



MILWAUKEE  
CATHOLIC HOME

# FOCUS

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## GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!

"God Bless" is a phrase you will hear echoing through the hallways of Milwaukee Catholic Home when passing by Mary Byrne. Originally from the East Coast, Mary has made her home in Milwaukee and is thankful to have been blessed with a passion for her work, a loving family, and the chance to give back to her community.

Mary was born and raised in New York City. She attended nursing school at Manhattanville College and received a degree in nursing. After graduation, she received her Certificate of Public Health Nursing from St. John's University and then worked as a Public Health Nurse for the New York City Health Department. In 1951, she moved to Niagara Falls and became an instructor at Niagara Falls University College of Nursing while continuing her education. She was very close to getting her masters in nursing and completed everything but her thesis.

Mary was a community health nurse for most of her career. She has an abundance of experience, from teaching natural childbirth classes to case

finding research for the Wisconsin Lung Association. She also taught medical assisting classes at MATC, managed Health Services at Johnson Controls and eventually served as the Director of Volunteers at St. Mary's Hospital from where she retired from at age 67.

During her time in Niagara Falls, she met her husband Paul. They were married in 1955. Paul and Mary moved to the West Side of Milwaukee in 1956, when Paul took a job teaching philosophy at Marquette University. In 1971, they decided to move to Shorewood because of better educational opportunities for their children. Sadly, Paul died in 1974.

The Byrnes had five children, four sons and one daughter. They were surprised when the doctor told them their fifth child was a girl because their daughter Lisa was the first girl born on her husband's side of the family in 62 years! Mary has seven grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren ranging in ages from 6 to 24. She enjoys spending time with them, especially when they come to visit her in her apartment. Her youngest granddaughter feels like she is staying at a hotel when she visits her grandmother!

Volunteering is a passion Mary has had all of her life. When asked how volunteering has impacted her life she simply replied, "Love your brother as yourself. When you are a volunteer, you always get more than you give." Some of her favorite volunteer experiences have been prison ministry at Fox Lake Corrections, Milwaukee Hospice Home Care and the Gesu Meal Program. Currently, Mary

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**Mary Byrne, Milwaukee Catholic Home resident since 2007, in her lovely apartment.**



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**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NURSING**



**Joan Quirk,  
Director of Nursing**

By definition, quality has several different meanings: an inherent or distinguishing characteristic, a personal trait, especially a character trait, superiority of kind, a degree or grade of excellence. At Milwaukee Catholic Home, we strive for quality in all that we do, whether it is preparing a great meal or driving our residents on an outing. There are many distinguishing characteristics at Milwaukee Catholic Home that bring excellence to our residents, clients, families, staff and community that make us the facility of choice for many.

During May, National Nurses Month, it is timely to illustrate how our nursing staff continually helps us to have unsurpassed customer service ratings and a history of great state surveys. From the beginning, MCH is proactive in our hiring, always looking for the most qualified nurses and nursing assistants. Our applicants go through an in-depth interview and, if hired, a thorough training process to ensure they meet up to our high standards. Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities for learning by taking part in webinars and training within and outside of the facility. Frequently, we receive letters of praise from satisfied residents and families relating examples of the knowledge and expertise of our nursing staff. We recently received a letter that reflects the hard work and dedication of our nursing team. "I am sure there is not a more intelligent, congenial, accomplished and caring nurse supervising team of this exceptional caliber assembled in any Milwaukee nursing home."

Annually, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel honors the many nurses throughout Milwaukee who exemplify the qualities most admired in the field of nursing and uses a panel of eight experts to choose "Nurse of the Year" recipients. Since 1997, we have had several of our nurses nominated for this prestigious title and this year we were grateful to have three nominees. Rose Marie Hansen, Kim Schull and Bridget Zuehlke are all long-term employees who regularly go the extra mile to deliver quality care to our residents. They have a commitment to our organization and serve as excellent role models for all staff who serve on their team. They have excellent assessment skills and are skilled at communicating with doctors and other professionals. It is through their work and work of many others, that families can have peace of mind knowing their loved ones are in safe hands.

