

News From The Haven

May/June 2023

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET NOTIFIED US THAT YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING NEWS FROM THE HAVEN BY MAIL OR EMAIL. SEE MORE INFO INSIDE—CONTACT SALLY FEHR WITH QUESTIONS



RON GENTES enjoys spending time with his daughter, Gail Gentes.

AT LEFT: Pat Hartman and Alyssa Zehr watch the Easter program presented by the Fairbury Apostolic Christian Sunday School (pictured below) on Good Friday.

AT RIGHT: Dee Koehl joins in a ring toss game.



An Apostolic Christian community where choice is valued, growth is encouraged and life abounds.



Reflections From Rick

—Rick Plattner, Director of Public Relations

Psalm 39:5: “Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.”

I don't think that God shares this verse with us to discourage us, but it is just a reminder to us that we are not here for long and soon our days on earth will come to an end. In the fourth verse of this chapter, we are encouraged to know our end and measure our days to see how frail we are.

With the Psalms as our backdrop, we acknowledge that our community, both outside of Fairview Haven and within our campus, have experienced this brevity of life. It seems that every newsletter shares the loss of our beloved residents but, in the last month alone, we have said last farewells to seven souls. Each one was 89 years old or older. I am reminded of a phrase my grandfather used to say: the old must die and the young can die.

Our community at large has experienced this recently with the loss of three young men. Two were seniors at our local high school. Both of these young men had relatives who work or volunteer on the Fairview Haven campus. The third individual was the son of a recently retired team member and nephew to another. These deaths have touched our campus and our community. They serve to remind us that we too one day will make a journey from this life.

Each time we lose a dear loved one, it creates a hole in our hearts and our lives. May the reality of death compel us to make each day that God gives us a cherished gift.

I was touched recently at a funeral of a resident when I realized that I learned more about that soul in death than I learned while she was living.

It behooves me to learn more about those I interact with so that I can know them well in the fullness of life.

Have I been sensitive and thoughtful in what I shared with them? Have I taken time to let them know my appreciation and admiration for who they are?

At Fairview Haven, we are blessed to be able to spend time and share conversation with our older loved ones. By forming relationships with them, we can give and receive love from them. It is such a blessing to be able to experience such meaningful relationships as part of our normal work reality.

We love having young and energized team members who get to experience this firsthand. I hadn't intended this article as an advertisement for employment but, when I think about it, who among us wouldn't be better off to have learned this in our youth?

If you have never considered enriching your life or the life of others by joining our team, please consider it now. We would love to learn and grow with you.

Each month that goes by, I realize how short my work time is growing as I seem to be the oldest employee around. It won't be long, and I may be needing Fairview Haven's services. Please think about whether God wants you to come share your love with folks like me!

* * * * *

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND UPDATE

We are continually challenged in this ever-changing world. It becomes more apparent every day that we cannot do this work alone. We cherish each of you, dear supporters. Many of you pray for us often. Those who share financial support help us to be able to continue our mission of caring in an environment that continues to shrink our resources, as well as our work force. God is in control so we will continue, trusting in His provision. God's blessing on each one!

The SCOOP at SERENITY



AT LEFT: Marjorie Alt and Marguerite Lorch thread fruit on skewers for a special treat.

BELOW: Ada Christensen and Karen Hildreth work on putting together some snack mix bags.



Happy 100th, Marjorie Witzig!

Marjorie Witzig celebrated her 100th birthday with a family celebration on April 23.

The oldest child of George and Louise (Grusy) Gramm, Marjorie was born on April 20, 1923 in Gridley. Her parents were farmers near Gridley. Her father served as a minister in the Gridley Apostolic Christian Church.

Marjorie's brother Donald (Rosie) Gramm currently lives at Fairview Haven also. Her other siblings – Harold, Robert, Herbert and Mildred – are deceased.

Marjorie attended the Four Corners country school through the eighth grade. She enjoyed school, especially geography and art. When she graduated from the eighth grade, she received the highest test score among students in McLean County. That year, her sister, Mildred, was born. Millie required special care as she was developmentally disabled and her mother needed Marjorie's help with the family. So she wasn't able to go to high school.

