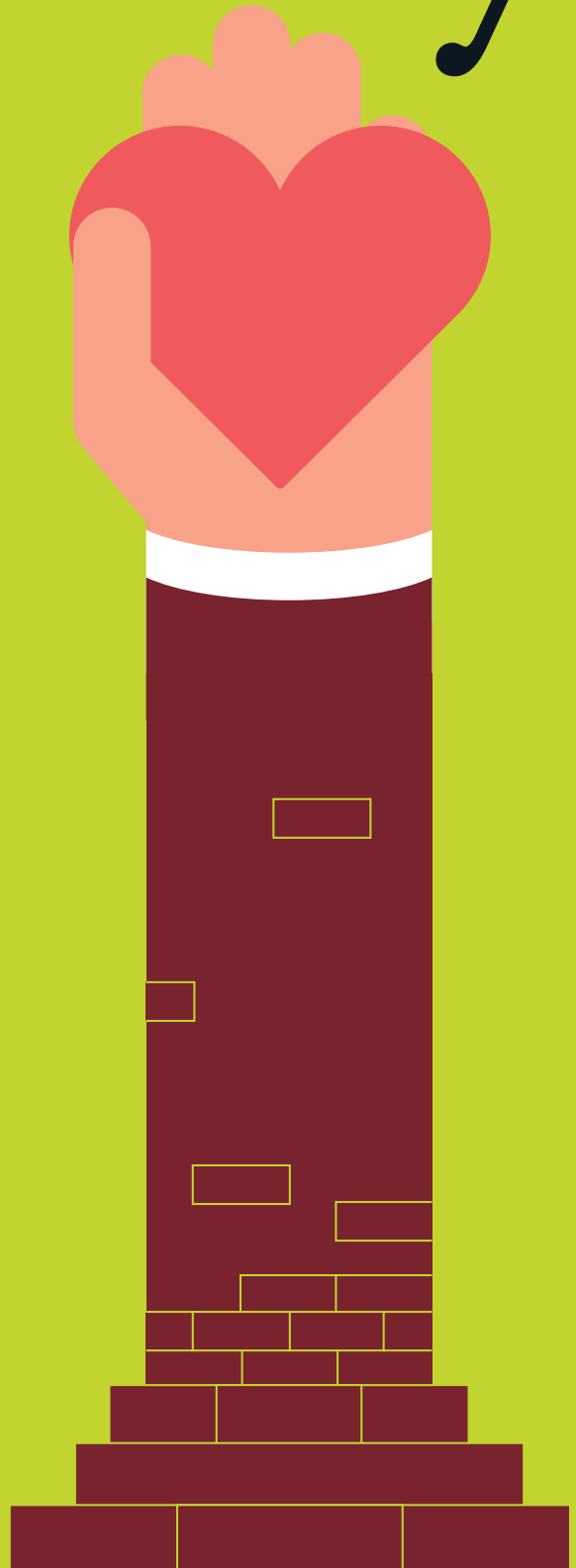
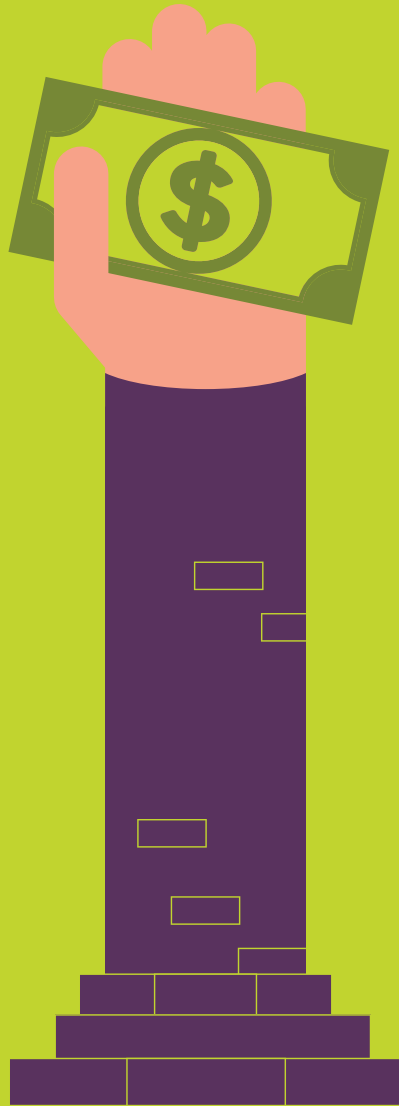
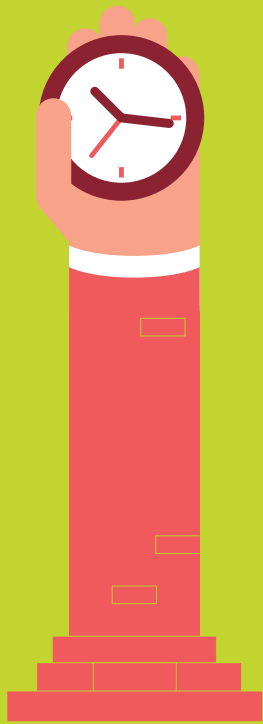


