

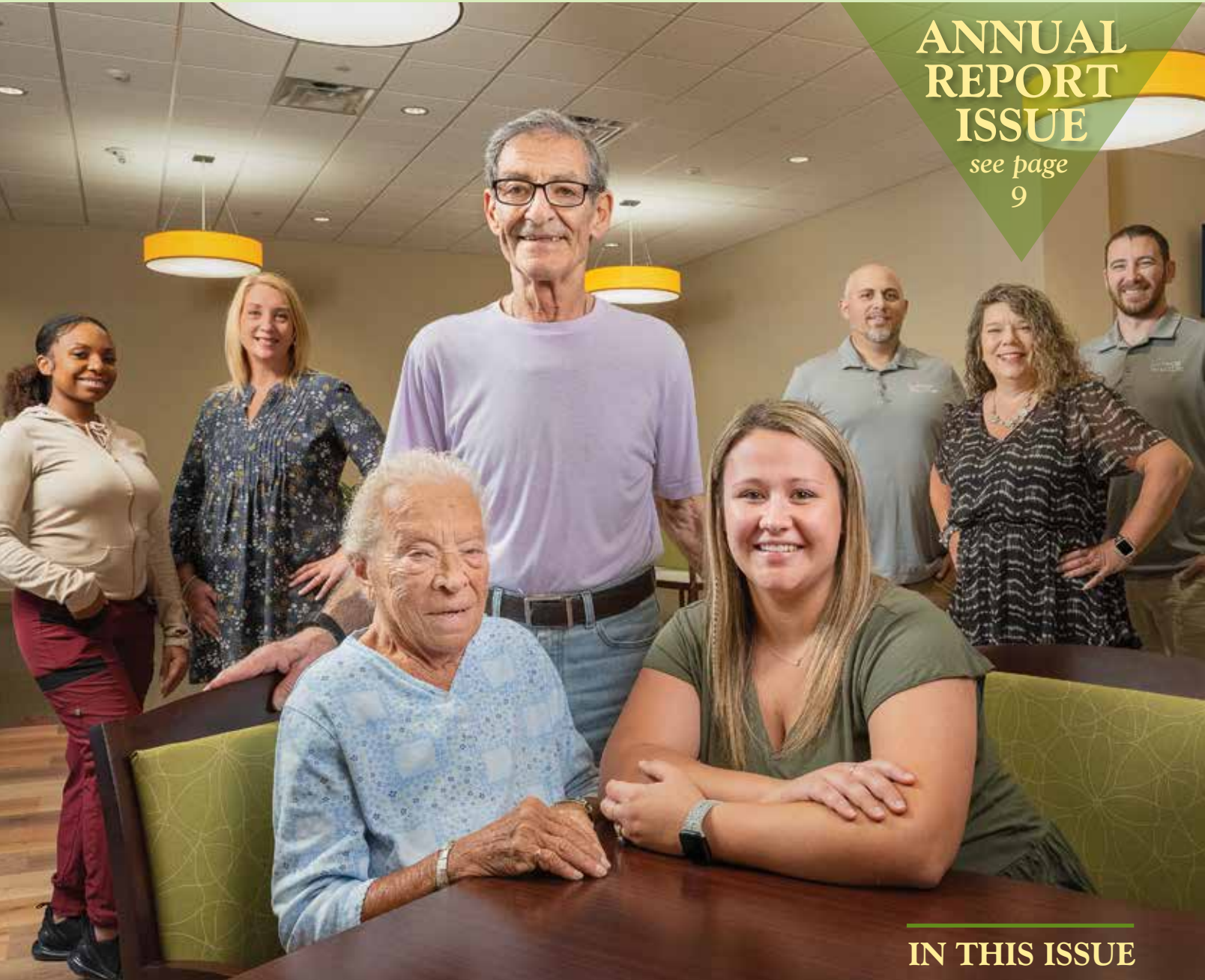
Lutheran
SeniorLife

AbundantLife

SUMMER 2023

St. John Community Transformation:
Preparing for another Century of Exceptional Care

ANNUAL
REPORT
ISSUE
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Message From The President

As we celebrate the successes of the past, we also look ahead to the future, preparing ourselves for another century of exceptional care.

Over the years, our commitment to providing compassionate and quality health care services has earned us the trust and respect of the communities we serve. It is this very trust that fuels our passion to excel and innovate continuously. As we prepare for another century, we understand the importance of staying at the forefront of serving older adults while maintaining the warmth and human touch that sets us apart.

