Project SEARCH = Project Success!

Western New York Project SEARCH, a business-led partnership between Beechwood; Aspire of WNY; Erie 1 BOCES and Summit Educational Resources, held its inaugural graduation ceremony on June 24 in Beechwood’s auditorium. All five of the student interns completed the program.

Project SEARCH offers a school-to-work program alternative for students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school. It is part of the international Project SEARCH program (www.projectsearch.us).

Beechwood provided a classroom for the participating interns along with employees who served as professional mentors. The team consisted of a teacher, teacher aide and job coaches to meet the educational and training needs of the interns. Job placement is the goal of Project SEARCH, and the team assisted each intern in defining career goals. By combining real-life work experience with training in employment and independent living skills, the goal is for each intern to obtain competitive, integrated employment. Beechwood currently employs one of the graduates, Robert Snyder.

Western New York Project SEARCH’s next session begins in September, with all four organizations once again participating. To date, eight students are enrolled.
**“Under the Big Top” Theme for This Year’s Auction and Food Extravaganza**

Saturday, October 18th – 6:30 P.M.

— Beechwood Homes Atrium —

Reminisce of circus days old…with jugglers, ringmasters and animals to behold. Step right up…sample food and fare…sweets and treats…common and rare. It's going to be fun, no matter the dress…just be yourself and we’ll do the rest. Our colors are chic…red, gold and white…be creative, have fun…and bid high through the night!

Beechwood atrium and halls will be transformed into a Midway and Circus BigTop. Guests will enjoy a multitude of sumptuous food stations, fine wines, imported beers and flowing champagne. Kevin O’Connell of WGRZ-TV will be returning as Ringmaster and Celebrity Auctioneer. Music is provided by the Ron Corsaro Trio.

In addition to fabulous food and entertainment, there will be exciting auction items up for bid, all for a great cause: to benefit our residents and Homes. The Auction and Food Extravaganza is our largest annual fundraiser, and has raised more than $1.4 million since it started!

Each year hundreds of gifts are donated to ensure that this fundraiser is a great success. **Proceeds this year are dedicated to the Beechwood/Blocher Foundation which assists our Homes in providing a “true home” for our residents and patients by supplementing our ever increasing costs of care, capital improvements to maintain our commitment to excellence, and development of innovative “quality of life” programs and projects such as “Welcome Home!”**

**NEW SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME ON BOARD!**

Many levels include admission to the auction as well as recognition on all promotional materials, website and at the event! **See opposite page.**

**CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TODAY AT (716) 810-7371 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN DONATE OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.**

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**“Party at the Beech” Auction Gift Party...A Blast!**

On May 15th, the 2nd Annual “Party at the Beech” Gift Gathering Party was held. Over 100 guests enjoyed an evening full of food, desserts, wines, beer and fun. Thousands of dollars in gift cards were donated to benefit our Fall auction.

We want to thank the following vendors for their generous donations which were the heart of our event!

- Bronco Wines
- Flying Bison Brewery Co.
- Carmine’s Italiano
- Schnitzel & Co.
- Sweet Melody’s Gelato
- Oh Pour L’Amour Du Chocolat
- Besta Pizza
- Desiderio Produce
- Morgan Linen Services

Yes...we are collecting gifts!
19th Annual Auction & Food Extravaganza

**OPTION 1 – AUCTION ITEM(S)**

The item(s) we would like to donate to the Auction is: ______________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Value: ________________________________________
Name to be listed in program book: ______________________________________________________
Contact Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________ City ____________________ State __________ Zip ______
E-mail: __________________________________ Phone #: __________________________________

**OPTION 2 – PATRON GIFT LEVELS**

*Listing to appear in Auction Program Book*

- Juggler $500 – Two complimentary reservations ($150) and a half page ad in our program book (7 ½” W x 4 ¾” H)
- Clown $250 – A quarter page ad in our program book (3 ½” W x 4 ¾” H)
- Animal Act $100 – An eighth page ad in our program book (3 ½” W x 2 ¼” H)
- Cotton Candy $50
- Popcorn $25

All ads are in black and white. Please send your ad in JPG or PDF format to elew@beechwoodcare.org

Enclosed is our payment of $ _____________ for a Patron Listing

Send Auction Gifts and Patrons to:

THE BEECHWOOD/BLOCHER FOUNDATION
2235 Millersport Highway • Getzville, NY 14068 • (716) 810-7371
On Wednesday, June 25th, staff, families and residents commemorated the first year anniversary of Wells House. The Beechwood staff of Wells House wanted to “celebrate the lives” of everyone who has been touched by Wells House over the past year. It was an afternoon of friendship and fellowship with smiles, laughter, tears and hugs. Several family members whose loved ones had passed in Wells House came back to share in this special day. On hand were both Beechwood and Hospice Buffalo leadership sharing how proud they are of the unique partnership that these two organizations have created and of the dedication and compassion of the unified staff.

