



# The Laurel Spirit

SPRING/SUMMER 2020 SPECIAL EDITION

A LAUREL HEALTH CARE COMPANY ASSOCIATE PUBLICATION

## Thank You to Our Health Care Heroes

The COVID-19 crisis has brought unprecedented challenges to skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Our facility leaders and Associates have responded with grace, grit, determination, and plenty of caring and creativity. This special edition of The Laurel Spirit is dedicated to our "Health Care Heroes." Thank you to all of you for the care you are providing to our nation's most vulnerable citizens during these challenging times. There is no truer representation of The Laurel Way of Caring, and we could not be prouder!



Jennifer Schell, a Nurse at **The Laurels of Gahanna**, is one of our heroes. Jennifer did additional training on her own time to be as educated as possible on the virus. When a positive case was confirmed at the facility, she volunteered to work the unit. "She is a self-motivated, compassionate, hardworking nurse," DOM Taylor Harry said. "We are lucky to have her on our team; she is a blessing to our building, company, and nursing profession!"

Tabitha Daboni, a Nurse at **The Laurels of Steubenville**, is another hero. She felt a calling to help support others on the COVID frontlines. Without hesitation, she accepted a short-term assignment in New Jersey to offer her knowledge, skill set, and compassionate nature to those in need. "Healthcare superheroes like Tabitha give us hope in times of uncertainty," Administrator Janna Rusinovitch-Sims said. "The Laurels of Steubenville could not be prouder of Tabitha, and we wish her a safe journey and return home."



*Please note: many of the photos in this issue were taken prior to CDC guidance on the use of masks in long-term care facilities.*

Continued on page 2.



# That's the Spirit!



▲ The Laurels of Forest Glenn

## Health Care Heroes

We salute all of our health care heroes! Each facility, and their communities, have found special ways to recognize our hard-working Associates.



▲ The Laurels of Hendersonville



▲ The Laurels of Mount Pleasant



▲ The Laurels of Hudsonville



▲ The Laurels of Willow Creek



▲ Maplewood of Mount Pleasant



▲ The Laurels of Middletown

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# That's the Spirit!



Health Care Warriors at **The Laurels of Shane Hill** are #ShaneHillStrong.

**The Laurels of Mt. Vernon** wants everyone to know that "Heroes Work Here."



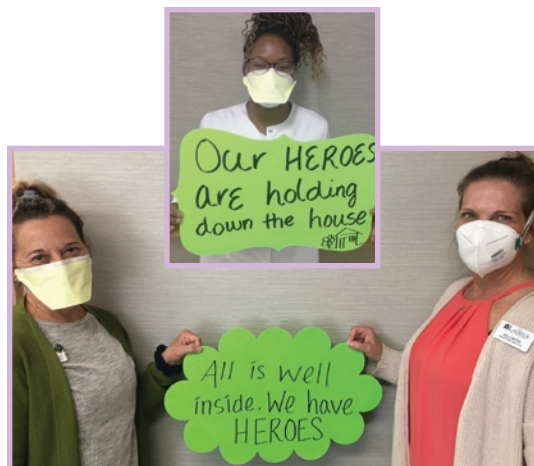
**The Laurels of DeKalb** provided some sweet treats for their Health Care Heroes.



Hospice of Virginia surprised **The Laurels of University Park** with this thank you signage.



**The Laurels of Galesburg** invited its community to honk for Health Care Heroes.



Health Care Heroes have everything under control at **The Laurels of Bedford**.





# That's the Spirit!

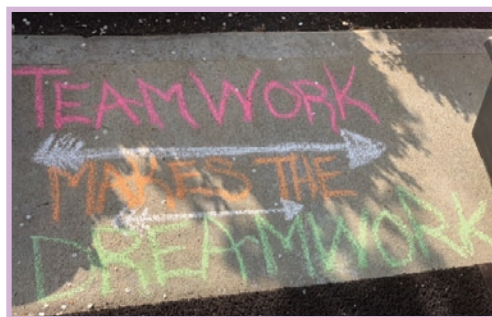
## Health Care Heroes (Cont.)