In this edition of *Abundant Life*, we reflect on the transformation of the St. John Community; recognize the generous donations of our program partners; welcome the aspiring testimonial of Passavant resident Jack Herklotz; uplift the VNA's continued commitment to delivering quality at-home care; embrace the 21st century technologies of Rosie the Robot; and explore the benefits of the LIFE centers.

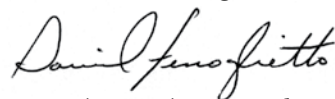
Moreover, we recognize the significance of nurturing a collaborative and inclusive culture within our organization. We are unwavering in our dedication to foster an *Abundant Life*® for those we serve and those who serve. As we prepare for the future, we commit to creating an environment that empowers growth and encourages creativity and a sense of belonging. Together, we will not only support our patients, participants and residents, but also support each other on this transformative journey.

I am confident that with the dedication and passion of each member of our incredible team, we will continue to elevate Lutheran SeniorLife to new heights while positively impacting the lives of countless individuals served through our many programs and services.

Let us embrace the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and empathy as we prepare for another century of exceptional care. Together, we will shape the future of senior living and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and support.

With warmest regards,



David Fenoglietto, *Lutheran SeniorLife President and CEO*



David Fenoglietto, John Miller, *Chairman* and Marilyn D. Landis, *Vice Chair*



St. John Community Transformation:

Preparing For Another Century of Exceptional Care

The Lutheran SeniorLife St. John Community has a rich history that spans over a century of providing compassionate care and support to older adults. In an era where the aging population continues to grow, providing high-quality long-term care is crucial. Recognizing this need, the St. John Community embarked on an ambitious renovation project, aiming to enhance their facilities and services to better serve older adults in our region.

As a result, Lutheran SeniorLife has made significant investments in improving its infrastructure of the St. John Community over the past several years to create a comfortable and residential environment for seniors. The renovation project involved upgrading and expanding living spaces, dining areas, and common areas. Spacious and thoughtfully designed rooms were created, ensuring residents have ample space to personalize their living quarters. The addition of modern amenities, such as fitness centers, therapy rooms, and outdoor recreational spaces, further promotes wellness and an active lifestyle among residents.

It has been a little more than a year since the first shovel broke ground to expand residential and personal care living options at the St. John Community. The results of the project produced a new and modern personal care neighborhood—Edgewood Grove—built on a foundation of quality care. It also created 27 new residential living apartments—The Residence at St. John.

Moreover, in January, the St. John community started a new construction project to expand the personal care offering by creating an additional 20 personal care rooms for residents in need of long-term dementia care and memory impairments.

“This is a significant step forward for St. John’s commitment to providing a continuum of care,” said Samantha Rapuk, Executive Director of St. John Community. “Being able to protect and provide the best care for those who need memory care services, that is really important for us and we are excited to expand our personal care offerings to the community.”

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Other projects included the completion of a warm and inviting lobby and lounge area that highlights the physical and cultural transformation at St. John. “This is part of the ongoing mission growth and renaissance efforts at St. John Community,” said David Fenoglietto, Lutheran SeniorLife, President and CEO. “This creates a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who enters the home of the residents living at St John.”

Advanced Medical and Care Services

The renovation project at the St. John Community went beyond aesthetics, also focusing on enhancing medical and care services. State-of-the-art technology was integrated into the facility, enabling staff to provide efficient and personalized care. Electronic health records systems streamline information management, ensuring accurate and accessible medical records. Additionally, advanced monitoring systems and call systems were implemented, ensuring prompt response to resident needs, enhancing safety, and providing peace of mind to both residents and their families.

“The compassionate and person-centered approach, combined with the utilization of new technology, ensures that residents receive the highest quality of care and support, enhancing their overall well-being and quality of life,” explained Rapuk.

The St. John Community renovation project stands as a testament to the commitment to providing exceptional long-term care.

Through enhanced infrastructure, advanced medical and care services, and person-centered care approaches, the community has significantly improved the lives of its residents. The successful renovation serves as a model for other long-term care facilities, highlighting the



Left to right: Lois Kowalski, 88; Charlene Kaltenbach, 91, Kate Rowe, 90

transformative power of investment and innovation in senior care.

Trusted Community Neighbor

Furthermore, the St. John Community has become a trusted and respected service provider, serving as a home for seniors in need of independent living, personal care, memory care, and skilled nursing services. Throughout its history, the community has upheld its commitment to fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for residents. It has embraced a person-centered care approach, recognizing the unique preferences and needs of each individual. This philosophy has been central to the community’s success in promoting independence, dignity, and quality of life among its residents.