When Marjorie was 16, her mother bought an electric sewing machine. Along with that purchase came free sewing lessons in Peoria. Marjorie went with some friends and discovered she had a talent and love for sewing. She created her first intricate outfit, including a hand-embroidered blouse.

"Sewing was my specialty," she says, and she continued using this gift until she moved into Fairview Estates in 2019. She sewed all her own clothes, as well as for her daughters and grandchildren. She created teddy bears and baby blankets for each of her grandchildren. Also she enjoyed knitting and crocheting. She knitted sweaters for family members, including her brothers. She says she felt "accomplished" when she could iron twelve of her brothers' shirts in an hour.

At age 17, Marjorie sought a relationship with God in repentance and

gave her life to following Him. She became a member of the Gridley Apostolic Christian Church.

Marjorie says she "got her education" when she worked for a family in Chicago. She cleaned

and cooked for them during the winter months (November-March). During that time, she learned to get around Chicago, riding the L trains. She and her cousin and other friends who worked there had Thursday afternoons off. They went downtown to shop or tour museums. Or they went to church together on Thursday evenings and Sundays.

On Oct. 21, 1945, Marjorie married Elmer Witzig. Elmer had just returned from 3 ½ years in the Army, where he served during World War II. They had four children: Roger (Elaine) Witzig and Curt (Norma) Witzig of Gridley; Virginia Zeller of Carmel, IN and Edith (Ron) Bollier of Greenfield, IN. There are 20 grandchildren and 81 great-grandchildren. Most of them were able to attend Marjorie's 100th birthday celebration.

Marjorie and Elmer were grain and livestock farmers near Gridley. Four years after their marriage, Elmer was chosen as a minister in the Gridley Apostolic Christian Church. It was an un-



MARJORIE WITZIG celebrating her birthday on April 20 with her daughter and son-in-law, Edie and Ron Bollier.

expected transition for the Witzigs. But Marjorie says, "It was really a blessing" as they then traveled to most of the churches in the U.S. when serving in the ministry and were able to get to know many people.

Marjorie also recalls a special journey to Europe when their son, Roger, was stationed near Munich, Germany. He had three weeks of furlough so they rented a camper and traveled around England, France and Switzerland, as well as Germany. Marjorie's Grusy ancestors came from the Black Forest region in Germany and the Witzig ancestry stemmed from Zurich, Switzerland, and they spent time in those areas and connected with cousins there.

Another special trip was in 1992, when they went to visit friends, Bob and Pearl Miller in Oregon and traveled together to see the Redwoods in CA and to Mt. St. Helens in WA.

In 1993, Elmer retired from active service in the ministry. The Witzigs lived in Gridley and continued to stay

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☺ Welcome to Fairview Haven ☺

Fairview Suites dweller **John Tolensdorf** came to Fairview Haven. We welcome him to Daffodil Drive.

Marge Mishler moved from Fairview Estates to Angel Avenue.

We welcome Fairbury resident **Pauline Grandon** to Angel Avenue.

Ken Broquard joined the Fairview

Haven family recently. Ken is from Fairbury.

Gwen Stork moved in to Country Court. She is from Fairbury.

WITZIG

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active, including volunteering at Fairview Haven. Elmer served as a member of the exploratory committee prior to building Fairview Haven.

Elmer lived at Fairview Haven a brief time before he passed away on Nov. 9, 2016. In 2019, Marjorie moved into Fairview Estates, where she lived until she moved to Blessings Way.

Here she enjoys keeping in touch with her family, reading (especially the Bible), doing word search and playing word games (Upwords, Scrabble and Rummikub) with her friend, Ethel Wiegand.

Memorial Fund Report

Contributions were received in the past few months in memory of:

- Donna Neldner • Phyllis Rich
- Marilyn Fortna • Curt Sauder
- Art Walter

A tribute to Marjorie's life of faith was a gift she received for her 100th birthday. Her family gave her a framed print of one of her favorite Bible verses: "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." -Psalm 100:5

Marjorie would share this advice to younger people: "Trust in the Lord -- that's all I can say. Trust and obey, there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

In Loving Memory Of . . .

