

4 What are You
DOING

KNITTING
with Purpose 6

10 Enriching
RESIDENTS



A Liberty



FALL 2022

GIVING FOR IMPACT

In January, 2011, I joined the Planned Giving committee at Liberty Lutheran.

I have had family connections to Liberty for even longer, as my grandmother-in-law lived at Artman for a long time, and my Aunt has served on several board committees.

Having grown up in the Wissahickon School District, I was aware of the impact that Artman and Liberty's other work had on the community. The respect and honor with which the community held Liberty always impressed me. My desire to be involved with an organization that impacts the community while progressively addressing its needs, like helping to responsibly manage the aging of the U.S. population, is what led me

to Liberty.

What I found here is that Liberty is a family. I can see that by the devotion of Liberty's employees, residents, management, volunteers, and board members. The people I have met during my time here are second to none – good, ethical, community-minded folks who, with a touch of humility, are focused on asking the difficult questions, getting things done, and improving lives.



Evan with his wife, Stephanie.

Once involved with Liberty, it's difficult to leave, because the issues are too important and the mission too pressing. From a board perspective, I love that Liberty constantly strives to be world-class. The management at Liberty is extremely impressive. Many for-profit companies aren't run nearly as well as Liberty Lutheran.

Becoming a donor to Liberty was an easy decision. I believe in giving to organizations where I understand how the money is being spent, and that it's being spent in productive ways. I do not know of any other organization to which my wife Stephanie and I have contributed where I can see a more direct impact of our gift. Liberty has also made a concerted effort to encourage donations of stock, which benefits both the donor and the organization.

I was happy to use this form of planning as a vehicle for our donations – the Liberty team made it exceedingly easy to do so.

Last year, I had the opportunity to give in a different way by working in Eastwick in disaster response. That experience made a huge impression. I help to fight natural disasters for my day job in the renewable energy industry, so it is troubling, especially in the face of climate change, that there are increasingly so many on a year-to-year basis. Shortly after one happens, the news media and people in general forget about its impact on the lives of those affected. These disasters take YEARS to clean up. Without the help of volunteers, the situation would be worse. I was happy to contribute in a small way to help expedite a family's recovery from Hurricane Isaias.

Table of Contents

A Look Inside

- Why I Give**
- 2 Giving for Impact
- Up Front**
- 3 Volunteers Make a Difference
- Profile**
- 5 Leading Liberty with Madeleine Byrne
- Liberty Briefs**
- 4 What are You Doing for Others?
- 6 Knitting with Purpose
- 7 Intergenerational Volunteers
- 8 Preparing Hearts for Advent
- 9 A Heart for Volunteering
- 10 Enriching Residents' Lives
- 11 Friendliest Resident



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ABOUT THIS EDITION'S COVER

Mosaics crafted by volunteers have created beautiful spaces enjoyed by all within our communities.

Up Front

Greetings from the President



Volunteers Make a Difference

Liberty Lutheran's core competencies are the foundation of our culture. The ten principles comprised in those competencies ensure our commitment to and success in world-class excellence. One of those ten principles is team orientation.

In this issue, we highlight volunteers as invaluable members of our Liberty team. Theirs is a work of heart that contributes immensely to Liberty's ability to achieve our objectives in excellence.

Our volunteers' compassion, expertise, and creativity touch lives in ways that no one else can. These acts of service are vital for the growth and sustainability of everything we do.

On the following pages, you'll read about volunteers who lead on boards, resident councils, and committees. They drive innovation and steer the ship, always motivated by the question of what will make life better for those we serve.

Some provide direct service by leading community clubs, helping with activities and events, or using their hands to make a difference in the lives of others. In sharing their faith, many also nurture spiritual well-being.

What strikes me most about our volunteers is their commitment. Many assist in multiple roles, like Evan, who serves on the Liberty board and volunteers for disaster response. With what started out as helping other residents while her mother was at Artman, Linda ventured beyond to serve on the Artman Golf Committee and contribute reflections to Lutheran Congregational Services' *Advent Devotional*.

There are so many others who contribute their time and talents. Residents also volunteer in Liberty communities to improve the lives of others, whether they are assembling meals for the homeless, or knitting blankets to keep people warm during harsh winters.

