

Faithfully Focused

A Quarterly Publication



Summer 2024
Issue 22


Resthaven
faithfully caring.



Thank you for your support and trust — and for choosing to be a part of our mission.

Creating Community and Connections

Resthaven’s vision for today and the future is to strive to be a place where everyone feels connected, valued, and supported. This vision helps drive our strategic initiatives, one of which is to engage our residents with the broader community while ensuring that our neighbors understand Resthaven’s mission and its profound impact on the lives of aging adults in Holland.

In recent months, we have had several opportunities to demonstrate this priority, as shown in the photos on the adjacent page.

This spring, Resthaven was honored at the Holland Community’s Choice Awards, a testament to the dedication of our team. The Maple Woods Campus was awarded “Best Assisted Living,” and The Care Center received the accolade for “Best Skilled Nursing.” We are deeply humbled by and proud of this recognition, which underscores the significance of our work.

Despite the cooler, wet weather, Resthaven team members and residents participated in the Tulip Time parade, an annual tradition cherished by so many. For those in our care who cannot easily leave home or be outside for long periods, our dedicated team organized an in-house Tulip Time parade and hosted Dutch Dancers, ensuring that all residents could enjoy and partake in the festivities. These events not only foster a sense of belonging but also highlight the importance of intergenerational connections within our community.

In mid-May, we had our annual Celebration of Caring fundraising event. Nearly 200 people joined us to celebrate where Resthaven has been, and learn about the varied ways Resthaven is continuing to grow to meet the needs of seniors today and in the years to come. We remain committed to growth for our residents, our team members, and Holland.

As part of the West Coast Chamber’s Community Impact Day, Resthaven welcomed a team of volunteers to help with projects throughout our organization. We are grateful for the volunteers who assisted on our campuses, and we are pleased that a group of Resthaven employees and residents were also able to serve two other local nonprofits.

We invite you to deepen your connection to Resthaven and explore ways to engage with the seniors we serve. Resthaven is not the “old folks home” of years past; it’s a vibrant community where individuals thrive in the opportunities for connection and engagement.

Thank you for your support and trust—and for choosing to be a part of our mission. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors in Holland.

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 team members
and residents at the 2024
Tulip Time parade



Visions of Home, Now on Display

Resthaven's Care Center proudly unveiled its inaugural photography competition and exhibit. The unveiling event, held on April 18th, featured light desserts and refreshments and saw a remarkable turnout of nearly 100 attendees, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

The exhibit, themed "Close to Home," encouraged local photographers to capture the essence of "home" through images of local landscapes, familiar points of interest, and significant events. This year's competition received an impressive 100 submissions, each aiming to evoke memories, stimulate conversations, and forge connections among the residents.

The Honorable Ed Post, a seasoned photographer with more than 35 years of experience in landscape and nature photography, acted as judge for the curated exhibit. Judge Post's expertise and dedication brought a high level of quality and professionalism to the selection process.

The exhibit features 20 carefully chosen photographs, with an additional 15 images included in a special gallery exhibit. Awards were presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Judge's Choice category, and an additional People's Choice winner, which was voted on at the unveiling event.

The selected photographs are now displayed on the walls of Resthaven's Care Center, providing residents, their families, and team members with a source of beauty, inspiration, and conversation. This initiative not only honors the artistic contributions of local photographers but also significantly enriches the daily lives of our residents.

"I was blown away by the support and participation of the local photography community. It has been incredibly fulfilling to witness the excitement of the exhibit from the earliest submissions to now

seeing the impact it is having on the residents, families, visitors, and team members. I am excited to repeat this initiative next year, with the theme "Up Close Along the Lakeshore," said Jason Bucher, Administrator of Resthaven's Care Center, who spearheaded the competition and exhibit.

For more information on the exhibit, scheduling a visit to view the artwork, or purchasing one of the canvas prints, contact Jason Bucher via email at photos@resthaven.org.

Shown below:

Judge's Choice 1st place – "Dutch Heritage On The Island" Sandie Coffman (top photo, right)

Judge's Choice 2nd place – "Windmill Sunrise" Martin Keirnan (top photo, center)

Judge's Choice 3rd place – "Indigo" Cari Povenz (top photo, left)

People's Choice – "Infinite Sky" Paul Lewer (center left photo)



Keeping Safety Top of Mind

On Wednesday, May 15th, Resthaven, the Holland Fire Department, the Tri-County Fire Inspectors Association, and EV Construction collaborated to develop and exercise an emergency response plan for The Farmstead campus.

“Resthaven is proud of the collaborative relationship we have fostered with the Holland Department of Public Safety over the years, and pleased that we were able to host and participate in this simulation to best serve our residents at The Farmstead,” said Patrick Cioffi, Director of Facilities Operations at Resthaven.