A Liberty

Donor Impact, the "Building Blocks"

Time • Treasure • Trust





Above: Paul and Brigitte enjoying dinner at Paul's Run with their daughter, Barbara (center), and their granddaughters.

A Second Home

By Barbara (Heinzel) Becker

Having come to the US after World War II from a part of Germany that is now in Poland, my mother, Brigitte, and my father, Paul, lived the American dream, raising a family and building a life together.

My father had several jobs until the early 1960s when he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which provided him with the opportunity to earn the credentials he needed to become a German teacher. For her part, my mother, who had taught kindergarten in Germany, was convinced by her minister here to become a first-grade teacher – a job she held until the mid-1980s.

When Mother and Daddy retired, they moved from Levittown to Northeast Philadelphia, where they lived in a home they loved until they moved into Paul's Run in 1999. Although my family lives in Texas, over the years we were able to visit and stay in an apartment at the community and see just how wonderful everything was.

When they first moved in, they were presented with many opportunities. We all quickly learned that there were many things for them to do. They wouldn't get bored – there was no time for it. Although Daddy had trouble moving around,

he had plenty of friends to interact with and was always enjoying something. At the time, Paul's Run had a greenhouse. My mother was a passionate gardener and really enjoyed having the opportunity to continue putting her green thumb to use.

What stood out to me was just how much warmth the community and its staff exuded. Whether it was housekeeping and maintenance helping Mother and Daddy with their apartment, or the interactions they had with the dining staff while enjoying their meals, everyone went out of their way. No one simply did their job – everyone took the time to show that they cared for each resident.

When my father passed away in 2003, my mother received a lot of support from the staff and her neighbors. Although losing my father was hard, my mother found opportunities to become even more involved at Paul's Run. She helped around the chapel, arranging flowers and preparing communion,

while at the same time she became involved with the welcoming committee. She knew many people and made many friends.

Paul's Run became a second home for me. I would visit from Texas initially three or four times a year and finally once a month and was always welcomed by the staff with open arms.

After my mother passed, I received a lot of support and help from the staff at Paul's Run. I consider myself fortunate to have experienced the same generous spirit that was extended to my parents.

I give to Paul's Run because I think they are always looking for opportunities to reach higher, and because of the level of care and appreciation they extend to their residents. Having other older adults in my family, and having looked at retirement communities in Texas, for me, there isn't anything that compares to Paul's Run.

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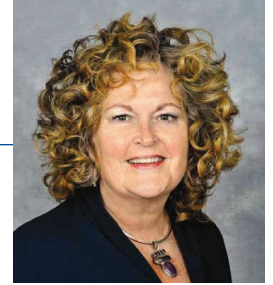
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Up Front

Greetings from the President



Making an Impact that Matters

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" For people like you, our donors, this is not a hard question to answer.

