

# Faithfully Focused

A Quarterly Publication



Spring 2023  
Issue 18

  
**Resthaven**  
faithfully caring.



For 78 years, Resthaven has kept its mission as its guiding principle, and we plan to do the same for the next five million days of care.

## Dear Friends of Resthaven,

Since Resthaven was founded in 1945, 78 years have added up to more than **five million days** of care, support, and enrichment for the seniors in our community, whether they're living independently or living with some level of assistance. 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Resthaven has not just provided medical care but nurtured the whole person: spiritually, physically, cognitively, and emotionally.

On May 18, Resthaven hosted its inaugural Celebration of Caring event, with this year's theme: **"Five Million Reasons to Give."** Our 78 years and five million days of care means that many lives have been impacted, not just those who have received care and support but also their families and friends who had the comfort of knowing their loved one was being taken care of.

Hearing how Resthaven has touched someone's or a family's life is one of the best parts of my work. Without fail, the number one reason Resthaven team members choose to continue working here is the relationships and joy they experience spending time with and caring for our residents. The team members are committed to ensuring that each resident is treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

In order to do that, we provide support and services that exceed not only our reimbursement but also many of the residents' financial ability to pay.

We believe firmly that part of our mission includes providing care and support to seniors in our community even if they are not able to pay the full cost of care. This is much more of a commitment than many senior living organizations offer, but we feel called to do this as the only non-profit senior living organization in our community. For 78 years, Resthaven has kept its mission as its guiding principle, and we plan to do the same for the next five million days of care. To do that, we rely on the generosity of this community to keep Resthaven and our mission going.

We care for one person at a time. One unique, older adult with their own experiences, preferences, and beliefs, which we value and use to customize the care we provide. That is our values in action: **Know My Name, Walk With Me, Hold The Door.**

As our senior population doubles and even triples over the next 10 years, we will continue to rely on the support of our community. Thank you for helping Resthaven have the resources to provide five million days of care, and for considering supporting us into the future so we can provide five million more.

Deedre Vriesman  
President/CEO

Cover photo:  
Resthaven's inaugural  
Celebration of Caring  
event at The Ivy House  
in Saugatuck, MI.



Daily life at Resthaven campuses.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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## Our Mission

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

## Welcome to Holland! Spotlighting our out-of-town residents.

There's a lot of love for the Holland community, not just from those who have called the lakeshore city home for their entire lives, but also from those who have thrived elsewhere and yet are drawn to all it has to offer. It has a vibrant downtown with locally owned shops, dining, and entertainment. It's close to Lake Michigan and quaint coastal towns. And it's home to Resthaven, which has provided care to generations of seniors for the last 78 years.

As Resthaven continues to be a resource for elders, it has expanded its offerings to include two new independent living residences—the now open The River Place and the soon-to-be-open The Farmstead. If you're a regular reader of this newsletter, then you're well aware of these happenings!

**Did you know that about 25% of those who are planning to move into The Farmstead aren't coming from Holland?** We talked with two couples who have reserved their future homes there and learned a little about them and what influenced their decisions. Following are their stories.



Photo by \_sovereign\_photography\_

### Ron and Ginny Haas

Both originally from New York City, Ron and Ginny Haas decided in their early twenties to pack up and move to Battle Creek, Michigan, where Ron had accepted a position as Assistant City Manager. Having always lived in large metropolitan areas, they gravitated toward the idea of smaller-town living—and they ended up loving it. The Haases have remained in Michigan since, and they currently reside in Dewitt, just outside of Lansing.

Now in their golden years, both Ron and Ginny are ready to explore what's next. Ginny, who worked at MSU for more than two decades, became

connected to a redevelopment project that included a life plan community, and the concept piqued her interest. In particular, the lifelong learning aspect appealed to her, knowing how important it is to be mentally—and physically—active. For Ron, socialization and human interaction are important, and a deciding factor in where and how they would spend their retirement.

The Haases have family in Holland and felt that if they weren't going to stay in the Lansing area, Holland would be the only other place they'd want to live. Both love the downtown with all the

independent shops and restaurants, as well as the proximity to the lakeshore. In their research to find a residence, they first looked into Resthaven's The River Place, but eventually decided that The Farmstead would be a better fit for them. "We really want to meet people and have our own social life, and The Farmstead seemed like an ideal opportunity," Ginny says. "The timing seemed right, so we met with the Resthaven team—and here we are!"

