Home Sweet Home

Since moving in 2 ½ years ago, **Pat and Frank Ducato** have discovered firsthand why The Village at Penn State’s motto is “Live like a senior, feel like a freshman.” From the first time they visited, it felt like home. As avid sports fans, and with Frank’s ties to the university as an alumnus, they take full advantage of the Penn State University connection.

Pat and Frank met through a friend of Frank’s. Pat was in nursing school and Frank was working in marketing. In Pat’s words, “The hospital where I was a student received an invitation from the local army base. They were hosting a dance and invited us to attend. The soldiers wanted to meet some girls, and we wanted to meet some guys.”

“At the dance, I met a soldier who kept talking about his friend, a ‘swinging bachelor’ with an apartment. One snowy night, this soldier invited my friends and me to a party at his friend’s apartment. Frank was the ‘swinging bachelor.’”

Nine months later, Pat and Frank were engaged and they traveled to Pittsburgh to visit Frank’s parents. Upon their return, Frank discovered a letter in his mailbox that said “Greetings.” He was drafted during the Berlin crisis of 1961. Following Pat’s graduation and during the Cuban crisis, they were married on a three day pass.

After the wedding, they moved to Fayetteville, NC where Frank was stationed. Pat found a nursing job at the local hospital. Frank would later take a marketing job in Michigan where they raised their son and retired on a lake.

Having witnessed the tremendous benefits of a continuing care retirement community with Frank’s father, there was never any question in their mind that they would eventually move into a community that could provide the best retirement possible. Originally, Pat and Frank looked at communities in North Carolina, which still holds a special place in their hearts. However, one visit to The Village convinced them it was the right place.

"We are so impressed with everything that Liberty does down to every last detail," Frank says. “Liberty’s choices of elegant design and features for the new community room and other spaces are just stunning.” Frank and Pat quickly signed on to the Pride of Our Life Campaign and made their first gift.

From Pat and Frank’s apartment, you see the beautifully landscaped Palmer Park off their patio with its putting green and other outdoor features. When construction began on the park, Frank pondered how nice it would be to have a water feature. “I figured if I was going to ask for something, I should be willing to pay for it,” Frank explains.

Now thanks to their generous support through multiple gifts, Palmer Park has been enhanced with the addition of a fountain, which will serve to commemorate their support for a long time to come. Being a savvy businessman, Frank also knows that special touches like Palmer Park help with marketing.

“This is our home,” Pat adds. “We’ve always lived in a nice house that we took pride in. We want to do the same at The Village by contributing to the beauty and maintenance of what we have here.”
2018 was another wonderful year for Liberty Lutheran. Our continued success was fueled by the generosity of our donors. Thanks to the wealth of support you and others before you continue to demonstrate, our mission to offer services that improve the health and well-being of individuals and families has never been stronger.

Within this issue of *At Liberty*, our Donor Report edition, we provide an inside look at how you, our donors, make a positive impact for more than ten thousand individuals and their families. We will also introduce you to some of the individuals who directly benefit from your generosity, and highlight how your support plays a role in making their lives better through the programs and services we offer.

None of this success would be possible without the faith you continue to place in our family of services.

The Oxford Dictionary defines service as “an act of assistance.” While this definition is quite succinct and clear, there is so much more to consider when we come to understand the meaning of the word and the impact of the actions it defines.

Throughout Liberty, you will find examples that demonstrate the true nature of what it means to serve. It can be found every day in the programs that offer the compassion, support, empowerment, and vibrancy that lives within each member of the Liberty family.

As we look forward to 2019, we are grateful for your continued support of Liberty Lutheran and our family of services. You are a fundamental part of making ordinary service extraordinary. Thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission to positively impact the lives of the people we serve.

Luanne B. Fisher, PhD
*President and CEO, Liberty Lutheran*
Life is beautiful at Paul’s Run, and that beauty is about to be reflected in a new mosaic, which will be located in Little Mary’s Azalea Garden, a popular gathering spot for residents and their families. Starting this summer, residents will work with professional artist Pat Gallagher to create a new work of art in the style of pique assiette.

