

# Faithfully Focused

A Quarterly Publication



## Ending the Year on a Grateful Note



Together, we ensure the continuity of our services that offer hope to seniors and their loved ones alike in a Christian, mission-driven senior community right here in Holland.

Seth Weener, Resthaven's CFO, recently shared a story with me. During a church service he attended, as the congregation prepared for the congregational prayer, they were invited to share both prayer requests and praises. A member stood up and expressed their gratitude for the seamless transition of their loved one to Resthaven's Maple Woods assisted living campus. Their words were a testament to the peace of mind they now have, knowing that their family member is receiving exceptional care.

This single story is one of many we hear each month, and it encapsulates the essence of Resthaven's mission. Over the course of our history, we have provided more than five million days of care. This achievement, which we have proudly referenced throughout this year, speaks volumes about our commitment to touching the lives of seniors and their families. It also plays a significant role in enriching our community, contributing to Holland's reputation as a thriving destination for retirement living.

While 2023 has not been defined by the pandemic, the challenges faced by senior living communities persist in the aftermath. Experts in senior living trends have highlighted a substantial shift in population dynamics, with a growing number of seniors—both the 'young old' and the 'older old'—in need of care and services. This, compounded by a strained workforce nationwide, rising care costs due to increased medical complexities, and reimbursement programs falling short of meeting the needs of our residents, underscores the ongoing difficulties in our field.

Nevertheless, this is a field of utmost importance as we demonstrate respect and honor for our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

Resthaven's ability to meet these challenges relies on the generosity of our community. Your contributions support a range of initiatives including building renovations, benevolent care for those who have outlived their resources, and bolstering social work, recreational therapy, and chaplaincy programs—among others. Resthaven stands on the foundation of your generosity, spanning across generations of families and residents. Together, we ensure the continuity of a senior living community that offers hope to seniors and their loved ones alike in a Christian, mission-driven senior community right here in Holland.

*Your gift to Resthaven is an investment in hope. It provides us with the assurance that we will have the resources required to care for the seniors who call Resthaven home today and into the future. It instills hope in our residents, granting them opportunities for community engagement, stimulating activities, spiritual care, and personalized attention in the home of their choosing.*

Thank you for being an integral part in providing five million days of care. And thank you for partnering with us to provide five million days more.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deedre Vriesman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Deedre Vriesman  
President/CEO

Cover photo:  
Resthaven residents  
enjoying daily life at  
Resthaven.



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.

- Nate Baumann
- Bob Carlson
- Hannah Clark
- Doug DeLeeuw
- Barb Kleinheksel
- David Lutz
- Haans Mulder
- Annie Sterken
- Kevin VanderKlok
- Pam VanPutten



**Our Mission**

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

Faithfully Caring Cards can be located in the lobby of all of our campuses as an opportunity for you to thank a specific Resthaven team member for demonstrating our mission and values.



## Why We Give Viewpoints from Resthaven Donors

Lina  
Jacobs



Lina Jacobs embarked on her journey with Resthaven more than two decades ago. Her initial role was as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), and she subsequently advanced to become an LPN, RN, and Clinical Manager before attaining her current position as Director of Nursing. Throughout her professional growth, Resthaven has been a constant support in her academic journey and advancing career opportunities. However, it's not just the organization's support that has earned Lina's unwavering loyalty.

"Throughout my career," she reflects, "the leaders, mentors, and coaches at Resthaven poured into me, which allowed me to pour into others."

Throughout her tenure, Lina has witnessed Resthaven's mission unfold not only in her professional life but also in the care provided to her own family members. At Resthaven, Lina feels she's part of something greater, and her decision to donate, though carefully considered, felt like a natural conclusion. "Our decision to contribute to Resthaven was very prayerful for me, my husband and kids," she reveals.

*"I feel very blessed to be able to give my time, and financially support Resthaven, and to see first hand how our programs impact the quality of life that we provide for our residents."*

Marty  
& Margie  
Amon



Margie Amon is a lifelong Holland resident, while her husband, Marty, hails from elsewhere but has called Holland home for several decades. Their first personal experience with Resthaven was attending the Celebration of Caring fundraising event in May. During this event, they became acquainted with Resthaven's deep dedication to the community and the diverse, engaging programs available to its residents.