After reviewing the options, they chose a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment on the ground floor. Both are looking forward to downsizing, and Ginny is

especially excited about not having to pull another weed. They also like that there will be an on-site fitness center that will make it easier to be active. But what really cemented their decision was the opportunity for plenty of socializing. "When we were first married, we lived in apartments and we loved it," Ron says.

Through the events that Resthaven has arranged for future residents to meet and mingle, the Haases have already

met several of their soon-to-be neighbors—and they're looking forward to being actively engaged in making the community their new home.

**"We're looking forward to just the casual interaction with our neighbors. I think that will be fun."**



Ron and Ginny Haas

## Stephen Bushouse and Jill Kooiman

Stephen Bushouse and Jill Kooiman, who have been married for more than 40 years, are both natives of West Michigan; Stephen from Ada and Jill from Spring Lake. Stephen spent his career in higher education, and still works in a part-time capacity at Indiana University, while Jill has worked for the cities of Mt. Pleasant and Indianapolis, and most recently has been active in fundraising.

They currently live in Indianapolis in a five-bedroom home with a large yard that once served their family well, but now requires a bit more maintenance than either of them desires. Over the past few years, they've been looking into places where they might retire—where they could also receive additional support if the day comes when they need it. Resthaven's The Farmstead rose to the top.

Though Stephen and Jill toured other senior living providers in the Holland area, they found them to be a little old and outdated. They also preferred their future home be run by a non-profit. "The fact that Resthaven is not for profit, we felt was really important because the priority would not be so much on how

much money is made, but what services can be provided," Jill says. "Plus, we like Resthaven's values, as well as their background and experience."

Jill has family in Holland and Zeeland and they also have a vacation home in Pentwater, making a move back to Michigan and the lakeshore an easy decision. They love that the apartment they will live in at The Farmstead will be brand new, but what has driven most of their decision is the social aspect. Once they leave behind the upkeep of their current home, they want their days to still be filled. In this case, with meaningful, intentional interactions. "We chose an apartment versus a duplex because we felt we'd have better access to meet people and grow friendships," Stephen says.

**"I expect a lot of groups and clubs will be formed, or, if not, we'll create them ourselves."**

Stephen and Jill have attended several of Resthaven's meet-and-greet events and have already had dinner and done

other activities with their neighbors to be. "We're building relationships," Stephen says. And, Jill adds, "We already have a sense of community with The Farmstead, with the staff, and some of our neighbors. We're really tickled that we will have made some friendships by the time we move in."



Stephen Bushouse and Jill Kooiman

# Five Million Days of Care. Five Million Reasons to Give.

On a warm, sunny May evening, nearly 200 guests gathered for Resthaven’s first Celebration of Caring fundraising event. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement, the food and refreshments were delicious, the band Brena was incredible as always – but the true reason for each person being in that room was not the beautiful setting, the food and drinks, or the band, but rather the five million days of care that Resthaven has provided to seniors in our community and their commitment to seeing that continue for generations to come.

Those days of care look different for each of the seniors we have cared for over the last 78 years. As Board Chair Nate Baumann remarked, for his grandfather, that care was displayed by the Resthaven staff taking the time to learn about his passion, cars, and admiring the cars in the parking lot – his favorite view. These small moments and gestures can be just as remarkable as the big ones, such as helping with a bath or getting dressed in the morning.

For each of those days of care filled with big and small gestures, a resident, a family a community was touched by the care that Resthaven provides. Each moment being one of the five million reasons to support Resthaven into the future.

Resthaven is grateful for each guest that attended, showing that they believe in our mission and believe in the work that we do as an organization. We are proud of this inaugural Celebration of Caring event, and look forward to future years.

## Thank you to the following Leader and Title Sponsors of The 2023 Celebration of Caring Event

### Leader Sponsors



### Title Sponsors



HAWORTH Helps

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## From the Chaplain's Desk.

In the nearly eight decades that Resthaven has served our community, we have accumulated millions of reasons for why we do what we do. A primary reason, perhaps the very soul of Resthaven, is that we faithfully care because we believe God has told us we must. Resthaven grew out of this faith promise.