You have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the lives of older adults and their families by helping to build a legacy of care that ensures the best care and experiences for residents, members, clients, and patients. Within this issue of *At Liberty*, we focus on stories that demonstrate how you make an impact as a donor.

Thanks to your continued support for Liberty Lutheran and our family of services, we are able to offer peace of mind to those we serve – providing them with the knowledge that they can rely on us as a source for the highest standard of care, comfort, and security.

Within this issue of *At Liberty*, we share stories that demonstrate how your commitment to Liberty continues to make a positive impact for individuals and communities as a whole. One of the stories indeed symbolizes the meaningful difference you make on a daily basis.

For the past several month's residents from across Paul's Run have joined together, along with a renowned local artist, to create a mosaic celebrating unity, diversity, and friendship. The project involves cutting glass to create small pieces that will form a larger image reflecting those three principles. Just as each piece holds significance to the entire project, your support is integral to our mission to faithfully accompany individuals who are facing life-changing situations through an empowering approach that honors their choices and well-being.

On behalf of everyone across Liberty Lutheran, I would like to thank you for your generous support and the faith you continue to place in our family of services, as well as the commitment you continue to offer. Thank you for everything you do.

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



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The Bright Side of Life



Above: Ever the Eagles fan, Alex was eager to share his passion for the team with his neighbors

At age 85 Aleko Ververeli, known to many as Alex, moved into Artman in 2016. He first arrived as a rehab patient before making the community his permanent home. Having passed away this past January, Alex was known for his warm spirit.

“Prior to Dad moving in, my visits with him at his home were really one of his few sources of entertainment. Plus, he hadn’t been able to drive for a while, so I was the wheels for him a lot of the time,” Toula, Alex’s daughter shares. “At Artman, we didn’t have to worry about Dad. There was always something to do, whether it was an outing like fishing, a craft, music activities – there was so much going on. If he was still at home, he’d probably just be watching TV or looking at a picture of my mother who passed in 2014.”

For Madeleine Byrne, Artman’s community life director, Alex was a consummate source of positivity which was often experienced through his charming humor.

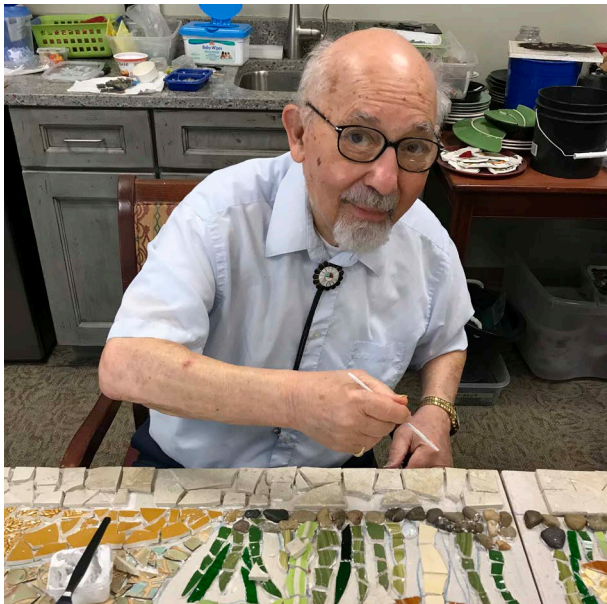
“I remember one time when we were going to Merry Mead, a local farm that is known for its ice cream,” Madeleine shares. “I asked him, ‘Would you like to go to Merry Mead?’ He asked me to repeat myself twice, and while laughing said ‘I swear you are saying marry me!’ I laughed and ask if he wanted to go get ice cream, and with a smile, he said ‘The answer to both is yes.’”

