

# Faithfully Focused

A Quarterly Publication



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**Resthaven**  
faithfully caring.



We are excited for the many ways our refreshed values will guide us as we continue to support and honor our residents and our community.

Cover photo:  
The River Place residents  
Dave and Donna Hupe  
enjoying Centennial Park.

## Dear Friends of Resthaven,

To serve our community and residents well, Resthaven has been focusing on our refreshed values: **Know My Name, Hold The Door, Walk With Me.** We have discussed these values at meetings with the Board of Trustees, leadership team meetings, small groups, by department, one-on-one, and at our annual employee picnic.

Talking about our values is important, but the real impact is when we have tangible experiences living our values in our day-to-day work.

We have many people living at Resthaven who have years of retirement ahead of them. We serve people in their 50s and people who are over 100 years old. Resthaven is involved in the community and dedicated to faithfully caring for those in our homes to ensure they find meaning and joy in their lives despite limitations that often come with age.

Our team members develop deep relationships with residents and their families and serve them, often for many years, sometimes even decades. Indeed, every employee engagement survey we complete lists relationships with residents as the number one reason people choose to stay working with Resthaven. The way we care for people is inspired by our mission and is now expressed through our values.

One of the most honored parts of our work is caring for people and supporting their families when a resident moves on to glory while in our care. I remember when my grandmother was dying while at the Resthaven Care Center and being impressed with the team members who joined our family in grieving but also gave space for us to reminisce and say goodbye.

A common trend in healthcare is that newcomers are welcomed through the front doors, but when they have died, they leave the building through the back door. As we have been discussing our values and how they impact all aspects of care, we decided that this was an opportunity where we could do things differently.

From these discussions came a new practice we call Honor Walks. When a resident passes away while in our care, team members line the main entrance hallway to say goodbye to the resident as they leave our doors for the last time. Team members have shared with me how powerful these Honor Walks are, and how they appreciate being able to take a moment of silence to say goodbye to the resident.

Death is hard given our bonds with our residents and their loved ones, and it is a part of our work that we don't often talk about. Because our team members have lived into our values, **they know the residents, have walked alongside them, and have held the door for them,** which makes it emotional for everyone when someone passes. It is inspiring to see our team embrace our values and find ways to demonstrate their love and care for those we serve, even in their last moments with them. We are excited about the many ways our refreshed values will guide us as we continue to support and honor our residents and our community.

Deedre Vriesman  
President/CEO

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resthaven's Board of Trustees is a dedicated group of community volunteers who share their expertise in a variety of areas.

Nate Baumann  
Bob Carlson  
Doug DeLeeuw  
Kaitlin DeMaagd  
Barb Kleinheksel  
David Lutz  
P. Haans Mulder  
Annie Sterken  
Kevin VanderKlok  
Pam VanPutten



1. Residents enjoy a bus ride to Saugatuck.
2. American Legion Band Concert at Kollen Park, where Resthaven is an event sponsor of this concert series.
3. Bible Study at The Care Center.
4. Volunteer Jim Courey with a resident.



## Our Mission

To glorify God by providing a continuum of quality care and services that demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

## Living the Mission and Values of Resthaven.

**“Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”**

**Proverbs 11:25b**

A familiar face at Resthaven’s Care Center is Jim Courey. For the past few years, Jim’s love and devotion to his wife Barbara was a daily reminder of what it looks like to be inspired by love, commitment, and sacrifice. While Barbara walked a long path of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, Jim was with her every step of the way. Earlier this year, Barbara died and is now residing and rejoicing with her Lord and Savior, Jesus. After being at The Care Center almost every day for two years, Jim says he became more and more impressed with the team at Resthaven. What impressed him the most was their commitment to keep coming back and providing exceptional care time and time again. He said, “This staff is not just committed but committed with action.” Jim found himself inspired by the staff for the medical care provided for his wife and all the other ways the team works to provide care, comfort, and connection.

After Barb died, Jim discovered that he missed the family at The Care Center and decided to come by and see how everyone was doing. Upon returning, he noticed that in the Good Shepherd Home (Specialized Dementia Care Unit), there was a need for some of the male residents to connect with other men. As a person who knows

firsthand what the challenges of dementia are like, Jim was quick to see that not all a person’s needs have to do with their physical realities. He realized that it has always been easy for him to make connections with residents because they see him as a peer and equal in many ways.

