



THE Villager

A NEWSLETTER OF SUNNYSIDE VILLAGE

Spring 2021

Team Sunnyside



Covid-19 redefines “team” at Sunnyside

The concept of “team” has always been significant to the core operations at Sunnyside Village. We thought we understood it. And then Covid-19 visited our campus.

I was made aware of the breadth of this concept yesterday as I walked through our Health & Rehabilitation Center and met a CNA who commented how impressed she was at how everyone across the campus responded to the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions just about one year ago. She noted the Transportation drivers who took on Checkpoint staffing duties with almost no advance notice, helping to manage our Checkpoint 24 hours a day.

As I walked away, I was reflecting on the kind of experiences she had observed. As a CNA, she was responsible for the care of her residents regardless of the amount or the type of PPE she had to don. She is subject to the regulations set forth by the CDC, CMS, AHCA, DOH and others who speak into how she should be doing her job. She has done it well, but clearly understood and appreciated the other staff across campus that helped make that possible. The photos and stories in this edition will provide a glimpse of the teamwork happening that allowed our CNA to do her job.

Perhaps one of the most significant expressions of what it means to be “team” during this time has come from staff. It has been challenging to hear the stories that staff have shared about the extent to which they have gone to try to be extremely careful while they are off campus to control their exposure to Covid-19, so they do not bring it on campus to their peers or to their residents.

Prior to Covid-19, I expect that most of us would have defined “team” as doing our job well so that others can perform their role effectively. At this stage in our Covid-19 experience, “team” has become taking on whatever role is necessary to provide safe, healthy and excellent care for our community, whether in the Health Center, Manor or in the Village residential living community.

Perhaps the most significant observation I can share is that while the entire world is weary of dealing with Covid-19, I have yet to hear the first complaint from any staff member who has picked up a role that is technically outside their job description. That is amazing! And it’s a reflection of Sunnyside for which we are deeply grateful.

As a campus-team, we are blessed to serve our residents and support each other. We are grateful for the collaboration and teamwork among staff and residents that enables us all to serve in whatever way we are needed!

J. David Yoder
Executive Director
Sunnyside Village



Lakeside dining staff Tyrone Rogers and Linda Johnson chat with J. David Yoder at the campus barbeque

In the Village

Villager volunteers make vaccination events a huge success

The COVID pandemic loomed large at Sunnyside Village this past year, as it did over the nation. But Sunnyside's residential living Villagers got an early reprieve when Sunnyside held its first vaccination event January 19 — an event that went smoothly with 227 vaccinations in just a little more than four hours.

“There was quite a sense of relief to have access to the vaccine and get it in such an expedient manner and not have a grueling wait in line,” said Terrie Kimbrell, Resident Liaison and Wellness Coordinator. “It gave them a sense of being safe again, which many had not felt for awhile.”

The smooth success of the event could not have happened without a small army of residents who volunteered to be of service at every step. About 30 Villager volunteers helped get consent forms distributed ahead of time so they would be filled out and read on the day of the vaccinations.

On vaccination day, those volunteers helped with the traffic flow for those getting shots, made sure they all had their insurance cards and photo IDs, gave them their completed consent forms to have in hand, operated the copier to provide copies of the proof of vaccination, and so on. Sunnyside trams picked up and returned Villagers to their homes after the observation period.



Village Volunteer Team: Shirley Ludke, Donna Wanvig, Diane Stokas, Paul Carter, Judy Kuebbler, and Dick Clapp assist Villager Fran Roberts at the initial vaccine check-in



Village Volunteer Team: Maureen Roth, Cielo Myers, and Patty Kelly with Villager Jerry Kays

“It was quite a concerted effort on the part of our Villager volunteers,” Kimbrell said. “For all of these volunteers to step forward during a pandemic speaks volumes. They wanted to keep their neighbors healthy and safe. It was quite remarkable. It speaks to the selflessness and giving that happens here.”

The Pfizer vaccine was administered, so the second event was held February 9. After about 15 new Villagers moved in, a small round of vaccines were done February 16 and March 9.

“It was really an awesome endeavor,” Kimbrell said.

Village Life

The wonderful surprises of Sunnyside Village living

G.K Chesterton once said, “There’s one thing that gives radiance to everything. It’s the idea of something around the corner.” Village living at Sunnyside offers those corners where exceptional little surprises make life so satisfying.

You see, I have never lived in a village before moving into Sunnyside. I had never experienced the camaraderie and friendship that could exist between neighbors, friends and even the staff because the corners around Sunnyside are inexhaustible, but only found after you move in.

One of the first wonderful corners I experienced was a visit from the staff and welcome committee members. This was the first sign of village living. Normal neighborhoods or apartment complexes don’t welcome new people like they are a part of the family.

My next corner was that my neighbor came over and invited me to dinner with some of her friends. This started the Sunnyside Village domino-effect. All of a sudden every time I turned toward another corner others would notice that I was a “new Villager” and they would introduce themselves.

The feeling of belonging is an important part of village life. Corner after corner there were groups in which I got involved: church services, Bible studies, places to go, things to see and craft groups. But the most important corners are the friendships I made and am still making — dear, family-type friends.