The Amons had recently moved Margie's dad to an assisted living facility, but it wasn't proving to be the ideal fit for him or their family. The Celebration of Caring experience stirred a strong inclination within them to move him to Resthaven, where he would receive more specialized care. Margie's daily visits have consistently affirmed that this decision was the right one, bringing them peace of mind and lightening a significant burden from their hearts.

"We continue to be impressed with the dedication of the staff," Margie says. "They take time and they genuinely seem to care about my dad's needs, and our needs, and the other residents as well." Because of this experience, the Amons felt compelled to begin a process of giving. "We intend to make this a long-term commitment," Marty says.

*"We really feel that Resthaven is worthy of consideration and, when we decide to allocate our gifting, they're definitely on the list."*

Resthaven is blessed with support from an array of individuals, organizations, and businesses. While each donor's connection with Resthaven is unique, they all share a common belief in the organization's profound benefit to our community and its seniors, and the steadfast mission that guides it.

The compelling reasons behind donors' inspiration to contribute to Resthaven encompass Resthaven's strong and positive presence in Holland, the invaluable programs offered to seniors, and the unwavering commitment to compassionate care. Below you'll find a selection of these inspiring stories.

## Tom Riekse Sr.



Tom Riekse Sr. has ties with Resthaven as a former family member, as well as a current resident at The River Place. Tom initially came to Holland as a student to attend Hope College. Once married, he and his wife, Carol, raised their family in Chicago, and also resided in South Haven and Florida. However, their path eventually led them back to Holland, drawn by the outstanding senior support services available in the local community.

As Carol's needs grew beyond what Tom and his dedicated team of caregivers could provide at home, she transitioned to the Boersma Cottage at Resthaven's Care Center campus. Tom found great comfort in the fact that Resthaven permitted their long-time caregivers, who Carol had come to know and trust, to continue caring for her alongside Resthaven's team members.

Tom's decision to contribute to Resthaven isn't solely a tribute to the care Carol received, but also a reflection of his commitment to furthering Resthaven's mission. He firmly believes in the societal value of supporting not-for-profit organizations, emphasizing:

*"It's a social good to give to non-profit organizations, so my family will do that. If you have resources, you should share them and help other people have opportunities. In donating to Resthaven, I feel I can make an impact."*

## Haans Mulder



Haans Mulder's roots in Holland run deep, and he has known about Resthaven for many decades, both as a community organization, and as a place where his grandmother received exceptional care. As an attorney with numerous clients who have chosen to make one of Resthaven's five campuses their home, Haans also serves as a dedicated board member and donor.

One of the driving forces behind Haans's commitment to giving his time and financial support is witnessing the profound impact that Resthaven has on his clients and our community. He has witnessed seniors not only find comfort but truly thrive within the Resthaven continuum. "I think for a lot of people the faith component is really important. They can see that in the nurse, the social worker, the caregiver ... the servant aspect comes through in all areas of the organization," praises Haans.

Even with a comprehensive understanding of Resthaven's work, his role on the board of trustees has deepened his appreciation for the organization. Haans acknowledges that organizations inevitably face transitional phases, but he's been consistently impressed with how Resthaven has overcome obstacles.

*"I've just been incredibly impressed with how Resthaven has navigated many challenges, including COVID, and continued with their mission, their growth, and their new developments. It's been a privilege and honor to be a part of it."*

## Resthaven Receives Grant for Cognitive Aging and Dementia Education

Resthaven was recently awarded grant funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in collaboration with the Michigan Public Health Institute to spearhead community education efforts around cognitive aging and dementia. **With an estimated 6.7 million Americans currently living with dementia,** the need for such initiatives is paramount. As the population of adults aged 65 and older continues to surge over the next two decades, the prevalence of cognitive decline and dementia is expected to follow suit. Resthaven, a leading provider of senior care and memory care, is unwavering in its commitment to our community and in offering education and support to those dealing with cognitive decline and dementia.