O’Neill appointed to LeadingAge™ Cabinet

Beechwood Continuing Care President and CEO Daniel O’Neill has been appointed president of LeadingAge™ New York’s Nursing Facilities Cabinet, which is responsible for planning the programming and public policy agendas for representative service lines and addressing issues its members believe are most pressing. As president of the Cabinet, O’Neill has also been appointed to LeadingAge New York’s board of directors. His three-year term began July 1, 2014.

Founded in 1961, LeadingAge™ New York represents not-for-profit, mission-driven and public continuing care providers, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living and community service providers. For more information, visit www.leadingageny.org.

“Party at the Beech” – Auction Gift Gathering Party
Summer Picnics & Car Show

Hazy Days of Summer

This year Blocher Homes’ Annual Summerfest Picnic had a Western theme.

Fun was had by all!

Beechwood’s Root Beer Float Car Cruise has become a favorite for local car enthusiasts. Over 60 cars were on display for residents, families and staff to enjoy!
John Blocher, who founded the Blocher Homes in Williamsville, was born on July 22, 1825 in Scipio, NY. In 1835 upon the death of his father, Blocher suddenly found himself – at the age of 10 – with the responsibility to care for his mother and two siblings. This sudden turn of events left him with little formal education but fueled the entrepreneurial spirit that would eventually make him one of Buffalo’s wealthiest citizens. At the age of 18, the enterprising Blocher opened a tailor shop in Buffalo, eventually turning it into a dry goods and grocery store, where he also supplied ready-made clothing to his fellow neighbors.

In 1845, the 20-year-old Blocher married 19-year-old Elizabeth Neff, a native of Williamsville, New York. Their son Nelson, who would be their only child, was born two years later.

When the Civil War broke out, Blocher was one of the first to answer the call to arms. He served just one year in the Union Army before being discharged due to poor health. Disappointed, he returned to Western New York, where he purchased a farm in Williamsville. He spent a year in the lumber business before moving his family to Buffalo, where he started a business manufacturing shoes and boots for the army and employed several hundred men. Legend has it that John Blocher invented the concept of left and right shoes, as well as the tongue now commonly found in boots, sneakers, etc.

An astute businessman and shrewd real estate investor, John Blocher soon became a very wealthy man. The Blochers purchased a lavish home on Delaware Avenue (near Huron), which they filled with elegant furnishings, artwork and statuary.

When Nelson died in 1884 at the age of 37 after a long illness, his parents were heartbroken. With no heir to take over his successful business, John Blocher eventually sold it and the Blochers dedicated their lives to providing a “home where old men and women can enjoy their declining years and be cared for during illness.”

On September 4, 1904, John Blocher broke ground for the original Blocher Homes, a 55-room limestone mansion on Evans Street. Blocher Homes opened in 1906, providing residency for elderly men and women. Although there’s only one building, it’s called Blocher Homes because, for Blocher, it was less about the physical space and more about providing homes for the elderly in need.

By 1969, the building had deteriorated to the point that it was no longer safe for occupancy. Rather than restore the old building, the Board of Directors decided to erect a new building, which opened in 1970 and housed 55 residents. Several pieces of furniture from the Blocher’s home, as well as a large portrait of John and Elizabeth, can still be seen in the facility on Evans Road in Williamsville. In 1977, Beechwood Continuing Care acquired the assisted living facility.

Elizabeth Neff Blocher died of pneumonia in 1904 at the age of 78. John Blocher died of natural causes in 1911 at the age of 85. They are buried, along with their son, Nelson, at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo. But their generosity and philanthropy is still evident in Mrs. Blocher’s hometown.
Honor Roll of Donors to the Beechwood/Blocher Foundation

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Savvy Senior Travel

Asbury Pointe has teamed up once again with AAA Western and Central New York to offer a FREE seminar geared toward savvy seniors on the go who want to know about the latest in travel trends.

Join us on Thursday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
in our Community Theatre Room, 50 Stahl Road in Getzville.

