I am delighted to write my first letter for Villa Voices. I came to Light of Hearts Villa in January. I am happy to say goodbye to the snow and cold and hello to warmer weather. I love the transition from spring into summer. Early flowers and singing birds are symbols of new life. As I move about the facility, I see signs of renewal and revitalization. Our residents are beginning to venture outside to enjoy the patio and gazebo. Blossoms are bright with color. The grass and foliage have turned a lovely shade of green. These are gifts from our Lord who walks with us here at Light of Hearts Villa. I am reminded of the scripture: Zechariah 10:1

Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to all, and plants of the field to everyone.

As we welcome summer, I am happy to share with you changes and highlights that have occurred over the past few months. The Board of Directors approved a new Mission Statement:

We are devoted to providing premier senior residential living and community outreach services. Through our faith-based values, we affirm the integrity of each person and encourage them on their journey of aging.

From our Capital Equipment funds, LOHV has installed new chillers, replacing the original ones. This installation will guarantee temperature comfort for our residents, staff and visitors. Grants received from the SC Ministry Foundation of Cincinnati, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, the Bruening Foundation and the Sisters of Charity Health System provided funding for installation of a wireless system throughout the facility. This allows for the use of wireless technology, laptops, etc. We are also installing a new state-of-the-art Nurse Call System that simulates GPS technology and allows the nursing staff to immediately know the location of the resident who activates the call system. LOHV was successful in fund raising for the Challenge Grant from the SC Ministry Foundation of Cincinnati. The Grant supports the Benevolent Fund and our capital equipment needs.

Our summer landscape is enhanced by the generosity of the First Catholic Ladies Slovak Association. The FCSLA provides us with funds to purchase flowers and the hands to plant and beautify our grounds. We are thankful for their generous spirit!

On behalf of the residents, families and staff of Light of Hearts Villa thank you to our generous sponsors and donors. We are grateful for your encouragement, support and kindnesses.

May you have a joyful and safe summer season. As John Steinbeck wrote:

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

In faithful leadership,
Elizabeth J.Hickle, MPA, LNHA
Executive Director
Lighting the Way for Senior Care - A Living Mission

What makes the LOHV mission a Living Mission? Dedication; commitment to and love of the residents; generosity of time, talent, money; love of God expressed in care; spiritual commitment; doing a good job; going out of the way to benefit another; meeting needs without being asked; and the list goes on. St. Vincent de Paul encourages us: “We have to make our occupations holy. We do this by seeking God in them. We do our work to find God in it rather than to just get it done.”

Light of Hearts Villa is blessed to have residents, staff members, family members, visitors, volunteers, benefactors, and business associates whose lives witness these values. You are challenged to see who you believe is the source of each of the following comments: “I just love it here.”

• “I know this is where I’m meant to be. I have made some wonderful friends.” • “Everyone here is so nice, so helpful.” • “I should have come sooner.” • “I find such peace and love as I pray in the chapel.” • “When I need help, the staff takes good care of me.” • “I look forward to volunteering at LOHV.” • “I’ve been to many facilities, but here at LOHV I realize that the staff is really dedicated to the residents. They are genuinely friendly to each person they meet.”

At Light of Hearts Villa what no one sees, but what is rooted in the heart, lights up the lives of our residents.

Making God’s Love Visible Mission Award

Raymond Dorman is the recipient of the 2012 Light of Hearts Villa Making God’s Love Visible Mission Award. The Award was presented to Raymond on January 9, 2013 during the annual Missioning Ceremony for Staff and Volunteers by Sister Regina Kusnir, SC. The Award is the highest honor given a staff member who is nominated by peers. Ray said that the thought that he might receive the award “never entered my mind.”

Ray has been the Villa chef for 22 years. His calm presence, his inner spirituality, his respect of others, his ever-ready to help spirit are but a few of the ways he makes God’s love visible. Ray has adapted to the ever-changing preferences of the hundreds of residents he has served over the years. He directs a staff of experienced adults and youthful teens.

Q: What makes for the good teamwork in the dietary department?

A: I believe that whether you are 15 or 50 you have a job to do. I was an apprentice at 19 and became a head chef in a restaurant at 22. There was some age discrimination that I experienced. In reality, age doesn’t matter. What matters is whether you are doing your part to make sure that the residents are receiving the best care we can offer.