We believe that spiritual care is a crucial part of caring for a person. In a clinical setting, we miss a primary component of identity if we do not care for the spirit. Quality of life suffers and connection to meaning, purpose, and value can be lost. The desire to continue in life can disappear when facing chronic illness, separation from family, and the losing of one's identity. So many of our residents see the "life that was" coming to an end, which can be a terrifying and heartbreaking experience. I am honored and blessed that Resthaven does not employ just one chaplain—we employ two. In a world where spiritual care in senior communities is often relegated to volunteers, Resthaven is committed to creating a spiritual care program that recognizes the importance of holistic care. We care for the mind, body, and spirit.

In my role, I am responsible for caring for the spirit of Resthaven. How does one define the "spirit" of an organization? Is it the upwards of 800 seniors we care for each year? Is it the 400 employees? Is it the hundreds of family members who come to visit with residents and staff? Our volunteers?



The community we exist within? The spirit of Resthaven can be an ethereal or enigmatic thing—hard to nail down but yet very real.

A recent article I read was talking about spiritual identity in residents with Alzheimer's dementia. Elizabeth MacKinlay was journeying with a woman named Christine who was living with dementia. As they journeyed, Christine asked a poignant question, "Will I lose God as I travel into this disease?" Chaplains exist to travel with people who are asking these kinds of questions. When we sit to talk with our residents, we can rarely give them answers. What we do, though, is help connect them to those sources of meaning and value.

For many, this source is God. For others, family, friends, their legacy—these are what give their life meaning.

My reason for caring is connecting people to these sources of meaning by listening to their life stories and to the cries of their spirit. This is the essence of spiritual care and the heart of what I do. To care for the spirit is to say, "You matter. Your experiences matter. Your life matters." I will continue in hope to proclaim how the people who make up Resthaven, its very spirit, matter.

**Chaplain**  
Sean Jarchow

## If Walls Could Talk.

The Warm Friend has been serving seniors as one of Resthaven's independent living offerings since 1982. But long before cardio drumming and concerts filled the halls, the historic building had a very different life.

On the corner of 8th Street and Central Avenue in Downtown Holland, where The Warm Friend is located, stood The City Hotel, which was remodeled and renamed Hotel Holland in 1891.



In 1923, A.H. Landwehr of Holland Furnace Company purchased the property. He demolished Hotel Holland, and in 1925 the six-story building as we know it opened as The Warm Friend Tavern. The bellhops and waitresses who worked at The Warm Friend Tavern donned traditional Dutch costumes to match the Dutch heritage of the area. Some of our very own Resthaven residents were bellhops and waitresses during the days of the tavern.



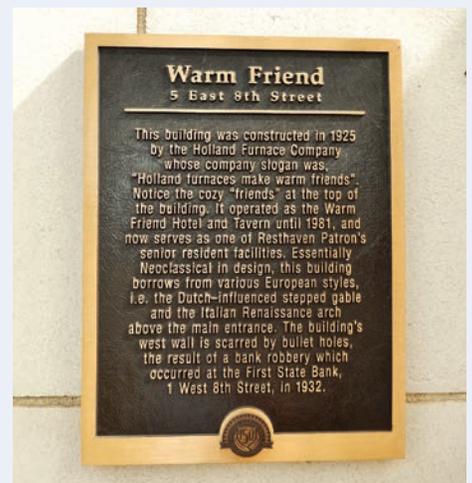
The Warm Friend was also home to the Holland Furnace Company, a bank, Holland's first radio station, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Grill Room restaurant – just to name a few. Menu items in the Grill Room included Dutch Onion Soup for 15 cents, and Fried Fresh Lake Michigan Trout for \$1.10. Rumor has it that there was a secret passageway to the lower level of The Warm Friend for patrons to visit the Bierkelder (Beer Cellar in Dutch) during the years of prohibition, and the staircase still exists.

The Holland Furnace Company sold The Warm Friend to Jack and Arthur Vannette in 1965. Shortly thereafter, the Vannette brothers renovated the hotel to include updated hotel rooms, luxury rental apartments, and an arcade.