Jim is a former Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity and Development Director for Cornerstone University. He has life experiences just like the residents at Resthaven have experienced. Jim quickly brings up past events that he knows will create a connection, for example, “Where were you when you found out President Kennedy had been shot?” He saw that he has so much in common with the men at The Care Center and has found it to be a place of community and connection where he can make a difference.

Now volunteering three days a week, Jim has found it refreshing to invest in men at The Care Center. He quoted Proverbs 11:25 as one of the reasons he keeps coming back: “Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Jim is a living example of the mission and values of Resthaven. His compassion and commitment to our residents are a gift that brings joy, meaning, and purpose to older adults looking for people to know their names and hear their stories.



We are so grateful Jim is giving his time and energy to refresh others.

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to maintain our volunteer program at Resthaven. While we still take important measures to keep our residents safe and protected each day, we are more than ready to have volunteers connecting with and blessing our residents. If you would be interested in doing this, please get in touch with our Life Enrichment Team to see where you could help.

Please contact:

Carly Wing at 616.796.3617 or [carlene.wing@resthaven.org](mailto:carlene.wing@resthaven.org)



Jim with residents Fred Matthis and Fred Mulder.

## Board Members on the Move.



Rick Zweering joined the Resthaven Board of Trustees in 2015. From 2017 to 2020 Rick was the Chair of the Board and the Vice Chair from 2020 to 2022. Serving as a board member, specifically as the Chair of the Board, is a big commitment, and we are so grateful for Rick's wise and conscientious service.

Rick helped lead Resthaven through several significant transitions, including the search for the CEO in 2017-2018 and throughout the pandemic in 2020, and with the start-up of Resthaven's expansion projects, including Maple Woods Cottage, Janssen Cottage, The River Place, and now The Farmstead. Rick's steady leadership, dedication, commitment, and thoughtfulness in his service have left a tremendous positive impact on Resthaven.



We are excited to share that Pam Van Putten and Doug DeLeeuw have agreed to serve on Resthaven's Board of Trustees.



Pam VanPutten is honored to be part of the Resthaven Board. She is currently the Coordinator of Mentoring & Internships for the Studies in Ministry Minor at Hope College. Pam previously served at Central Wesleyan Church in Holland, where she was the Director of Discipleship for Student Ministries. Pam has experience in many ministry settings in the Holland area.

She and her husband, Mitch, have also been actively involved in Young Life and worked at Christ Memorial Church in Youth Ministry.



Doug DeLeeuw is a Holland native with long connections to the Resthaven care community.

He currently volunteers as a security runner for the security team at Holland Hospital and as Kid's Hope mentor at Lakewood elementary. Presently he serves as a pastoral care elder on consistory at Fellowship Reformed Church.

Doug is a retired Human Resources executive with Global HR Operations leadership experience.

We are so thankful for the wonderful staff at Resthaven who serve the seniors in our care.

## Celebrating Our Best and Brightest.

We celebrated our team at Resthaven in June with our annual employee picnic. We are so thankful for the wonderful staff at Resthaven who serve the seniors in our care. On the same day as the picnic, Resthaven also received recognition in being considered one of West Michigan's Best and Brightest places to work in 2022.

It was a day full of food, connections, and fun!





**WEST MICHIGAN'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR WINNER 2022**



## Making an Impact.

LeadingAge Michigan was pleased to honor Ryan Boersema from Resthaven with the Shining Star Award at the 2022 Member Awards Gala on Tuesday, May 24.

The gala took place at the Lansing Event Center in Lansing, Michigan. Each award winner was nominated by peers and selected by an esteemed group of committee members from many nominations across the state. Two hundred people gathered to celebrate the elite group of 27 award winners and recognize their collective achievements.

The Shining Star Award recognizes a gifted aging services professional who, while working for the nominating organization, has consistently demonstrated dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm in his/her profession and has significantly impacted the lives of older adults.

Ryan Boersema started as a dietary aide at Resthaven over 15 years ago. Last year he returned as the Dining Manager for the assisted living and independent living programs and made a huge impact.

Residents not only appreciate the food, but he has shown eagerness to know them and incorporate their ideas into the food program. During this pandemic challenge, Ryan has demonstrated solid leadership with his team, providing staff stability and improved retention and staff satisfaction. His flexibility and attention to detail have made the food program one of the highlights of living at Resthaven.