Fire inspectors and departments from all over the state of Michigan toured the independent living facility, developing a working plan to be used later in the morning for a functional exercise, which involved a fire simulation of an electric vehicle in the underground parking garage. In this scenario, the Holland Fire Department and its mutual aid partners responded to the

simulated fire, coordinating with Resthaven team members to activate the plan. Volunteer “victims” from Resthaven and EV Construction were stationed throughout the building for evacuation.

The event concluded with a post-incident analysis, providing practical information to Resthaven and the Holland Fire Marshal to finalize an effective response plan for the campus. Afterward, participants enjoyed a lunch prepared by the Farmstead’s Executive Chef, Justin Smith.

This successful collaboration highlights Resthaven’s commitment to safety and preparedness, ensuring the well-being of our residents and strengthening our community partnerships.



Together, We Grow

It was a beautiful May evening for friends of Resthaven to gather at The Ivy House in Saugatuck for the Celebration of Caring. With delicious food, lively music, refreshing beverages, and a robot serving dessert (more on this later), we celebrated the remarkable growth of Resthaven and our ongoing commitment to growth for our residents, our team, and our community.

Deedre Vriesman, Resthaven’s President/CEO, reflected on the organization’s journey from 1945 to today, thanking the many donors, volunteers, team members, and board members who have contributed to the 79 years of a strong, community-benefit senior living organization.

“Growth means more than just new buildings, of course; it’s about enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. Growth in these areas may be less visible from the outside, but is the real reason Resthaven was created and continues to exist today, 79 years later,” said Vriesman.

Vriesman also introduced Resthaven’s first robot, named Rosie by resident vote. Rosie serves at The Warm Friend by Resthaven as an additional support to the dining team. At the Celebration of Caring, Rosie showcased her skills by serving desserts, impressing guests with her steady tray and keen ability to navigate obstacles.



The event also featured the premiere of the 2024 “Together, We Grow” video, highlighting the career development of Lina Jacobs, Resthaven’s Administrator of Nursing. Lina, who started at Resthaven as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) 23 years ago, has advanced tremendously in her career at Resthaven. The video included a heartfelt testimony from Margie Amon, who shared her father Alan’s positive experience since moving to Resthaven’s Care Center last year. The video concluded with wise words from Jim Bultman, President Emeritus of Hope College, who spoke about the ways Resthaven, as a not-for-profit organization, benefits our entire community.

We are grateful to everyone who attended, and are looking forward to celebrating with you again next year for Resthaven’s 80th!

Check out the 2024 video by scanning here.



A special note of gratitude to our 2024 Leader Sponsors: EV Construction, GDK Construction and GDK Properties.





Rosie the Robot serving desserts

Lifelong Learning

Growth, development, and learning are not confined to a specific age. In fact, they are celebrated as essential elements of a fulfilling life. This spirit is wonderfully exemplified by one of our vibrant residents at The Warm Friend, Tessa. Along with Julie, a virtual co-teacher, Tessa has been teaching Spanish classes to fellow residents at The Warm Friend for the last year.

Tessa's love for Spanish is profound, rooted in her early fascination with culture and language. Armed with four years of high school Spanish, she pursued degrees in the language from Indiana University and New York University. Her career spanned various roles, culminating in teaching Spanish at an Ivy League institution, the University of Pennsylvania. There, she taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-year Spanish courses. This passion grew as she spent nearly four years living in Madrid and made numerous trips to Mexico. Tessa's deep connection to the language is palpable in her teaching, where she shares not just linguistic skills but also the rich cultural tapestry of the Spanish-speaking world.

After retiring in 2015, she moved back to Texas, eager to continue sharing her passion for Spanish. It was through networking in Texas that Tessa met her co-teacher, Julie, in 2019.

Since moving to The Warm Friend in February 2023, Tessa has continued her mission of teaching. Every Monday, a group of four women gather for Spanish class. In addition to the Monday classes, Tessa holds a Spanish study hall on Thursdays and offers one-on-one office hours by appointment, demonstrating her commitment to growth and learning for all of her students.

Another resident of The Warm Friend, Audrey, feels very fortunate to have so many opportunities available to her. Audrey, who has been enjoying the Spanish classes since they started, participates in numerous additional offerings at The Warm Friend, such as cardio drumming, book club, and exercise. She traveled to Mexico numerous times following retirement, and was eager to continue to learn the Spanish language.



Audrey believes lifelong learning is incredibly important. "Learning something new stimulates my brain," Audrey says. "It's so much fun. Tessa is a great teacher."

Through Tessa's dedication and enthusiasm, she embodies the essence of lifelong learning. Her classes at The Warm Friend are a testament to the fact that growth and discovery are ageless pursuits. Residents here are not just living; they are thriving, continually exploring new horizons, thanks to inspiring individuals like Tessa.

"The beauty of the language attracted me to Spanish," Tessa says. "It's beyond the language; it's the culture, the people, the music. It's all so fascinating."

Introducing Two New Board Members

Resthaven is pleased to welcome two new members to Resthaven's Board of Trustees. We are excited for the expertise, guidance, and support they will bring to Resthaven.