▲ Health Care Hero Acacia Lipps, an STNA at **The Laurels of Hamilton**, shows off a shirt made by a friend in the community.



▲ Associates at **The Laurels of Fulton** show off their "Essential Frontline Worker" shirts.

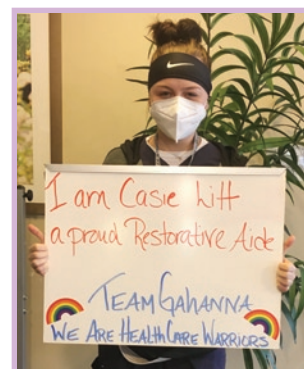


▲ The leadership team at **The Laurels of Blanchester** created some inspiring sidewalk chalk signs for their Health Care Heroes.



▲ Nurses and STNAs at **The Laurels of Heath** are the Heroes at the Heart of Health Care.

**The Laurels of Gahanna** celebrated the Health Care Warriors on their team. ▶





# That's the Spirit!

## Hope and Recovery

In challenging times, it is especially important to celebrate the victories. Guests and Associates have celebrated recoveries from COVID together.



▲ Helen Thomason, a Guest at **The Laurels of Bedford**, beat COVID-19 and was able to go home. She celebrated all the way to the front door!



◀ Guests and Associates at **The Laurels of Gahanna** loved their “COVID Clap-Out” moments. ▼



▲ **The Laurels of Worthington** held a celebration when Michele Tiburzi, their first Guest to test positive, recovered and was discharged home.



▲ **The Laurels of Kent** held a “COVID Clap-Out” for Guests who beat COVID-19 as they transitioned off the isolation hallway. Pictured: Danette Hoonhorst.



# That's the Spirit!

## Windows on the World

Visitation restrictions have been one of the hardest parts of the pandemic for our Guests. But where there is a will, there is a way. Family, friends, and community members continue to bring cheer with their visits...even while separated by a pane of glass.



Guest Cheryl Hall enjoyed a window visit with her family at **The Laurels of Canton.**



▲ Ruth Jenkins has been a Guest at **The Laurels of Charlottesville** for 8 years. By the smile on her face, you can tell she is glad to see her family!



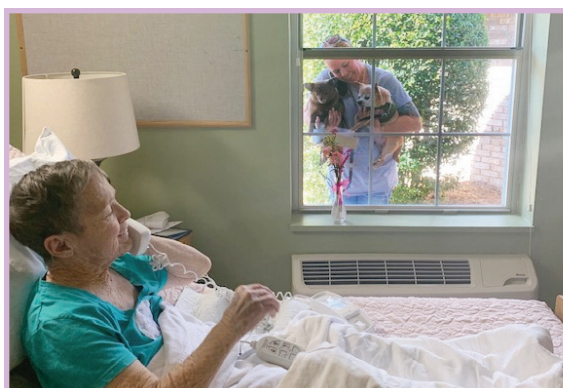
▲ Nellice Hubbard, a Guest at **The Laurels of Salisbury**, got to participate in Graduation Day with her great niece, Logan Willis. Logan graduated from East Carolina University and attended a virtual graduation ceremony before visiting her great aunt.



▲ A mother-daughter window visit brought joy to this Guest at **Maplewood of Mt. Pleasant.**



▲ Bishop Monforton of the Diocese of Steubenville came to **The Laurels of Steubenville** to bless the building amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Diane Aultz, a short-term rehab Guest at **The Laurels of Hendersonville**, enjoyed a visit from daughter Christine Lucas and her "grand-dogs."



# That's the Spirit!

## Windows on the World (Cont.)



▲ Alex Cook, a Guest at **The Laurels of Chatham**, loved his visit from Mom (Marianne Collins).



▲ Ellis Davis, a Guest at **The Laurels of Hudsonville**, played a rousing game of window Tic-Tac-Toe with his family.



▲ Evelyn Sallee, a Guest at **The Laurels of Chagrin Falls**, blows kisses to her friend and home caregiver Patricia Godfrey. Patricia has been her caregiver for more than 25 years.