Q: Can you comment on the most valuable gift the Villa has given you throughout the years?

A: I feel like I help to make a difference. I worked as a restaurant chef, a caterer, in a nursing home and a country club before being invited to come to LOHV by someone who worked here. I had never worked in an assisted living facility before, but I was attracted by repeat customers. I also wanted to make a difference, not just do a job that made someone money.

Q: Over the years you’ve spoken to many a potential resident and family member. Any comments?

A: I find that they express the same thing I felt the first time I entered LOHV. There is a calm, a peace that surrounds you. That has never changed.
Fall Fest 2013 – Save the Date

Our Annual Fall Fest Fundraiser will take place at LOHV on Sunday, October 13, 2013.

Save the date and bring your family and friends to this special day when hundreds of people gather for a fine meal prepared by LOHV Chef, Ray Dorman and his staff. The menu includes turkey and pork loin carving stations, homemade stuffed cabbage, potatoes, vegetables, salad, beverage and dessert.

A Bakery, Craft Fair, Basket raffle, Pumpkin Patch and other activities are also available. Around 4:30 pm the $5,000 raffle will go to 10 lucky winners: 1st prize = $2000, 2nd prize =$1000, 3rd-4th prizes =$500 each, 5th-6th prizes =$250 each, 7th-10th prizes =$125 each.

All proceeds benefit our residents. If you would like to contribute items for the bakery or if you can volunteer your time at the Fall Fest, please call Joanne Reardon or Sr. Regina at 440-232-1991.

Sponsorships are available. This is a great way to promote your business. Please call 440-232-1991 for details. Please follow our Fall Fest website at: tinyurl.com/LOHVfallfest

What You Don’t See Makes All the Difference

Dreamers and visionaries provide our world a special gift. Their insights and directions touch our inner being and lift us beyond the expected, filling it with the creative and new. Light of Hearts Villa knows that with love is how we do the caring gestures that make a difference in many a way surrounding our residents with love and meaning each day.

At first the picture above tells a story of joy at a glance. Each person reveals that it is not happenstance. Front center is Bernice Jacquays, a resident and volunteer, flanked by Anne (l) and Margie (r) in their 23rd year bearing the title “receptionist”. Faithfully each week they help others to attain the information they seek.

Behind Bernice, in center and back, are Joanne and Ray. Recipients of the Mission Award because of the way their lives exemplify long term dedication and giving. Commitment to our residents makes their lives worth living.

Sr. Helen, (middle l) first director, shaped the LOHV vision over 17 years nurturing staff and residents in the mission. Betty (middle r) now brings her leadership, energy and care inviting all to come together and generously share visions and dreams to bring the future into plain view. All of us, especially our residents, depend on good people, like You.

Sr. Regina

Light of Hearts Villa Awarded Challenge Grant

The Residents and Staff of Light of Hearts Villa are deeply grateful to the SC Ministry Foundation of Cincinnati and to each of our benefactors whose generosity throughout 2012 helped us to meet the Challenge Grant. The SC Ministry Foundation notified Light of Hearts Villa early this year that it met the requisites and was awarded the Challenge Grant matching every dollar raised with two dollars. The allocation is 75% for the Benevolent Fund and 25% for capital efforts.

To learn more about the SC Ministry Foundation, visit www.scministryfdn.org

CONGRATULATIONS, LIGHT OF HEARTS VILLA STAFF!
Light of Hearts Villa is proud to announce that it received a 100% rating in both the Medicaid Waiver Compliance Review on February 28th and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Inspection on May 2nd.
Happy Days

ALL AROUND US IS BEAUTY AND GOOD. APPRECIATION IS A MATTER OF THE HEART.
COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS IS EASY TO DO
BECAUSE EACH OF YOU HAS GIVEN A PART
OF YOURSELF AND YOUR GIFTS
THAT OUR LIVES MAY BE JOYFULL AND BRIGHT.
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.
YOU BRING US GOD'S LOVE.

— THE RESIDENT POETS OF LOH
1. The Light of Hearts Villa “Class of 2013” celebrates Prom on May 24th.
2. Residents selected Prom King, Rupert Gil, and Prom Queen, Nancy Cull. The arch was constructed by our maintenance staff and decorated by Bobbi Gurko.
3. Stanley Jankowski, a 6-year resident and a veteran, salutes.
4. Flea Market Volunteers pause for lunch during setup. Their handiwork is visible in the background. Under Sr. Helen’s direction, the Flea Market brought in nearly $4,200. Thank You to all who donated items, helped during the Flea Market, or made purchases.
5. Vince Mariola and Ryan Lucas worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring Flea Market items into place.