Joan Steidinger, 89, of Fairbury, passed away Thursday, March 2, 2023. Joan joined the Fairview Haven family in 2015. A memorial service was held in the Fairview Haven maintenance building on March 26. A memorial service is planned for both Joan and late husband, Jim, on Sunday, June 4 at Duffy-Pils Memorial Home, Fairbury. Survivors include her children, Cathy Coleman of St. George, UT; Christopher (Cindy) Coleman of Fisher; Paul (Jodi) Coleman of Navarre, FL; Denna (Kamran) Khadem of Georgetown, TX; Eric Steidinger Ward (Jim Robbins) of Willets, CA; one brother, Mike Hostetter of Talbott, IN; eleven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Joan owned and operated the Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio in Fairbury.

Phyllis 'Rose' Rich, 89, of Saunemin, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2023. She came to Fairview Haven in 2019. Her funeral was May 7 at Duffy-Baier-Snedecor in Pontiac. She is survived by her daughters, Debbie Rich and Diane (Thomas) Harfst, both of Saunemin; two granddaughters; her sister, Marilyn Grieff of Dwight; two sisters-in-law, Delores Zimmerman of Dwight and Carol Stiles of El Paso; nieces and nephews; and dear friend of 76 years, Louise Winterland of Colfax. Phyllis worked with her husband, Morris, on the farm for over 50 years.

Funeral services for **Janice Nussbaum**, 90, of Fairbury were held Monday, March 13, 2023 at the Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church. She passed away on March 6, 2023. Janice lived in East Haven prior to moving to Serenity Villa in 2018.

Surviving her are two sisters, Carol Nussbaum of Fairbury and Doris Huber of Bloomington; one sister-in-law, Janice E. Nussbaum of Fairbury; 23 nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and nephews. Janice taught in the Fairbury and Forrest school systems for over 30 years. She was a member of the Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church.

The funeral for 98-year-old **Arthur Walter** of Fairbury was Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury. Art passed away March 6. Art lived in various residences on the Fairview Haven campus. He is survived by his two sons, Gary (Cindy) Walter of Bloomington and Jay (Marcia) Walter of Fairbury; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Eleanor Honegger; and sister-in-law, Colleen Walter, both of Fairbury. Art owned Art's TV and Electric in Fairbury. Later he worked as an electrician in many prominent businesses in the area. He belonged to the Presbyterian Church in Fairbury. Art was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. Art's platoon landed in Normandy on D-Day.

Donna Neldner, 95, of Lexington passed away Saturday, March 18, 2023. Her funeral was March 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lexington. Donna came to live at Fairview Haven in October 2022. Surviving are her three children, Dan Neldner of Lexington, Kathy (David) Olson of Bloomington, and Tim (Kristina) Neldner of Riverview, FL; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Donna was co-owner with her husband, Louis, and office secretary of Neldner Ford in Lexington, retiring in

2007. She belonged to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lexington.

Anna Kaeb, 101, of Fairbury passed away Friday, April 7, 2023. Her funeral was held April 13 at the Christian Apostolic Christian in Forrest, where she had attended. Survivors include two sisters-in-law, Joan Kaeb of Cissna Park and Georgiann Kaeb of Wheatfield, IN, and many nieces and nephews. Anna was a domestic housekeeper for many years, caring for her parents and many family members. She was also a team member in the Fairview Haven laundry for many years.

Funeral services for **Martha Meister**, 63, of Fairbury, were Saturday, April 22, 2023 at Duffy-Pils Memorial Home, Fairbury. Martha passed away on April 17. She was part of the Fairview Haven family since 2020. Survivors include her siblings, Everett (Kathy) Meister, Lucille (James) Slagel, both of Fairbury; Howard (Danva) Meister of Hurst, TX; Willis (Bobbie) Meister, Harold (Jone) Meister, both of Fairbury; Lester (Lois) Meister of Cornell; Arlene (Dan) Moore of Gaylord, MN; Eli (Diane) Meister of Fairbury; Philip Meister of Albuquerque, NM; Daniel (Karen) Meister of Pontiac; Benjamin (Marta) Meister, Anna (James) McKeon, Alma (Perry) Augsburg, Ernie (Tammy) Meister, George Meister, all of Fairbury; and Mike (Margaret) Meister of Oglesby and many nieces and nephews. Martha attended the Gray School House in Pontiac for 15 years and Futures Unlimited for many years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury.