“Pique assiette is a French style that incorporates material such as broken plates and glass to create a mosaic,” Pat explains. “What we’ve envisioned will allow the residents to safely get involved in preparing some of the material that will be applied to a wall in the garden. The plan is for them to share personal ceramic items, found objects and old costume jewelry to incorporate with the rest of the mosaic pieces. This way it’s personal to them.”

With roots in Northeast Philadelphia, Pat has created more than 400 works of art both in the United States and in Europe.

The mosaic will reflect diversity and unity, which will be represented by arranging material to show elements that symbolize cultures and religions throughout the world. Each aspect will be meaningfully chosen and represent the backgrounds of the many people who live and work at Paul’s Run.

“There is already so much beauty all around our community. We have some great gardens and one really wonderful mosaic that I get to see when I’m working out in the gym. I’m always finding new elements in it,” resident Camille Cocozza says. “Pat, the artist they’ve hired, does some really great work, so it’s very exciting to think about what will be created. It will be excellent to have such a big project for the residents to contribute to and work on.”

Preparation of material for the mosaic will occur in the Paul’s Run Recreation Room, which has windows and will allow residents and family members to observe everything that goes into creating this unique work of art.

“We wanted everyone to enjoy the process. Whether they simply want to watch the artist at work or want to get involved, we’re hoping that it will be even more meaningful to pretty much see the process from start to finish,” says Erin Samsel, community life director for Paul’s Run. “This project will bring every part of our community together, bridging friendships that develop across neighborhoods. Friends from across independent living, personal care, and rehabilitation will all have an opportunity to contribute and interact with one another to make this happen, which is truly wonderful and we’re all looking forward to it.”

If you would like to support the mosaic project, please visit www.paulsrun.org/mosaic
Established in 2017, the **Inspiration Café** has become an activity that Artman residents don’t want to miss. Located in an intersection of two busy hallways, it is a magnet for residents, families, and staff. If you were to sit down at a table in the Inspiration Café, you will find that this coffee aroma filled nook is full of laughter, meaningful conversations, and genuine camaraderie.

Linda Graeff’s mother, Trudy Duttenhofer, has been a resident in Stonebridge for the past year and a half. “Going to the Inspiration Cafe is like going to Starbucks without leaving the building! It is a time for my Mother and I to have a nice warm drink and goodie to eat,” Linda shares. “More importantly, it is a chance to socialize with people from my Mother's household, to meet people from other households, and to catch up with friends who have moved to other households. We look forward to and are thankful for this wonderful experience each week.”

“Our Inspiration Café provides a safe place for our residents to gather with family and friends in a relaxed café setting. It is open to all of our residents,” says Madeleine Byrne, director of community life at Artman. “The café has an environment of acceptance and encourages socialization in a judgement free and calming space where residents can relax or enjoy occasional music, entertainment, or art program. It’s wonderful to see the positive way it is received.”

The Inspiration Café offers the opportunity to foster new bonds and share treasured memories and life stories with old and new acquaintances. If you have not had a chance to visit, make a plan to stop by and become enthralled with the charm of the Inspiration Café!
One of the most meaningful gifts that we can provide our loved ones is the knowledge that we care for them. This gift endures in memory even after life journeys end. In 2018, Liberty Hospice expanded their offerings to the families of patients through a new service that helps that memory live on.

Now, with the help of a local seamstress, Liberty Hospice is able to offer teddy bears and pillows that are created by using clothing that once belonged to love ones.

Annette Conran, director of Liberty Hospice, shares how the program began, “We had a family ask if we could create several teddy bears for the children of one of our younger patients. I believe the gentleman’s children were ages 17, 14, and 11. There wasn’t any doubt in my mind that we would be able to meet this request.”

Upon initial research, the team at Liberty Hospice found that similar freelance services existed, however production costs usually started at around $65 per item. The Hospice team knew they could do better.

“We asked around and eventually found a relative of one of our staff members who was eager to help,” Annette says. “Now, each bear or pillow costs $25 to $35 to produce – with absolutely no charge to the family.”

Sue Fitzpatrick outlines her experience. “My mother had been with Liberty Hospice for almost a year-and-a-half. After she passed, we had a lot of her pajamas and nightgowns left,” Sue shares. “I reached out to Liberty Hospice to see if there was any use for them, and that’s when they told me about this new program. Mom’s nurse came by the house and was very helpful. She went through Mom’s clothing with us, helping to find items that were both meaningful and made of materials that could be used for pillows for me and my two sisters.”