As I hear their stories, I am humbled by their devotion, and in awe of how much our volunteers bring to Liberty Lutheran. Every moment they give changes lives for the better.

Luanne B. Fisher

Luanne B. Fisher, PhD
 President and CEO, Liberty Lutheran



Ms. Talbot loves volunteering at the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center. For the past ten years, she has volunteered in numerous roles.



What are You Doing for Others?

The volunteer greeter welcomes members and visitors alike when they walk through the friendly doors at the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center. Next to the greeter hangs the Volunteer board, which recognizes the Volunteer of the Year and emphasizes the importance of volunteering at the Center. “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” reads a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



It is a question that volunteers answer through action. “Volunteering helps the Center,” shares Eva Talbot, a member of the Center and a volunteer, “and the Center helps the seniors. I think that’s why most people volunteer—it really helps the seniors.”

Ms. Talbot started volunteering two years after the Center opened, first as a volunteer greeter. “I really liked it. I liked being with the seniors. At first, when I came here, I was nervous, and they were real nice. It’s real fun. It’s nice. I like hearing about their lives.”

For the past ten years, Ms. Talbot has volunteered anywhere and everywhere in the Center: in the lunch room, serving hot food, at the front desk, or running

a class. Ms. Talbot now runs Color Your Mind class. “I love that class, because the members color pictures, and they relax,” Ms. Talbot says. “They just have different conversations about what’s been going on. It’s a very relaxing class.”

The Center’s many activities and programs help older people stay busy and occupied. Volunteers help keep these activities and programs running. For seniors, staying busy and socializing is essential. “If they stay home, they worry about what’s wrong,” Ms. Talbot says, “but if they volunteer, they won’t have time to stay home and think about what’s wrong!”

Trips and outings especially keep the members busy. The Trip Coordinator plans many exciting outings for the members. These outings include monthly casino trips, winery visits, and holiday trips to see a pretty and illuminated Nativity scene. In September, they saw the Tony award-winning *MJ: The Musical*.

Rose Richardson, Executive Director of the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center, inspires Ms. Talbot and all the volunteers. “She really cares about the seniors. She makes sure they get food vouchers, turkeys, and all kinds of stuff. That’s what makes a lot of people want to volunteer, because of the way they’ve been treated.” And visitors will continue seeing Ms. Talbot around the Center, volunteering wherever needed.

LEADING LIBERTY

WITH MADELEINE BYRNE, *Director of Community Life and Volunteer Coordinator at Artman*

Q: How does Liberty Lutheran compare to other organizations, and what impact does that make for the people we serve?

A: I’ve said this before, that we live our motto of leaders in compassionate care, and that it’s not what we do, it’s who we are. That’s what sets Liberty Lutheran apart from other organizations. It’s the people who work and volunteer here that make it such a special place. You can feel the energy at Artman. We all take pride in the work that we do.

Q: How do you see the work that you do inspire others in the community?

A: I could never do all of the projects that I am able to do if it were not for the support and help of many energetic, committed staff and volunteers who give of themselves to make our programs so successful. The Annual Artman Tie-Dye Event, for example, brings staff and volunteers together to help by folding and dying shirts on their own time, or they volunteer at the event, to ensure that every resident gets a fabulously dyed shirt. This summer, we added a miniature golf event, and residents and staff all wore their shirts with pride. We had volunteer, Anthony Vennara, whose mother lived at Artman, give his time to DJ the event. For the “Artman Proms From The Past” this fall, volunteers shopped in Thrift Shops to find slip on prom attire that residents wore for the

photo booth pictures.

Others made corsages and boutonnieres. We had a volunteer come in to help residents with doing their hair for the big Prom event. Community Life staff dressed up for the event. When we do the Haunted House at Halloween, many volunteers help with the setup, running the photo booth, and being in the haunted house. It is a truly engaging experience for the residents, which they talk about for months following the event.

Q: Tell us about an experience you have had with Liberty that impacted members and families.

A: Working with the Annual Golf Outing that benefits the Benevolent Fund at Artman enables residents who have exhausted their funds to remain in their Artman home. That has a huge impact on the residents and their loved one, because families know that their loved one continues to receive quality compassionate care no matter what.





The Hearth
..... at Drexel



Above: The Knitting Club gathers weekly to express their creativity, socialize, and donate knitted items to Har Zion Temple.