Party Line

WHAT FAIRVIEW HAVEN MEANS TO ME

Contributed by Anna Reis

May 28, 2023 will be my 15 year anniversary at Fairview Haven. For that reason, I wanted to share a part of my story with you all. I believe everything happens for a reason, regardless of how much joy or pain comes to me. So, from the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you for loving me, even when there are times I want to run away. To the residents (present and past): each of you has become a grandparent that I wish I'd had in my life. Thank you for allowing me to love you for 15 years – and many more. To my friends at Fairview Haven: you all have brought me so



GUODAN AND ANNA REIS in 2011.

much joy and love that will last a lifetime. From the bottom of my heart, each of you are a superhero in my eyes. Life is much brighter with you in it.

My name was Guo Yu Quan before I was adopted in May of 2001. I grew up in an

orphanage in China.

I'll tell you how I ended up in the orphanage. My biological father told me that we were having a daughter and father day. I was excited. He then took me to a police station and dropped me off by a train. I was around nine years old and didn't fully understand what all was happening. But I did comprehend the fact that I was unwanted and abandoned. It was the worst feeling in the world. And that day, I learned that I can't trust people, especially men.

Once I arrived at the orphanage, I saw a lot of other kids, both older and younger than me. It took time to adjust, but I never had problems making friends with them and they became my siblings.

As an older girl in the orphanage, I looked after the younger ones. I changed their cloth diapers and clothes and played with them. I enjoyed this tremendously. (Except for the many many cloth diapers ☺) As an orphan, I didn't look forward to going to school. Kids there were not nice to me because I didn't have parents. I was picked on quite a bit. I was always a quiet and shy girl at school.

I still had contact with my biological grandparents who lived on a farm. And I had the privilege of visiting them when I wanted to. After about a year or so, I lost touch with them.

I have always been thankful to have what I needed: clothes, food, people and, most of all, courage and strength. I thank God for that every day.

I was adopted in May 2001 by

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If you have any poems or short inspiring articles to contribute for *Party Line*, please send to Sally Fehr (sfehr@fairviewhaven.org) or drop them off at the Social Service office. They will be printed as space is available.

Personnel Profiles

Bernadette Kimmons started her career at Fairview Haven when she was 8-9 years old. Our current Director of Nursing, Emma Dunahee, recruited Bernadette to volunteer with her and they passed fresh linens. ☺

Nowadays she serves as an RN, resource and restorative nurse, and infection preventionist. She also worked here as a CNA in 2015.

Bernie says: "I really enjoy the

residents. They have always made working here such an amazing experience. I also enjoy our team and how much they've become my work family."

Bernie lives in Fairbury with her husband, Matt, and three children: Lucille (5), Percival (3) and Antoinette (1). Her parents are John and Monique Strong. She says: "Everyone usually seems to know I'm either a 'Strong kid' from Marchelloni's Pizza or Matt, the athletic trainer's wife."

Bernadette and her family like to go bouldering (rock climbing without ropes) outside and in the gym. They often go on the weekends and enjoy spending the family time together.



BERNADETTE KIMMONS

Thoughts from Dave's Desk ...

Dave Blunier, Administrator

Greetings from Dave's Desk!

In March, we were privileged to have our first life safety code inspection at Serenity Villa by the Illinois Department of Public Health. After almost five years of operating Serenity Villa, the surveyor was incredibly impressed with the detailed records, maintenance of the facility and compliance with safety regulations. We cannot be thankful enough to have a dedicated Director of Building Operations,

Jeremiah Rinkenberger, who is passionate about keeping our buildings safe and maintained. Thank you, Jeremiah, for your commitment to the residents and team and the Fairview Haven campus!