What is Sunnyside Village living like? It’s my new beloved family for as long as God leaves me on this earth, and that last corner will be even more WONDERFUL!

– Villager, Eileen Pease



Villagers Tom & Eileen Pease display their Team Sunnyside colors



Prayer Around the Lake

As the wide-spread realities of Covid continued, a Villager suggested that we set a weekly time to stand together in prayer for people affected by COVID-19. To give meaning to the time, 4:19 p.m. was selected to represent “prayer for Covid-19”. Thus, Prayer Around the Lake was started and continues every Friday, at 4:19 p.m.

Villagers and staff are invited to gather on the sidewalk around the lake or in their home or offices for a ten-minute silent prayer for people affected by Covid-19. This is a time for quiet individual prayer while gathering in a distanced setting as Team Sunnyside.

Wherever you may be, join us in prayer from your location at 4:19 on Fridays!

J. David Yoder rings the 4:19 prayer bell

Purposeful Living

Villagers welcoming new Villagers

What could have been a casualty of COVID, the resident Welcoming Committee turned out to be a continued blessing — with a little adaptation.

The committee is made up of volunteers who are enthusiastic about living at Sunnyside and want to help new residents get adapted and feel at home as soon as possible. After a new Villager moves in, a volunteer calls them to get together one-on-one and discuss the activities and amenities at Sunnyside.

During the pandemic, the committee changed to avoid meeting at the new residents' house, but elsewhere designated as safe by Sunnyside, most commonly at the Community Center's outdoor veranda. The volunteer brings a tote bag with more information and answers questions, becoming a personalized contact for new Villagers.

"The volunteers were really appreciative of the guidelines the staff put into place to keep us safe and healthy," said Marni Mock, Villager Welcoming Committee Chairman. "We're all very happy that we've managed to keep doing what we're doing during the past year, and I think the new Villagers have been happy as well."



Villager Marni Mock with welcome tote bags



Villagers gather for an evening sing-along

The joy of Music on the Veranda

About a year ago, Arlene Swain was playing her flute when some friends who heard her said they'd like to sing with her. Well now, Arlene thought that was a great idea, so she said she'd bring her accordion so she could sing too and just like that, Music on the Veranda was born!

A group of Villagers, usually about 8 to 12, but it can be more, get together informally Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings at 6:15 p.m. at the Community Center veranda, and sing a wide range of mostly Christians songs. The sing-along includes Gospel songs, Christian camp songs, spirituals, Gaither songs, and special occasion songs such as Christmas, Holy Week and patriotic.

Arlene, a former missionary who is mostly self-taught in music, puts together song sets with the lyrics printed out on sheets.

"We just really do have a lot of fun. And we want to be a blessing" she said. "It's been a fun challenge for me to pull together these song sets, but I've enjoyed it!"

Enriched Living

Resident-inspired Hero Fund was a surprise blessing to staff

The idea for the Hero's Fund came first from a Village resident in May — initiated by a passionate letter asking for an opportunity for residents to thank the staff for their role in helping to manage the Covid-19 experience across the campus. Over the next few weeks, other Villagers made similar suggestions.

Sunnyside leadership presented The Hero's Fund idea to the Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation Board agreed to match proceeds if the residents raised \$50,000. The Sunnyside Properties Board joined with another financial match for the project.

By the end of July, residents raised \$50,000 and secured the two financial matches. In September, the Villagers honored each staff individually as they handed Hero checks to surprised and delighted staff.

Other Villagers came with signs of appreciation and applause to pour out an incredible blessing on all staff who have graciously carried the extra load of responsibilities or sacrificed their second jobs to work only at one facility.



Villager John Stevenson hands a bonus check to staff Gena Rogers



Villager Pat Kindt hands a bonus check to staff Debbie Higgins



HR staff Jessica Myers and Villager Vannie Jones applaud staff



Villager LaMar Holsopple distributes a bonus check to staff Shaly Costello Drilling

Manor Life

The pleasant life of a Manor resident

Every morning, Sunnyside Manor assisted living resident Don Lyons starts his day reading the local newspaper with his coffee in the living room area by the Village Store. Staff bought a subscription to the paper and as an early riser, Don is the first up and out to read it. This morning routine is part of a comfortable, pleasant life at the Manor.

Don moved to his Manor apartment in December 2020 and is enjoying life. "There's always activities going on and they make sure we have everything we need," he said. "Anything I ask for gets taken care of right away."

One of the new activities he does regularly, along with about 20 others at the Manor, is the drums. Drumming to music has become a very popular exercise option.

But Don also enjoys the men's group that gets together regularly to talk about the goings on at Sunnyside and in their lives. The men's group helped him make new friends quickly. "Chatting with the Chaplain" is another engaging activity he enjoys.

"I really like it here," he said.



Manor resident Don Lyons with staff Vicky Leach

Sunnyside Manor adds four new apartments

Sunnyside Manor, our assisted living facility, began construction of four new apartments in the Summer of 2020 after the space became available as a result of the rehabilitation gym relocating into the newly constructed Health Center.