Grace and Ed, lovebirds at **The Laurels of Coldwater**, made the most of their window visit in May—their first time seeing each other since mid-March! ▼



▲ Larry Swann, a Guest at **The Laurels of Walden Park**, enjoyed a four-generation visit with his daughter, granddaughter, and great-grandchild.



# That's the Spirit!

## Keeping in Touch Through Technology

Technology has provided another window on the world for Guests shut in by the pandemic. Associates have helped Guests with FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, and other technologies so they can talk to—and see—their loved ones, whether they are around the corner or across the globe.



Mr. Pohl, a Guest at **The Laurels of Fulton**, greatly enjoys video chats with his wife twice a day. His children often join, too.



Phyllis Morman got the chance to FaceTime with her family at **The Laurels of Athens**. She was so moved, she started crying after the call.

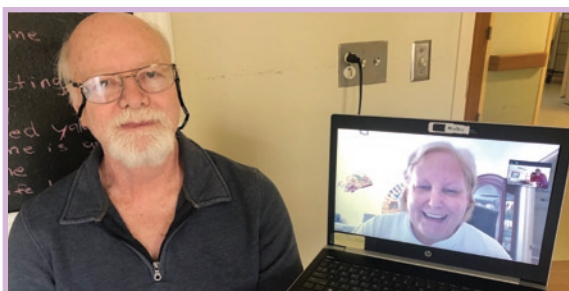
**The Laurels of University Park**  
Guest Thelma Nelson enjoyed chatting on Skype with her granddaughter Heather.



Therapy Director Shannon Yaw helped a Guest FaceTime her daughter at **The Laurels of Chagrin Falls**.



Julia Allen, a long-term care Guest at **The Laurels of Carson City**, enjoyed catching up with her daughter, Leslie, on Zoom to celebrate her milestone 100th birthday.



A Guest at **The Laurels of Milford** got to FaceTime with family.



# That's the Spirit!

## Signs of Hope

Everywhere, we are finding signs of hope. Signs from our Guests to family and loved ones, signs from our Associates, and signs from our communities. These messages demonstrate the resilience and spirit of our Laurel family.



Guests at **The Laurels of Hilliard** held up signs with messages for loved ones to assure them they are safe and well.



Community members surprised the Health Care Heroes at **The Laurels of Chatham** with this thank you sign.

Guests at **The Laurels of Middletown** wanted to reassure family and friends while they are apart.



Guests at **The Laurels of Fulton** have been making window hearts for Hearts of Hope.



At **The Laurels of West Carrollton**, Activity Director Alexa Neely and her family painted Guests' windows to spread cheer throughout the facility.



# That's the Spirit!

## Quarantine Life

Life goes on—even in quarantine. Guests and Associates have made the most of their time together at our facilities. Many Associates have gone above and beyond to bring cheer, comfort, and fun to our Guests.



▲ Nurse Mary Vear plays the violin for Guests in the Specialty Care Unit at **The Laurels of Coldwater**. Everyone especially enjoyed “In the Garden” and “Keep on the Sunny Side of Life.”



▲ Guests at **Maplewood of Marshall** are taking turns caring for their seeds and sprouts. Soon, they will plant them outside in the Maplewood gardens.



▲ Guests at **The Laurels of Massillon** enjoyed a visit from Mr. (Jessica Himes) and Mrs. (Lindsey Holm) Potatohead. They helped pass out cup-cakes to celebrate March birthdays and spread some cheer.



◀ Guests at **The Laurels of Salisbury** were excited to get back to socially distanced Bingo—you can tell by their smiling faces!



▲ Sandra Garner enjoyed the sunshine and cool breezes at **The Laurels of University Park**, with an ice cream sandwich and a smile!





# That's the Spirit!

## Quarantine Life (cont.)



▲ Joshua Dyer, an Associate at **The Laurels of Toledo**, went to each room with a rolling cart of magazines, coloring packets, and word searches to make sure Guests were not bored.



▲ Guests at **The Laurels of Summit Ridge** played basketball in the hallway.

