



# GOOD TIDINGS

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• SPRING 2023 •

Newsletter of the Reformed Presbyterian  
Woman's Association

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## REFLECTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

It may not come as a surprise that the senior living industry continues to face challenges in staffing and reimbursement, which have resulted in facilities reducing their capacity and/or closure. Unfortunately, these changes have resulted in longer hospital stays and difficulties finding placements for those in need.

On a positive note, Pennsylvania recently approved a 17.5% increase to Medical Assistance reimbursement, the first in nearly 10 years. Still, while this increase is desperately needed, many long term care facilities will continue to struggle to maintain high staffing ratios and to improve their facilities.

During these times, it's more important than ever that the Reformed Presbyterian Home (RP Home) continues to serve its mission—providing quality care and a supportive living environment.

We are blessed in that we're able to continue to serve older adults and provide for those in need. More than 75% of RP Home's population receives funding from Medical Assistance or RP Home's Gracious Giving, Grateful Living Fund, which is dedicated to benevolent care. In 2022, RP Home provided over \$2 million in free and uncompensated financial support. Finally, supporters like you ensure that we can continue to provide a safe and compassionate home to those who are otherwise unable to afford it.

RP Home strives to provide an individualized supportive environment that maximizes each resident's physical, spiritual, social, and emotional well-being. Given our history as a Christian organization, we feel it is imperative to support everyone in their spiritual needs. To provide this support Shane Helton, Director of Spiritual Care and Church Outreach, has met with our residents to discuss their religious preferences, interest in participating in prayer groups and other services, questions in the matter of faith, how their religious beliefs may affect the resident's care decisions, and if they request input or support from their religious or spiritual leader. The McElhattan Foundation has also provided initial funding to enhance our end of life and spiritual program.

Finally, as you likely know and remember, the celebration of RP Home's 125th Anniversary kicked off our recent Capital Campaign to renovate our residential community space. This space is central to providing our residents with a sense of community. Residents throughout our campus come together here to enjoy exercise, games, entertainment, arts, and spiritual programs. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have raised \$285,000 towards our \$500,000 goal to make this renovation possible. If you would like to support this campaign, donations are accepted on our website ([rphome.org/capital-campaign](http://rphome.org/capital-campaign)) or by check (written to the Reformed Presbyterian Home and designated to the Capital Campaign).

We are truly grateful for the financial generosity and time of our donors, mission partners, and volunteers. Their contributions make it possible for RP Home to deliver quality care and a supportive living environment. With their help, and yours, we will continue to serve our community and mission in 2023 and beyond.



*Blessings,*

**Cara D Todhunter**  
MA SLP, NHA MPM  
Executive Director

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### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to provide quality care and a supportive living environment to older adults in a manner consistent with the affection, honor and care that the Bible teaches us to give our parents.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to provide an environment which maximizes the physical, spiritual, social and emotional well-being of each member of our community.

### **Our Philosophy of Care**

God has given value to each person's life that does not diminish with age or changes in mental or physical condition. Our goal is to provide an environment that will help each person we serve achieve his/her maximum level of well-being.

## **EVENTS**



### **THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The annual association meeting for the RPWA will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the RP Home. During the meeting the Executive Director, the Director of Finance, and the Board Committees will share the work of 2022 and the plan for RP Home's future. Save the date and RSVP to hear how God is working at the RP Home.

Follow us on Facebook or our website for more information as we get closer to the date!

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 DEMENTIA FRIENDS INFORMATION SESSION**

Join us on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 12–1 pm for a discussion led by a Dementia Friends Champion to learn about living with dementia and the small things you can do to show support for members of your community. A light lunch will be provided and tours of the community will be offered following the session.

To RSVP, please contact Julie Haley at 412-321-4139 or [jhaley@rphome.org](mailto:jhaley@rphome.org).

To learn more, visit [dementiafriendspa.org](http://dementiafriendspa.org).

## CAREERS AT RP HOME



Our employees are one of the reasons RP Home is so highly recognized for extraordinary care and satisfaction. Each and every staff member works hard to deliver on our mission of providing a supportive and fulfilling living environment.

