



# GOOD TIDINGS

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• FALL 2023 •

Newsletter of the Reformed Presbyterian  
Woman's Association

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# REFLECTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

2023 has been a very busy and successful year for the Reformed Presbyterian Home (RP Home). In addition to focusing on the continuum of care offered by RP Home itself, we have engaged with community members, celebrated staff milestones, and prepared to break ground on various physical improvements to the Home in 2024.

As I look back on what we accomplished and observed this year, these highlights come to my mind:

## ***Community Education Opportunities***

We continued in our commitment to providing educational services to our community and neighbors. In conjunction with other community partners, we had the privilege of presenting on topics such as Dementia Friends, Planning for End of Life, and Insurance Open Enrollment throughout the year.

## ***Capital Campaign Updates***

We have also focused on important improvements and renovations of the Home itself in 2023. Through our



50th anniversary Capital Campaign, we received financial support for the renovation of our Community Room and Chapel from individual donors and various foundations. With their support, we have raised \$440,000 of our \$500,000 goal!

What does this mean? It means we have reached the point where we can begin the reconstruction of the heart of our home. Work on the Community Room and Chapel is expected to begin in January 2024.

We are grateful to the individual donors, organizations, and foundations who have supported our goal to improve “the heart of the home” for our community. We look forward to hosting a ribbon cutting event in the spring of 2024.

## ***Additional Renovation Plans***

We recently received financial support to renovate the 3rd floor of the nursing community. We look forward to beginning this project in the spring of 2024.



### **Major Staff Milestones**

This year we celebrated the employment milestones of 9 employees, one of whom has served for 30 years! It is the dedication of our staff who help deliver RP Home’s mission every day, and it was our pleasure to celebrate the dedication of our staff this year.

### **2023’s Walker Celebration of Lights**

On Thursday, December 7, we hosted the Walker Celebration of Lights. During the event we rang in the holiday season with entertainment by Deborah Moncrief, refreshments, crafts, music, and photo opportunities. We hope you all continue to enjoy the season’s celebrations this month, and look forward to ringing in 2024!

*Blessings,*

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



The Reformed Presbyterian Home offers a continuum of care providing senior living opportunities, mixed-income senior housing, personal care, short term rehabilitation, and long-term nursing.

RP Home remains committed to providing a supportive living environment to those who call us “home.”

*To learn more about our services, please visit [www.rphome.org](http://www.rphome.org).*

### **• BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023–24 •**

*Mrs. Marilyn Roll, President*

*Mrs. Louise Copeland, Vice President*

*Mr. Bill Weir, Treasurer*

*Mrs. Karen Olson, Recording Secretary*

*Mrs. Jennifer Willson, Corresponding Secretary*

*Mrs. Autumn Butler*

*Mrs. Karen Copeland*

*Rev. Ralph Joseph*

*Mrs. Ruth Vos*

*Mr. David Weir*

*Ms. Judy Willson*



## **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.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## JANE PETERS

Jane has been volunteering at RP Home for many years. She describes herself as a “giving person” (and the residents and staff at RP Home agree)! She enjoys laughing, which we often see firsthand when she leads our residents in the “Circle of Friends Group.” She and the residents spend time reminiscing, discussing current events, and being creative. RP Home’s residents look forward to spending time with Jane. They enjoy her company so much that they recently completed a service project to show their appreciation for her!

According to Jane, her favorite pastime is coming to RP Home and interacting with people of different backgrounds. Outside of RP Home, she enjoys reading and writing. She authored novelettes in high school, and now contributes to newsletters for church and neighborhood groups.

We are blessed that Jane shares her time with our residents and staff. She, like all of our volunteers, gives us one of the most important gifts: the gift of time.



*“Jane is the person who will give you the shirt off her back. A couple of years ago, one of the residents was cold and Jane gave her heavy sweater to the resident and told her to keep it! Jane often gives meaningful presents to the residents.”*

**Kelly Rose, Personal Care Life Enrichment Director**

### • JOIN US! •

Volunteers are essential to serving our mission. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kelly Rose ([krose@rphome.org](mailto:krose@rphome.org)) or Raymont Conner ([rconner@rphome.org](mailto:rconner@rphome.org)). There are many ways to volunteer and support our residents, you can learn more at [rphome.org/volunteer](http://rphome.org/volunteer).

# THANKOFFERING 2023

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The Reformed Presbyterian Home hosted its annual Thankoffering worship service on Sunday, October 1st, in the Mary Coleman George Dining Room. Board President Marilyn Roll welcomed our guests and, as part of the introductions, spoke about the 40-year anniversary of the Mary Coleman George Dining Room.

Pastor Martin Blocki of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North Hills provided and led the service.

Following the service, the guests joined us for refreshments and fellowship.



The offerings received for the Thankoffering appeal will support the Gracious Giving, Grateful Living benevolent care fund. In the last calendar year, the total amount of the uncompensated care provided by Reformed Presbyterian Home amounted to \$2,298,000 (consisting of both benevolent and contractual adjustments).

We are truly grateful to the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America for including Reformed Presbyterian Home in its Missions and Ministries Program, and to the individuals who have graciously contributed to the benevolent program.