Madeleine continues, “Alex was the type of person who was always ready to make today the best day. He was kind and made everyone’s day better,” she says. “He was up for anything. He would go on any trip, volunteer for any project and was always willing to dress up in a costume to boost the morale of his fellow residents and for the staff.”

While at Artman, Alex formed friendships with many throughout the community, including some strong bonds with the three ladies he would dine with at every meal.

“Alex was always willing to help people, and whenever we had a program he was always excited to participate or volunteer,” Evelyn, one of Alex’s neighbors, says. “Alex loved football and the Eagles. He bought Eagles hats and shirts for me and the other two ladies that we ate with. I wasn’t terribly into football, but he had a passion for it and was always willing to answer our questions during games. Alex was a dear friend and he was always a gentleman.”

According to Toula, it is connections like these that continue to draw her to Artman. “I find comfort in knowing that Artman’s residents enjoy living there. They receive outstanding care and are appreciated by the staff. Artman is a wonderful place filled with amazing people.”



Above: Generations of families gather together to create this wonderful work of art

Left: Arnie works on the beautiful unity mosaic at Paul's Run

Many Pieces, One Community

Art, in its many forms, gives the beautiful gift of bringing loved ones and friends together. This past summer, residents, families and staff worked in unison to bridge friendships across all levels of care as they created a new mosaic art mural that reflects the special connections between friends, families, and neighbors throughout Paul's Run. Made of broken glass and ceramic items generously donated from members of the community, each part of this unity mosaic tells a different story.

For Arnie Escourt, a Paul's Run resident with a knack for creativity, this mosaic was a relaxing way to learn something new and spend time with friends. With experience in art of a different medium, he is known throughout the community for his beautifully written poetry. "You can find my poems in the library," Arnie smiles humbly.

He compares his love for poetry to the progress of making the newly finished unity mosaic at Paul's Run. "Making this mosaic is like poetry," he says. "You fill in the blank spaces to make something beautiful."

Arnie knows very well how art in its different forms has the remarkable ability to bring people together. After all, he began writing poetry as a way to show admiration for the woman he loved so dearly, his beautiful, late wife, Florence.

"It was a nice way for me to express how I felt about her and the love we shared," Arnie states. As he transcribes his feelings onto paper Arnie writes in a poem about his wife, "Love starts with one. Love needs two. Love gets much more when love is true!"

Throughout his life, Arnie's poetry has been a way of expressing the beauty in moments both big and small, and the special connections that take place along each of our journeys. And although he admits that writing poetry is often a challenge, it has always managed to keep him busy. "With poetry, you have a task that's difficult, and there's no one to complete it but you. With this mosaic, we can all complete the challenge together," he reflects.

Residents from all levels of care alongside family, staff and professional artist, Pat Gallagher, spent the summer doing just that. Pat Gallagher, who designed the unity mosaic, says the project not only brought friends of the community together, but has helped them learn a new skill while engaging with others. "I feel that everyone, no matter their age, has something to offer. You can always be a student and learn something new. We all have a different expertise to share with one another and enjoy together."



Below: Ali Kenner of Drexel University discusses practical environmental preparedness steps with the attendees.



A Step in the Right Direction

“How many of you have already noticed the effects of climate change in your community?”

A number of hands go up, each gesture matched with an expectant expression. Alex Skula, the discussion leader from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, nods before fielding inquiries from more than twenty Philadelphia locals in the audience. This afternoon, questions range from identifying types of mold to differentiating what outdoor temperatures remain safe for pets.

Lutheran Congregational Services has been partnering with Philadelphia-based organizations, including the Clean Air Council, Drexel University, and the Energy Coordinating Agency to provide city residents information

about preparing themselves and their homes for the effects of climate change. The Climate and Urban Systems Partnerships Program, known as CUSP, serves hundreds of Philadelphia residents in this way. Today, the seminar is being held in the South Philadelphia Community Center and Public Library.

Attendees remarked that the information presented was both valuable and practical—noting that simple steps like supporting urban gardens can reduce flooding and save money for the whole community.