“These wonderful changes enrich the vibrancy of our continuing care community,” explained Rapuk. “As

a progressive-minded provider, we look forward to welcoming families, guests and the community through our new entryway and sharing all of the wonderful amenities and services we have to offer.”

The St. John Community’s history is a testament to its unwavering commitment to providing high-quality, person-centered care to older adults. With its dedication to continuous improvement, the community remains focused on meeting the evolving needs of seniors and

creating a supportive and vibrant community for years to come. ❖



LEFT: Stained glass window in the lobby of the St. John Community

BELOW: Erica Rusek, Marketing Coordinator, Edgewood Grove





Thank You, Donors!

"Gratitude is the foundation upon which great achievements are built," said Jane Bittcher, President of the Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation. "With heartfelt appreciation, we extend our thanks to all those who have generously contributed to the success of the St. John Community capital campaign."

Thanks to the generous contributions from our friends, families, and community donors, the St. John Community is positioned to fulfill the mission of Lutheran SeniorLife well into the next century.

"We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, especially The Campbell Foundation and NexTier Bank," stated David Fenoglietto, President and CEO, Lutheran SeniorLife. "It's partnerships like these that help us fulfill the mission of Lutheran SeniorLife within our communities and our at-home programs like the Visiting Nurses Association of Western Pennsylvania. These gifts will contribute to the success of our shared vision."

In recognition of the gift made by The George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell and Mary S. Campbell Foundation, the lobby of the St. John Community will be named in memory of The Reverend Loyal Alexander Black, D.D., who served as Bishop of The West Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

"The care and well-being of our seniors are at the core of the Campbell Foundation's mission," said John Harmon, Trustee of the Campbell Foundation. "For more than a century, Lutheran SeniorLife, St. John Community has delivered exceptional care to the older adults in our community. We feel a deep sense of honor and privilege to contribute to this magnificent heritage. Demonstrating respect for this tradition can be achieved by offering a donation, making a pledge, or making a commitment to this wonderful organization."

In addition, the personal care dining room at the St. John Community will be named in recognition of NexTier Bank. "We believe that a culture of giving back defines who we are," said Clem Rosenberger, President and CEO of NexTier Bank. "We are committed to helping local organizations thrive and are thrilled to partner with Lutheran SeniorLife with this initiative." ❖

For a list of our 2022 donors, visit lutheranseniorlife.org/donate

ASPIRING an Abundant Life®

By Jack Herklotz, Passavant Community Resident



My wife and I have been residents at Passavant Community since May 2020, just as COVID lockdowns hit. Having moved from Chicago, the down-time in activities was a blessing that allowed us to get settled in our new life style, oriented to the area, find new doctors & dentists, places to shop, etc..

We have also been able to volunteer as part of our responsibility to be good citizens here. And that doesn't mention the outside speakers and entertainment that frequently appear and trips and special events that are available.

As we age, maintaining general physical function becomes more and more important. A man who

really sets an example for me is Augie Liehr, a WWII vet and regular attendee at our three times weekly Silver Sneakers Classic class. Nearing 100 years of age, Augie is like the Energizer Bunny ... he just keeps on... If the Lord blesses me to live that long, I hope to still be active in that class. ❖

So, we were thrilled when ASPIRE® Wellness finally filled the gap with opportunities to learn new things.

We have been able to get involved with our new community, socialize with and make new friends, exercise, swim, take various classes, such as acrylic painting and line dancing.



Jack Herklotz's painting (pictured left) will be part of Leading Age PA's 'Ageless Art & Timeless Treasures Exhibition' on September 14th. The art exhibit and gala will feature selected pieces submitted by over 100 artists residing at Leading Age PA member communities across the state.



Rosie the Robot

Serving Up Hot Meals And Conversation

By Chris Kopacz, Butler Eagle Staff Writer

The addition of a robot server at Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community conjured memories of “The Jetsons” for residents, according to Rebecca Hlavach, General Manager of Dining Services for Passavant Community.

It took some residents time to acclimate when Passavant “hired” the robot to serve on a trial basis at Baron’s Inn restaurant last May, but the new team member invited curiosity and fun, Hlavach said.

“We had a little name-the-robot competition with our residents,” she said. “They came in. They did a meet-and-greet and had an opportunity to meet her. We unveiled the robot name, and everyone really enjoyed seeing Rosie navigate the dining room.”