Inset: Helen, Millicent, and Phyllis.

Knitting with Purpose

Volunteer work happens year-round at The Hearth at Drexel. “We do a mix of volunteer activities throughout the year,” explains Jessica Buck, Director of Community Life. “For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the residents made Goody Bags for homeless shelters, as well as blessing bags for those in need.”

In the community’s Knitting Club, Jessica recognized an opportunity for residents to socialize and express their creativity while giving back to their community.

The Knitting Club initially formed because the residents wanted an enjoyable social and creative activity. Residents gathered to knit and enjoy one another’s company and conversation. The Hearth’s relationship with a local synagogue added another layer. The club donated blanket squares every month to the Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, PA. The synagogue used the squares to make blankets for those in need in the local community. The club also donated items to local hospitals and homeless shelters.

Helen, a resident at The Hearth, had donated knitted items to charity for years. “Before I moved into The Hearth at Drexel community, my friends and I used to knit squares together,” Helen shares. With her daughter’s help, Helen sent the blanket squares to Africa, where volunteers combined them into blankets for children. She joined the Knitting Club shortly after she moved into

The Hearth at Drexel three years ago. Volunteering and knitting benefits Helen. She enjoys staying active. “It’s good for us to be busy,” Helen says.

Participating in The Knitting Club engages the members’ minds and their memories. Growing up, Helen watched her mother crochet, which introduced her to needlework. Millicent, a resident who moved into The Hearth several months ago, has knitted since the fourth grade. She remembers knitting mittens for the winter. Phyllis, another new Knitting Club member, started knitting when she joined the club. She recalls her mother knitting warm clothes and blankets for her and her family during the wintertime. Other members felt motivated to re-learn a skill that they first learned as children. Several other members like knitting items for their great-great grandchildren.

As the air cools, and brisk days become chilly nights, the Knitting Club will continue donating blanket squares. Volunteering empowers them. “It’s just something you do,” says Millicent. “You don’t have to do it, but it should be something that’s ingrained in you that you always want to do for others.”



Top: Barbara works on corsages from home.

Left: Barbara helps a resident with her corsage.

Above Right: Madeleine with her mother, Deborah, and her grand-mother, Barbara Brickner.

Intergenerational Volunteers

Creating engaging programs that entertain Artman residents is a job that Madeleine Byrne, Director of Community Life and Volunteer Coordinator at Artman clearly enjoys. In some workplaces, employees bring their children to work, but Madeleine makes it an intergenerational family affair by enlisting the help of her mother, Deborah Clark, and her grandmother, Barbara Brickner, as volunteers, making Artman’s events truly special.

Recently, Madeleine’s Grandma has been hard at work at home in New York, making corsages and boutonnieres so that “Everyone attending the “Artman Proms from the Past” will receive a beautiful corsage, or a boutonniere,” according to Madeleine.

She adds, “My mother and grandmother have been scouring Thrift Shops in their area, shopping for dressy clothes that can be put on easily by Prom goers, for taking photographs in the photo booth. Everyone attending likes getting dressed up, having their pictures taken, and sharing good times. The Prom brings back happy memories from the past while creating new experiences for residents.”

Deborah and Barbara came down from New York on the day of the prom to help. When asked why they volunteer, Deborah says, “We have always been a family that loves helping others and caring for our community. We like making people happy, and Madeleine has found her perfect calling here at Artman to do just that.”

“I had a lot of fun making the corsages and boutonnieres,” Barbara adds as she helps residents find the perfect adornment. “To be here now and see their faces light up makes it even more special.”

On the subject of fun, Madeleine adds, “My mom and grandma also volunteer to help with the Annual Artman Tie-Dye Event. By their participation in folding and dying shirts, every resident can have a new tie-dye shirt for the summer festivities.”

According to Madeleine, “Having family members’ volunteer support, alongside other volunteers, enables us to create the many diverse programs that we offer. Without their involvement, contributions and caring, we wouldn’t be able to offer the events that we do to enrich the residents’ lives.”



PREPARING HEARTS FOR ADVENT

Lutheran Congregational Services' Advent Devotional book is filled with stories and reflections from volunteers based on the biblical texts of the Advent season. We asked a few to share their experience.