LeadingAge Michigan extends a heartfelt congratulations to Ryan Boersema from Resthaven for his continued excellence and mission-based care, as well as the quality work to better the lives of seniors in the state of Michigan! Review the 2022 Member Awards Gala Program or visit LeadingAge Michigan on YouTube to learn more about the 2022 Member Awards Gala and other award honorees.



Ryan Boersema holding his award.



During this pandemic challenge, Ryan has demonstrated solid leadership with his team, providing staff stability and improved retention and staff satisfaction.

Above: The Resthaven team pose with Ryan at the event.

Right: Ryan with Resthaven President/CEO Deedre Vriesman.



## Your Labor Is Not in Vain.

**"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."**

*1 Corinthians 15:58*

Thirty-eight years ago this May, I graduated from Western Theological Seminary with my Master of Divinity. Thirty years ago this August, I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. (We had three children between my graduation and ordination!) Twenty-two years ago this July, I began as the Chaplain for Resthaven.

A lot has changed through these years. I am different than when I started; I have learned more from our residents than I thought possible—incredibly, I realize how little I know as I get older! Resthaven is different, too, adding structures and staff, programs and plans. But for Resthaven and me, one thing has remained constant: They and I have been focused on the mission God has set before us, and we strive to serve others the same way Christ would have.

At the beginning of June, I told Deedre Vriesman, our CEO, and Sean Jarchow, my Chaplain colleague, that I am retiring at the end of September. Then I sent an email to the rest of my co-workers, letting them know my plans. I felt peace and release when I hit "send" on that email, and it seemed like the right decision. Twenty-two years is a long time, amplified by "Covid-Time," which makes everything seem longer!



I was a delegate to my denomination's annual meeting the following week. At the final worship after a long week, the worship team gave a "gift" of a song for this gathering of leaders. They sang "Your Labor Is Not in Vain" by The Porter's Gate. I had never heard the song before—and I wept as I listened. As I cried, I became aware that I could feel peace, release, and grief in my retirement. The emotions do not cancel one another out; they can all be true simultaneously.

**"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."**

These are the words of encouragement I want to leave with Resthaven upon retirement. Seventy-seven years ago, a group of visionary people gathered to establish Resthaven.

The years since have been filled with joy, challenge, hope, and anxiety. These last 2 ½ years that have been tinged with Covid have been especially taxing.

But the work Resthaven began in 1945 is the work that still endures. The ministry I have shared continues, led by committed and talented co-laborers, serving our residents as Christ would. They know that in the Lord, their "labor is not in vain." I can retire with peace and release!

**Chaplain**  
Leigh VanKempen

# Keep the momentum going.

Providing opportunities for life enrichment for all residents requires the support of our community. As a non-profit, we are dedicated to ensuring quality of life for all residents. Consider a donation today to join our mission of providing a true home and a vibrant life to those in our care.

## \$3,000

Support Benevolent Care for one resident per month at The Care Center.

## \$1,000

Support Benevolent Care for one resident per month at our Maple Woods campus.

## \$100-\$500

Support our expansion of the Pastoral Care program.

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Donate online at: [resthaven.org/help-us-serve](https://resthaven.org/help-us-serve)

### Donate by check

Please send checks made out to "Resthaven" to:

Resthaven  
948 Washington Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423

Did you know you can donate stock? Give through a Donor-Advised Fund to Resthaven at [resthaven.org/help-us-serve](https://resthaven.org/help-us-serve)

Your gift helps support:



#### Benevolent Care

Your gift supports care to residents even when longevity or the level of care required exceeds financial capabilities.



#### Sustainability and Growth

Your donation can help us provide quality activities, events, and outings that focus on bringing joy to our residents' days.



#### Pastoral Care

With our generous contribution, we're able to honor our mission, supporting residents and their families in their faith and through life's transitions.

Resthaven  
948 Washington Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423



## NOT JUST CLOSE TO IT ALL. PART OF IT ALL.

Maintain the lively and active lifestyle you've always loved—but without all the hassles of home ownership—at The River Place by Resthaven. Set amid the energy of downtown Holland, this modern, independent living campus is close to shops, restaurants, and entertainment.

Learn more at: [the-river-place.org](http://the-river-place.org)