Rosie, of course, would take her name from “The Jetsons,” a Hanna-Barbera cartoon launched in the 1960s that featured a light-blue robot with a Brooklyn accent.

For others, the adjustment felt a little strange, Hlavach said. They worried the robot was taking over a human’s position, she said.

“But something we communicated at the time was that we had lots of open positions at the time and still now,” she said.

Rosie extends the life of the human servers at Baron’s Inn, Hlavach said. For some servers, food service at Baron’s Inn is their first job. Collaboration with Rosie allows for Rosie to carry food and drinks alongside the human servers, so they don’t have to worry about dropping or spilling as they work, she said. Instead, these servers get to spend more time socializing with residents, she said.

Just another member of the team

“Not only does it save a little bit on labor, but she extends the life of our servers,” she said. “So people with mobility issues — as they age in the workforce — sometimes they have to shift or change jobs. And so it allows people to stay in a position longer as Rosie takes on the heavy burden.”

Now, instead of the astonishment that used to attend Rosie’s excursions throughout the dining room, she has become just another server at the Baron’s Inn.

Rosie brings a bit more to the proverbial table than busing dishes, Hlavach added.

“Rosie also sings ‘Happy Birthday,’” Hlavach said, and laughed. “We can program that tableside, which is a lot of fun.”

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Passavant purchased Rosie’s services through a company called Bear Robotics, which transported Rosie with relative ease and trained staff on how to operate her. This work involves resetting her, troubleshooting and making varied use of her features.

Special capabilities

“We chose Bear because it has a really small footprint, so Rosie takes up no more than a regular-sized person, or about the size of a bar tray,” Hlavach said. “In the dining room, she’s able to navigate between tables and chairs relatively easily. Also, she’s the only robot that is certified by the National Restaurant Association.”

This means Rosie’s thoughtful design equipped her with larger wheels, so she could overcome bumps, and a jogging stroller, so she could handle larger gaps or spaces without spilling food from the trays she carried, Hlavach said. The designers at Bear also covered Rosie’s wheels close to the ground, so that food debris wouldn’t get clogged into her wheels, Hlavach said.

People also expressed reservations that visually impaired people might trip over Rosie, but she’s found a path around those worries, too, Hlavach said.

“Rosie is equipped with LIDAR — radar — detectors and several cameras, pointed in different angles, so that the robot will move out of the person’s way, so the person is always prioritized,” Hlavach said.

A small light, which projects onto the floor, and music Rosie plays as she travels also signals people about her movements, Hlavach said. ❖

Rosie the Robot delivers a meal to Kathy and David Shidemantle of the Passavant Community.

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET / FY22

ASSETS

Current Assets	92,331,906
Assets Whose Use is Limited	8,280,264
Property, Plant and Equipment..	131,956,679
Development and Real Estate	3,649,913
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	1,667,781
Total Assets.....	237,886,543

LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	26,579,748
Long Term Debt	89,284,237
Deferred Revenues.....	12,415,614
Net Assets	109,606,944
Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....	237,886,543

Empowering Care: VNA Nurses Receive 2023 Jeep Compass

The Lutheran SeniorLife Visiting Nurses Association of Western Pennsylvania (VNA) recently equipped 18 nurses with a 2023 Jeep Compass. This significant development highlights the importance of investing in the infrastructure necessary to deliver home health care services throughout Western Pennsylvania. In total, Lutheran SeniorLife delivered more than 40 Jeeps system wide.



A Commitment to Care

“Nurses form the backbone of any healthcare system, providing critical medical assistance, compassion, and support to patients,” explained Margie Walsh, Executive Director of the VNA. “By ensuring that our nurses have reliable transportation, the VNA demonstrates a clear commitment to enhancing the quality of care and the overall well-being of our patients.”

Enhancing Efficiency and Accessibility

The delivery of the new jeeps to the VNA nurses helps reduce logistical challenges and streamlines their ability to deliver care efficiently. These vehicles are designed for both urban and rural environments, making them versatile to reach and serve the diverse needs of the VNA’s patient population. With the Jeeps, nurses can reach patients in remote areas, navigate through challenging terrains, and respond promptly to emergencies, thereby minimizing delays in delivering vital healthcare services.

Improved Patient Outcomes

The direct impact of providing nurses with reliable transportation extends beyond efficiency. By ensuring timely and consistent care, patients experience improved health outcomes. Prompt intervention during critical situations becomes possible, and patients can receive the necessary medical attention without unnecessary delays.