On April 6, staff from the Apostolic Christian Counseling Service presented a training on mentoring to our senior leadership team and other supervisory team members, as well as many volunteers who may potentially serve as

mentors for our team members at Fairview Haven. We are thankful for our mentor program at Fairview Haven where team members have an opportunity to be paired up with a volunteer mentor to help them through challenging circumstances they may be going through. Let's face it, we all have those times in our lives where we need a friend to walk alongside us or maybe someone who has been through similar experiences to help guide us on our journey. Thank you to our volunteers who have helped in this program al-

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Photo Puzzler



"This picture is of my grandmother-in-law, Ella von Bergen. Sitting next to her is my sweet wonderful mother-in-law, Rosy Mowery. Ron and June Slagel, their daughter Teri Wenger, holding my son Chase, myself. Clara Bender and (I think it's Herman Kilgus's wife—I can't think of her name." (Note: Her name is



Marie Kilgus) -Elaine Mowery of Fairbury

"What a fantastic picture! So many people to love!" — Teri Wenger of Fairbury

"Front row (L to R): Rosy Mowery, her mother Ella, June Slagel. Back row: Clara Bender, Elaine Mowery, Cheryl (actually Teri ☺) Wenger holding her baby and Ron Slagel. I worked with Clara many years ago and she talked about Ella often and the family activities. That's how I knew she was Rosy's mother. I only met Ella once or twice." -Janice Meiss of Fairbury

"The lady in the front row on the left is Rosie Mowery. She was a resident when I first started working at Fairview Haven. I remember her well because she had the most cheerful smile." --Nelly Brand

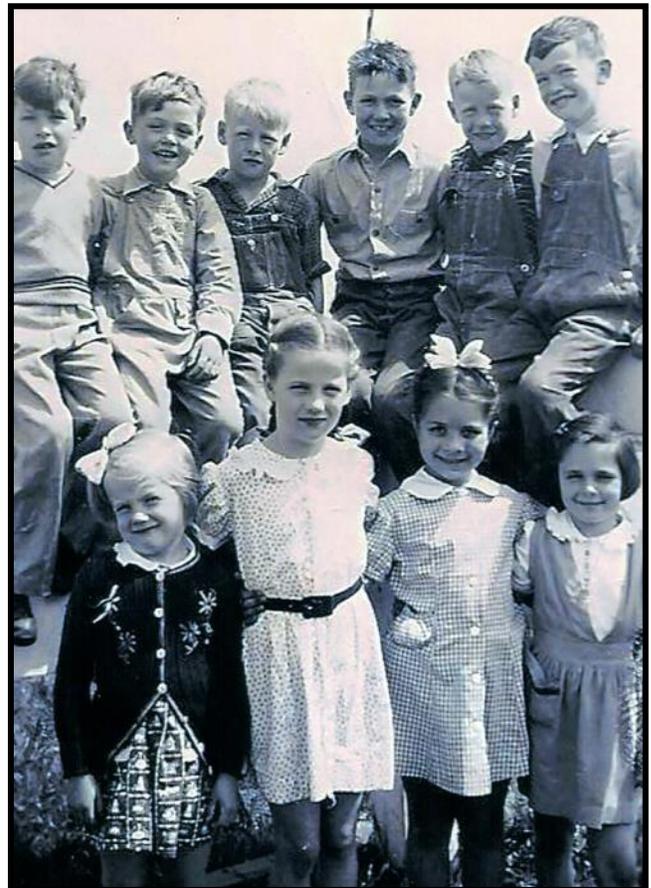
Evelyn Yoder of Fairbury and her neighbor worked together on identifying this picture. They figured out Rosy Mowery, her mother Ella, June Slagel (Rosy's daughter and her husband), Marie Kilgus, Clara Kilgus and Elaine Mowery.

"Rosella Mowery (lower left), mother—Ella von Bergen, June Mowery Slagel on right, ?husband of June in rear and daughter with baby to his right." -Erna Lou Kelly

Clues: This photo was taken circa 1946 at the Excelsior country school south of Fairbury. Three of the boys in the

photo are brothers. Another family is represented with twin brothers and two sisters. Most of the people in this photograph live around the Fairbury area so we hope to hear from them or their families. ☺ Three of them currently live in East Haven.