## National Skilled Nursing Care Week

Facilities celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week May 10-16. The fun must go on!

Guests at **The Laurels of Defiance** loved the "Under the Sea" photo booth. ▶



▲ **The Laurels of Hillsboro** celebrated with lots of fun activities, including wheelchair races and Circus Day. Pictured: Activity Director Kelley Condo and Gavin Whitman serving cotton candy.



▲ **The Laurels of GreenTree Ridge** had a week of fun-filled, Luau-themed activities.



▲ **The Laurels of Norworth** had fun with their "Tiger King" Day. Administrator Tom Widney dressed up as Joe Exotic and DON Brittany Ankeney dressed as a tiger.



# That's the Spirit!

## Grit, Grace, and Gratitude

Throughout these trying times, our Managers and Associates have demonstrated lots of grit and plenty of grace and gratitude. Demonstrations of thanks and caring have helped everyone keep their spirits up and maintain some perspective.



Anita Spake,  
Director of

Nursing at **The Laurels of Chatham**, proudly displays a gift from CNAs at the facility. The shirt reads: "DON 2020: The One Where They Became Superheroes."



▲ **The Laurels of Forest Glenn** recognized that many frontline workers were experiencing hardship and wanted to provide some relief as a "thank you" during a stressful time. The administrative team created care packages with hard-to-find items like antibacterial soap, laundry detergent, wipes, and toilet paper, plus kids' snacks, juice boxes, and other treats.



▲ Guests and Associates at **The Laurels of New London** took time to write down the things they are thankful for on paper hearts to decorate the hallways and nursing station.



▲ Associates at **The Laurels of Heath** symbolized their resilience by decorating the facility with cactus pictures and rocks painted to look like cactuses. "We are a team that sticks together for ourselves, our coworkers, and especially our Guests," RDO Kristine Provan said. "We will always stick together because together, we are unstoppable."



▲ **The Laurels of Mount Vernon** celebrated their Associates by giving away household items from the "Laurel General Store" to thank them for their dedication and hard work.



# That's the Spirit!



## Community Spirit

Our communities have rallied around our facilities to help Guests and Associates weather the challenges and keep spirits high. We appreciate all of the love and support shown by community members and partners.

DOM Michelle Lassiter at **The Laurels of Chagrin Falls** reached out to her community to ask people to send artwork and cards to Guests. They received many

wonderful pictures and encouraging letters from local elementary schools and community members.



Amway donated 250 cases of hand sanitizer to **The Laurels of Kent** to help Associates and Guests stay safe.



**The Laurels of Worthington** received a generous donation of special treats for Associates and Guests from members of the Vineyard Church of Sawmill. Pictured left to right: Kacy Gilliland, Administrator; Andrew Crum, Vineyard church member; Abby Dodds, Director of Marketing.



**Maplewood of Marshall** organized a drive-by community parade on May 1st featuring about 100 cars driven by families, friends, community members, and police and fire departments. It brought many smiles and happy tears for Guests!

**The Laurels of Huber Heights** received a wonderful donation from the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team in Tipp City, OH, including important equipment such as exam gloves, N-95 respirators, and procedural masks.



Universal Workers at **The Laurels of Pender** have been instrumental in the facility's success. Most are local high school students, graduating this year or next, with plans for a career in a healthcare field. They have performed tasks such as screening employees and vendors, sanitizing surfaces, and socializing with Guests.

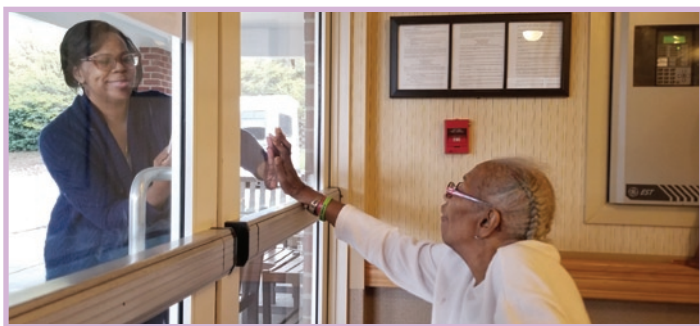




# That's the Spirit!

## Celebrations

Finding reasons to celebrate is more important than ever right now! From birthdays, to Mother's Day, to Easter, Guests, families, and Associates found creative ways to mark special occasions.