These seminars play a vital role by providing education to those who otherwise would not be exposed to information regarding impending health risks. This same demographic often overlaps with those who experience the greatest effects of climate change by living in urban environments. For example, cities remain 5.4 degrees hotter on average than their rural counterparts, a disparity that will only be further exacerbated by our warming climate.

“Education helps us to protect our health and our homes,” says Ali Kenner of Drexel University during her seminar. “By making changes toward sustainability now, we will be better prepared against issues including heat waves, flooding, and evolving health concerns.”

Lutheran Congregational Services’s own Julia Menzo led a discussion on planning for natural disasters, which the audience took careful notes on.

“The impact of disasters, especially to vulnerable populations, extends far beyond the timeline of media coverage. This is why it is so important to plan out stages of relief in advance,” says Julia.

Recently, the CUSP program was nominated for the Sustain Philadelphia Award in recognition of all the work the organization has done in helping Philadelphia residents work toward a sustainable future. It is thanks to the generosity of Liberty Lutheran’s family of donors that Julia and the Lutheran Congregational Team are able to serve others in this capacity.

“It is incredible to be recognized for the Sustain Philadelphia Award,” says Julia. “And it says so much about our community that through the support of our members we are able to expand to help people we otherwise would not be able to. This has been such a positive experience overall.”

The Village

AT PENN STATE



Above: Residents, staff and families can dine al-fresco at Palmer Park.

Left: Long walkways provide leisurely strolls for residents.

Walk along open paths across beautiful outdoor landscapes as you journey through one of The Village's newest developments and enjoy the completion of Palmer Park. **Opening a world of opportunity for outdoor recreation** that promises to benefit the health and well-being of residents, families and staff, excitement around the park has been stirring since the park's official debut for development in 2013.

For residents Russell (Rus) Scheuren and his wife, Theresa Facini, their enthusiasm for this outdoor recreational retreat extends across multiple generations of their family. "My mother came to The Village in March of 2014. We were lucky enough to live here together for three years before she passed," Rus says reminiscing. "Back then Palmer Park was in the beginning stages of construction, but she was really excited about it," he explains commenting on one of the many reasons for their support of the park's development.



First Class Park

With intergenerational ties to The Village as well as Penn State University, Rus and Theresa's connection to Happy Valley extends throughout much of their family. "My sister went to Penn State as well as Theresa's brother and two of our grandchildren," he says running down the family's long list of alumni.

The couple's bond to the community remains strong as they have family traditions founded in years of campus-wide events. "We always go to The First Night race. It's our little family tradition." Rus explains. The First Night race is a fun-filled 5k that runs along part of Penn State's campus each year on New Year's Eve. Naturally, when they moved to The Village on December 31st in 2014, Rus and Theresa still found a way to take part in their annual family tradition.

With members of their family visiting the community often, Theresa says, "At The Village, there really is something for everyone." Palmer Park is certainly no different as this new addition brings residents and families a spacious putting green, open walkways, a multi-purpose green for outdoor recreational activities like bocce, yoga, and tai chi as well as an outdoor terrace for al fresco dining.

"I'm really looking forward to the walkways," Rus says. "And seeing other residents out there along the way." For Theresa, socialization, especially, is one of the most positive opportunities Palmer Parks presents to the community. No matter their individual preferences for the park's most exciting features, the two of them both agree that the togetherness of residents at The Village is undeniable, and they both hope the park's development brings even more unison to the people of their community.

"The people who live here are extremely supportive of each other. We have always enjoyed being a part of this close-knit community."



Above: Stephanie showcases her ceramic fruit bowl made in The Center's My Hands in Clay class.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

The West Philadelphia Senior Community Center (WPSCC) is known as a hub for the surrounding neighborhood for a variety of reasons. It is a hotspot of entertainment and engagement through classes that inform, invigorate, and inspire.

