The eighth annual Beechwood/Blocher Auxiliary Board’s Fashion Show and Luncheon was held Saturday, May 2nd in the Beechwood Homes Atrium. A record crowd enjoyed a patriotic theme entitled “First Ladies in Fashion” including greetings and photos taken with “President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt” (delightfully played by Layman and Dianne Jones.)

The runway featured fabulous fashions from Coldwater Creek, Blum’s Swimwear and The Men’s Wearhouse. Guests sipped champagne punch as they shopped in the “West Wing” boutique area featuring Small Indulgence jewelry and over 60 themed baskets.

Marissa Bailey of WGRZ-TV served as mistress of ceremonies and celebrity fashion commentator. Guests strutted their stuff in red, white and blue splendor. Each guest table featured a select photo of a “first lady” and interesting facts about her life in the White House. J&L Premier Landscape graciously sponsored this year’s event. Proceeds from this event go to the Living Care Fund which was established to ensure all our residents…regardless of their ability to pay…can call Blocher and Beechwood their Home for as long as they need our care.
BCC Employees and Volunteers Honored at WNYAHSA Annual Dinner

Beechwood Continuing Care staff members and volunteers were honored at the Western New York Association for Homes and Services for the Aging (WNYAHSA) annual recognition dinner held at Samuel’s Grand Manor on May 6th. The following employees received the Staff Member of the Year Award. In addition, the following volunteers were honored for their dedication to serving our Homes residents.

**Asbury Pointe**

**Matt Frieh, Dining Server** – Matt has been a dishwasher at Asbury for quite some time. Although not the most glamorous job, it is essential! When Matt is on, you know everything will be done correctly...he is a great asset to the Asbury.

**Nancy Marchak, Receptionist** – Nancy is a great ambassador to have at the reception desk. Everyone is greeted with a smile. She takes a sincere interest in all our residents and it shows. We commend her for her patience and the caring manner she brings each day to her job.

**Beechwood Homes**

**Elaine Judd, Nursing** – Elaine has been an employee at Beechwood since 2001. She began her career as a Certified Nursing Assistant and very quickly knew nursing was her passion. In January of 2005, she became a Licensed Practical Nurse! Elaine has demonstrated professionalism and dedication for all the residents she cares for.

**Marion Wilcox, Volunteer** – Marion volunteers twice a week in the new Bistro and is always ready to fill in when necessary! She is cheerful and keeps the customers smiling with her terrific sense of humor. Marion also serves on many Beechwood committees.

**Blocher Homes**

**Tiffany Diehl, Dining Server** – Tiffany is extremely kind to and patient with our residents as she takes their meal orders or when serves their meals. She is well liked by all. . .residents and staff alike. She enjoys our residents so much that she is an activities volunteer on her days off!

**Susan White, Volunteer** – Susan is a Eucharistic Minister and Lecturer for our Catholic community. She has been a volunteer for four years and is faithful in her spiritual mission. She truly enjoys her ministry to our residents and we are grateful for her friendship.

In addition, Beechwood Homes’ “Welcome Home” New Employee Orientation Program in a Culture Change Environment was awarded the WNYAHSA Special Program Award. This program was developed to change the former day long lecture-style to a format that was interactive. The new approach uses varying adult learning styles and incorporates culture change principles with customer service.
On April 1, 2009, staff from Asbury Pointe, Blocher Homes and Beechwood Homes were recognized for five or more years of service by the leadership of all the Homes. President/CEO Robert Meiss; Administrators Kathy Nyquist (Beechwood) and Patricia Fitzgerald (Asbury and Blocher); and Department Directors were on hand to congratulate each staff member.

Over 70 guests were in attendance where lunch was prepared by the Beechwood Food & Nutritional Services Department. Each staff member honored received a special gift for their dedicated service.

The following staff members have been recognized for their quality years of service:

Our sincere thanks to these dedicated staff members who have given our residents so much for so many years!
January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009

Honor Roll of Donors to the Beechwood/Blocher Foundation

In honor of Agnes I. Ammer
Mr. and Mrs. Lester C. Bennett

In honor of Shirley M. Greenflo
The Greenflo Family
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ranney

In honor of June F. Grapa
Mr. Howard L. Grapa

In honor of Margaret Hill
Mrs. Delores Aldenderfer

In honor of Doris Hurley
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In honor of Catherine Kieffer
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In honor of Kameron G. Kontos
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In honor of Edward Saveth
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In honor of Arthur E. Shade, III
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stoeckl

In honor of Winona Stonebraker
Mrs. Betty A. Field

In honor of James Tony
Mr. John G. Tony

In honor of Ida R. Troppman
Mrs. T. Mendelson

In honor of Shirley Tuttle
Mr. and Mrs. John Hurley

In honor of Lindsey V.
Miss Helen C. Mosgrober

In honor of Betsy M. Waters
Mrs. Patricia A. Shaw

In honor of Marion J. Winger
Mr. and Mrs. John Lambert

In memory of Mary E. Ackendorf
Mr. William Ackendorf

In memory of Robert A. Allen
Mr. Frederic B. Stubinger

In memory of Assunta Amigone
Mrs. Elsa M. Wolf

In memory of Rev. Harold Babb
Mr. Ronald Babb

In memory of Robert J. Bahn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Bahn

Thank you for your contribution!

