Stacy Sheatler was hired in December of 2021 as the Personal Care Administrator at Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community. Along with her administrative expertise, she brought along with her a certification to perform a Virtual Dementia Tour. She has been a facilitator for this type of program since 2016. “I saw what a difference this training made in the delivery of care,” Sheatler noted, “It helps people to see how to understand behaviors as opposed to just managing them.”

The Virtual Dementia Tour is arranged with the following steps:
1. Individuals are outfitted with an apparatus on the feet to simulate Neuropathy, special glasses to simulate Macular Degeneration, headphones to simulate hearing loss and special gloves to simulate arthritis.
2. The facilitator then gives the participant a series of five tasks and places them in a separate room.
3. A second facilitator observes their behavior while in the room over an eight-minute time span. The facilitator records various behaviors including but not limited to hoarding, rummaging, wandering, mimicking etc.
4. The participant is then brought from the room and given the same list of five tasks.
5. At this point the added apparatus are removed and the facilitator processes the experience with the participant.

All employees attending their new employee orientation at Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community will be required to complete a Virtual Dementia Tour. This experience is open to family members and volunteers as well. If you are interested in participating in a Virtual Dementia Tour, please contact Stacy Sheatler at (570) 275-4221 Ext. 2019.
At Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community we “serve others with a compassionate heart”. This statement embodies our values of Compassionate Care, Hospitality, Service, Love, and Respect.

The Mission Statement of the Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius says in part: “we reach out in compassion to care for the elderly, the young, the poor, the sick, the lonely, wounded families and immigrants”. Compassion is the sympathy and concern we have for the sufferings of others. When you reflect on that statement you can't help but feel the sense of need and identification with many of the residents in our community and the Sister’s desire to serve.

We are a Mission driven community because it is the heart of our staff that live out this Mission. The Sisters lead by example in their service and compassion to others and therefore many of our staff model that behavior not in just what they do for our residents but how they do it – with a compassionate heart. I am so honored to be here and serve the Sisters by following their lead and am grateful that I can be part of their Ministry which began serving the elderly in Danville 50 years ago in the Manor Building and continues today. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever".

Consistent with the Sisters Christ-centered philosophy, in 2022 we all participated in a program called Reigniting Ministries envisioned and supported by the Sisters. This is a continuous program which encompassed prayer, reflection, understanding the congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and ultimately their Mission and Ministry of which Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community is an extension. Our staff are all committed to continuing the ministry on their behalf.

My childhood was blessed with loving and caring parents. Both of whom have since passed in a nursing facility, my father from medical complications and my mother from dementia. Those experiences and emotions help to provide me with empathy for those we serve and a heart of compassion and service. The greatest disappointment is failing your parents or others you care for and serve. I know our staff have a heart of compassion and service and their desire is to be part of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius’ ongoing ministry at Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community.

God bless you with his peace.

Ted Spotts

You Are Invited to Leave a Legacy

With a gift through your will, you can support Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community and ensure that we can continue to provide a welcoming and secure home-like environment where the lives of senior adults and their families are enhanced with compassionate, professional care.

An example of bequest wording: “I give, devise and bequeath to Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community, a not-for-profit organization located in Danville PA, the sum of $___ (or ___percentage of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) for the unrestricted use and general purposes of Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community.” It is a good idea to let your heirs know about the charities to which you are donating.

If you would like more information about giving to Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community, please contact: Dawn Orzechowski, Director of Mission Advancement (570) 271-1000 Ext. 8
dorzechowski@mariajosephccc.org
As we slowly edge out of winter and move closer toward spring, my thoughts are drawn to various images of light. A candle, for example, loses none of its own light when it lights another candle. That’s what happens to us when we extend ourselves to one another. We may, at times, be fearful that we will lose something of ourselves when we give ourselves; our time, our attention, our talent, or our treasure to someone else; but we lose nothing. We are, in fact, more our true selves, growing interiorly. That deep inner peace and joy within us is the light we never lose when we love and extend ourselves to another person. Remember that joy and generosity are contagious, and it costs nothing to share it with those around us.

There is no better way to reach out beyond ourselves than to volunteer and help those in need. Consider committing to volunteering somewhere – at a school or Church or ministry or program this coming month. Watch as joy spreads when dignity and humanity are restored for our brothers and sisters in need. In these times of isolation and overdependence on technology, consider turning a stranger into a neighbor. Strike up a conversation with someone while waiting in line at a store or the grocery. Get to know someone in your parish or community whom you see often but have never spoken to. Reach out to a friend who is struggling to find joy. Remind them that they are valued and cherished.

Let us share our own joy with those who are surrounded by fear, loneliness and darkness. Let us be a source of light and hope and comfort so that God’s luminous and contagious presence may be known to others. As we daily strive to relight the flame of joy in our own hearts, let us remember to share that light and joy with those around, especially those in need. Let our light shine!

Blessings

Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.
General Superior, Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Meadows residents enjoying Happy Hour.

The ice cream truck visits residents at Nazareth.

Chair Volleyball is quite popular at the Meadows!

Manor resident celebrates birthday and is treated like a king.

Kathleen is ready for Spring!
We would like to thank our Corporate Donors, Sponsors, Golfers, and Volunteers for your continued support of our Annual Golf Tournament. It is your generosity that makes it possible for our residents to receive professional and compassionate care.

