



Lutheran
SeniorLife

AbundantLife

FALL/ WINTER 2024

– Living Independence for the Elderly –

LIFE Programs Making a Difference



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Message From The President

At Lutheran SeniorLife, our mission is to provide exceptional care, services, and support that empower people to live their lives to the fullest. Every day, we strive to make a meaningful difference through a wide array of programs and services that support individuals and families in our communities.

Our **LIFE Programs** provide a holistic and person-centered approach to senior care, offering medical, social, and personal support to help older adults maintain independence and thrive within their own homes and within their communities. In addition, The **Advanced Care Center of Butler** supports individuals with complex medical needs, providing comprehensive, compassionate care that prioritizes comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

The **Visiting Nurses Association of Western Pennsylvania (VNA)** extends our reach beyond our campuses, and into the neighborhoods and communities of Western Pennsylvania, bringing compassionate, high-quality medical services directly into the homes of those in need. Our skilled nurses and caregivers work tirelessly to provide the necessary medical and emotional support that ensures comfort and peace of mind.

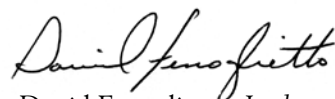
Our residential communities—**Passavant Community**, **St. John Community**, and **The Commons at Stonebrook Village**—offer vibrant, supportive environments focused on health, wellness, and meaningful connections. With options from residential living to advanced care and **Outpatient Therapy**, we provide personalized support to maintain independence and well-being at every stage.

Additionally, our programs under **Lutheran Service Society (LSS)** continue to make a significant impact in the lives of many. Through our **Adoption and Foster Care** services, we create stable homes for children in need, while our **Meals on Wheels** program delivers nutritious meals and companionship to seniors, ensuring that no one feels alone or overlooked.

The **Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation** plays a critical role in making these services possible. Through its Annual Event, the Foundation's primary fundraiser, we raise essential funds to support our programs, ensuring we can continue delivering exceptional care and life-changing services to those we serve. The generosity of our donors and event participants allows us to sustain and expand our impact, and we are profoundly grateful for their ongoing support. (See pages 6-10)

Every service we provide is guided by our belief in the value of each individual and our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives we touch. Together with our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners, we are honored to serve and uplift those who trust us with their care.

Thank you for your continued support of Lutheran SeniorLife and our mission to provide an **Abundant Life**®, one person at a time.



David Fenoglietto, Lutheran SeniorLife President and CEO



LIFE Programs Making a Difference: *Helping Participants Reclaim Independence and Transform Their Lives*

The LIFE Program (Living Independence for the Elderly) has profoundly impacted many individuals' lives, providing them with the resources and support necessary to remain living at home safely, and to reclaim their independence and improve their quality of life. Five stories—those of Diane Kelly, Carol K., David McKain, Nancy Wills, and Ms. Rebecca—exemplify the power of this program and how it has helped participants overcome significant life challenges.



DIANE KELLY *Opening Up and Finding Peace*

Diane Kelly's life changed when she joined the **LIFE Lawrence County** program after spending over six months in a psychiatric facility. Before her enrollment, Diane

struggled with socializing and opening up to others, often feeling isolated. But the supportive environment at the

LIFE center has helped her form meaningful friendships and explore new activities.

Diane explains, in the past, "I struggled to open up and talk to people. I have made a few friends here that I can talk to while I am at the center. I have tried different activities like crafts and games. I try different things where in the past I would have said, 'No, I am not good at this. When I play games, I always have fun. I have to keep busy. I help water the flowers and decorate the center. I assisted the Activity Director with decorating the windowsill for the fall season.'"

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LIFE Programs Making a Difference

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This past month, Diane moved into one of LIFE’s “small homes,” where she has found comfort and stability. A particular staff member has become an anchor for Diane, offering calm and encouragement. “I feel safe,” she shared, reflecting on the emotional and mental support she’s received. While challenges remain, Diane is grateful for the ongoing support and even enjoyed a recent boat outing with her best friend.

“I am thankful for what LIFE has done and will keep doing for me,” said Diane.

