

Abundant *life*

FALL 2021

FOUNDATION TO HOST ANNUAL EVENT AT PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB

The Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation will host its largest annual fundraiser at the Pittsburgh Field Club on October 7, 2021.

Attendees can mark their calendars for a lively evening of mobile bidding and mingling as guests celebrate all the good Lutheran SeniorLife does with friends, festivities and food.

Aside from toasting to Lutheran SeniorLife's mission of providing *Abundant Life*®, this year's event will thank our extraordinary partners whose amazing support makes all the difference.

It's a great time to connect, commit and rejoice with 100% of the proceeds benefiting our programs and services.

For more event details and ticketing information, please call 724-453-6016 or email jane.bittcher@lutheranseniorlife.org.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to continually transform and elevate health, wellness, and social services while fostering an *Abundant Life*® for those we serve and who serve.

SUCCESSFUL PILOTS LEAD THE WAY TO MORE TECH-ENHANCED COMMUNITIES

Lutheran SeniorLife's SilverSmart™ Technology program and the North Carolina-based software company K4Connect, are paving the way toward more technology-enhanced communities throughout Lutheran SeniorLife.

Overbrook Pointe, a craftsman-style building that currently houses more than 50 apartments, was the first to experience the benefits of this ecosystem during a trial run last fall.

These modules included digital signage, Amazon Alexa's Echo Dot and a resident-facing app specially designed to improve the quality of life for our seniors.

Now, residents will have the opportunity to install even more

Overbrook Pointe resident, Betty Abdon, shows off her favorite music selections on an Amazon Echo Dot that was recently installed in her apartment.

smart home features, including lights, temperature control settings and security systems due to the pilot's success sometime this year.

As the partnership with K4Connect grows, these technology features will eventually be installed throughout all residential locations to improve the lives of seniors who've decided to age in place. ❖



LOVE, LAUGHTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER

It's all smiles for the new Mr. and Mrs. Fleming after the couple said "I do" during a beautiful

ceremony at Passavant Community's campus on June 4.

Virgil, an employed driver at Passavant Community, first met Nancy, a community resident and volunteer, through a mutual

coworker prior to becoming husband and wife this past summer.

An outdoor ceremony led by officiant Tim Greenlund blessed the couple followed by an indoor celebratory reception in Scholl Conference Center with family and friends.

Congratulations, Virgil and Nancy! We're thrilled to showcase your special day and wish you both nothing but love and happiness as you begin this wonderful journey together. ❖

LOW VISION REHAB HELPS AMY CARRY ON HER LEGACY

Before Passavant Community resident, Amy Core, was diagnosed with macular degeneration, she was an avid writer with many stories to tell.

Nevertheless, after Amy's center field of vision worsened, tasks that



once seemed effortless, soon became nearly impossible to conduct.

Lutheran SeniorLife's Occupational Therapist, Georgiann Dieteman, changed all of this when she assessed that low vision aids and retraining could dramatically enhance Amy's life.

Though Amy's vision could never be fully restored back to its original function, Georgie knew therapy could still help Amy live an **Abundant Life**®.

First, Amy received new glasses followed by upgraded lighting throughout her entire home.

From there, Amazon Alexa, digital magnifiers, large print keyboards and

tactile markings went on to make everyday routines less frustrating.

Today, Amy can read, compose emails, use her phone – and most importantly – write, thanks to Lutheran SeniorLife's low vision rehabilitation program.

Her most recently published book, "Zelie Girl", includes remarkable tales about her life, like meeting John F. Kennedy and crossing paths with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Low vision therapy has allowed Amy to feel connected again and we are so honored that she will continue to carry on her legacy through the amazing stories she tells. ❖

Amy displays her first published memoir "Zelie Girl," a gift she received from family at her 100th birthday party on April 22. The book is a copy of what Amy had been writing since she and her husband, Dan, first moved into Passavant Community in 1998. Congratulations, Amy!

ST JOHN ADJUSTS TO BETTER SERVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Lutheran SeniorLife's St. John Community began a major reconstruction project as part of its campus-wide repositioning plan this past August.

The revamp takes place as expectations of senior living accommodations have changed, and many older adults have expressed the desire to reside in their own homes for as long as possible until switching over to smaller, more affordable offerings.

Of the major renovations, the fifth floor of St. John Specialty Care Center will soon offer approximately 30 mid-market one-bedroom apartments in place of skilled nursing quarters.

Similarly, the fourth floor will boast expanded personal care options in response to market demands.



All in all, the new construction points toward pivoting location functions to better serve the greater community and Lutheran SeniorLife is excited about this upcoming change. ❖

Lutheran SeniorLife

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Lutheran SeniorLife offers a continuum of care featuring senior living communities, personal care, nursing care, memory care, home health and hospice, social and physician services.

With headquarters in Adams Township, Pa., Lutheran SeniorLife has locations in Zelienople, Mars, Butler, McCandless, Bellevue, Kittanning, New Castle, Aliquippa, Ambridge, Greensburg, and Monaca. To learn more about any of our programs or services, please visit our website at www.lutheranseniorlife.org.

GRANDPADS RAISE SPIRITS AMID PANDEMIC

LIFE Butler County received 20 GrandPads this past summer thanks to a substantial grant from the George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell, & Mary S. Campbell Foundation.

The senior-friendly tablets include a comprehensive subscription with apps, private family networks and top-tier

support all working to combat the adverse effects of social isolation amid COVID-19.

“Throughout the pandemic, many of our seniors experienced increased anxiety and depression,” said LIFE Butler County Recreation Therapy Manager, Ingrid Tallarico.

“Initially, we were trying to conduct video chat programming to combat this during our temporary closure, and it was challenging because a lot of people didn’t have the proper technology to participate.”

The retrieval of GrandPads helped make this process easier when its simple interface and built-in data connection allowed seniors to digitally engage like never before.

Moving forward, staff will continue to teach participants basic digital literacy concepts with more detailed programming to take place in the upcoming months.

Overall, it’s an innovative solution that is helping our seniors experience an **Abundant Life**® throughout the pandemic and beyond. ❖



LIFE Butler County participant, Patricia Kriebel, interacts with her new GrandPad tablet. The intuitive interface makes it easy for seniors to connect, play, learn and engage no matter their level of technology experience.