And to our favorite part of The Warm Friend's history – Jack and Arthur Vannette sold the property to Resthaven in 1981. Since then, The Warm Friend has been home to hundreds of seniors looking to enjoy living in a vibrant community. You can feel the warmth the moment you walk in. As you proceed through the oak-paneled hallway leading to the lobby, you will hear laughter and conversation bellowing from the coffee shop. Take a few steps further and into the grand lobby where you will witness partnership on a puzzle, neighbors catching up, piano concerts from talented residents and Hope College students alike, and competitive games of cribbage and rummikub. And at the far northern end of the lobby is the Tulip Room where many stories are shared over lunch and dinner meals. The Warm Friend provides silent support for its residents through meals, 24/7 on-site staff, housekeeping, transportation, and opportunities for excursions, activities, and lifelong learning, all of which promotes healthy living long into the golden years. This is community at its best.



As Resthaven is celebrating 78 years and more than five million days of care provided to seniors in our community, The Warm Friend itself is approaching a big milestone, 100 years! The charm and character that we have all come to love about the building is also our challenge, one we have come to embrace as we work to replace original plumbing and electrical, replace the windows to the original style, and update the furnishings to meet the needs and desires of today's seniors. This milestone is also a reason to celebrate the life that The Warm Friend has had and the life that it continues to give.



## How You Can Support Our Mission.

Your legacy is made up of stories left behind that will be told again and again by future generations. As we often reminisce about our loved ones who have gone before us, we may not think about the fact that the next generations will do the same about us. What stories do we want them to share?

The Apostle Paul's legacy was teaching us to know Christ. His testimony of salvation was instrumental in spreading Christianity around the world. Although few people in history live up to the significance of Paul's legacy, we can all be intentional now to shape the legacy that will be spoken about later.

As a faith-based non-profit organization, Resthaven values generosity as part of someone's legacy – generosity with time, talents, and financial resources. In Resthaven's case, generosity allows for us to continue to care for those who have outlived their resources. Generosity allows for us to continue with a robust Life Enrichment program for our residents to feel excited about something, feel a sense of purpose, and continue a life of intentional socialization. Generosity allows us to provide Spiritual Care to

our residents through our expanded Chaplaincy program so that residents have the opportunity for their spiritual needs to be cared for and, frankly, flourish.

When you give to Resthaven, whether that is with a one-time donation, monthly donations, or including Resthaven in your estate, your legacy will be reflected in the Bible studies, the cardio drumming classes, the bus trips, and the warm and specialized care provided to those who call Resthaven home.

As Resthaven celebrates 78 years, and more than five million days of care provided to seniors, we are grateful for the support that the community has provided to help get us here. What was started by a group of local pastors in 1945 with a house for eight residents has grown into five campuses, caring for upwards of 800 seniors annually. Resthaven remains deeply rooted in our history as our mission has gone unchanged for 78 years and will continue to strengthen, grow, and innovate as a result of your generosity.



Lindsey Zona  
Fund Development Manager

### Connect with Lindsey

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 ResthavenMI

 resthavenmi



## Departing Board Member

Kaitlin DeMaagd began serving on the Resthaven Board of Trustees in 2017. During her two consecutive 3-year terms on the board, Kaitlin has been instrumental in several endeavors, ranging from a leadership transition to navigating Resthaven through a global pandemic, all while deciphering how best to grow Resthaven to better live out its mission – impacting more lives by opening the Care Center's Janssen Cottage, launching The River Place, and supporting the development of The Farmstead.

Kaitlin's medical background and expertise were a valuable addition to the board, and we are immensely grateful for Kaitlin's willingness to serve on the Ethics Committee, meeting regularly to discuss medical ethics cases. Kaitlin has been a dedicated, dependable, and driven board member and we are so grateful for her service.

# 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.

## Ways to donate

### Donate online at:

[resthaven.org/help-us-serve](http://resthaven.org/help-us-serve)

### Donate by check:

Please send checks made out to "Resthaven" to:

Resthaven  
948 Washington Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423

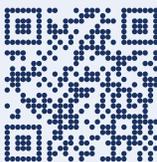
### Donate stock through a Donor-Advised Fund at:

[resthaven.org/help-us-serve](http://resthaven.org/help-us-serve)

Have you graciously included Resthaven as a beneficiary in your estate or trust? Let us know so we can welcome you to our Legacy Club!

### Donate by Venmo at:

@resthaven-mi



## Your gift helps support:



### Benevolent Care

Your gift supports care to residents even when longevity or 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 your 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

# Independent senior living by Resthaven.

Declare your independence and right-size  
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