Seth Weener, Resthaven's CFO, praised the MDHHS for prioritizing dementia education in Michigan communities through this grant opportunity. Noting that a staggering 75 percent of Americans know someone with dementia, Seth said, "We feel it's an incredibly important topic, and there was no better choice than Resthaven to implement this free opportunity for our West Michigan community."

During a recent speaker series, approximately 250 attendees had the privilege of hearing from Dr. Louis Nykamp, President of Medical Staff at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, who shared valuable insights on cognitive aging, dementia, and healthy aging lifestyles. Dr. Nykamp is a highly respected local geriatric psychiatrist with a special interest in seniors, dementia, and Parkinson's disease.

The second guest speaker of the series was Michael Verde—author, award-winning educator, and founder and president of Memory Bridge. He captivated the audience with a fascinating presentation focused on common perceptions and attitudes toward those living with dementia, and shed light on the unfortunate loneliness often experienced by them. Michael's mission is to break down the barriers created by dementia and restore a sense of purpose, belonging, and love to those affected.

In addition to the speaker series, Michael premiered his latest documentary, "Love Is Listening: Dementia Without Loneliness," for the first time in the United States and only the second time worldwide. The documentary delves into the lives of individuals living with dementia and how they navigate their world.



It features insights from experts in various fields of study and follows the experiences of several individuals, as well as their families and caregivers, as they confront the many challenges.

Michael was deeply impressed during his brief stay in Holland. Several Resthaven team members had the privilege of spending time with Michael, who commended Resthaven's leadership, dementia programming, and the commitment of our team members. "The greatest source of pain for people diagnosed with one of the myriad forms of dementia is loneliness," Michael said.

"The good news is that we can do something about it. I commend Resthaven and Hope College for recognizing that community can heal what medicine cannot cure."

Resthaven considers it an honor to have been selected to provide this opportunity to our community, bringing together two remarkable speakers to promote inclusivity, understanding, and support for those living with dementia and those who care for them.

"Simply put, I had no idea of the power of Michael Verde's ideas. It was captivating, and I was transfixed by his delivery. His topic is one that needs to be shared—which Resthaven is doing, so great job."

– Event Attendee

During the event, attendees were invited to participate in a community collaborative art project, with each community member contributing a piece. This tangible demonstration of our community's respect and support for those living with dementia will be temporarily showcased in various community organizations in the Holland/Zeeland area before returning to its permanent location at Resthaven.

**HASP (Hope Academy of Senior Professionals) Office**  
November 2023

**Holland Aquatic Center**  
December 2023

**City of Zeeland's Howard Miller Library**  
January 2024

**Christ Memorial Church**  
February 2024

**Hope College Martha Miller Center**  
March 2024

**Holland City Hall**  
April 2024

**The Warm Friend**  
May 2024



“It’s not uncommon for me to be approached on the sidewalk, at church, or during community events by individuals whose lives have been touched by Resthaven.”

## It All Adds Up



Seth Weener, CFO

Growing up as the son of a pastor and a school nurse, the world of not-for-profits was my familiar terrain. Therefore, when I embarked on my journey at Hope College, my sights were already set on a career within the realm of not-for-profit organizations. However, it wasn’t until my junior year of college that I landed upon the field of accounting. Numbers, spreadsheets, debits, and credits—it all made sense for me! Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of working alongside various not-for-profit organizations as a financial consultant, but my journey eventually led me to join the Resthaven team. These past three-and-a-half years have been eye-opening, as I’ve come to realize that not everyone shares my passion for numbers, and not every number has to be accompanied by a dollar sign. I’ve also discovered that numbers possess the remarkable ability to convey stories.

Every quarter, I have the privilege of addressing 40-50 leaders at Resthaven, and I eagerly anticipate these gatherings. They provide me with a platform to emphasize the incredible value that Resthaven brings to our community daily. During these meetings, I often share vital statistics, such as the number of residents we have had the honor of serving with dignity and quality care, as well as the extent to which benevolence has played a role in funding care for some of our residents. I also discuss our unwavering commitment to treating our more than 400 staff members with fairness and equity through diligent stewardship, pursuit of grant opportunities, technological advancements, and advocacy efforts.