In addition to offering programs that foster positive physical, mental, and spiritual health, The Center's mission is also focused on serving as an integral resource when trying circumstances occur. Thanks to a \$45,000 grant from The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, WPSCC's efforts to alleviate the burdens of their members has been strengthened.

"We are incredibly fortunate and appreciative of the faith W.W. Smith has placed in The Center," Rose Richardson, executive director of WPSCC, says. "The grant money will be used to help people facing food insecurity, those in need of emergency shelter, and those who are not in a position to make needed repairs to their homes."

Stephanie Owens, a WPSCC member, is one of the people who The Center has been able to help. "I was at the sink in my kitchen on a

cold day last winter. After I had been running the water for a few minutes, I noticed that it wasn't getting warm," She recalls. "It's just me in the house, so I knew the hot water couldn't have been exhausted. I went to the basement and my fears were confirmed. The floor was wet and the water heater was broken."

While Stephanie didn't have the resources for an immediate replacement, someone told her about The Center's ability to help.

"I was without hot water, in the middle of winter no less, for a couple of days before I went The Center," Stephanie shares. "As soon as I went there, everything seemed to go so quickly. I don't think it was even a week before I received a new hot water heater; and as soon as it arrived, the first thing I did was warm up with a hot shower!"

Located at the corner of 41st Street and Poplar, WPSCC is perfectly

situated to help one of the city's underserved areas.

"Our ability to help the surrounding community has certainly been strengthened by the W.W. Smith grant, and it is important to also note the vital role our donors play in our mission," Rose shares. "Without the support of our committed donors, we would not be able to do what we do every day."

W.W. Smith Grant Helps WPSCC

- Distribute nearly 840 emergency food gift card vouchers
- Distribute 200 Thanksgiving baskets
- Provide 19 older adults with emergency shelter assistance
- Create and distribute 2,139 nutritious breakfast meals



The Hearth
..... at Drexel



An Unforgettable Ballgame

It is not often that we have the opportunity to help another realize their dream. When we do, those milestones inevitably become wonderful memories for us as well. Last fall, the community of The Hearth at Drexel enjoyed just such an opportunity by taking Ernest Volpe to Citizen’s Bank Park.

This was far more than a typical afternoon trip to watch the Phillies duke it out against the Mets though. Over the course of his life, Ernest had made trips to twenty-nine out of Major League Baseball’s thirty stadiums. With only Citizen’s Bank Park left on his list, the community at The Hearth knew that this was an opportunity not to be missed. Through the generosity of donors, staff members were able to coordinate a trip to Philly’s own ballpark for Ernest and any member of the community that wanted to come along. Unsurprisingly, Ernest and his friends from The Hearth had an absolute ball at the game.

“How can you beat friends and victory?” asks Don Lowery. “No traffic, beer, and hot dogs—life is great!”

Nancy Partridge adds, “Any time going to the game and seeing your team win is fantastic. I enjoyed watching



Left: Ernest Volpe representing his Philly sports pride!



Below: Ernest’s final stop on his ballpark tour, the Phillies own Citizen’s Bank Park.

America’s favorite pastime and walking away with a win.”

It is thanks to the generosity of supporters to The Hearth at Drexel that dreams like Ernest’s can be realized. When you give to The Hearth, you are offering a resident the trip of a lifetime with friends by their side. You are opening the door to a new experience, or else an opportunity that they would have never had otherwise. Whether it’s an extravagant trip or a relaxing afternoon playing games, your contribution fosters relationships, compassion, and meaning.

Dorothy Horwitz, a friend of Ernest, comments about the trip, “This was my first Phillies game. I was previously a Yankees fan, but now I cheer for the Phillies.”

Ernest passed away in May of this year, but not before he was able to enjoy his time with friends and family at The Hearth to the fullest. It is our goal to create an unforgettable experience for every member of The Hearth at Drexel’s community, one memory at a time.

THE MANOR
at York Town



Right: Rita Smyth and her husband.