Terry Hofmeyer



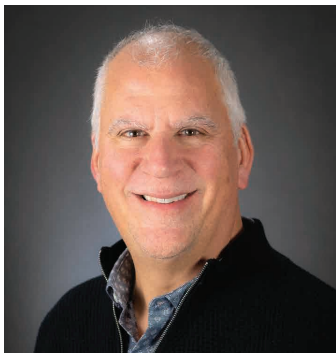
A lifelong resident of Holland, Terry graduated from Hope College in 1961. He spent most of his career working in local government, as City Manager in Hart, Douglas, and Holland, as well as Interim Manager for nine communities. He retired as Supervisor of Laketown Township.

Terry served on the Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees, the Michigan Local Government Management Association, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission,

and several local not-for-profit organizations. Terry and his wife, Ruth, have been members at Christ Memorial Church for 64 years, where he has held the roles of deacon, elder, and Clerk of Consistory.

Terry and Ruth live at The River Place, with plans to move to The Farmstead this fall. Terry is a third-generation resident of Resthaven, and joins Resthaven's Board of Trustees as a Resident Representative.

Tom Riekse, Jr.



As Managing Director of LTCI Partners, Tom leads one of the largest national insurance distributors focused exclusively on long-term care planning. Tom has been working in the long-term care insurance industry since 1991.

He is a graduate of Hope College and has an MBA from The University of Illinois at Chicago. In addition, Tom holds the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist designation from the IFEBP and the Wharton School, as well as the titles of

Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter from the American College of Financial Services.

Tom's father, Tom Riekse Sr., is a resident of The River Place, and his mother was a resident at The Boersma Cottage at Resthaven's Care Center until her passing in 2023.



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
Terry Hofmeyer
Barb Kleinheksel

David Lutz
Haans Mulder
Tom Riekse, Jr.
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.

Your Support Helps Us Serve

It's hard to believe that we are in the middle of summer already!

This summer, we had another beautiful Celebration of Caring event, enjoyed a fun-filled employee appreciation picnic, welcomed the first residents to The Farmstead, and, most importantly, walked alongside countless residents with compassion and heartfelt care as we feel we are called to do.

I am constantly inspired and motivated by the generosity and support of our community, and the hardworking Resthaven team who work tirelessly to ensure that our residents receive the care they need and deserve. Feeling the buzz at both the Celebration of Caring and the employee appreciation picnic was energizing.

I recently had a conversation with a Grant Program Officer, and we reflected on the Healthcare Heroes movement of 2020. We both strongly agreed that although the pandemic is in our rearview mirror, and we're no longer seeing the signs, stickers, billboards, and commercials supporting the front-line workers, **our healthcare workers remain heroes.** This made seeing the 100s of employees at our employee appreciation picnic more meaningful for me.

We may not have the incidence of the virus that changed our world in 2020, but what we do have is a rapidly growing number of aging adults with a declining number of direct-care workers. Resthaven is blessed that we have not experienced the significant staffing challenges that many of our fellow providers have, which is a true testament to our culture and the support we receive from the community around us. Industry experts are working toward solutions, and so is Resthaven. As the leading senior living provider in our area, we are forming new partnerships, providing enhanced benefits, offering personal and professional development opportunities, and prioritizing our commitment to our dedicated team, so the Resthaven you know remains a Holland fixture well into the future.

Your support is crucial to these efforts. When you donate to Resthaven, you're investing in the lives of the residents we care for and those who care for them. You're providing opportunities for our residents to find purpose and joy and strengthening the team who makes it all happen.

**Join us in making a difference.
We are stronger together.**



Staff member Julie and resident

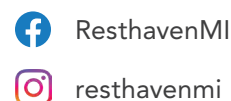


Celebration of Caring



Lindsey Zona
Fund Development Manager

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



Employee Appreciation Picnic

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

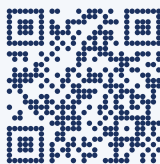
Donate by check:

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

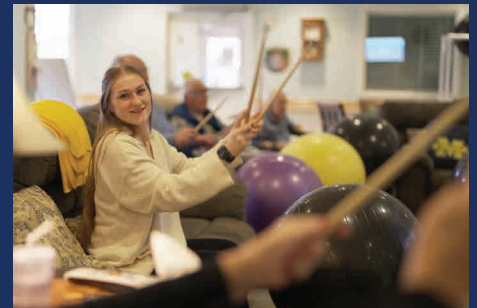
Have you graciously included Resthaven as a beneficiary in your estate or trust? Let us know so we can welcome you to our Legacy Club!

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

Always ready for what's next.

No one knows what the future holds, but it pays to be prepared for whatever comes next. Resthaven has your needs in mind—for the active, independent lifestyle you're living today, to the care needs you may have tomorrow. We're here for you from beginning to next.




Resthaven
faithfully caring.

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