Additionally, I highlight our continued expansion of chaplaincy and life enrichment programs, which offer our residents holistic care that extends well beyond their physical needs. I share about the reinvestment in our nearly 250,000 square feet of space that our residents call home. Lastly, I underscore the trust we have built within our community over the past eight decades, as evidenced by the generous support of our community members who contribute their time and resources to Resthaven.

Within Resthaven, there are countless inspiring stories of how we have walked alongside residents and their families, community members, and employees. It’s not uncommon for me to be approached on the sidewalk, at church, or during community events by individuals whose lives have been touched by Resthaven. I welcome these encounters because they serve as a reminder that we are steadfastly advancing our mission as an organization. The numbers simply illustrate and validate the magnitude of what we’re called to do as an organization.



Seth presenting at an event.





## This Year in Numbers



**409** Average Number of Employees

**20,386**



Number of Life Enrichment Hours



**923** Number of Residents Served

**\$5.124M**

Benevolent Care and Reimbursement Shortfalls

**95%**



Average 2023 Occupancy Across Our Continuum of Care



**610**

Number of Bus Trips



**545 Hours**

Group Bible Studies and Worship Services Provided by Resthaven Chaplains



The Care Center Received a 5-Star Status on the Medicare.gov Nursing Home Compare Website



**Over 5 Million Days** of Dedicated Care

## Our Future Is Brighter with You

As the year draws to a close, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the achievements, the valuable lessons we've learned, and the aspirations we hold for the future. At Resthaven, we firmly consider ourselves a community-benefit organization, and this year, we took the time to reflect on the journey that our organization embarked upon with our community 78 years ago. The unwavering support of our donors has been the cornerstone of Resthaven's nearly eight decades of steadfast service to seniors, and is what allows us to continue to grow and flourish in our mission to glorify God by providing a continuum of quality care and services that demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

At Resthaven, growth transcends our physical expansion—although we're doing that too! Our primary focus is on enriching the lives of the seniors we serve and the dedicated team members who serve them.

We've forged new partnerships and strengthened existing ones with fellow not-for-profit organizations in our community, aiming to enhance the overall experience for our residents and our team members. We've introduced innovative programs like the Tovertafel and intergenerational activities with local schools that cater to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our residents.

Additionally, we've invested in comprehensive training programs for our dedicated team members, ensuring they stay equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to deliver the highest quality care. Our unwavering commitment to staying at the forefront of the evolving senior living landscape has led us to advocate on behalf of seniors at both the state and national levels as well as participate in research endeavors that explore new and best practices in senior care.

As we look ahead to the year that lies before us, we are profoundly grateful for your steadfast support and unwavering commitment to Resthaven and our mission. With your continued support and partnership, Resthaven will continue to thrive for decades to come, ensuring that the seniors in our community receive the care and support they deserve while bolstering the team members who serve them.

Together, we grow. And we invite you to be an integral part of this journey.



Lindsey Zona  
Fund Development Manager



## Celebration of Caring



by Resthaven

**Save the Date!**  
**Celebration of Caring 2024**

Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
The Ivy House, Saugatuck, MI



**Connect with Lindsey**  
lindsey.zona@resthaven.org  
616-796-3512

 ResthavenMI  
 resthavenmi

# 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)

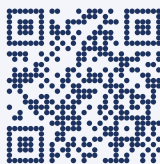
### Donate by check:

Please send checks made out to "Resthaven" to:

Resthaven  
948 Washington Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423

### Donate by Venmo at:

@resthaven-mi



### 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!

## 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

## Helping seniors live their best lives

Resthaven is a dedicated resource and advocate for seniors, offering a full continuum of healthcare and services, based on the excellent care you need and the lifestyle you desire.

Discover the care and support services you need to thrive at [resthaven.org](https://resthaven.org).