Please send your guesses to: Editor, *News From The Haven*, 605 N. Fourth, Fairbury, IL 61739; or e-mail to sfehr@fairviewhaven.org or drop off at Social Services.



Connections Home Care

This time of the year is so refreshing with the sunshine bringing new life to the outside world. This reminds me of how Jesus brings new life to us. He has made everything beautiful in its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) The winter days always seem to drag along, but we can be assured that sunshine is coming.

In home care, we can bring sunshine to our clients even in those dark days. The caregivers demonstrate love and compassion to those we serve. Each client is given services based on their own individual needs. There's no feeling better than knowing you have touched the lives of others.

As we continue to grow, we need help with providing services to those in need. This can range from transportation to personal cares. Our community needs us and our goal is to keep our clients in their homes as long as possible, but the need for caregivers is great. Help us love like Jesus and serve our community.

At this time, we have 30 clients in Fairbury and the surrounding area. Services can range from long term to short term care. Currently we have four clients on a waiting list for homecare services. We are in need of full/ parttime caregivers and PRN (as needed), as well as for transportation needs only. If you feel that you are being called please reach out. Come help us show the love of Christ!

—Arla Wheeler, Director of Connections Homecare (815.692.6703)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ⇒ Mother/Daughter Supper — May 12
 - ⇒ Annual Balloon Lift-Off — May 17
 - ⇒ Picnic at Cissna Park — June 6
 - ⇒ Father/Son Cook-out — June 16
 - ⇒ Ice Cream Social in the Tent — July 21
 - ⇒ Community Hymn Singing in the Tent — July 23
- Please invite—
all are welcome!*

New Faces!

We welcome the following members to our team: Nicholette Semmerling, Fairview Estates caregiver; Ruby Guzman and Alianna Knapp, dining services; Joelle Jones, RN, director of assisted living; Jose Zavala, life enrichment assistant; Amy Marchetti, Kiersten Niles and Emma Rabe, Serenity Villa caregivers; Kari Leman, Serenity Villa homemaker; Beth McBurney, speech therapist; CNAs Bella Mekarski, Sophie Bachman, Riley Casner and Mariah Steidinger.

SUMMER CNA CLASS

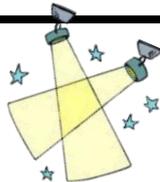
June 8-August 16

**BOTH ONLINE AND
IN-PERSON**

**Contact Brandon
Stoller for more info
815.692.6708**

bstoller@fairviewhaven.org

Volunteers in the SPOTLIGHT ...



MARIE KOEHL helps us keep up with shredding our discarded papers. Thanks so much!

Hobby Corner

Featuring the hobbies and interests of residents



We enjoy Don Gramm's beautiful musical voice. Here he is singing with wife Rosie at our 60th Anniversary Hymn Singing last autumn.

DAVE'S DESK

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ready and to those who will be used in the future!

If you are interested in serving as a mentor at Fairview Haven, please contact Sally Fehr 815.692.6704 or sfehr@fairviewhaven.org. Also, if you were not able to attend the mentor/trauma training, it is available for online viewing. If you are interested, please contact Sally for the info.

* * * * *

On April 15, we honored our volunteers with a breakfast to thank them for

their service. We always enjoy the opportunity to give back to this group of people who so willingly give of their time and talents to make our burden a little lighter to carry. I know that sometimes we don't do a very good job of acknowledging how much our volunteers mean to us, so here's a special thank you for your efforts!

I would also give a shout out to our volunteer coordinator, Trish Steidinger, who goes above and beyond to try to recognize our volunteers for their service. She works very hard to coordinate our volunteer program, appreciate our volunteers and keep the program in compliance!