Light refreshments will be served; tours of our beautiful apartments will be available.

Topic of discussion will include:
Seasonal Fall & Holiday Tours • What’s Hot in River Cruises • AAA Solo Club & the Single Traveler

There is no admission charge; however, space is limited, so reservations are required and can be made by calling 716.810.7500.
In honor of Jack C. Anthony
Ms. Sally D. Murphy

In honor of Beechwood Homes Donation
Harmony House Staff
Family of Alice Blatchford

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In celebration of
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In memory of Ves Wurster
Mrs. Betty A. Coon

In memory of Harriet B. Yenoff
Mr. Irving Yenoff

In memory of Helmut Zimmerman
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Steel
* Deceased
** Through the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Dog Show at Beechwood
Beechwood Continuing Care staff members and volunteers were honored at the LeadingAge Western New York annual recognition dinner held at Samuel’s Grande Manor on May 7th. The following employees received the staff member of the year award. The following volunteers were honored for their dedication to serving our Homes’ residents.

Asbury Pointe

Frederick Isler, Dining Services/Dishwasher – Freddy has been with Asbury Pointe since 2010. His outgoing personality and sense of humor draws everyone to him and his extraordinary work ethic is second to none.

Michelle Sinnott, Housekeeping Supervisor – Michelle started at Asbury when it opened in 2000. As the supervisor, she is an essential part of the Asbury team. No task is too large for her to handle and she leads by example...all with a smile.

Beechwood Homes

Shawn Judd, Plant Operations/Lead Mechanic – Shawn has been with Beechwood for over 12 years and has grown tremendously over the years. He consistently ensures that our residents’ comfort and safety is his top priority.

Judy Deley, Bistro Volunteer – Judy has been a volunteer in the Bistro for over six years. Always courteous and cheerful, she keeps customers smiling with her entertaining stories. She is always willing to pitch in and help when needed.

John Craig, LPN – John was nominated by Blocher residents as outstanding staff member of the year. To quote the residents, “John goes the extra mile.” John takes special interest in our new residents to ensure they feel welcome and safe.

Kirby Snyder, Volunteer – Kirby is well known by all the residents and the visitors as he assists in many activities. He is very appreciated by our male residents as he ensures that the men’s luncheons are full of great conversation and interesting topics.
BCC Employees and Volunteers Honored at LeadingAge WNY Annual Dinner

2014 LeadingAge WNY Scholarship Winners

Eric Mobley, Beechwood Certified Nursing Assistant, is the recipient of the $1,000 Janet Engasser Scholarship. Eric is studying to be a Licensed Practical Nurse and ultimately an R.N.

Emily Mroz, Blocher Dining Server, is the recipient of one of the $500 LeadingAge WNY Scholarships. She is presently attending the University of Buffalo and looks forward to working as a psychological counselor for the elderly.

Congratulations to All!

Know someone thinking about retirement community living?

Tell them about Asbury Pointe’s FREE open houses, taking place from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays:

September 6, 13, 20, 27 & October 4

Guests will be able to tour available apartments (many of which have newly-upgraded amenities such as granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and custom cupboards) as well as see the grounds, speak to current residents, get answers to questions about retirement community living and enjoy delicious refreshments.

Our open houses are open to the public; reservations are not required.

For more information, call (716) 810-7500
Mary Ann Barberio, a resident at Beechwod since 2010, has loved to draw since she was 12 years old (she’s now 80). She took up painting about 25 years ago, enjoying watercolors until a recent stroke left her unable to handle the detail and control needed for her favorite subject matter: flowers and landscapes. She turned her focus to painting colorful birdhouses (which are sold at Beechwod’s gift shop) and t-shirts for her grandson. “He sends me the image he wants and I paint it on to a t-shirt for him,” says Mary Ann.

A native of Brocton, Mary Ann graduated from the Pratt Institute, where she majored in retailing and costume design, but also took several art courses. She worked in retail for many years and also tried her hand at real estate, but “I just didn’t care for it, particularly the hours,” says Mary Ann.

She and her husband were married for 50 years before he died nearly three years ago. They have four children and 10 grandchildren; many live nearby. Mary Ann has photos of each of her grandchildren on her wall in her room at Beechwod, and says she’s very proud of her children and grandchildren.

She misses her house, but says she likes Beechwod, particularly the view outside her window of Beechwod’s lush landscape, where a few of her hand-painted birdhouses hang, awaiting new tenants.