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*“I will give thanks to you, LORD,  
with all my heart; I will tell of all your  
wonderful deeds.”*

Psalm 9:1



# HONORING AND CELEBRATING — REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN HOME'S STAFF AND MILESTONES



On September 13th, Reformed Presbyterian Home team members gathered to express gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of our staff — and to celebrate some of their milestone work anniversaries!

It's the dedication and commitment of employees who set the foundation of any successful organization. Thank you to each of these employees for their years and service and contributions to the success of the Reformed Presbyterian Home!

• **30 YEARS** •

*Diane Watts*

• **15 YEARS** •

*Michael Wirth*

• **10 YEARS** •

*Luke Perry  
Tonya Simpson*

• **5 YEARS** •

*Gerald Altieri  
Tammy Hunt  
Tenesha Johnson  
Tory Lewis  
Tiffany Spina*

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND

The Reformed Presbyterian Home is honored to have employees who have dedicated their lives to our residents and our mission. Each staff member works hard to deliver on our mission of providing a supportive and fulfilling living environment.

The Reformed Presbyterian Home has an employee appreciation fund which provides residents, families, and others with the opportunity to honor our employees. Every dollar raised is directly used to show appreciation to our staff.



# CELEBRATIONS AT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN HOME

## Volunteer Luncheon

National Volunteer Week is an annual observance that takes place each April. To celebrate, this spring we invited our dedicated volunteers to join us for a Recognition Lunch on April 19th. During the recognition luncheon we thanked the volunteers who serve our residents everyday by lending their time, talent and compassion to make a difference at Reformed Presbyterian Home!



## May Nursing Home Celebration

In May, our team celebrated National Nursing Home Week! The celebratory week, founded by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967, recognizes the hard dedication of skilled nurses who provide crucial 24/7 nursing care to seniors and people with disabilities. Throughout the month we celebrated with good food, great company, and wonderful activities focused on filling people's lives with enrichment and joy!



## Mrs. Leona McCormick's 100th Birthday Celebration

On July 13th we had the pleasure of celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Leona McCormick! Thank you to the staff and residents who shared in this incredible milestone. A special thank you as well to Mrs. McCormick's family, who joined us in celebrating!



# INDEPENDENT LIVING AT RP HOME

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Independent Living, sometimes referred to as Retirement Living, provides a wonderful, caring community where people can live in comfort and convenience.

At RP Home, our residents enjoy modern facilities that include a community room, beauty and barber services, a rooftop deck for gardening and relaxation, a laundry room, a cafe, and access to transportation and shopping. Residents also enjoy direct indoor access to our main building, helping them to participate in multiple recreational, social, educational and spiritual activities with other residents from across the campus.

All of our facilities are designed to give residents all the comforts of home, as well as access to support and services as needed.

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*If you're interested in seeing our warm and friendly campus for yourself, contact us today!*

-  2344 Perrysville Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
-  800 RP HELLO
-  412-321-4139
-  412-321-4661
-  [info@rphome.org](mailto:info@rphome.org)

## THE UPPER ROOMS AT RP HOME

The Upper Rooms are a special Independent Living offering, designed to provide affordable housing for senior individuals and families. The Upper Rooms provide convenience, community and support, as well as all the comforts of home, privacy, and independence.

The Upper Rooms are available to individuals 62-years of age or older who are mobility impaired, and who qualify for housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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*If you're interested in learning more about the Upper Rooms, please contact us or visit our website.*



## INDEPENDENT LIVING AT *The Vista*

The Vista at RP Home offers older adults the autonomy and privacy of living in an apartment while providing access to convenience, community and support services. Our stylish, low-maintenance apartments were designed for seniors who want to enjoy the comfort and convenience of living in a community designed exclusively for them without the commitment of home ownership.



**Studio,  
1 Bedroom,  
& 2 Bedroom  
Apartments**



**1 Bathroom**



**Rooftop  
Patio**



**Parking  
Included**



**For a limited time we are offering lowered entrance fees for Continuing Care Retirement Community admissions and rental agreements. Contact us to learn more about the specific pricing available on each housing option.**

# 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 easier and most effective ways to give to RP Home, or to any charity of your choice (a church, school, animal rescue, etc.). 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.***

Not surprisingly, such bequests can be an important source of financial resources for RP Home, as well as all nonprofit organizations. Donations in your will help ensure 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.

***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.

We will 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, you will want to include the organization's full legal name and federal tax identification number in your bequest.

We can provide you with this information as well as sample bequest language to assist you and your attorney.

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

***A charitable bequest could be the most important gift you ever make — and one of the easiest.***

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.

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 within 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.**

## CAREERS AT RP HOME



At the Reformed Presbyterian Home, you know you are improving the lives of our residents every day. Each and every staff member works hard to deliver on our mission of providing a supportive and fulfilling living environment. Together, our staff and teams can grow and enrich the lives of the residents.

Our employees are one of the reasons the Reformed Presbyterian Home is so highly recognized for extraordinary care and satisfaction. If you are looking to make a difference, consider joining our team!

*We are actively hiring for the following positions:*

**RNs • LPNs • CNAs • Personal Care Caregivers  
Life Enrichment and Wellness Coordinator**

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You can learn more at our website ([rphome.org/careers](https://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

# 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!

The Reformed Presbyterian Woman's Association serves all people regardless of basis of race, color, religion, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or genetic information.

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.