* * * * *

One of the most important components of the gospel message is the fact that Jesus Christ laid down His life to pay our penalty so that we could have eternal life. While we could never measure up to the life of Jesus Christ, He does call us to deny ourself and to love others as He loves. As Mahatma Gandhi puts it, "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Fairview Haven affords so many people the opportunity to live this out in our lives. We have the blessed privilege to serve our elders in their home and give them abundant life through meeting their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

At this moment in time, Fairview Haven, like so many other organizations, is struggling to maintain an adequate team to continue to serve those we all love and care about so dearly. Our management team is dealing with empty spots on our schedule on an almost daily basis and our team members are constantly being asked to sacrifice just a little

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CATERPILLAR EMPLOYEES
OPPORTUNITY: For every 10 hours
a Caterpillar employee volunteers at
Fairview Haven, Caterpillar will donate \$100,
up to 100 hours per calendar year. If you are
able to participate, please contact Trish.



Fairview Haven Newsletter Team

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Edna Steidinger
Colleen Walter
Marjorie Witzig



VOLUNTEER VOICES

TRISH STEIDINGER, Volunteer Coordinator



We thoroughly enjoyed serving breakfast to just over 100 volunteers at our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, April 15. It was great to see everyone that came, and we missed those of you who couldn't make it. Drawings were held for three gifts. The winners of those gifts were Bev Eisenmann – Coffee Basket, Sharon Kelson – Charcuterie Board Package and Ben Kafer – Local Fairbury Bas-

ket. A heartfelt thanks to each of you who volunteer anywhere on our campus or on our grounds. We do appreciate each act of kindness! You are a blessing to us!

If you are interested in joining our volunteer team in any capacity, or have questions about becoming a volunteer, please contact Trish at 815-692-6726, 815-848-5599 or tsteidinge@fairviewhaven.org.

PARTY LINE

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John and Jan Reis from Fairbury. They had four boys and then adopted three daughters. I was the last one adopted. When Katie was adopted in 1999, I was standing by the bus crying because I thought it was the last time I would see her. Katie was a baby and I played with her. Guo Dan and I were good friends at the orphanage and, when she got adopted, I was sad. A year or so later, I found out that I was going to be adopted by the same parents. So all three of us ended up in the same family and none of us were blood-related, but we all loved each other very much.

After I came to Fairbury, I remember my mom would take me to Dave's with the Chinese dictionary so I could learn English. Besides

"Hi," I didn't know any words. My sister Guo Dan was still speaking some Chinese with me, but mostly we tried to learn English.

My first job was delivering the newspaper once a week with Guo Dan and my mom's help. After about 10 years, I quit that job. Winter was definitely my least favorite season.

As a middle sister, I followed Guo Dan everywhere. When she started working at Fairview Haven as a high schooler, guess what? I wanted to be there also. I was hired May 2008 as a junior in high school. I was so afraid of the residents, especially the people in wheelchairs. To this day, I remember that when I was interviewed for the job in the kitchen, Walter Teubel said to me: "Your sister is a good worker, so we will give you a chance." I just smiled at him.

TWINS DAY at Fairview Haven was a lot of fun!

LEFT: Jane Tipton, Shay McDonald and Carri Sargeant.

SECOND ROW: Shay Wessels and Dale Wessels. Martha Meister and Anna McKeon.

THIRD ROW: Dianna Kester and Dixie Steidinger. Dave Blunier and Brandon Stoller.

BOTTOM: Jeana Waibel, Katherine Steffen and Katie Haas. Lori Guzman Reis and Ullena Offenbacher.



Scenes From The Home ...



MEN'S COFFEE Hour is a popular event and we appreciate those who come in to host. Above (L-R) are: John Nance, Harold Meister, Don Smith, Norman Young and Dick Jacobs. Below (L-R): Ken Broquard, Arnold Ifft and Dave Steidinger.



DOLLY is quite popular when she comes to visit. Here she's snuggling with Lucille Knapp. Dolly belongs to Dixie Steidinger.

BOTTOM LEFT: Joanne Aupperle, Connie Wlos and Colleen Walter volunteer to fill Easter eggs for a local Easter egg hunt.

BOTTOM RIGHT: John Nance made the acquaintance of a tiny mini poodle who visits us with her owner, Terri McCormick. Thanks for sharing, Terri!



DAVE'S DESK

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more in order to keep going. If you haven't thanked God for the team at Fairview Haven or pleaded for them in your prayers, please do! These have been difficult times.