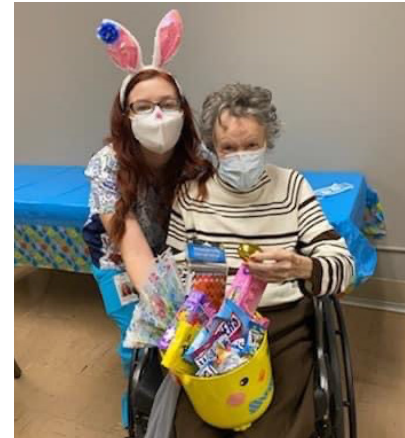
If you are looking to make a difference, consider joining RP Home's team! We are actively hiring for the following positions:

*Certified Nursing Assistant*  
*Nurse, RN Supervisor*  
*Nurse, LPN*  
*Medication Tech*  
*Transportation Staff*  
*Environmental Services*

You can learn more at our website ([rphome.org/careers](http://rphome.org/careers)) as well as submit an application directly:

**Kathie Haffly, Human Resources Coordinator**  
2344 Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214  
✉ [khaffly@rphome.org](mailto:khaffly@rphome.org) 📞 412-321-4661

## TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION



The Reformed Presbyterian Home is committed to mentoring and supporting learners in the healthcare profession with the goal to encourage growth in the senior living and healthcare fields. RP Home and our residents were blessed to have students form the following programs:

*Nightingale College*

*Pittsburgh Public Schools (Perry, Obama and CAPA)*

*University of Pittsburgh Pharmacy Program*

## Employee Appreciation Fund

RP Home is honored to have employees who have dedicated their lives to our residents. Each and every staff member works hard to deliver on our mission of providing a supportive and fulfilling living environment. Our employees are one of the reasons RP Home is so highly regarded for extraordinary care and satisfaction. Each and every staff member works hard to deliver on our mission of providing a supportive and fulfilling living environment.

RP Home has an employee appreciation fund which provides residents, families and others with the opportunity to honor the employees of RP Home. Every dollar raised is directly used to show appreciation to the employees.

# GENERAL FUND

The Reformed Presbyterian Home gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations & corporations whose ongoing support enhances our mission for those we serve. Thank you for your gifts in 2022.

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Please note in **bold** is the name of the person being honored or for whom the tribute was made; donors are listed below the name.



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RP Home's Gracious Giving, Grateful Living Fund provides benevolent care to residents who are unable to pay for services through no fault of their own. The benevolent program is possible because of the gracious donors who support this fund.

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## GIFTS TO THE DISABILITIES MINISTRIES

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) appointed the Reformed Presbyterian Woman's Association (RPWA) to the task of leading and coordinating a support ministry for the church denomination to disabled individuals and to congregations, elders, deacon boards and families of the RPCNA around the country who face disabilities of various natures.

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that supported this fund:

***Mr. & Mrs. David Ciarrocchi***

***Blocki Flute Method LLC***

***First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Beaver Falls***

## GIFTS OF TIME

Reformed Presbyterian Home relies on dedicated volunteers to help provide a positive and supportive home for our residents. Examples of the essential support volunteers offer includes:

- Visiting one-on-one with the residents
- Helping us organize and offer engagement activities
- Assisting our residents with enriching activities such as gardening or playing music
- Assisting our staff with clerical work

### • JOIN US! •

Rewarding volunteer opportunities are available to anyone and everyone from students to senior citizens. For more information about volunteer opportunities, and to sign-up for your next shift with us, please visit [rphome.org/volunteer/](http://rphome.org/volunteer/).

You can also contact Julie Haley at [jhaley@rphome.org](mailto:jhaley@rphome.org) or 412-321-4139 to discuss volunteering opportunities.



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Geneva College Students  
Amy Grisenthwaite  
Donna Harmon  
Cierra Herriot:  
Perry High School  
Raeionna Jones  
Julia Lazzaris  
Vickie Linkhauer  
Rev. Alisa Stroud:  
Living Proof Kingdom  
Ministries*

*Fr. Michael Maranowski  
Marla Timms, Rev. Moncrief:  
Monarch Hospice  
Bridget O'Brien & Clancy  
(therapy dog)  
Montay Parrish:  
Perry High School  
Ed & Janet Pazzynski  
Jane Peters  
Anna Porter  
Sydney Pridgen:  
CAPA High School  
Tim Rech  
Erin Roberts  
Heavenly Robarson  
Zekell Sanders  
Judy & Stephen Schaad  
Jane Sestric  
Rev. Ken Smith  
Janeen Jones:  
Three Rivers Adoption  
Agency  
Barb Vojtecky  
Nakiya Waldon  
Hannah Yang  
Bill Weir*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT BILL WEIR



Volunteers are the “icing on the cake” in serving the Reformed Presbyterian Home’s mission. The selflessness of our volunteers enriches our community in countless ways.