To ensure a personal touch, Liberty Hospice works with family members to add elements to pillows and bears, which may be emblematic of their loved one. This has included adding special buttons and broaches to pillows, or adding features to bears such as aprons or a string of pearls.

“My pillow is on my bed every night. So it’s a nice way to have her with me in a sense,” says Sue. “Funnily enough, one of the aspects I love the most is the tag. It reads, ‘This is something I used to wear. When you hold it, know I am there.’”

If you’re interested in supporting Liberty Hospice and this program, please visit www.libertylutheran.org/giving
On Sundays, residents at The Village are greeted warmly at the omelet station by Ali Dajani. While making their favorite omelet, he talks with each one about whatever's on their mind. That’s usually the previous day’s football game (or not depending on how well Penn State played).

Ali began working at The Village through a program called the State College Area High School (SCAHS) Work Experience Program. The Village first learned about the program several years ago when another employee who attended SCAHS realized that, with the hours she was working, she could qualify for the program.

The program is a win/win for SCAHS and The Village. “At the time, we were struggling to hire enough employees to cover dining services,” shares Duane Leitzell, director of dining services. “For high school students, this is often their first job. Since we’re in hospitality, we hire smiles and look at how a person interacts with people. We can teach them everything else they need to do the job well.”

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In the 2017-2018 school year, SCAHS awarded The Village with their Employer of the Year Award. The program has done so well that last year The Village hired five students.

For students like Ali, they not only get the work experience, but many develop a love for the industry and pursue a career in hospitality and culinary arts. Ali is currently a freshman at Penn State majoring in hospitality management. He has aspirations of continuing on to culinary art school.

“I love being able to do something that I’m passionate about,” expresses Ali. “With the SCAHS program, I could take what I was learning in the classroom and put it into practice at The Village, and Chef Craig has been a great mentor.”

Executive Chef Craig Hamilton adds, “It’s pretty cool to watch how much Ali’s caught onto. I have fun working with all of the students. I get to step out of my normal routine and teach them something that they’re eager to learn. It’s rewarding to watch them grow.”

And how do the people who call The Village home feel about having high school students working there? Duane shared that the feedback on surveys has been very positive. They love having youth around. While students often feel intimidated at the beginning, they quickly become friends with many of the residents. Some of those friendships even continue to thrive long after the student has left The Village to pursue a career elsewhere.
For the past several months, residents at The Hearth at Drexel have enjoyed the addition of a new movie theater, which has provided even more opportunities for relaxation, entertainment, and socializing. This wonderful amenity is in part thanks to the generous support of Jim and Mary Jane Brenneman.

According to Nancy Partridge, who has been a resident of the community for more than two years, the new theater has added to The Hearth’s wonderful lifestyle.

“The activities here are fantastic. Since moving to The Hearth, I have been to more museums and cultural events than probably the last five or ten years prior to moving in. Now, with the movie theater, similar experiences come to us,” says Nancy. “We have a guy come in to discuss music history, for instance. He’s doing ten lectures in the theater, starting with medieval chanting and working his way forward. It’s very interesting.”

For Nancy, life at The Hearth has always provided opportunities to participate in activities that are not only enjoyable, but provide artistic inspiration.

“We had a murder mystery dinner event where we got to do a little acting, and it really brought out the ham in me. So, I decided to join the Shakespeare group we have here. We each get a script and recite our parts. I was able to play the lead in our most recent reading of *The Life and Death of King John*,” Nancy shared. “Now, with the theater, we’re able to watch movies and plays of the same works we’re acting out. It’s very convenient to have everything right here, and we all enjoy watching these things as a community of friends.”

In addition to serving as the perfect spot to enjoy film, arts, and culture, the theater is also a gathering point for viewing sporting events.

“Things are really exciting when we get together for Eagles games,” Nancy says. “We’re all fans. So it’s almost like being in the stands or a restaurant. We’re all shouting and rooting for the team. It’s fun.”

In an effort to provide the best possible viewing experience, the theater offers comfortable seating that reclines, allowing residents to truly relax. Concessions and drinks are also available for residents to enjoy without ever having to leave the room.