CAROL K.’S JOURNEY From Isolation to Community

When Carol first joined **LIFE Lawrence County**, she was living at home, isolated and bedridden due to post-cancer complications. Her situation was bleak, with no running water, a broken car, and a deteriorating house. After multiple falls that resulted in hospitalizations, Carol finally gave LIFE a chance. It was a decision that transformed her life.

“LIFE Lawrence County has provided me with medical help that doesn’t cost me anything,” Carol explained. “I don’t have to make my own appointments as they do that for me.”

Carol enjoys going to the center for the entertainment and to socialize. She also loves being around people and helping them. “This makes me feel good about myself,” said Carol. “It is enjoyable to eat meals with friends at LIFE and not alone like I do at home. I have made several good friends at my new apartment, in the housing building where LIFE helped me move.”

She now attends the center twice weekly, enjoying a nutritious meal, socializing with friends, and helping others. LIFE even helped her move into an apartment where she feels safe and supported. Carol shares, “I feel like LIFE staff and participants are my family.” The program’s transportation, social activities, and supportive staff have allowed her to regain independence, well-being, and community.

“LIFE transportation provides all of my transportation needs for my appointments,” said Carol. They also take me to and from the center, where I attend twice weekly.

I appreciate the bus assistants coming to my apartment to pick me up and take me home.”



DAVID McKAIN Regaining Mobility and Purpose

David McKain worked as a Certified Nurse Aid at the Kittanning Health Center for 25 years. Before joining **LIFE Armstrong County** program 2½ years ago, he struggled with limited

mobility. David’s condition has dramatically improved through consistent exercise, medical assistance, and in-home support. He now rides an exercise bike and has even begun visiting the YMCA. “When I first enrolled, I could hardly walk, and I couldn’t put my shoes or socks on,” David recalls.

David enjoys coming to the center, “I get to meet new people. I like to make people laugh and feel welcomed and encouraged. I even belong to the Participant Council Committee. Attending the center gives me a sense of purpose. When enrollment originally came to my apartment, I thought it was a lie,” stated David. “Other healthcare companies said they would do this or that and didn’t come through. LIFE Armstrong County has done everything they said and more.”



NANCY WILLS Overcoming Hardships and Embracing Life

Nancy Wills’ life took a positive turn when she joined **LIFE Beaver County** in 2016. Before enrolling, she lived in a cluttered home with no support and a revolving door of unreliable “friends.” The staff at LIFE Beaver County cleaned Nancy’s home, addressed the pest issues, and cared for her medical needs.

When faced with eviction, LIFE stepped in to help, contracting a deep cleaning service for her home that included biohazard cleanup, trash removal, painting, and more. However, her “friends” quickly filled the newly cleaned space with their belongings, more cats, and trash, leaving the home in the same poor condition. She was eventually evicted and became homeless. This was a turning point, and she began recognizing that her “friends” were not truly supportive. She leaned on the LIFE team for emotional support and assistance with her basic needs. LIFE helped her find transitional and eventually permanent housing. A LIFE staff member even attended her appeal hearing with the Housing Authority when she was initially denied HUD housing due to her eviction history. The staff member advocated for her, explaining that once she removed herself from her toxic environment, she lived in a hotel without issue, paid her bills, and saw improvements in both her physical and mental health. In January 2022, she was approved for housing and moved into a building with LIFE supportive services available around the clock.

Since her move, this participant has been living life on her own terms. She’s become more social, attending meals, and card games in her building. She has strong relationships with the LIFE staff and attends the LIFE

center twice a week, where she participates in programs and makes it her goal to bring laughter to others.

Today, she lives in a clean apartment and actively participates in social events at the LIFE center. “My life has never been better,” Nancy reflects, shining with vibrant positivity and newfound independence.

MS. REBECCA Walking Again with Faith and Determination

Ms. Rebecca’s story is one of determination and faith. When she joined **LIFE Beaver County** in 2021, she used a wheelchair but was determined to walk again. With the help of the LIFE physical therapy team, she worked diligently, and after a year and a half, she achieved her goal of walking independently with a cane.

Ms. Rebecca attends the LIFE center weekly, staying busy with church and social activities and supporting others through prayer groups. Her hopeful message to fellow participants is: “What God has done for me, He can do for you too.”