Pastor Paulette Obrecht,
Volunteer for disaster response and Member of the LCS Advisory Board

“Every few years, I'm asked to write a page for the Advent Devotional for Lutheran Congregational Services. I participate as a way to support all that LCS does to help Lutheran congregations in our area and to support people dealing with grief or the devastating effects of natural disasters.

Yet, I find this task somewhat stressful and difficult. For days, I think about how I can weave

my experiences or stories into the assigned verses and theme, and I worry that I don't have anything particularly interesting to say. Eventually, the Holy Spirit pushes me and the words begin to flow. The prayer at the end brings extra meaning to it – and me.

Why do I do this if I find it difficult? I do it because it makes me feel like part of something bigger – a community of believers – a great cloud of witnesses – sharing our stories of how the Christ child enters our lives during Advent. As we prepare for God becoming one of us, I hope others gain that same sense of community from these devotions.”



Brandon Frank,
Manager of Financial Reporting, Liberty Lutheran

“Having grown up in the church, my faith has always played an integral role in my life. What a blessing it was to not only join such a wonderful organization as Liberty Lutheran, but also to be asked to contribute to the Advent Devotional. While I have always been heavily involved in my home church, Liberty is my first experience working for a faith-based organization, which I value tremendously.

The main tenets of the Advent season – hope, love, joy, and peace – are also cornerstones of my own faith, all of which I desire to share with readers through my writings. While the world around us can often be disheartening and discouraging, I have found that reflecting on daily devotions, dating back to my early teens, has helped me find refuge in my faith and hope in God. To be able to share that faith journey with others is a special privilege.”



Linda Graeff,
Artman Volunteer and Member of the Artman Golf Committee

“Writing a devotion for the Advent Devotional book was something that was out of my comfort zone. My faith tends to be more personal. This was an opportunity to be more public about my faith. God calls us to share his love and teachings, so this was my perfect chance to do just that and stretch my faith in a different direction. Writing the devotional also gave me a chance to really study a particular verse to share my thoughts...a double win! My hope is that when people read these devotions that they hear something that relates to them in their everyday life; that something speaks to them. That is what the Bible and faith is all about – guiding us in our daily lives, to love and serve God, and those around us.”

The Village

AT PENN STATE



A Heart for Volunteering



Nancy and Bob MacQueen (left) enjoying Palmer Park's terrace al fresco dining with Doris and Cliff Wurster (right).

Nancy and Bob MacQueen have a heart for volunteering. For over 45 years, they devoted their time to offering people hope and support through various church and prison ministries.

In 2006, they moved to Boalsburg to be near their daughter and granddaughter. Once there, they continued their mission work, running a Bible study for female inmates, and getting involved with Centre Peace. They also found a new church home at State College Alliance Church.

“For over ten years, I worked one day a week as a cashier at Centre Peace,” Nancy shares. “It's a great ministry where local inmates gain work experience for when they're released from prison. In selling second-hand furniture and other items, the store pays for the ministry.”

Providing a Bible study for those in prison was an especially meaningful ministry. Bob describes how those new to the group seemed scared and somewhat skittish. “It's amazing to watch them develop their faith,” he reveals. “Though apprehensive at first, many gain hope in knowing that their way of life can be different from who they were before, and they'll avoid those situations that landed them in prison.”

Bob and Nancy moved to The Village at Penn State in 2017, where they quickly made new friends and got involved. Kim McGinnis, Director of Community Life,

characterizes them as going above and beyond to help others at The Village.

Upon hearing that, Bob and Nancy humbly reply, “Oh, we don't know about that. Like everyone else here, we just do what needs to be done. We are part of one big family, so it just comes naturally. You help one another out, knowing that someone will be there when you need help.”

Today, Bob chairs The Village's Resident Council and Nancy leads a women's Bible study with several residents. Though COVID drove them to end much of their work outside of The Village, they remain active members at their church, where Bob is an elder.

At State College Alliance, Bob is part of a group that mentors people who are moving into leadership positions. Bob explains. “It's important that we prepare people to take over as we age.” To which Nancy quips, “You've got to know when it's time to do, and when it's time to pass it on.”

Their deep faith is what drives them to volunteer. “Christ calls us to minister to the sick and to visit prisoners,” Bob says. “Volunteering gives us a purpose and keeps us busy. We're also passing down good values to the next generation.”