Milwaukee Catholic Home is one of five accredited continuing care facilities (CARF-CCAC) in the state of Wisconsin. To be accredited, an organization must demonstrate ongoing innovation and compliance to high standards

*(continued on page 3)*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NURSING *(continued from page 2)*

in all areas including governance, administration, financial practices and care and services provided to older adults. We take great pride in being recognized for this highly regarded mark of quality.

As we move towards the next chapter of our 97-year history, we pledge to carry on our tradition of acquiring the most skilled and committed individuals and nurturing their professional growth within our organization so that quality continues to shine through at Milwaukee Catholic Home.

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Chris Reinheimer, MCH Director of Dining Services, believes when preparing any meal that using fresh produce is always the best way to begin. Since MCH does not have the space to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for all residents, Chris decided that fresh herbs would be a more realistic alternative. "We tried this 3 years ago," said Chris, "and decided to ask a more experienced gardener to take over the job."

Sylvester Wernimont is a member of the dining committee and enjoys gardening in his MCH plot. He was also born and raised on a farm; so gardening is in his blood. Chris could not think of a better person to take on the job. Syl happily accepted the offer and looks forward to taking care of two garden plots this year.

While avoiding extra calories, salt, fat and sugar, cooking with fresh herbs adds flavor, makes a dish look more visually appealing and can even contribute antioxidants to your diet. The MCH herb garden will have basil, chives, cilantro, mint, sage, thyme and dill to add extra spice to our lives!



**Resident Syl Wernimont tending to the herbs in the garden.**

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

The residents and staff of Milwaukee Catholic Home are gearing up for their third year of Co-ed Adult Softball. There are about 20 staff members from numerous departments throughout the organization playing on the team, which is being coached by three of MCH's independent living residents and a volunteer from the community. All games will be held on Thursday evenings at the Pumping Station #2 located at 1311 E. Chambers Street. Come out and show your support for Milwaukee Catholic Home!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game Time</u>
<b>May 20</b>	6:30 PM
<b>May 27</b>	7:30 PM
<b>June 3</b>	6:30 PM
<b>June 6</b>	7:30 PM
<b>June 17</b>	8:30 PM
<b>June 24</b>	6:30 PM
<b>July 1</b>	7:30 PM
<b>July 8</b>	6:30 PM
<b>July 15</b>	7:30 PM
<b>July 22</b>	8:30 PM

# VOLUNTEERS BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Milwaukee Catholic Home's annual volunteer luncheon took place on April 22nd. The "Building A Better World" themed luncheon honored MCH's 180 volunteers, including Volunteer of the Year Jim Wudi. The event, held during National Volunteer Week, recognizes the countless hours volunteers give to Milwaukee Catholic Home by performing services such as assisting with the aviaries, working in the Emporium, helping with special events and activities, providing companionship, and teaching crafts and other hobbies. The event took place in conjunction with Earth Day, and attendees were given a plant along with a pin that said, "Build a Better World." The lunch menu was completely organic, and the festive green tablecloths and napkins brightened the Ballroom. Lunch was followed by an outstanding performance from the Skylight Theatre Trio. Thanks to all of our volunteers for everything you do!



**Volunteer of the Year Jim Wudi enjoys lunch with his family who made a surprise visit to see him receive his award.**



**Milwaukee Catholic Home Residents and Volunteers Neil Cohen, Lotte Matzner and Phyllis Babb enjoy an organic meal at the Annual Volunteer Luncheon.**

## ALL ABOARD FOR A NEW BUS!

An important aspect to our residents' lives is having reliable, safe and comfortable group transportation. Experiencing the community outside of Milwaukee Catholic Home for dining, shopping, entertainment and scenic excursions is vital to a fulfilling lifestyle. Our current bus is simply old and worn out, and it is essential that we replace it. "We need the safest, and most reliable transportation" said our bus driver, "because we are carrying such precious cargo."

In April, we had a bake sale to kick off our fundraising efforts. Residents, staff, family and other members of the community baked and sold delicious goodies, which raised over \$1,000 dollars for this endeavor. We are also selling raffle tickets at our resident reception desk for our "Basket of Booze" prize that will be drawn at our Annual Open House on May 26th. An additional event has been planned for the summer including a mini golf outing and cocktail party on our patio on July 29th.