These five individuals—Diane, Carol, David, Nancy, and Ms. Rebecca—have each experienced life-changing transformations through the support and care of the LIFE Program. Whether regaining mobility, overcoming isolation, or rediscovering purpose, their journeys illustrate the program’s profound impact in fostering resilience and hope. The LIFE Program is a perfect match to accomplish the goals of each participant to reclaim their independence and live more fulfilling lives at home through personalized care, transportation, and a sense of community. ❖

“Make a Difference That Will Not Be Forgotten”

Lutheran SeniorLife President and CEO, David Fenoglietto, spoke those words as a call to action for an evening filled with purpose and philanthropy at this year’s Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation Annual Event, held at the picturesque Pittsburgh Field Club.

The Annual Event serves a vital cause: raising funds for the Lutheran SeniorLife Mission Fund, which impacts the lives of countless individuals through its LIFE programs in Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties, as well as the Visiting Nurses Association of Western PA, the Passavant and St. John Communities, and the Lutheran Service Society.

Under the theme, ‘A Time to Make a Difference’, sponsors, donors, friends and employees gathered with a shared mission: to uplift older adults and vulnerable members of our communities across Western Pennsylvania.

“My message tonight is to shine a bright light on our caring team,” remarked Fenoglietto to the attendees. “When we shine the light on our compassionate staff, we can see the depth of programs and our mission to serve.”

Continued on page 8



ABOVE: George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell, and Mary S. Campbell Foundation, Diamond Sponsor

LEFT: Seated: Jane Bittcher, President, Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation; John Miller, Chair, Lutheran SeniorLife Board; Back Row: Bishop Kurt Kusserow; David Fenoglietto, President and CEO, Lutheran SeniorLife; Pam Kusserow; Pastor Kari Smail, Lutheran SeniorLife Board; Pastor Daniel Smail, Chair, Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation Board



ABOVE: Sylvia Walters, Stanley Kendziorski, Bill Sanders



LEFT: Residents of Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community

RIGHT: Northwest Bank, Mobile Bidding Sponsor



RIGHT: Members of the Grant Street Asset Management team enjoying the reception and silent auction.



LEFT: Henderson Brothers, Platinum Sponsor

Make a Difference

Continued from page 6

At the heart of this message was recognizing “Employees Making a Difference.” Posters displayed throughout the venue featured the names of those whose work exemplifies the values of teamwork and collaboration while serving with dignity, respect and compassion.

Testimonials for each highlighted the quiet, yet profound ways lives are touched daily across Lutheran SeniorLife’s vast network of care.

It was a reminder that the difference being made wasn’t just through financial support, but through the tireless dedication of the employees who bring Lutheran SeniorLife’s Mission to life every day.

Throughout the night, the melodic sounds of violinist Ron Molinaro played, as guests mingled, placed their bids on the silent auction items and purchased raffle tickets for a chance to set sail on a breathtaking 7-day Alaskan Cruise.

Thanks to everyone’s generosity, this year’s Annual Event raised over \$150,000. These generous donations will directly impact lives in the most meaningful ways—older adults will receive compassionate care, vulnerable members of our community will be supported, and countless families will find comfort knowing their loved ones are thriving.

“The atmosphere was full of positivity all night long, with so much generosity that ultimately benefits all the residents and individuals in the programs we serve,” said Rev. Dan Smail, Chairman of the Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation Board, speaking of the overwhelming support. “I am grateful for everyone who turned out tonight, for the good energy we shared, and for the promise that will grow from the contributions raised.”

The evening’s success was the result of a year of tireless effort and meticulous planning by Lutheran SeniorLife Foundation President, Jane Bittcher, and her outstanding team—Heather Fennell, Barbara Gannon, and Sandra Stanick.

“Tonight we celebrated those who make a difference in the lives of people we serve every day – event sponsors and attendees, along with board members, volunteers, employees, and even our own residents,” said Bittcher. “We could not continue to meet our mission without the financial generosity, as well as the time and talent shared by our donors and supporters.”

As the evening came to a close, Fenoglietto’s message was clear: making a difference is a team effort. It starts with the generosity of donors and sponsors, but it’s the employees—the heart of the organization—whose compassionate care helps foster an **Abundant Life**® for those we serve and who serve. ♦



ABOVE: John and Karen Pool, winners of the Alaska cruise.

