering was at HMW where they had a bonfire, S'mores, and pictures taken to be featured in the Hudsonville Living Magazine. If you haven't seen the magazine yet, check it out! HMM hosted a family pizza party since our annual GHH family picnic was canceled. We enjoyed pizza and dessert, played a trivia game to get to know the men better, said things we are thankful for about GHH, and played yard games! It was neat hearing what the parents, residents, and loved ones were thankful for. The men loved sharing stories and spending time with their families. Over the past few months, our home has developed into a family! The men refer to each other as brothers and I am often referred to as 'mom'! We are thankful for COVID-19 because we were able to bond quickly. We were able to experience things all together that we might not have been able to otherwise.

-Alicia Overlander, High Meadow Men's Home Manager

We are still holding our fabulous, fun, fall Bowl-a-Thon on Nov. 7!

But due to the pandemic and out of concern for safety, we are doing it quite differently. Each of our 24 residents will be assigned to the 24 lanes, with up to 2 people joining them to bowl. You can still support this important fundraiser by:

pledging to support one or more of the residents

sponsoring the event through the different sponsorship levels available

making a donation in support of the bowl-a-thon and a great organization

If you'd like to support the Bowl-a-Thon, please send your contribution or wishes to the office, or call 616-226-3473, or email hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org



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Do we have your email?

We would love to stay in touch! We send out email newsletters monthly and would like you to be able to receive all our exciting updates. If you are not already receiving emails from us but would like to, please email hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org with your name and email address.



For regular updates, please like and follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Facebook: Georgetown Harmony Homes
Instagram: [georgetownharmonyhomes](https://www.instagram.com/georgetownharmonyhomes)

Phone: 616-226-3473
Web: www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org

2020 Charity Golf Classic



GHH had their annual Charity Golf Outing on Friday, August 21st at Gleneagle Golf Club. The day started out with donuts from Sprinkles, golfers registering, auction items viewed, and raffle tickets purchased. After Art's opening prayer, the golfers were off to play 18 holes of challenging golf. While out on the course, they enjoyed trying to win extra prizes with games on the course and delicious food provided by Distinctive Catering. The residents came in shifts to encourage and thank those who participated. The event closed with specialty ice cream bars as well as ice cream sandwiches which were donated by Dairy Queen. Georgetown Harmony Homes would like to thank all who golfed, sponsored, and donated to make this event a success! The golf outing raised over \$50,000 to support our homes. God has truly blessed GHH with a supportive and caring community!