If you would like more information on how you can get on board in helping us reach our \$110,000 goal for our new bus, contact Richard Lowe, Director of Development at (414) 220-3214 or [rlowe@milwaukeeecatholichome.org](mailto:rlowe@milwaukeeecatholichome.org). With each dollar donated, we are one step closer to a new bus!





# GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Milwaukee Catholic Home gratefully acknowledges our generous benefactors. Gifts of cash, property, securities, bequests and other gifts assist us in providing outstanding retirement and health care services for our residents. We encourage gifts in memory or honor of a loved one. We will be happy to notify the individual or family member of your generosity.

**The following gifts were received between January 1 and March 31, 2010:**

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## GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE! *(continued from page 1)*

volunteers with retired Jesuits at St. Camillus, takes handicapped friends out for lunch, and facilitates a women's spiritual group.

In 2007, Mary moved to Milwaukee Catholic Home for the peace of mind offered in a continuing care community. She adores her apartment and especially loves the staff. "You really can't get any better than Milwaukee Catholic Home. Of course the apartments are most attractive, the food is extraordinary and the activities are endless; but the staff is exceptional and that is what really sets MCH apart." We all feel very blessed to have Mary Byrne living at Milwaukee Catholic Home!

## BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER

Join a group of ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference in our mission of caring for older adults – Milwaukee Catholic Home's Corporate Members.

Since 1913 residents, family members, volunteers and other friends have helped fulfill our mission through their corporate membership. Annual dues are \$75 for community members and \$50 for residents. All dues are tax deductible.

As a Corporate Member, you will be recognized in our Annual Report and our quarterly *Focus* newsletter plus you'll be invited to our Annual Meeting.

## MCH SEMINAR ON SCAMS PAYS DIVIDENDS

"If it looks too good to be true, it may well be!" That was the message when Milwaukee Catholic Home presented a seminar on scams last June. So when one resident got a letter from a private investigator offering to collect \$12,000 she was owed, she asked the MCH development office to check it out.

The news was true! The State of Wisconsin was holding \$12,000 for her. The private eye could collect it for her (for a healthy commission). There was the scam! She did not need their help and could collect the money herself . . . for free! In fact, she did.

Some scams are easy to spot and others appear to be genuine offers or bargains. Most scams need you to do something before they can work, but you can be scammed without doing anything at all. The golden rule is: ALWAYS get independent advice if an offer involves significant money, time or commitment.

Many scammers target retirement communities, looking for people with money whom they can confuse by using the pressure of time. Having attended the June seminar, an MCH resident was forewarned when she received a phone call from a young man claiming to be her grandson. He said he had been arrested in Canada and begged her not to tell his parents and to send him money for bail. Despite the caller's best efforts to confuse and distract her, she followed the advice she had heard at the seminar. When the caller could not give her middle name, she hung up, avoiding the scam.

A new seminar on "Scams That Prey on Seniors" is being planned for early this fall. Watch for details or call Richard Lowe, MCH Development Director at (414) 220-3214 for information.

# OPEN HOUSE TO KICK OFF PATIO POPS

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, May 26th to kick off our 9th annual Patio Pops concert series. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and tour apartments and common areas such as St. Anne's Chapel, the dining room, the solarium, arts and crafts rooms, the Emporium, and more in The Residence beginning at 5:30 p.m. Visit with residents who have decided to make Milwaukee Catholic Home their home. A performance by Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound will follow at 7:30 p.m. Paul Cebar, a Milwaukee native, performs and tours the US regularly with a true "soul" sound. We would like to thank DeWan Dental Wellness, our Farwell Avenue neighbor, for sponsoring the first concert. Please RSVP for the Open House to Linda at (414) 220-3216.



**Don't miss an evening of hors d' oeuvres, apartment tours and a performance by Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound!**

## UPCOMING PATIO POPS PERFORMANCES

**May 26:**

Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound

**June 9:**

Milwaukee Metropolitan Voices

**June 23:**

RiRa Irish Band

**July 7:**

Electrivolet with Plankenhorn & Ferrara

**July 21:**

Cabaret with Becky Spice & Jamie Johns

**August 4:**

Milwaukee Mandolin Orchestra

**August 18:**

Seamus Kennedy

**All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on The Residence outdoor patio, weather permitting, and are free and open to the public.**



[www.milwaukeecatholichome.org](http://www.milwaukeecatholichome.org)

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