

Recognizing Volunteer Contributions in a Year Like No Other



With the party planning complete and the invitations mailed, the 2020 Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was set to be an unforgettable evening with live music, great food, and even better company. Then, the unimaginable happened. The world came to a stop. Gathering to celebrate became an impossibility.

The Volunteer Recognition Committee had already selected six exceptional volunteers to be honored for their service. In late September, the awards were finally presented to these deserving people in a series of mostly outdoor presentations. Gaylotta Murray, a skilled volunteer, is preparing a video to celebrate our honorees. It will be ready for viewing on campus via GHTV and everywhere on the “*Glacier Hills Senior Living*” YouTube channel after the New Year.


Joyce Plummer: 2020 Molly Osler Volunteer of the Year Award

Each year, Glacier Hills’ highest volunteer honor goes to one individual who stands out among all volunteers in years of service as well as depth of involvement. The recipient shines as an example of what it means to serve our community. Molly Osler was our 2019 Volunteer of the Year. An illness abruptly took her from us far too soon. Molly spent every Saturday for eleven years calling Bingo in the Manor Assisted Living. We will always remember Molly because she was so generous not only with her time, but also with her friendship. This year, the Volunteer of the Year Award is renamed in memory of Molly Osler. It is fitting that this is the first time the Volunteer of the Year Award goes to a current resident of Glacier Hills.



Joyce Plummer and her husband Bob moved to Glacier Hills in December of 1996. As soon as they had settled in, Joyce put her library degree to use managing the Glacier Hills library. By early 1997, she was taking books to the Care and Rehab Center once a week to make books accessible to all residents. She also started writing articles for the Glacier Hills newsletter. Joyce has not slowed down since.

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Over the years, Joyce volunteered as a Glacier Hills historian, tracking historical information that came into the library. She served on numerous committee assignments including the Foundation Board of Directors, the Dining Committee, and Chair of the Moving Forward Committee. She taught a writing class to residents for a number of years. She is proud of her work with Karl Hauser researching the possibility of opening a Child Development Center here on campus and ultimately proposed the project to the Foundation for funding.

Perhaps Joyce is best known for her role as editor of *Ideas and Images* for the past 20 years. It all started with a few women in the Manor getting together to share short stories and poems. From that small group reading aloud, *Ideas and Images* was born as a few pages stapled together and published twice a year. Today, the publication we know and love is a robust collection of resident essays, poems, short stories, and artwork. It is professionally printed annually for all to enjoy. While she retired as the editor this year, Joyce remains active in the publication of *Ideas & Images* as an advisor and proofreader.

Many Glacier Hills residents know Joyce Plummer as a great neighbor and a good friend. With this award we honor Joyce for her exceptional contributions to our community as a volunteer.

Patty Lynch: The Ruth Monahan Spiritual Service Award

By Chaplain Paul Arnold

Ruth Monahan spent two decades volunteering in our Catholic worship services. She accompanied residents to services, assisted the deacons and priests, and led the rosary. Two years ago, Ruth went to be with her Lord and her quiet, faithful service continues to leave an imprint on our community. The Ruth Monahan Spiritual Service Award is given each year to the volunteer who shows dedication, perseverance, and shares inspiration to ensure our residents receive spiritual care and encouragement.



This year's recipient is Patty Lynch, a devout Catholic, a devoted wife, a loyal sister, and servant of Jesus Christ. I don't say those words lightly, but over the past six years, I witnessed Patty's faith in action as she served the residents at Glacier Hills. In particular, Patty's faithfulness and tender compassion was very evident as she hosted the Tuesday afternoon Catholic services.

Patty also received training to be a Spiritual Care Volunteer and visited our residents in their rooms to listen, encourage, and pray for them. And in a great outpouring of love, Patty came to Glacier Hills to care for her sister Mary Jo Lynch. I was privileged to see these sisters sharing life and seeking meaning and hope in the toughest of situations.