This initiative also reinforces the trust and bond between nurses and patients, fostering a sense of security and confidence in the quality of care provided by the VNA.

“In the hands of compassionate nurses, the Jeep Compass becomes more than just a vehicle—it transforms into a beacon of care, and a bridge connecting hearts,”

said David Fenoglietto, President and CEO of Lutheran SeniorLife. “Our vehicle program provides peace of mind in knowing that each mile traveled becomes an opportunity to heal, comfort, and bring hope to those in need.” ❖



Living Independence For The Elderly

Embracing the aging process gracefully does not have to entail depending on others for daily activities or transitioning to a long-term care community. Instead, Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) supports older adults with the services they need to live safely and independently at home.

LIFE supports seniors, not only in their homes, but in one of our four centers located in Armstrong, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties. The staff work closely with participants to maintain their daily routines, lifestyle choices, and personal preferences while helping them feel less restricted or dependent on others.

“By preserving their independence, seniors can continue to have a sense of purpose and control over their lives, which greatly enhances their self-esteem and overall satisfaction,” noted LIFE Executive Director, Leslie Kisow.

While at the centers, participants have the opportunity to take advantage of a range of services, such as engaging in exercise, exploring personal interests, scheduling physical therapy sessions, and attending regular doctor visits.

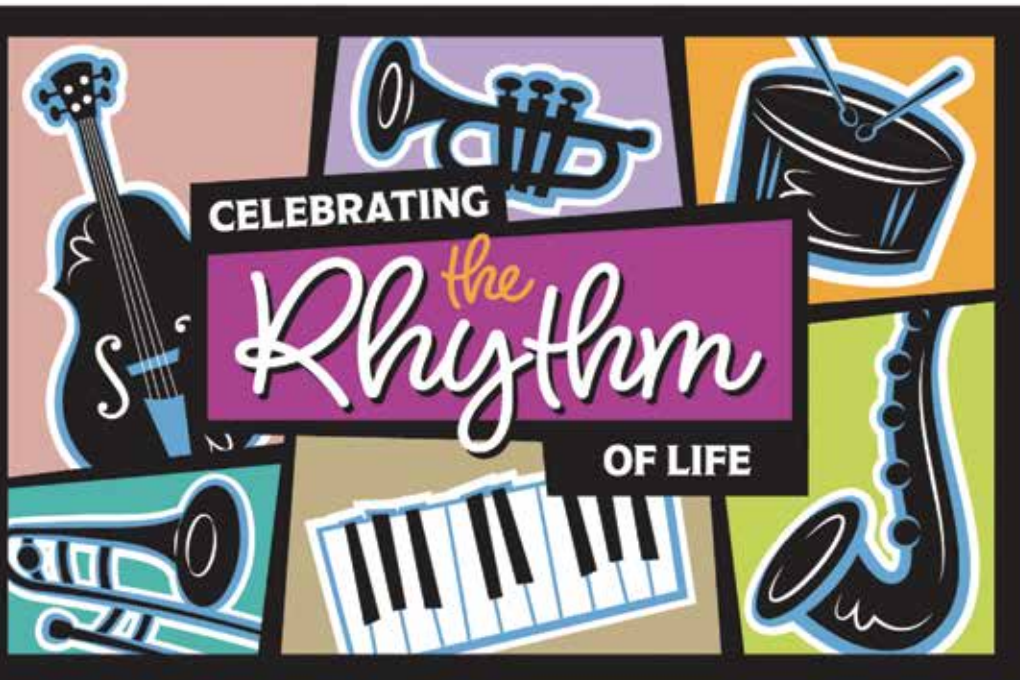
In 2022, Lutheran SeniorLife provided 23,558 therapy visits to the LIFE participants in their homes and at the centers, according to Amy Stewart, Director of Corporate Rehabilitation.

Read the full story online at [LutheranSeniorLife.org/News](https://www.LutheranSeniorLife.org/News)

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.

AbundantLife is published by Lutheran SeniorLife. To report a change of address or to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation at (724) 453-6014 or FoundationStaff@LutheranSeniorLife.org



SAVE THE DATE!


Lutheran
SeniorLife
Foundation

The Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation's Annual Event will be held at the Pittsburgh Field Club on Thursday, October 5

Join us as we celebrate the enduring commitment to the Abundant Life of our residents, participants, staff and partners.

Purchase your tickets today by calling 724.453.6014 or emailing bittcherj@lutheranseniorlife.org.

– 2023 ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE – PLEASE CALL 724.453.6014 FOR MORE INFORMATION