I know that Fairview Haven is blessed by God and He has used this ministry to support elders in our community who call this home and even those who don't. He uses this ministry in ways that many aren't even aware of. I have confidence to know that He will provide the team we need and He will prick hearts and call those who will be useful in his service here at Fairview Haven. Perhaps He wants to use you? Will you ask Him?

I know this ministry isn't for everyone, but He can use anyone! Yes, there will be sacrifices. There will be long days, hard hours, trying times. But if God calls you here and you humbly submit to His will, you will find yourself as you lose yourself to the service of others!

* * * * *

The Farmers' Market will soon be opening on the front patio of Fairview Haven. This is such a great opportunity to stop by Fairview Haven and the residents love to watch the activity as it unfolds every Wednesday morning. The Farmers' Market was born out of an idea my wife had to give my children something to do during the summer months and provide a way to integrate our children into the Fairview Haven life. The time has come for our family to retire from this endeavor, but we are leaving it in good hands! We wish to express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve this community the past 12 years by selling our home-grown produce. Much appreciation to all who've supported the market and will continue to support in the years to come!

--From the Blunier family



Good Neighbors Cooking Together

GOOD NEIGHBORS of Fairview Haven are hosting Cooking Together events. Teammates are invited to participate and then can take home the food. Pictured above are: Anna McKeon, Em Moyer and Kota Cohoon. At left are Anna Reis and Crystal Miller. Thanks to those who helped sponsor the events.



OUR NEW skills training lab has been very helpful for teaching CNA classes as well as refreshing skills of current caregivers and nurses. Here Hayley Vedder demonstrates bedside care.

FARMERS' MARKET!!!! Attention: gardeners, bakers and crafters! We'd love to have your participation in the Fairview Haven Farmers' Market! The Farmers' Market will be held on Wednesday mornings (beginning May 17) from 8 am to noon (or until sold out). It is open to the public so any farmer or gardener may bring produce to sell. Plants, baked goods, handmade craft items, etc. may also be sold. If you have questions, please contact Jodi Kaisner. We all enjoy the fresh produce and other unique items, as well as seeing the many friends and neighbors who stop by to make purchases!

FAIRVIEW HAVEN

605 North Fourth St.
Fairbury, IL 61739
www.fairviewhaven.org

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Requested**

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Mailing label goes here.



THE LAST LAUGH ...

My wife just stopped and said, "You weren't even listening, were you?"
I thought to myself...
"That's a pretty strange way to start off a conversation."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

09 - Ron Gentes
10 - Virginia Hilti
25 - Karen Leman
26 - Virginia Capasso
29 - Steven Stortz
31 - Louise Baker

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

03 - Ruth Edelman
06 - Nick Kaeb
07 - Margaret Haney
09 - Don Gramm
15 - June Schahrer
25 - Duane Kilgus
27 - Dolores Pokarney
30 - Marvin Bahler

It is the policy of Fairview Haven to give equal opportunity to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, marital status, disability, national origin or age.

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS :

MAY — Anna Reis (5); Dorothy Wessels (6); Summer Bazzell (9); Kari Leman (9); Addi Mauser (15); Elizabeth McBurney (16); Julianne Wellwood (20); Tammy Hardesty (21); Andrea Teubel (23); Debbie Millsap (23); Karal Wilkey (23); Kirsten Deck (25); Kelsi Teubel (27); Billie Waddell (28); Temprest Lofton (31).

JUNE — Hannah Reinagle (6); Baylee Nichols (7); Krissy Hampton (8); Kelli Maley (8); Sally Fehr (9); Emma Dunahee (11); Kelsi Richardson (11); Abigail Bachtold (18); Tabatha Widdicombe (18); Megan Schaffer (19); Hayley Vedder (19); Abigail Valdez (22); Katherine Steffen (25); Maya Combites (25); Bernadette Kimmons (26); Valerie Kaisner (27); Hunter Powell (28).

” CLOSING QUOTE

God allows us to experience the low points of life in order to teach us lessons that we could learn no other way.

-C.S. Lewis