LEFT: NexTier Bank, Reception Sponsor



Grant Street Asset Management, Signature Sponsor

“To Our Generous Sponsors, THANK YOU!” –Jane Bittcher, Foundation President

SIGNATURE



DIAMOND

The George H. Campbell, Lillian S. Campbell, and Mary S. Campbell Foundation

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



RECEPTION



MOBILE BIDDING



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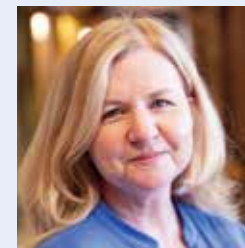
Employees Making a Difference



Molly Bargarstock
Physical Therapist /
Passavant Community

"Molly has made a profound effect on my life internally and externally. She has given me exercises to treat my pain and to give me strength.

Molly is a very knowledgeable and caring Physical Therapist. She has been my PT for a long time and I highly recommend her." – *Passavant resident*



Margie Meinert
Occupational Therapist /
Passavant Community

"Preparing for a mobile wheelchair is difficult. Margie was always by my side, helping me understand how I could be successful," said a

resident. "Topping it all off was her encouraging attitude and caring nature."

My parents live independently at Passavant. Margie spent a lot of time meeting with them and making suggestions for improvements around their home. Her patience is unbelievable! She handled them in a very caring and pleasant manner. Passavant is blessed to have her!" – *Family member*



Kari Simmen, Maintenance /
Passavant Community

"Kari is the go-to person for anything maintenance-related at Passavant. She's the first point of contact, always greeting callers with a warm and friendly, 'Hello,

Maintenance.' Kari's knowledge of the Passavant campus is unmatched, and her expertise comes from years of hands-on experience and on-the-job training. If anyone has a question, I always recommend they call Kari—she is efficient, empathetic, and incredibly knowledgeable.

In addition to her role in maintenance, Kari goes above and beyond to connect with the residents. She's friendly and bright, always taking the time to get to know us

personally. When we see her on campus, she asks how we're doing and often offers a comforting hug. During Bob's hospitalization, she even made us a big bowl of Italian wedding soup, showing her caring nature.

Kari's energy extends beyond her work duties. She leads a creative card-making club with five of us ladies once a month, and we truly appreciate the time and skills she shares with us. Whether it's maintaining our residence or contributing to our well-being, Kari is always there with a smile and a helping hand." – *Passavant resident*

Eileen Keelan, Social Worker; Anna Driggers, LPN; and Dawna Toth, RN,
pictured L-R / VNA Hospice



"My dad was in hospice and everyone was amazing. They all were so kind throughout his journey. Their smiles, hugs, care, kind words, and support made a difference that will never be forgotten. As we look back our hearts are so grateful that we had all of you with us for the ride." – *Family member*

Bridget Grabill, Colleen Ley, Elisa Eyer and Courtney Lotz,
pictured L-R / PrimeTime Senior Center



"All these ladies are wonderful, caring, and beautiful. They make all seniors at the Center feel just like family. They know if we feel down, they cheer us up and keep our spirits up. They are so understanding and listen to our problems, run the Center and do a lot of fundraisers. We are all family at the Center. What a wonderful staff." – *Participant*



Mary Cook
Driver / LIFE Lawrence

"Mary is cheerful day in and day out. She makes me want to be more energetic. She is always interactive with the participants and helps me with questions. She's my rock." – *Participant*


Lutheran
SeniorLife
191 Scharberry Lane
Mars, PA 16046

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.

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Lutheran
SeniorLife
Passavant
Community

Abundant Lights

Christmas Festival Saturday, December 7

ASPIRE® 5k Walk/Run, 10:00am
Christmas Festival, 4:00 – 8:00pm

*Spend the day
with us and enjoy*

- 5k Walk/Run
- Basket Raffle
- Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Caricature Artist
- Photo Booth
- Amish Doughnuts
- Candy Sale
- Model Train Display
- Seasonal Refreshments
- Children's Activities:
letter to Santa, face
painting, scavenger
hunt, balloon artist,
games *and more*

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