Enriching Residents' Lives

Volunteers at Paul's Run in Northeast Philadelphia help residents stay engaged in activities that involve them with community projects. Ellen Daneke coordinates community service activities and has served there as a liaison with local homeless shelters and church food ministry programs for nearly seven years. Nancy Koppelman enriches residents' lives through lively book discourses as the leader of the Book Club. Eitan Cassway helped Yiddish Club members stay connected with one another and their culture. All three of these volunteers enhance residents' lives by connecting them to the larger Philadelphia community.

Ellen visits Paul's Run three times a month, or more, to inspire residents to package snack or personal hygiene bags, which she delivers to the appropriate organizations. "Many residents have been active all of their lives in community service, and they want to continue contributing" explains Ellen. "Some Knitting Club members use their skills to make hats for the homeless, whereas others assemble cookie and snack bags, or personal hygiene bags for homeless. These activities provide residents with social opportunities while helping others," says Ellen.

The Arehart Foundation, local churches and the Friends of Paul's Run have helped fund community service activities over the years. When asked why she gives, Ellen says, "No one should have to be hungry or homeless in America, and I want to do whatever I can do to help,"

When she retired, Nancy Koppelman wanted to volunteer with older populations, because as she explains, "It provides the opportunity to observe seniors enjoying intellectual activities they have pursued all of their lives." She adds, "I want to help seniors stay socially and intellectually connected with their peers."

She says, "Book Club members gather once a month to discuss poems or novels, and often have conversations about current events." Various members make suggestions about what books to read as well as Nancy offers suggestions.

Jewish residents stay connected to their roots with the help of 17-year-old Eitan Cassway who is a senior in high school. Amidst juggling academics, writing college application essays, and working part-time, he volunteered this summer at Paul's Run to help residents share Yiddish language and culture with the younger generation. "I love spending time with seniors, hearing their stories, and I love the Yiddish language. Older people are the only ones who can pass these down, so I want to do my part to keep that part of my culture alive."



THE MANOR at York Town

Friendliest Resident

Since moving to The Manor at York Town with his wife Mary in 2019, Ed S. has voluntarily organized clubs, outings, and activities. He formed the popular Pinochle Club and the Manor Gaming Commission.

"Admittedly, the things I initially focused on were ones I like to do, and I detected that there were enough others that felt that way," Ed explains, chuckling.

Ed's instincts proved true as residents quickly joined the Pinochle Club and have participated in the gaming fun, though Ed draws people as much as the games do. For the Pinochle Club, he set up a rookie table to teach inexperienced but interested players how to play.

"He is very personable and active," shares Robyn Fine, Director of Community Life.

Indeed, his neighbors voted him "Friendliest Resident" and "Most Energetic Resident" during a community awards ceremony.

Two years ago, the residents elected Ed president of the Resident Association. "It just so happened that my name received the most ballots for the presidency," Ed humbly shares. He had an inkling that he would win. His community activity makes a memorable impression.

"People see me at Happy Hour having something to say or listening, or they see me playing Pinochle, or Bocce, or pool volleyball," he says. "If enough people thought I could handle the responsibility, I wanted to give it a try."



Ed S. with his wife, Mary, meet with Courtney, Director of Sales and Marketing, in their apartment.

As president, Ed leads quarterly and monthly Resident meetings to address community items. "We don't lose track of things," Ed says. "If someone reports a creaky board somewhere, we add it to the list of things to fix. Each month, we ask, 'what's the status of the creaky board?' There shouldn't be anything falling through the cracks. And that process is a very important function of the Resident Association. The Association works with management to resolve those issues."

Ed helps wherever he can around The Manor. This past summer, Ed offered a helping hand to Robyn when she needed assistance re-organizing the Men's Luncheon. "I said I'll take over the responsibility to pull it back together," Ed shares. "I notify the participants of the luncheon date, arrange transportation, and suggest the place."

Ed has always been a helper. For many years, because of their experience raising a son with cystic fibrosis, Ed and Mary helped raise money and awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "They're a resilient group of people," Ed reflects.

Making new friends, adding fun to life, and doing good for others has been a constant for Ed throughout his life. He has no plans to stop anytime soon.

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