Set to open in mid-2021, the One-Bedroom Elite and Two-room apartments will offer a variety of square footage with options to accommodate couples, and will increase our overall occupancy of the Manor, which has always been an in-demand environment for us.

Upgrades on finishings, including crown molding and the choice to pick your wall colors are included. Pre-reservation is open now. Apartments are being reserved quickly as we near completion.



Trim Carpenter Marc Schlabach

For more information on Sunnyside Manor Assisted Living

Contact Amy: 371-2750, Ext 325, acraig@SunnysideVillage.org

Sunnyside Health & Rehabilitation Center



Lucy MacDonald with staff Melissa Sartori, Nancy Fus, and Pam Buckley enjoy a Christmas stroll to see the Village lights



Staff Ruby Hochstedler and Angela Knepp deliver treats

Everyone was challenged by 2020. Learning to adapt in creative ways to offer support to our residents and each other was a struggle. Still, our Health & Rehabilitation Center's Life Enrichment team was able to resourcefully adjust quickly to boost the cheer and morale of residents and the families.

Offering opportunities for engagement through multiple avenues included door visits, window visits, virtual visits, in-person outdoor visits, scheduled indoor visits as able, and many other forms of video messages, letter writing and assisted telephone calls. These became the day-to-day roles of this

team. Coordinating hundreds of these visitations was rewarding for both the residents and our team.

Learning to adapt by offering socially distanced group programs when able in the hallways, through internal television programming and enhanced one-on-one time with residents, were key to maintaining positivity.

Our Life Enrichment team members were known to dress up in costumes, serving ice cream and specialty treats room to room, raising butterflies for the residents to release, and doing whatever it took to help bring joy to the residents daily.

Sunnyside Health & Rehabilitation Center



Specialized Services

- Short-term Rehabilitative Care
- Long-term Comprehensive Care
- Palliative Care

Household Design

Experience the feel of home with our new household-designed Health and Rehabilitation Center, where daily activities occur within a familiar setting reminiscent of a large family home. Our open floor plan concept clusters your care room near a family room, dining room, and kitchen – a comfortable connection among the household living spaces.



For more information on Sunnyside Health & Rehabilitation Center

Contact Jodi: 371-2750, Ext. 326, jfalk@SunnysideVillage.org

Team Sunnyside



Our Campus Services Director closed campus entrances and created our campus Checkpoint and staffing. Checkpoint Staff Marzi Fleury screens a visitor.



The Campus Patrol team delivers all parcel post deliveries from Checkpoint to residents and offices. Campus Patrol staff Kenny Heard.



The Resident Liaison created a distribution program for residents to order groceries through Sunnyside. Staff Tina Catalane and Debbie Smith repackage groceries to distribute to Villagers.



The Campus Services team created protocols to unload trucks and distribute deliveries since drivers could not enter our Health Services facilities. Campus Service staff Jim Mitchell and Dave Stutzman disinfect a delivery.



The Lakeside Dining staff created hearty menus, sturdy packaging, and delivery systems for meals. Lakeside Dining staff Ed Catalane's customized delivery cart.

Brotherly Kindness

By Chaplain Jarvis Hochstedler



Sunnyside Chapel

For many years, something my wife Ruby and I have done is to close the year out with a simple prayer asking God to give us a word or phrase to guide us into the new year ahead. It was a suggestion from another Bible teacher many years ago in a class I was taking, and it sort of stuck. This year God did not fail to put into our hearts these two words — simple kindness.

We have just finished one of the most difficult years of this generation. We have all witnessed the strife, name-calling and violence that spread across our nation. Let's be honest; we have been stirred up for some time now. It has infected churches, schools, families, businesses and even whole cities.

Covid-19 has been like the outflow of all that ugliness.

I believe with all my heart that God is calling us, especially believers, to kindness. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the Romans – ***“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”***

Romans 12:9-10 NKJV

Let me put it this way: love sincerely (no faking it), turn from evil, cement yourself to what is good and right, be kind and let the other person go first (even if you have the right). So, the word for 2021 is “kindness.” The returns are out of this world!

**Watch Live and Archived
Chapel Services**
SunnysideVillage.org/news

**Watch Sunnyside Village
Chapel Services Live**
Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (EST)



**Watch Archived Sunnyside
Village Chapel Services**



The Mission of Sunnyside Village is to honor God by enriching the lives of residents, staff and the community by providing homes, services and programs in a Christian environment.



THE
Villager

Sunnyside Village

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Assisted Living #0007952, Skilled Nursing #1535096

Sunnyside Village is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization affiliated with local Mennonite churches and a member of:



Pictured on the front cover: *Health Services staff Anne LaCharity, Donna Miller, and Chanda Pollack enjoy campus barbeque*



What a gift to Sunnyside does

A gift to Sunnyside Foundation ...

- is an investment in the life of another Sunnyside Village resident
- gives purpose and meaning to the donor who is able to see the value of others' life experiences
- generates attitudes of gratefulness in the heart of the recipient for the generosity of unknown donors
- changes lives beyond the awareness of the donor, and in ways a donor may never know
- multiplies its impact significantly when it touches the life of the recipient
- builds a culture of appreciation and generosity across the Sunnyside Village community