“The opportunity to create a theater really came out of an increased desire from our residents to go to the movies. At the same time, they weren’t always able to leave the community. So, we decided to bring the movies to them,” Dana O’Donnell, executive director of The Hearth says. “It took us two weeks to create the theater, and the reception has been amazing. Outside of organized showings, residents and their families are able to relax and watch a film whenever they want, if the room is available. It’s been a tremendous addition.”

You make an impact on resident life at The Hearth by visiting

[www.libertylutherandonatenow.org/giving](http://www.libertylutherandonatenow.org/giving)
When Qussie Murphy retired two years ago, she saw a new opportunity to become more active and dedicated to improving her health and wellbeing.

“I didn’t want to just stay home, cook, eat, and watch TV,” Qussie shares. “I wanted retirement to be fun. At first, I visited another senior center, and I just didn’t feel like it was the right place for me. It was very low key. When I went to the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center, it was a whole different experience. People were welcoming and active. There was music playing and people dancing. It was exciting.”

Among the many programs that attracted Qussie was the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative (AUNI). Within a classroom setting, AUNI helps members build dietary habits that promote healthy lifestyles. For Qussie it also provided an outlet for one of her favorite pastimes – cooking.

“I love to cook. I never have a chair in the class. I’m usually one of the people up there with the instructor, helping to prepare ingredients or cook the food,” Qussie said. “When I started the class, it was only offered on Mondays. However, it was so well attended that the instructors felt that they needed to expand. At one point, there were 45 or more people coming. So now we offer the class on Mondays and Wednesdays.”

As one of the programs most active participants, Qussie has used the information she has learned to help her on her own journey to improved health and wellness.

“My interest in eating better started about two years ago, around the same time I joined the Center. I didn't always eat a healthy diet, but now, in part thanks to the Center, I’m very conscious about what I eat,” Qussie notes.

“I am very happy to share that in two years, I have gone from weighing around 225 pounds to a current weight of around 147 pounds. I feel better and I feel energized. The food we eat is fuel, and now I’m proud to be fueling my body with the right stuff.”

Every day, the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center makes a significant and meaningful impact for older adults in West Philadelphia by providing programs that educate, empower, and enrich lives. These programs have never been more important.

“At the Center, our goal is to add years to people's lives,” says Helen Rayon, the health and wellness coordinator for the Center. “The programs we offer, like AUNI, help prevent major health issues, highlight resources for healthy living, and truly transform lives. We are always ready to help someone improve their health, and it’s wonderful to watch their journey.”
For Carol Axler, part of the vibrant lifestyle at The Manor at York Town includes the availability of programs that help her stay fit and active.

"Every morning at 7 o’clock until 7:30 I start my day by working out on the fitness equipment. Then, I go into the Great Room, where we have exercise class from 7:30 to 8:00, and then from 9:00 to 10:00 I participate in water volleyball," Carol explains, outlining an exercise routine that puts even most young people to shame.

"The water volleyball team meets three days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays," Carol says. "I had never played volleyball before coming to The Manor. I really got into it once I moved in. Water volleyball provides a different way of exercising. I had a dog before I moved in, and I used to walk him for an hour-and-a-half every day. When I moved here I wanted to keep that level of activity up, and I’m really glad I can."

Since Liberty acquired The Manor in 2017, the Volleyball group, along with staff, has set out a renewed focus to increase the size of the team, which once had numbers that allowed it to compete against other communities. Now, thanks to that focus, the team has seen an increased amount of interest from longtime residents, as well as those new to the community.

"Staying active is essential for older adults. At The Manor, our goal is to provide as many opportunities as possible to maintain the health and wellbeing of our residents so they can enjoy retirement," says Robyn Fine, director of community life at The Manor. "Our volleyball team has grown over the past few months, and we’re always looking for new recruits. Water volleyball is just one more reason our residents truly enjoy an active lifestyle at the Manor at York Town."

Having lived at The Manor for more than six-and-a-half years, Carol shares, "The Manor has some really wonderful experiences and activities. There are a lot of opportunities for us to stay active and fit. I love it here. I love my apartment, and I’ve made a lot of really good friends. It’s wonderful to live in a place where people really care about you and show it by making it possible for you to stay active and independent."
Dennis Steffy’s time as a disaster response volunteer started with a strong faith and a call to joyfully do God’s work. Having been blessed with a successful construction business and the ability to retire at age 52, Dennis has put his faith in action with a passion for helping people who are most vulnerable.