Mr. Bill Weir’s story is a little different from the stories of his fellow volunteers. Bill began his service to the RP Home in 1978 as the Assistant Administrator. Bill then served as the Administrator from 1982 to 2011; after that, he served as the Chief Financial Officer until his retirement in 2016. But his work didn’t stop in retirement! Today, Bill serves on the board of the Reformed Presbyterian Womans’ Association (RPWA) and leads the finance committee.

Bill, a member of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, was born in Bronxville, NY. He’s the oldest of three children, and he attended Geneva College prior to embarking on his 42-year career in healthcare administration.

He met his wife, Rose—a dairy farmer’s daughter—at Geneva College. Come this July, they will be married for 49

wonderful years. Rose and Bill enjoy exploring new places, particularly when there are trails to hike or beaches to swim at. Additionally, Bill and Rose greatly enjoy spending time with their seven grandchildren! In his spare time, Bill also enjoys gardening.

An interesting fact about Bill is that he grew up working in a cemetery. He handled a range of tasks, including grave digging by hand, trimming around gravestones, cutting grass, weeding flower beds, and snow removal.

He feels that one of his best achievements at the RP Home goes back to 1980, when the PA Department of Health determined that the former building did not meet the fire code and required replacement. Bill was part of the team that oversaw the designing, financing, and building of what the RP Home knows as the 1983 wing to meet the new fire code standards. The team accomplished this within a three-year time span, all while continuing to operate on the same campus. This brought Bill and the team a great feeling of accomplishment.

If you have driven past RP Home on a nice day, you may have seen Bill. He often is found planting, watering flowers, picking up leaves, and tending to RP Home’s property! In addition to gardening, Bill states he “enjoys volunteering where there is a need to be met. I find no greater joy than helping others when there is a real need.”

In addition to keeping the outside of RP Home beautiful for the community, you will find Bill visiting with residents and supporting their spiritual needs. From time to time, you may see Bill behind the wheel of the RP Home bus, taking a resident to an appointment or a group of residents to the Pirates game! He is the first to offer a hand in special resident events, organizing groups of students to volunteer or perform, and meeting with the Finance Director to discuss financial matters.

What does Bill most appreciate about RP Home? “The family atmosphere that exists among residents and staff and volunteers.”

The Reformed Presbyterian Home asks you to consider joining Bill in improving the lives of our residents and community. For more information about volunteer opportunities, and to sign-up for your next shift with us, please visit us at [rphome.org/volunteer/!](http://rphome.org/volunteer/)

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Dear Friends of the RP Home,

We are very excited to announce that in 2022 we received \$278,000 in gifts and pledges to the 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

In just one year we are more than halfway to achieving our goal of raising \$500,000 to renovate the RP Home Chapel. The Chapel is the heart of the Home — filled with activity seven days a week. We need your help if we are to transform this well-worn room into a beautiful place for worship and a practical center for social activities.

This January marks the beginning of our second campaign year and most of you receiving this letter contributed in 2022. We are deeply grateful to you.

Now as you plan your charitable giving for 2023, please remember once more this important project.

*Your fellow RPH supporters,*

### *Fred & Faith*

**Dr. Fredric Martin**

Medical Director RPH, Retired

**Mrs. Faith Martin**

Executive Director RPWA, Retired  
Co-chairs of 125th Anniversary  
Capital Campaign



## BUILDING FUND

The Reformed Presbyterian Home publicly announced our Capital Campaign in June of 2022 with the goal to raise \$500,000. We acknowledge the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generosity in supporting the renovation of the resident Chapel and Community Space.