Tidbits from the Villa
~ The father of one of our residents was part of the public works project that helped develop the Park System in Bedford.
~ One of our residents taught two of our staff members in junior high.
6. The youthful smiles of residents Thomas and Rose Smolko show their joy. On May 3rd they celebrated their 72nd Wedding Anniversary in the Chapel. Family and friends gathered for cake and coffee afterwards.

7. Donna Streidl, Assistant Director of Wellness and Anne Messer, Life Enrichment Coordinator have joined the Light of Hearts Villa Staff.

8. The new Chiller is guaranteeing a comfortable summer for our residents thanks to our Grantors. [see p.1]

9. Patti Gibbons (front center), a Lumen grad, helped bring members of St. Albert the Great Parish to LOHV for a Morning of Service.

10. The Villa family gathered on April 16 to thank God for the Gifts showered on our Residents by our Faithful Volunteers. Twenty-one Volunteers were able to attend this year’s Appreciation Event which included Mass, brunch and celebratory activities. Throughout the year volunteers provide invaluable service whether they are receptionists and Board members or are active in Chapel Ministries, Ecumenical Services, Bible Study, Resident Sing Alongs, Gardening, Civic Awareness, Voice and Bell Choirs, Cozy Corner, Fundraising and Resident Services. Each Volunteer brings their special gifts that spark light in the eyes of our residents.

IN MEMORIAM:

Rose Maroush 12/12
Kay Herring 1/23/13
Mary Williams 1/30/13
Evelyn Clark 2/11/13
Mary Fioritto 2/17/13
Dorothy Smigrocky 2/21/13
Irvil McCreight 2/24/13
John Farkasovski 3/13/13
Joyce Yorkievitz 3/21/13
Hank Jareb 4/30/13
Felix Smigel 4/30/13
Virginia Ake 5/1/13
William Prendergast 5/31/13

SENIORS GIFT SENIORS

Dareon Freeman, President of the Bedford High School National Honor Society, presented Sr. Regina a check for $1,300 for the Seton Safety Net. The NHS members raised the money by helping at their own Pancake Breakfast/Run, sponsoring a Fitness Friday and taking donations. Their generosity visibly expresses how they live the NHS four pillars: Leadership, Scholarship, Citizenship and Character.

Emily Shirak, dietary department, was the inspiration that led to the National Honor Society choosing the Seton Safety Net as the recipient of their efforts this year.
UPCOMING events

AUGUST 30  Celebration of Light of Hearts Villa’s Birthday

SEPTEMBER 8-14  Assisted Living Week Theme: “Homemade Happiness”

SEPTEMBER 27  9:00 am Mass  Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

OCTOBER 13  Our Annual Fall Fest Dinner Fundraiser  

Dinner, Raffle, Craft Fair, Bakery & More.  
Chef Ray’s homecooked meal. (see details p. 3)  For information, or, if you do not received our mailing by September 16, please call 440-232-1991. Follow the Fall Fest at tinyurl.com/LOHVfallfest.

NOVEMBER 6  7:00 pm Mass  Remembering our Deceased Residents.  
Family Members and Friends.  Refreshments afterwards.

NOVEMBER 15  America Recycles Day

DECEMBER  Christmas Wafers (Oplatky) available at the front desk.

DECEMBER 10:00 am – Noon  Christmas Decorating Day.  
Lunch provided. Families and friends are welcome to join us as we turn LOHV into a Christmas delight for the Residents. Please RSVP by Nov. 30.

DECEMBER 14  A Christmas Celebration  
Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for the Residents. Mass following at 4:00 PM.

APRIL, 2014  9:00 am – Noon  Ethics Seminar 3CEU’s.

NEW WEBSITE

Communications for our residents and families will be updated as we begin to create a new website. We invite all of our readers to send us your most current contact information. We will utilize this information to connect to an interactive data base which will allow us to communicate with you electronically as well as by mail. Please send your name, address, phone number, relationship to LOHV and email to:

friendsoflohv@lightofheartsvilla.org