**We are excited to announce that the 21st Annual Maria Joseph Golf Tournament will return to Frosty Valley Country Club on Monday, August 28, 2023.**

For more information on how to support our event, please contact our Director of Mission Advancement, Dawn Orzehowski at 570) 271-1000 Ext. 8 dorzehowski@mariajosephccc.org

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Betty from Emmanuel enjoyed making chocolate covered strawberries – and she loved eating them! Nazareth residents celebrating St. Patrick’s Day.

Thank you Jack for your service to this country!
save the date!

Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA

Summer Festival
Saturday
July 8th, 2023
10:30 am - 5:00 pm

- Baked Goods
- Flea Market
- Furniture
- A Variety of Food Trucks
- Art & Crafts
- Bingo
- Silent Auction
- Books

Saturday Mass for Sunday 5 pm in the Basilica
The new call bell system in Maria Joseph Manor is installed and it’s working GREAT!!! Thank you to everyone who donated to this project!!!

Would your employer match your donation? Contact Dawn Orzechowski to inquire!

(570) 271-1000 Ext. 8
dorzehowski@mariajosephecc.org

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The children from DACC brighten everyone’s day with a visit to Emmanuel Center.

Nazareth staff participating in a training designed like an Escape Room.
Continuing Care Community  
A Ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

The Home with a Heart

Linda Marks has been a resident of the Meadows for 10 years. When she finally retired from her full-time position, she quickly realized she needed to find something meaningful to fill her time. She naturally gravitated towards Geisinger Medical Center. Linda has been volunteering at Geisinger for over six years. She usually works four days per week for approximately a total of 24 hours. Her duties include flower deliveries, transporting samples to the lab, and her very favorite, the Caring Cart.

When Linda is assigned the Caring Cart she delivers back scratchers, word searches and other items that help make time pass a little easier for the patients at the hospital. She also transports people to surgery twice a week and this really has touched her heart. “People are so scared sometimes. I make sure to tell them they have the best surgeon in the hospital.” Linda stated, “You can see the relief in their eyes.”

“When my children were young, they had to receive care in the Children's Hospital by where I lived in Connecticut. Looking back, I wish this type of service was available to us during that stressful time.”

– Andrea DiMarino

“When I lived in Scranton, I volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House. My granddaughter was in a terrible accident and had to be Life Flighted to Geisinger Medical Center. My son and daughter-in-law were able to stay at the house and received such wonderful support. This is my way of giving back.”

– Susan Shotwell

“When I came to the Non-Profit event I was searching for a volunteer opportunity, so I could give back to my local community. I felt like this opportunity was going to be the most fulfilling for me. Also, I had a very close family member who had to stay at the Ronald McDonald House for an entire month.”

– Claudia Webb

During an event held at the Meadows Community Center highlighting various non-profits in our area, Andrea DiMarino, Susan Shotwell, and Claudia Webb met the staff from the local Ronald McDonald House. They were so impressed by their presentation and the services they offer families that they decided to volunteer with them. The area of need centered around the Family Room located inside the Children's Hospital of Geisinger Medical Center. Their duties included, but are not limited to, providing snacks, coffee, blankets, and a friendly ear to families who need a rest from the incredible amount of stress they are enduring.

I asked all three women what drew them to volunteer at this facility and here is what they said:

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Manor residents enjoy cooking on their new firepit.

Staff help Sister Jana celebrate her Jubilee.

Manor dietary staff go above and beyond to make the dining experience special.

Sister Michaeline celebrates her 102nd birthday with her Sisters.

Carrie is enjoying her chocolate covered strawberry.
Charles Dark entered the doors of Emmanuel Center Nursing & Rehab Center on July 25th, 2022 and really had no idea what life held for him. Charles realized quickly that the activity calendar did not hold the challenges he was looking for in his daily routine. That's when he approached the administration about his project. Now this project is not any project. It’s a P-47-D model plane that has an 8 ft wingspan and weighs about 50 lbs. Thus, began an adventure.

When Charles initially approached the staff about this project, the staff were concerned about the materials and creating a space where Charles could work safely. Also, they need to keep any vulnerable residents away from the materials so as not to put them in danger of ingesting something harmful. The group quickly honed in on an unused area in Unit 300. Charlie could work on his project in private and nobody else would be exposed to any chemicals. “The director of nursing, Tammy Johnston, myself and Charlie worked together to develop a plan that allows Charlie to safely work on his model,” states Becky Heimbach, Nursing Home Administrator, “It's important to us to make sure we meet all the needs of the residents, not just physical needs, but their spiritual and emotional needs as well.”

Charlie has worked on at least twelve of these planes in his lifetime. He started on smaller models with his mother when he was a young boy. This model will take 2 ½ years to complete. Upon completion, the plane will fly. It’s powered by a six-horsepower 2-cycle gas powered engine. According to Charlie one must have knowledge of engineering along with the ability to read and interpret blueprints to complete this project. Most of the model is constructed of wood. It requires sanding as well as painting, and it is completed by putting it together with glue.

“It means a lot to me to be able to work on this project,” states Charlie with a smile on his face, “Otherwise I would be bored!” Charlie complimented the amount of activities offered at Emmanuel Center, but alluded to the fact that they did not hold his interest. He is very grateful to the staff who came together to help him continue to do what he loves. Becky Heimbach commented, “We strive daily to make our residents’ lives the best that they can be. Our values of love, service, compassionate care, hospitality and respect are all demonstrated as Charlie works on his model.”

According to Charlie, he is hoping to start a second model upon completion of this one and the staff at Emmanuel are committed to helping him continue his journey.
The Home with a Heart

Continuing Care Community

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