

THE GLACIER HILLS
FOUNDATION

Foundation Buzz

A member of St. Joseph Mercy Senior Communities

November 15, 2019

News and Updates from the Glacier Hills Foundation

The *Foundation Buzz* is a monthly newsletter intended to bring you up-to-date Foundation news. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us by [email](#) or telephone us at (734) 929-6703.

National Philanthropy Day



Philanthropy: the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.

In 1986 President Ronald Reagan formally signed a proclamation designating November 15 National Philanthropy Day. While this is not the only day to celebrate the goodness that gifts bring to the world, we take a moment on November 15 to **reflect and publicly express our thanks** to the donors whose philanthropy makes good things great!

Perhaps you could take a step back and picture Glacier Hills without the richness of musical concerts, employee scholarships, complimentary transportation, exercise programs and equipment, professionals teaching art therapy and music therapy, robust art collections, and group trips to the vast offerings of Ann Arbor and throughout southeast Michigan. It wasn't long ago that we would know our campus without a **Child Development Center, Health Clinic, or Rooftop Zen Garden**. All of these programs were made possible by the hundreds of donors who give of their precious treasures throughout the year, year after year.

Patrick J. Ryan said, "**Philanthropy lies at the heart of human greatness.**" We are grateful for the prolific greatness that exists at Glacier Hills...thank you so much for your generous gifts!

Giving Thanks for Supporting Families

Joan Dickson was among many residents this year who made a gift to the Employee Support Appeal. Joan opted to spread her \$5,000 gift among five different programs that are special to her. One of those programs was the **Colleague Emergency Support Program** that is available to employees who are in need of financial assistance due to extraordinary circumstances beyond their control. A total of \$1,000 in support is available to an employee in a three year period. Because it is a gift, they are not required to pay it back.

One employee benefitted from this generous support recently. His wife had an unfortunate health event where they were both forced to miss a good amount of work, and, therefore, pay. Already struggling to recover from that event, their 3-year-old son took a serious fall and again they both missed work to be with their little one as he recovered enough to come home. Because most of their financial reserves had been used to cover their move into a new apartment, they fell behind on rent. To keep them in their home, both of the upcoming paychecks had to go to rent, which left no money for groceries or gas for the next two weeks. All four parents of the couple were deceased, so they were on their own to provide for their family of four children.

This employee applied to the **Emergency Support Program** and within 48 hours, we were able to award him \$1,000 to get through this crisis. When he showed up in our office to receive the award, fear of eviction or how he would feed his children were immediately replaced by relief and gratitude. It was a touching moment.

This fund is made possible through donors like Joan Dickson, who care deeply about others and are inspired to give of their resources for employees in need.

Giving Thanks for Enriching Lives

One of the most popular programs the Glacier Hills Foundation supports is **life enrichment**. One resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, gives generously to our life enrichment programs annually and writes:

Having lived at Glacier Hills for many years, I am aware of the value of activities that get residents together for entertainment, learning, and socialization – particularly those in Assisted Living. I have supported projects that work toward these goals. I contribute annually to activities designated for Assisted Living. Specifically, I helped bring a golf cart to assisted living for summer rides, along with finding leaders for painting and ceramics sessions in both assisted living and the Pavilion where amazing work is created by residents. I was delighted to contribute to both the Health Clinic and the Child Development Center. Learning about the Zen Garden, I

immediately support that, too. Some time ago, I helped purchase the wheelchair swing for the Wellness Garden.

Those who benefit from these wonderful gifts speak out:

I specifically enjoy the musical and exercise programs, interesting historical presentations, and the worship services.

Lu Hewko, Manor resident

I sat with one of the guest pianists when she played and offered my singing voice to her piano. I really enjoyed that.

Don Fitzgerald, Manor resident

Thanks to Priscilla, our lives are truly enriched!

Mary Huntington, Manor resident

How special to simply walk to the Hanson Room and enjoy impressive, talented jazz, classical, bluegrass, folk musicians delight and inspire us!

Don Postema, Meadows resident

All of us on the third floor of the Manor admire your (Gail Pacurai) ability and your creative determination to inspire us with energy and love. We thank you.

Anonymous, Manor resident

The Foundation and its donors are our financial fairy godmothers. Our program, which has variety enough to appeal to everyone, would not be possible without the gifts from the Foundation. Family members select Glacier Hills over other properties based on our excellent offerings.

Gail Pacurai, Assisted Living Life Enrichment Coordinator

Donors who contribute to the Life Enrichment program at Glacier Hills make an invaluable investment into their own quality of life, and that of their immediate community. Their generosity allows me to engage top-quality artists to perform, which, in turn, feed the souls of our residents through music of diverse genres. Their gift is returned ten-fold!

Priscilla Johnson, Independent Living Life Enrichment Coordinator

Art Across Campus

From Sara Head, Art Coordinator



Sara Head, Elaine Postema, Don Postema, Jean Lau, Jenni Lau, and Sara Courant. Don and Elaine were instrumental in bringing Jean Lau to our campus. Sara Courant is one of the original visionaries of our Art Across Campus initiative.

Friday, November 8th saw the third floor of the Meadows at Glacier Hills transformed. Residents and colleagues attended a reception for the newly converted Huron Room gallery space. Food, drink, and live music accompanied the opening of the **inaugural exhibition**, a retrospective featuring the work of **local artist Jean Lau**.

The exhibition features ten works by Lau from the **Glacier Hills Collection**. Making Friday's event particularly memorable was the attendance of Jean Lau herself, accompanied by her daughter Jenni. She was a delightful presence, sharing insights and anecdotes about the featured pieces and her career as an artist. The exhibition will be on view through **January 3**, at which time a new exhibition will be installed.

Honor a Caregiver

Looking for a way to express your **gratitude for a caregiver**? Make your year-end giving in honor of a caregiver that is special to you or your family member. We will write a letter to that caregiver and let them know that a gift has been made in honor of them for the **care, compassion, and attention** they delivery every day. Stop by the Foundation Office for a gift envelope or visit our website.



Mark Your Calendar

Rotarians at Glacier Hills

Friday, November 15, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Superior Room (Board Room)

Insights (For Residents) Featuring Ralph Kauffman

Friday, November 15, 7:15 - 8:00 pm

Hanson Room

Insights (For Employees) Featuring Ralph Kauffman

Monday, November 18, 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Renaissance Room, Meadows

Glacier Hills Foundation Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 3

Superior Room (Board Room)

Resident and Board Holiday Party

Thursday, December 5, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Hanson Room

Resident and Staff Holiday Party

Thursday, December 12, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Hanson Room



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