It's a relaxed Friday afternoon around The Manor at York Town. Rather than retreat from the heat, though, members of the community are up and about, making the most of the sunshine. Rita Smyth only moved to The Manor recently, but already appears at home in the cheery living room. Her journey to Bucks County's independent living community began years ago with the desire to help others.

"After retiring, I knew that I wanted to find a way to stay involved with the community," Rita says. "Friends of mine

The Right Place at the Right Time

from church pointed me toward Artman and Liberty Lutheran, and I thought that it would be a good fit."

It did not take long for Rita to bond with the team at Liberty, and she quickly began assisting with the activities that make up the backbone of fundraising. By handling donation requests, organizing large-scale mailing campaigns, and working alongside Liberty Lutheran's advancement team, Rita helped to raise donations that went toward vital programs like the Artman Benevolent Care Fund.

"The work was relaxing, and they made me feel appreciated, which always feels good. I think it's important to find ways that you can give back at all times in your life."

Her time at Liberty turned out to be meaningful in more ways than one. Rita and her husband had decided that their house was too much to handle alone. While assembling brochures at Liberty, Rita came across information on The Manor.

"I must have seen the name a hundred times. So I asked my husband and daughter to come with me to an open house at The Manor, and from that point it was a clear decision."

Despite moving from her home into independent living, Rita has not slowed down one bit. Her grandson is coming to stay for the weekend, and with new friends in the community and family nearby there is no shortage of happy hustle and bustle.

"Everyone has been so open and kind here," Rita comments. "Even if you haven't met someone formally they'll greet you as though you're old friends. It has made moving here so much easier, and I look forward to joining more of the clubs that are always going on."



Miriam Hoffman, often known as Ruth or Ruthie by close friends and family, loved to be in the company of others at Artman. Always the first to strike up conversation with any passerby, for Miriam, life was all about relationships and the way we have the remarkable capability to make others feel special even in the simplest of ways.

When Liberty Hospice provided peace and comfort alongside Miriam through her end of life journey at Artman, she was surrounded by love from all of the people whose lives she touched and those who she made feel special simply by being there.

Karen Messics, Miriam's beloved daughter, says her mother spent the majority of her life caring for others. "That was where she found her peace, in taking care of those around her," Karen says. Working as a home care nurse for families throughout the Philadelphia region and in three senior care facilities, after Miriam retired, her passion for helping others continued to thrive.

"After retirement, she cared for five different seniors on our street," says Karen. "She was the angel on the block." With angelic kindness and compassion, Miriam was always there for the neighbors who needed her. "That was her heart," her daughter says. "She was in her glory when helping others."

When Miriam came to Artman in the fall of 2018, Karen loved spending time with her mother in all of the wonderful activities held throughout the community. "Mom loved the parties," Karen says smiling as she recalls the Christmas celebrations at Artman that her mother greatly enjoyed, particularly the shrimp cocktail. "She'd say she wasn't hungry and as soon as she'd see the shrimp cocktail, she'd be asking for seconds," Karen laughs.



Above: Karen (left) and Miriam (right) share smiles and laughter at Artman's Saint Patrick's Day Party.

Making Others Feel Loved



Even through the most challenging of times, Liberty Hospice remembers Miriam was always one to say hello and offer a friendly smile. "She was a very happy person," says Tyrone, community life leader at Artman. "She loved conversation." Tyrone also remembers Miriam's deep love for her family, "her face would light up when family came to visit, especially her daughter," he says.

Indeed Miriam's love for her daughter and grandchildren was unwavering. As Miriam's family visited Artman during her time in Liberty Hospice's care, Karen says she will always remember the staff who made her mother feel loved. "I was so touched when so many members of staff came to visit her in hospice," Karen says. "It was all about the people with Mom. It's about the love and how you make people feel special and important and valued. That says it all. Artman and Liberty Hospice did exactly that for my mother."

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