Randy Crites: Tom and Jeanette Gaffield Gift of Music Award

Piano with Tom was part of the fabric of Glacier Hills for over 14 years. Tom Gaffield's monthly concerts were long a favorite because he played all the great old songs. His wife Jeanette was always by his side. Because of this couple's longstanding commitment to bringing music to our residents, we give this prestigious award to a musician who carries on the example the Gaffields have set.



Randy with wife Susan

We are proud to recognize Randy Crites as our 2020 award winner. Randy started volunteering in December of 2018. Until the pandemic changed things, he came every Tuesday to play his guitar and sing in Maple household and in the Care and Rehab Center. Randy plays well-known songs including folk tunes, gospel, and country music. His gentle, kind approach and his commitment to playing everyone's favorites is something residents looked forward to every week. Now, due to visitor restrictions, Randy has recorded songs for us to air on GHTV, Glacier Hills' private Comcast Channel.

Jane Altevogt:

Tom and Jeanette Gaffield Youth Gift of Music Award

The Tom and Jeanette Gaffield Children's Garden at the Matthei Botanical Gardens is but one example of the commitment to local youth for which Tom and Jeanette are so well known. Therefore, we also present a Gaffield Youth Gift of Music Award to celebrate young musicians who volunteer their time here at Glacier Hills. This year the award goes to Jane Altevogt.



Jane has been volunteering at the Glacier Hills Christmas Eve service since she was a little girl. Along with her brother and sisters, she would carry the crèche in the processional. As she grew, Jane joined the community choir and in recent years has opened every Christmas Eve service as the soloist. Her beautiful, clear voice calls all to celebrate the worship service.

This past year, Jane deepened her involvement. In addition to singing, Jane plays oboe and piano. She performed at concerts in the Dobson Life Enrichment Center; played in households including Manor Assisted Living, Willow and Birch; and helped with a variety of activities, especially in the Manor Assisted Living. Jane is a wonderful example of a young person using music and fun to enhance the lives of Glacier Hills residents. Thank you Jane for the caring, compassionate way you share your talents with us.

Erna Chiu: Youth Service Award



Erna with mom, Vera

Erna Chiu recently graduated from Greenhills High School. She has volunteered at Glacier Hills since 2018. Until COVID-19 closed our campus to visitors, Erna organized craft days in the Dobson Life Enrichment Center for Memory Care residents. Erna developed the idea for the craft, obtained needed supplies and recruited friends to help residents create their masterpieces.

When Erna first came to Glacier Hills she said "I love working with seniors and really want to help people living in senior centers feel like they have friends and are still able to have fun. I also want to expand my experience working with all

kinds of different people, and getting to know many diverse people." Erna has indeed achieved her goal of bringing joy and companionship into the lives of our residents.

Concordia Men's Basketball: June Bennett Teamwork Service Award

The **June Bennett Teamwork Service Award** recognizes a group of volunteers who work together to serve the residents of Glacier Hills. June Bennett and her husband, Buck, became Glacier Hills residents 17-years ago. They quickly became known for their vitality, willingness to serve, and team mindedness. June Bennett took volunteerism to its highest level and she inspired others to join her.



The Concordia Men's Basketball team exemplifies June Bennett's legacy. They have been volunteering since 2014. The team always makes an impression. They arrive taller than life and give from the heart. They make our residents feel special. These men have helped all over campus but seem to gravitate time and again to the Manor Assisted Living. You will find them helping with crafts, serving treats at parties, escorting

residents to a concert, helping organize games, hanging decorations, or just engaging warmly with a resident. They do it all with a cheerful smile and are quick to say "yes" when we need a group to help with a special program.

At our most recent National Assisted Living Week Celebration (pre-pandemic), the basketball team amped up the energy of a dance party. Their enthusiasm encouraged partygoers to laugh and participate. Everyone had more fun because of Concordia Men's Basketball. We especially appreciate Coach Ricky Yahn for leading these terrific athletes.