### PROGRESS TO CAMPAIGN GOAL



### DONORS

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Advisors Service Corporation                       | Mr. & Mrs. Larry Copeland                             | Consulting)                                |
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| Mr. & Mrs. William Boyle                           | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garvin                              | Mr. & Mrs. John Martin                     |
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| Mr. Jonathan Boyle                                 | Ms. Lois Gross  | Mr. & Mrs. William Martin                  |
| Mrs. Dorothy Buck                                  | Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Haney                             | Dr. & Mrs. Joel Martin                     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Michael Burba                           | Rev. & Mrs. Robert L. Hemphill                        | Ms. Melissa Mastorovich                    |
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| Mr. John R. Cooper                                 |   | Mr. & Mrs. William J. McChesney            |

## BUILDING FUND, CONTINUED

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Ms. Sarah Willson  
Mr. & Dr. Robert Wuthnow  
Mrs. Charlene Zlokas

*A person with good eyes gives: gives  
from his wallet, his time, gives  
of himself. He considers others, how  
he can encourage them.  
—Hebrews 10:25*

## GIVING THROUGH YOUR WILL TO BENEFIT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN HOME

BY DEBORAH DESJARDINS, CFRE



A gift in your will—also known as a bequest—is one of the easiest and most effective ways to give to a charity of your choice, including RP Home. They are also known as “legacy gifts” because they are a way for you to leave your legacy in the world. In as little as one sentence, you can complete such a gift.

Such bequests are an important source of financial resources for RP Home, as well as all nonprofit organizations. Donations in your will help ensure that your favorite charity continues its mission for years to come. It is also a way for you to replace the yearly gifts you may have been making.

No other planned gift is as simple to make or as easy to change should you ever need the assets during your lifetime.

A bequest may be right for you if:

- You want to make a gift to a nonprofit organization
- You want the flexibility to change your mind
- You want continued access to your wealth, should you need it
- You are concerned about outliving your resources

Charitable gifts after death also have the power to reduce estate taxes. Because your bequest is revocable, you do not receive an income tax charitable deduction when you create it. Rather, your estate will receive an estate tax deduction for the full value of your bequest in the year it is made. Depending on a variety of factors, including the size of your estate and estate tax law at the time your estate is settled, this deduction may or may not save estate taxes.

If you are thinking about your legacy and want to incorporate a gift to one or more of your favorite charities, a RP Home staff member would be happy to help you. This is important because your bequest must be accurately and clearly described in your estate plan so your wishes can be carried out as you intend. A staff member can help you add a provision in your will or trust designating either a percentage, specific amount, or all or a portion of the residue of your estate.

To avoid any possible question that your bequest is to the right organization, be sure to include the organization's full legal name and federal tax identification number in your bequest. RP Home staff can provide you with this information as well as sample bequest language to assist you and your attorney.

It's also important to note that with a bequest gift, you have complete flexibility to change your bequest at any time. If circumstances change in a way that makes you want to revise your gift, you can.

If you already have a will, you can modify it to include a gift to RP Home, and your other cherished nonprofit organizations. If you don't have a will, you can create one using many available free online tools.

A charitable bequest could be the most important gift you ever make — and one of the easiest. Putting a charitable gift in your will doesn't require much time, and it doesn't require a lot of money. Bequests of any amount can have an impact far greater and more lasting than you might expect. Those who include a charitable bequest in their estate plans become immortalized to the causes, the organizations, and the community they support.

To speak to an RP Home staff member about your bequest, please contact Cara Todhunter at [ctodhunter@rphome.org](mailto:ctodhunter@rphome.org) or 412-321-4139.

## DONATION TO RPWA

With my enclosed gift, I am joining other Reformed Presbyterian Woman's Association (RPWA) supporters with a tax deductible donation of:  
*(Please make checks payable to RPWA; donations by credit card can be made at [www.rphome.org/give](http://www.rphome.org/give)).*

\$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Accept this gift in honor / memory (circle) of: \_\_\_\_\_

How is this person related to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in talking with someone about an estate gift to help ensure that future seniors are well cared for.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my/our gift in the list of supporters as:  Listed Above    Anonymous  
Please contact Cara D. Todhunter, Executive Director at [ctodhunter@rphome.org](mailto:ctodhunter@rphome.org) for questions.

In this season of thanks and giving, we're thankful to you for everything you do for the RP Home community.

We hope you'll consider sharing the spirit of the season by supporting our year end fundraiser—look for something in your mailbox soon!

Reformed Presbyterian Woman's Association serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, handicap or disability.

We are an equal opportunity employer.



2344 Perrysville Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

The Reformed Presbyterian Woman's Association is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit charitable organization, founded in 1897, which today serves people of all faiths. We provide health care, housing and supportive services including independent living, personal care, nursing and rehabilitative services. We are registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations.