



# Making A *Difference*

## Grateful for Our Past, Present & Future



During the summer of 1998 while studying at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, I had the opportunity to participate in a Clinical Pastoral

Education unit at the Lowman Home. This ministry experience with older adults was an inspiration that soon led me to begin working with the Lutheran Homes Foundation in 2001 shortly after graduation.

Now twenty years later, my tenure has witnessed the Foundation support so much change and growth for the ministries of Lutheran Homes. Our five continuing care communities of Franke, Lowman, Rice, RoseCrest, and Trinity have received financial funding from the Foundation to help them improve infrastructure and expand care. Lutheran Hospice in the midlands was originally one small office, but expanded to three offices across the state and our resources helped provide assistance to patients in need. Even our newer ministry of BeWell Home Services was formed in part because of grants written by the Foundation.

Moving forward, today we live in an

unusual time where a pandemic has proven to be exceptionally hard on nursing homes and elder care ministries. But even through all the many challenges of the last 22 months, the Foundation remains inspired by the generosity of so many. Our donors provided over \$342,000 of emergency support for COVID outreach during these difficult times. This provided financial support, purchased protective equipment and facilitated special resident and employee assistance programs during the shutdowns.

This year the Foundation was blessed to provide \$383,000 in subsidized grants for hospice patients, clients and residents in higher levels of care to help with indigent care needs. The Foundation also awarded \$1,527,000 for projects to update assisted living facilities, provide program enhancements, make capital repairs and replace life-care equipment at all of our facilities.

We are also pleased to report the Foundation helped fund \$3,000,000 towards the development of 20 new independent living "Pocket Apartments" at Lowman. This new initiative provides rental-based housing to help seniors with

an affordable option to live in community and maintain their independence. This project will soon be duplicated at other ministry sites across the state. (Concept pictured below)

Over many decades the Foundation has played an active role in supporting the needs of all of our ministries at Lutheran Homes. None of this growth and development would have been possible without countless capital campaigns, fundraising events and annual donor appeals all made successful by generous supporters like you.

As we look to the future we remain truly thankful for the progress made, but know the need for your support



and generosity remains great. We have weathered many storms over the years, and now even through the Pandemic we will keep working harder to make a difference for those in need. Thank you for your prayers

and your support as together we will come out stronger than ever.

**Ernest L. Beck, MAR, CFRE  
President & CEO**

# Franke at Seaside Community Art Walk

In late winter of 2021, as COVID numbers were spiking, recently vaccinated Franke at Seaside residents clamored for activities after being “cooped up” for so long. Life Enrichment Director, Cindy Sommers, came to the rescue. Energized by Franke’s many gifted resident artists, Cindy challenged the Resident Art Committee to create a model for a safe, compelling series of art exhibits

featuring the work of Franke residents. Hence, the first “Community Art Walk” was born! “When an artist’s work is shared, it elevates their sense of pride and accomplishment and allows others to learn something new about that person,” Cindy said. “It’s a feel good event!”



However, how best to let others enjoy it? At the opening of the first exhibit by wonderful resident water-colorist David Barnard, guests safely gathered in the Burges Courtyard, socially distanced, and enjoyed refreshments and conversation

at 5-minute intervals, departing through a different exit. TeamMates monitored to make sure all guests followed COVID protocols.

The event was a huge success and prompted 8 more Community Art Walks.

Moreover, the outdoor receptions have expanded to include musical entertainment performed by resident musicians,

from a bluegrass band, to classical piano, to the Ukulele Strummers! Now, family and friends may also attend, making Franke’s Community Art Walks a family affair!

They say, “Art soothes the dusty soul.” At Franke, yes, indeed it does.

## the Heritage at Lowman 110 Years of Ministry

The Heritage at Lowman celebrated 110 years of ministry this past April, but this year was not like any other as COVID-19 completely changed how we engaged as Teammates. But with social distancing protocols and mask mandates, and the implementation of vaccines, we were able to get back to a new “normal.”

With creativity and community help, we were able to show appreciation to

our teammates with outdoor cookouts and visits from local food and dessert trucks. We gave a big “High Five” to Olivia Ballinger, RN for her Lutheran Homes of South Carolina’s Teammate of the Quarter win and celebrated Alice Newman, in Environmental Services, being a 2021 Lutheran Homes of South Carolina’s Teammate of the Year Honorable Mention. Teammates joined together for a little

friendly competition with a Fourth of July decorating contest and safely traveled around the “world” with Flat Stanley.

It has been a good year of Fellowship and service to our Teammates who have dedicated themselves to the service of our Priorities. After experiencing the high and lows of this 110<sup>th</sup> year, we look forward to seeing what God has in store for in our 111<sup>th</sup> year!



# Rice Estate The Giving & Exploring Spirit Continues!

Rice Estate Resident Priorities and TeamMates have a strong commitment to giving back and the Pandemic did not stop their kindness. Rice's Life Enrichment and Five to Thrive teams led numerous collection drives. Collection bins were placed across campus so that Priorities and TeamMates from all levels of care could participate and give back in meaningful ways.

In the spring, Rice participated in the "Keep the Midlands Beautiful Shoe Drive." During the drive, their amazing TeamMates and Priorities filled a large recycling bin with both new and used footwear. Among twenty seven organizations collecting, Rice was the only retirement community contributing to the 6,225 pairs of shoes donated.

A summer "Back to School" drive



was held to collect school supplies. Approaching this cause with the same enthusiasm as the shoe drive, The Rice Team collected pencils, notebooks, erasers, and crayons for all of the employees' children.

In the fall, the Rice collected non-perishable foods for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. The entire Rice team was very proud to help feed people living in the South Carolina Midlands.

In addition to giving, Rice Estate Priorities love to explore! Residents experienced a trip to the South Carolina Railroad Museum in Winnsboro. They enjoyed an hour long narrated train ride through history and the countryside to the Rion Quarry. "I love history and I really enjoyed learning all about the history of Fairfield County," said resident, Maggie D. "I also

learned that sunflowers follow the sun all during the day!" Residents also enjoyed a grand BBQ dinner with all the fixings. "The dinner buffet was so very good," said resident Joan G. Residents rode in an open air car and the fresh air was uplifting. The weather was fantastic and made for such a memorable trip.



## RoseCrest Paws in Training

It's not unusual to see pets visiting at RoseCrest. What many people may not know is that some of these four-legged visitors are actually there to do more than provide companionship – they are there to be trained as service dogs. Melissa Yetter, RoseCrest Executive Director is also the founder of the Service Dog Institute and for the past four years staff TeamMates and resident Priorities have been an important part of training the dogs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Melissa knew that RoseCrest Priorities, families and staff faced both un-foreseen and challenging times and that the dogs and puppies would be instrumental in offering a sense of cheer and company. Melissa noted that

"Because of the shutdown, our Priorities were so lonely not being able to see their family."

The dogs' lively demeanor, whether



playing fetch or getting into mischief, brought daily enjoyment to the entire campus. The Priorities were always excited to see new puppies coming

through the door. The presence of the service dogs gave the Priorities' families a sense of security knowing they were not alone. At a time when the staff faced unpredictability, the service dogs offered a sense of unconditional support during the work day.

While the pups' presence brings many joy and comfort, they are not to be mistaken as therapy dogs. Protected by the American Disabilities Act, service dogs are trained to also perform work and tasks to help their person be more independent. Training is individualized for their person's unique needs and may include recognizing and calling for help, opening and closing doors, pushing buttons, assisting people while walking and helping during physical therapy.

RoseCrest is thrilled to have the dogs on hand during restricted visitation, and to offer service dog training as an everyday program.

# Trinity on Laurens The Best Time for Ice Cream is Always

Be honest... Do you know anyone who does not like ice cream? Especially, ice-cold, soft-serve ice cream that is available pretty much whenever you want? Everyone at Trinity on Laurens loves ice cream, so when the new soft-serve ice cream machine arrived everyone, resident Priorities and TeamMates alike, were quite pleased!

The soft serve machine is located in SCOOPS, Trinity's in-house ice cream parlor. SCOOPS is open and available about 8 hours a day, sometimes for self-serve, as an organized ice cream party, and as a snack to enjoy with an activity. Whenever SCOOPS is open; everyone has a choice of three flavors—the traditional favorites



of vanilla and chocolate and a third flavor such as swirl, lemon or other kinds. Whether served in a dish or a cone, ice cream is well enjoyed by all!

In November, Lutheran Homes celebrated Connie Henrich, Executive Director as she retired after 24 years of faithful service to Trinity. Starting as an administrative support manager helping to open Trinity, Connie's career evolved to concurrently include executive director roles at BeWell Home Services and BeWell@Home. Lutheran Homes is grateful for Connie's many contributions and wish her the very best as she enjoys special grandparent time with her family.



The Executive Director baton for Trinity and BeWell Home Services passed to Heather Dorries who has worked at Trinity over 20 years. Starting as the Life Enrichment Assistant, Heather soon became the Life Enrichment Director. She later advanced to be the Community Outreach Director and obtained her Community Residential Care Facility Administrator license. Over the years she has filled in as the administrator of record which gave her valuable experience for her new responsibilities. Heather is excited to continue the strong leadership foundation.

## Lutheran Hospice Gifts of Grace



It's not unusual for Lutheran Hospice TeamMates to go the extra mile for their patients but rarely do they have the opportunity to make wedding dreams come true.

Lutheran Hospice-Lowcountry has the privilege to care for a 67 year old

gentleman residing in a nursing facility. Due to illness, he requires total care, is bedbound and communicates with an electronic eye-gaze device. His daughter dreamed to have her father at her upcoming wedding. The hospice caregivers wanted to help fulfill her wish and received financial support from the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation's Gift of Grace Program.

Every step in planning required the hospice team's thoughtful and thorough care coordination so he could participate.

The social worker arranged ambulance transport to and from the church. The nurse found comfortable mobile seating for the several hours he would attend the ceremony. On the wedding day, his



hospice aide helped him bath and dress for the special occasion. Paula Mellichamp, RN, Program Director notes, "I am so proud of our team to give their creativity, passion and care to make

this day one that their family will treasure forever." Thanks to Lutheran Hospice, dreams really can come true.

# BeWell Home Services Connecting the Continuum

The concept of a continuum of care is a defining characteristic of Lutheran Homes' ministry. Dee Sola, BeWell Home Services Upstate (BWHS) Program Director had the pleasure of meeting the Cooks in 2018 to start providing in-home services. Over time, they benefited from three of Lutheran Homes' ministries.

BWHS initially cared for Mrs. Cook a few hours each week. After her passing, BWHS remained in the home to provide Mr. Cook supportive services of cooking, cleaning, and engaging him with activities, conversation and companionship.

One of Mr. Cook's favorite spots is his front porch, a glass of cold water in hand, a snack within easy reach and watching the cars go by. Quite

the conversationalist, Mr. Cook is a WWII veteran and like many of his generation, he never talks about his wartime; his favorite topic is about the travels he enjoyed with his wife and family. He always has a smile on his face and enjoys



After sustaining a fall, since Mr. Cook was already part of the Lutheran Homes' family, Dee suggested he go to RoseCrest for rehab. After completing rehab, he discharged from RoseCrest to return home with BWHS support.

Later, when it became apparent that Mr. Cook's health was declining Dee discussed the possibility of hospice services. Both Mr. Cook and his family were very receptive to engage Lutheran Hospice - Upstate; the third ministry of Lutheran Homes of SC to serve this wonderful man.

Starting with BWHS, through RoseCrest, and Lutheran Hospice, all of Mr. Cook's caregivers and his family remain fully committed to help him live in the home he loves. Truly, a continuum of care supporting the Cook family through life's transitions.

the conversations with his caregivers, and loves having them read the Bible and share prayer time.

## BeWell@Home On a National Stage

LeadingAge held their 2021 Annual Meeting in Atlanta this year as an opportunity for nonprofit senior living industry professionals and students to network, connect, and learn from one another. Amanda Young, recently promoted Executive Director of BeWell@Home, presented a session on "Continuing Care at Home (CCaH) Programs: A Catalyst for Change" along with colleague, Lisa Hoffman, who operates a similar program, Pathstones by Phoebe in Pennsylvania and Rob Love, CEO and President of Love & Company a national senior living marketing consultant and research firm.

The presentation attracted individuals who had programs in operation, but also many organizations that were looking at opening a program. Amanda

spoke about why Lutheran Homes of SC decided to start BeWell@Home, how program assumptions have changed since opening in 2015, how the program attracts younger individuals who wish to stay at home, and the importance of the



personal wellness coordinator.

The changes in the senior living market since COVID are prompting many organizations to explore new

revenue options and expand home and community-based services.

BeWell@Home members give amazing insight about the program's benefits.

"BeWell@Home was family. They did what a family would have done. My wellness coordinator negotiated all the details and I felt very, very cared for. It would have been very different had I not had BeWell@Home. Look at all the decisions I would have had to make on the spot if I had been by myself."

"You are joining a program that not only will help you in the future for long-term care, but BeWell@Home can also help while you are healthy and help maintain your health and overall well-being."

As BeWell@Home approaches 100 members, it is the only program in South Carolina, is considered one of the largest programs in the country and has established itself as a leader in the field.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation is to support the ministry of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina by enabling donors, who care about older adults and hospice patients, to achieve their philanthropic goals and by being a faithful steward of their gifts.

## Awarded Highest Rating for 8<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year



Charity Navigator announced earlier this year that the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation has again achieved its highest mark with earning another 4-star rating. Congratulations are in order for demonstrating strong financial health and transparency. This exceptional designation sets us apart and acknowledges our level of commitment to good governance, best practices and accountability.

## Bank Drafts and Credit Card Payments

The Foundation accepts one-time and recurring contributions through bank drafts and credit card payments. Please contact Judith Whisman at **800.756.9443** or visit [LutheranHomesSCFoundation.org](http://LutheranHomesSCFoundation.org).

## Foundation Annual Report

In the fiscal year that ended on September 30, 2021, there were 1,689 donors that contributed to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation. Their gifts along with income on endowments made it possible for the Foundation to provide \$1,909,959 in support to the ministries of Lutheran Homes.

The generous gifts from our donors certainly gave peace of mind to the 24 residents, hospice patients and clients that had their care subsidized with support totaling \$383,196. They were able to receive the services they needed even though they could not afford to pay the full cost of their care.

Those gifts also made a difference in the quality of life for all of those

served by Lutheran Homes as we spent \$1,153,546 to fund capital purchases on emergency COVID protection equipment, facility upgrades and medical services equipment. Also included was providing an additional \$373,217 to support our ministry sites with program enhancements, operational grants and transfers such as life enrichment, pastoral care and special projects.

Being able to give back is a good thing for the donor as well as the charity. And when you give a gift to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, it is good for our residents, hospice patients, and clients because your gifts will be used to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

## Innkeeper Legacy Society

Friends of Lutheran Homes who make us aware of their plans to leave a legacy of care through a will, gift annuity, charitable trust, life insurance policy or retirement plan may remain anonymous or give permission for their names to be included on the roll of the Innkeeper Legacy Society. We are grateful for the following individuals and couples who have given permission and made the Foundation aware of their planned gifts:



Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Beck  
The Rev. H. Gene &  
Frances Beck  
Mr. & Mrs. Luther C. Boliek  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Bouknight  
Mrs. Kaye Bradley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark C. Buchanan  
The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Boyd F. Cook  
The Rev. & Mrs. Robert G. Coon  
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Joan Cope  
Mrs. Ann K. Dasher  
Ms. Kaye D. Derrick

Ms. Denise L. Dickinsen  
Jim & Jewell Eanes  
Mrs. Curtis Easter  
The Rev. Dr. Derald &  
Mrs. Vicky Edwards  
The Rev. Mary Mappus Finklea  
Jaime and Karen Fivecoat  
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Dr. Donna Millar Potts &  
Dr. David Potts  
Mrs. Ned (Mary) Schall  
Mr. Walter A. Sigman, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Smyth, Jr.  
David & Susan Troutman  
Dr. Sandra S. Watson  
Mrs. Rosmarie W. Wessinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Yetter

Please call the Foundation at **800.756.9443** or use the attached envelope to tell us about your planned gift or receive information about establishing one.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the years of service to our outgoing Board Chair Dr. Donna Millar Potts who led our ministry so well and gave her best to all things Lutheran Homes. She served in various roles and capacities spanning over 3 decades in supporting our ministries of care. Thank you Dr. Donna for your dedication and service, we will miss you!



I was always told from my youngest days that our Lord works in mysterious ways. I think no truer statement has ever been made. What a year this has been for our ministry. I don't think any of us were prepared for what impact the COVID pandemic would unleash on the world, our country and

our communities. Many might ask why a kind and merciful God would let His children suffer through such a calamity as this, but the true answer is that He didn't.

He knows the suffering that has occurred and in His infinite and unending grace and He also gave us the will and the strength to overcome the challenges we faced. The pandemic brought some of our saddest, but also our greatest moments of

compassion and care in our ministry. We are grateful that our TeamMates rose to the challenge to answer the call and battle the virus to keep all those we serve as safe and comforted as possible.

We know that we still have a long and challenging road ahead. We all want to

get fully back to the normal way of life we cherished before that dreaded virus ravaged our people and communities. We have, however, been blessed with the will, the expertise and the strength to carry on. We will keep our faith solid, our spirits high and our performance sound as we move this ministry forward into the future. We have a great team that understands this and will always keep those we serve in mind in all that we do.

Does our Lord work in mysterious ways? You bet he does, and he always will! God bless you all and thank you for being a part of our inspired Lutheran Homes' ministry.

**Frank Shepke**  
President & CEO  
Lutheran Homes of South Carolina

*Living so far away, it gave us great comfort to know all of those who cared for our parents were professional and very caring. Our hope is that our gift can help the Foundation continue providing the wonderful experiences to other people that my parents were able to enjoy through the Rice Estate. God's blessings!*

*Heartfelt thanks and gratitude for sustaining us and carrying us through this difficult time. Each of you is special to me and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the Lutheran Homes family.*

## Notes of Grace

*We are especially grateful for all the help and kindness provided by staff to our mother during our time of need. Thank you is simply not enough!*

*May this donation enable you to continue providing patients and their families with compassion and quality comfort care as they maintain their dignity while facing an end-of-life journey. God's blessings to each of you.*

*We would like to express our sincere Love and gratitude to Lutheran Hospice and our 'Special Angels'....please accept our thanks, in hopes that it will assist you in continuing your mission of mercy and compassion! May God bless you all!*

*I want to thank all of you dear ones who were so kind and helpful to my husband and to me. Words fail me when I want to tell you with deep gratitude how much we appreciated all you did the past year!*

## Purpose Statement

Making a Difference is an official publication of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, Inc. designed to make donors and friends of Lutheran Homes aware of Foundation developments. Call Judith Whisman at **800.756.9443** or email **foundation@lhomes.org** if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

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## Pause for Planned Gifts



“Planned giving” is not a term one hears everyday—in fact, most people do not make “unplanned gifts” to charitable interests or to family and friends. All gifts, in effect, are planned gifts. However, this term is frequently used by many not-for-profit organizations to denote specific gift plans, which carry with them special benefits to the donor and to charity.

There are a variety of ways you can make a planned gift to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation and create a legacy. Several suggestions on how your charitable goals can be realized are listed below.

### A Charitable Bequest in Your Will

A bequest is an ideal way to ensure that the charitable causes which are important to you and your family continue to be supported beyond your lifetime. You can designate a set amount or percentage of your estate, or leave your house or other asset. Bequests to the Foundation can create significant tax savings for your heirs.

### IRA or Retirement Plan Assets

You may designate the Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan. Since these plans are taxable to you during life, they are also taxable to your heirs at death. Including estate taxes, sometimes IRA's are taxed up to as much as 50%-75% of their value. This is an ideal asset to leave to charity as it will retain its full value and can be rolled over to charity with no tax consequences.

### Life Insurance

You can transfer ownership of a cash value policy during your lifetime and be eligible for an immediate tax deduction based on the policy's current value. Naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy can also be a valuable estate planning strategy.

Planning with ones resources often allows a donor to secure their own future while preparing to make a gift that will shape the lives of others. Contact us to learn more about one of the many options that may help you make a gift to the ministry of Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation:

**Toll Free:** 1.800.756.9443

**Web:** [LutheranHomesSCFoundation.org](http://LutheranHomesSCFoundation.org)

**Email:** [Foundation@Lhomes.org](mailto:Foundation@Lhomes.org)