▲ Alice Hawkins turned 77 at **The Laurels of Charlottesville** in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. That didn't stop her daughter from wishing her a "Happy Birthday" and reading her some of the cards her family wrote to her.



▲ **The Laurels of Bon Air** had a wonderful Mother's Day Parade. They coordinated the parade through email with family members. Eighteen Guests came out to see their family members in the parade from a safe distance.



▲ Elizabeth, a long-term care Guest at **The Laurels of Steubenville**, celebrated her 111th birthday. Her son and daughter-in-law visited from outside for a birthday toast.



▲ Julia, a Guest at **The Laurels of Milford**, turned 85. A local high school student made special rainbow birthday cupcakes to mark the occasion.



Julia Williams celebrated her 87th birthday at **The Laurels of Salisbury** with a visit from her daughter Vicki. ▼



◀ **The Laurels of GreenTree Ridge** held a socially-distanced double baby shower to celebrate the coming arrival of a sweet baby girl to Nurse Practitioner Jasmine Wade and a handsome baby boy to Rehab Manager Tara Morgan.





# That's the Spirit!

## Celebrations (cont.)



▲ Guests at **The Laurels of New London** sent Easter Greetings to their families and loved ones.



▲ Andy Rinehart, a long-term care Guest at **The Laurels of Heath**, got a special visit from the Easter Bunny—also known as his wonderful mom, Sandy.



▲ **The Laurels of Coldwater** welcomed the Easter Bunny (with appropriate social distancing in the hallways).

The Easter Bunny made a special visit to **The Laurels of Defiance**.



▲ Long-term care Guest Karen Kimber at **The Laurels of Sandy Creek** had a message for her family at Easter.



▲ **The Laurels of Mt. Pleasant** had a fun Easter photo shoot with Associates and Guests. ▲



# Spirit News

## The Laurel Way

We are a team of professionals dedicated to promoting the highest level of independence and quality of life for our Guests by creating a comfortable living environment and providing comprehensive health care services.

To accomplish this, we have a responsibility to:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Conduct ourselves with the highest level of integrity and ethical behavior
- Be uncompromising in our standards of quality of care and service
- Attract, train and retain knowledgeable, caring and compassionate individuals
- Challenge ourselves to grow as people, as professionals and as a company
- Earn a fair and reasonable profit for our stakeholders

We embrace these responsibilities, with commitment and enthusiasm, in our pursuit of The Laurel Way.

## The Laurels Mission Statement

Creating a legacy by exceeding the needs and expectations of those we serve, while embracing The Laurel Way.

## Toledo STNA Named Caregiver of the Year by Connexions

**The Laurels of Toledo** is pleased to announce that STNA Johnny Hampton was awarded the Caregiver of the Year Award by Connexions Healthcare Network. Connexions is a senior healthcare networking



organization with members representing various types of healthcare, including home health, Alzheimer's Association, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and more. Members submit worthy caregivers from all

types of organizations. Johnny has worked for The Laurels for five years and exemplifies "The Laurel Way of Caring" with his true compassion for our Guests. Johnny was surprised with the award in February at the Connexions monthly meeting hosted at The Laurels of Toledo.

## Wishing A Happy Retirement to Two Health Care Heroes

Nancy Edenfield is retiring after many years of service in the Laundry Department at **The Laurels of Hillsboro**. Administrator Jo Sanborn says, "Nancy was always very diligent with her laundry and house-keeping duties. She went above and beyond to help Guests find a missing item. Nancy would always willingly help the Guest track it down. All the Guests felt very comfortable approaching her for help." ▶



Janice Wilcox is retiring after 16 years of service at **The Laurels of Charlottesville**. As the Rehabilitation Services Director, Janice has been an integral part of the Charlottesville team. Janice held back tears as she bid



farewell to her team before leaving to start her retirement at home. ◀