Bequests
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Mrs. Elsa M. Wolf

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In honor of Agnes I. Ammer
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January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009

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In memory of
Pleasuretta Zimmerman
Herberger and Herr Families
N.Y. Association of Homes & Services for the Aging Bestows its Highest Honor on Beechwood CEO

The article below was written by NYAHSA and submitted to over 230 media outlets across the country.

On June 3, Bob Meiss, president and CEO of Beechwood Continuing Care, received the Lawrence E. Larson Memorial Award of Honor at the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging’s (NYAHSA) annual conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. This is NYAHSA’s highest tribute, given to long-term care leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the care and services to the elderly in both New York State and nationally. Founded in 1961, NYAHSA represents nearly 600 not-for-profit and public continuing care providers, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living and community service providers.

It was Bob’s community-based vision and servant leadership that has guided Beechwood Continuing Care through an extraordinary journey of organizational culture change and growth, from a simple nursing home to a leading comprehensive continuum of care.

Under his leadership, Beechwood added a short-term subacute rehab center and an independent retirement community. In addition, Beechwood’s physical facilities are undergoing a multi-million dollar transformation from an institutional setting to a household model. To make that happen, Beechwood has raised more than $4.5 million of its $6 million goal toward its capital campaign.

Bob’s unwavering moral beliefs guide his staff and help them think outside traditional institutional ideologies. His “do the right thing” attitude and leadership style have helped his staff recognize and meet their residents’ core needs as people, not just as patients, bringing to life his vision of Beechwood as Western New York’s first person-centered care facility. Bob also founded the Western New York Alliance for Person-Centered Care, helping develop a national model that brings together proprietary and not-for-profit providers, regulators and educators to drive culture change in the region.

His constructive vision and leadership encompass not just Beechwood or Western New York, but the state as a whole, evidenced by his influence on legislation protecting the interests of older adults. One of his many supporters for the award said that when discussing an issue with a state legislator, “you want Bob Meiss in the room because it immediately lends credibility and integrity to the issue.”

Bob has been an integral part of the Western New York Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, NYAHSA, AAHSA, the Network in Aging of Western New York, Buffalo and Erie County United Way, Kaleida Health Systems and Legal Services for the Elderly. He also has served as a clinical assistant professor of social and preventive medicine at SUNY-Buffalo as well as several of his church’s building and inner-city projects.

Robert R. Meiss’ distinguished record, professional vision and outstanding moral character have earned him the Lawrence E. Larson Memorial Award of Honor.
“Where Caring and Community Go Hand In Hand”

A LEGACY OF CARING

Over forty five years ago, a retired school teacher and resident of our homes wished to share her blessings with other residents who were less fortunate. Upon her death, she bequeathed a legacy gift to the Beechwood and Blocher Homes. Her wish was that it be used solely to benefit residents who were no longer able to pay for their cost of care.

“Her gift was the genesis of the Living Care Fund”

A PROMISE NEVER BROKEN

The Living Care Fund has helped the Beechwood and Blocher Homes keep their promise to all residents that no matter what their financial circumstances, they would always be a part of our Homes. Sadly, due to a record increase in resident need for this Fund and the severe Medicaid cuts to nursing homes...the demand far exceeds our Homes ability to maintain our support.

Without an immediate infusion of support, the Living Care Fund may cease to exist.

Help us continue our promise to our residents.

Your support of the Living Care Fund is needed more than ever and grows every day!!!

PLEASE JOIN ME

Please join me by supporting the Living Care Fund this year. It is a gift that truly keeps on giving!

Robert R. Meiss, President/CEO

A LEGACY GIFT TO THE LIVING CARE FUND

Including the Living Care Fund in your will or estate plan is a wonderful way for your gift to go on serving our elderly residents for years to come. Contact Cheryl Wasson of the development office (716-504-1888) for more information on how to create a legacy gift!

For your convenience we have enclosed a donation envelope.
Our Mission:

Based on Christian values, Beechwood Continuing Care is committed to offering dignified, holistic residential and health care to older adults in an environment that promotes life enrichment, independence, and meaningful living.

“There’s No Place Like Home” Auction and Food Extravaganza Saturday, October 17th

The Beechwood/Blocher Foundation’s Auxiliary Board is gearing up for its 14th Annual Auction and Food Extravaganza. This year’s theme is “There’s No Place Like Home” and will be full of fabulous food and surprises! Look for all the Oz characters and the Emerald City! Co-chairs for this event are Auxiliary Board Members Nancy Barlow and Pattie McKnight. This promises to be our best auction ever!

Each year hundreds of gifts are donated to ensure that this fundraiser is a great success. Last year, we raised over $130,000!

We are also looking for sponsors and advertisers. Many levels include free admission to the auction as well as recognition on all promotions, web site and at the event.

Gifts Needed!

Popular gifts include gift baskets, gift certificates for restaurants, gas, stores or services; time share vacation homes or condos in resort areas, furniture, jewelry, antiques, artwork, appliances . . . and anything else you think would be exciting and fun!

CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TODAY AT 716-504-1888 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP.

All proceeds benefit the Welcome Home Campaign which has raised over $4.5 million toward its $6 million dollar goal!

Editor: Cheryl A. Wasson
Contributing Writers: Brenda Schwamborn
Foundation information contributed by Eileen Lew and Alicia Rainstein
For corrections, comments, or topic suggestions regarding Reflections, please contact Cheryl A. Wasson at (716) 504-1888.

www.beechwoodcare.org