He first became involved in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina when The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America asked him to lead construction of a volunteer camp in Mississippi. He recalls, “The National Guard brought in three large tents: one for food and clothing distribution, one for medical treatment and one for lodging. While the tents weren’t army green, our accommodations were pretty rustic, like M*A*S*H. My wife, Lois, joined me and helped with food and clothing.”

Following tropical storm Lee in 2012, Dennis led construction efforts in northeastern Pennsylvania. Dennis is currently involved in the disaster recovery in Schuylkill County, following severe flooding there this past summer.

“A case worker and I arrive on the scene to meet with homeowners affected by the disaster and begin assessing the damage,” Dennis shares. “What’s special about Lutheran Disaster Response is that we remain in an area long after the first response teams have left.”

“As construction manager my role is to first assess the damage and determine what’s needed to make the home secure, safe, and sanitary,” explains Dennis. “I then put together a cost estimate of materials needed, along with the volunteers and skill sets required. I then work with the homeowners and the work team to make sure the project is ready to begin and the materials are available before the team arrives.”

“I couldn’t do this work without the support of Dianne Fox and Linda Frey, the volunteer coordinators for Lutheran Congregational Services. They get the volunteers with the skills and talents we need.”

When asked which stories stand out most, Dennis responds, “All of them. Every situation touches your heart in some way. Disasters, especially flooding, affect the most needy, especially the elderly and people with disabilities. Unfortunately some of the most affordable housing for low income families is located in flood zones.”

“For example, we’re helping an older couple living in an old worn out feed mill that’s falling down. They’re living in the office part of the building. The entire place is rat infested. He’s a Vietnam veteran disabled by the effects of Agent Orange. His wife is extremely grateful for every small thing that you do for them. They have no children and no family in the area.”

Along with more funding, the project in Schuylkill County could use more people with trade skills. Dennis notes, “These are not your Saturday afternoon projects; they require time and commitment, the kind that faith and compassion inspires.”
Revenue

$72,110,204
COMPASSIONATE CARE (94%)

$1,384,990
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS (2%)

$250,337
COMMUNITY CARE (<1%)

$56,106
GRANTS (<1%)

$427,983
WELLNESS (1%)

+ $2,946,681
OTHER (3%)

= $77,176,301
Total Revenue

Expenses

$42,868,269
PROGRAM SERVICES (53%)

$13,077,695
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE (16%)

$6,889,550
DEPRECIATION (8%)

$3,670,524
INTEREST (5%)

$1,396,433
LIABILITY INSURANCE (2%)

$477,785
DEVELOPMENT (1%)

+ $10,658,000
BENEVOLENCE FUNDED (15%)

= $79,038,256
Total Expenses

$1,861,955
Loss from Operations

+ $8,086,454
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments

+ $507,912
Other Contributions

= $6,732,411
Change in Net Assets
Revenue by Family of Service

38% Paul's Run
24% Artman
17% The Village at Penn State
7% The Hearth at Drexel
2% The Manor at York Town

9% Liberty at Home and Liberty Hospice
2% LCFS
<1% Lutheran Congregational Services
<1% Liberty Lutheran
<1% Liberty Lutheran Foundation

Building Resilient Individuals & Communities

Volunteer Contributions

702 Total Number of Volunteers
$327,834 Total Estimated Dollar Value of Volunteer Hours Served

Total Lives that Liberty Impacts through:

9,523 Direct Service
23,664 Community Outreach
702 Volunteers
33,889 Grand Total

Organizational Dollars to Continue Services where Shortfalls Exist

$1,100,128 Benevolent Care
$10,288,355 Unreimbursed Medicare and Medicaid Costs
$299,491 Social Service Subsidies (LCFS and LCS)
Your gifts to Liberty and our family of services make a world of difference to those we serve.

We are deeply grateful to all of our donors and have listed those who contributed $100 or more during our last fiscal year. We also acknowledge those of you who made your gifts anonymously and are not listed below.

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