



Making A Difference

Mission Support in our Ministries of Care



The Foundation carries out its mission of supporting the ministry of Lutheran Homes by providing funds for Subsidized

Care, Capital Improvements, and Program Enhancements. I thought you might be interested in learning more about Foundation funds that enrich the programs and services at each of our ministry sites.

Gifts of Grace – This program fulfills the last wishes of patients served by Lutheran Hospice. Recent Gifts of Grace have included a trip by ambulance for a patient to see his former home one last time; a ramp at a patient's house so she could enjoy being in her yard; an anniversary meal for a patient and his wife; and transportation for a patient to attend her church's homecoming for the final time.

Employee Educational Assistance Fund – This supports employees who wish to further their education or obtain job-related credentials. Employees may apply for reimbursement of tuition, fees, and books from an accredited institution or for certification in a field related to their current role. This provides an opportunity for employees to enhance their skills, advance their careers, and strengthen the mission of our organization.

Chapel Funds – These gifts enhance worship life and pastoral care offered to our residents. They provide resources for repairing instruments, paraments, hiring musicians, and supporting our chaplains with continuing education. This helps sustain the spiritual heart of all our communities of care.

Employee Assistance Fund – Sometimes even the most basic needs can feel insurmountable when an employee experiences a catastrophic event. This offers a vital hand up during such moments, providing compassionate support to our faithful employees when they need it most.

Life Enrichment Funds – These are established at our communities to support special projects and activities that enhance the daily lives of our residents. They make possible meaningful experiences such as animal support programs—like aviaries, fish tanks, and dog parks—as well as resident activities, including bingo prizes, arts and crafts, and care-package initiatives. Each program is designed to bring joy, engagement, and companionship to those we serve.

These are just a few of the resources that enhance the programs of service at Lutheran Homes. Each tells a story of compassion—of lives touched, careers strengthened, and residents comforted through the generosity of those who care about our ministry. Your support helps ensure that employees continue to grow in their vocations, that residents and

patients receive the care they deserve, and that our communities remain places of hope and dignity. Together, we continue to build a legacy of care and faith-filled service that strengthens Lutheran Homes for generations to come.

In gratitude for the difference you make in the lives of those we serve,

Ernest L. Beck, MAR, CFRE
President & CEO

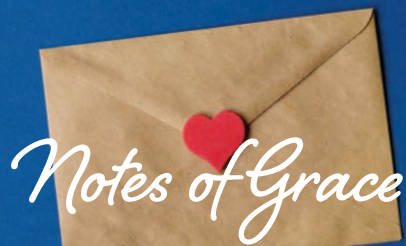


Oysters are turned into art at Rice Estate.



RoseCrest residents enjoy a festive craft.

Supporting Our Ministry Together



Many of the gifts to the Foundation come with expressions of deep gratitude for the care and services provided by our communities and staff. Here are a few excerpts from some of the letters and notes recently received.

"A simple note does not begin to convey how thankful I am for you & Trinity. The examples of faith, love and kindness in action are too many to list. My dad arrived having not being able to properly clean himself in days. But after entering your doors, he was tended too—bathed and even shaved. The people at Trinity make it special and I am forever touched (and inspired) by all of you."

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the compassionate respite care given to my husband. Caregivers are often overlooked and this was an invaluable service provided for us. Your support and care have been a blessing we appreciate so much!"

"To our Treasured friends at Lutheran Hospice—There are hardly words available to express our thanks and appreciation. Our father lived a large life—with your help he died a peaceful and dignified death. Our families are forever grateful."

"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 appreciate all you did the past year!"

"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!"



The Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation strengthens the ministry of Lutheran Homes 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. We are honored to help caring individuals achieve their charitable goals while faithfully managing their gifts entrusted to us.

This year, the Foundation carefully managed \$57 million in net assets, generating income to support our mission. Alongside these investments, 1,300 compassionate donors contributed a total of \$1,246,000 during the fiscal year—an incredible testament to their ongoing commitment.

Through these combined resources, we were able to provide a variety of meaningful support to the ministries of Lutheran Homes. A total of \$499,000 in subsidized care assisted 28 residents,

hospice patients, and BeWell Home Services clients who could not otherwise afford the full cost of their care. Another \$911,000 helped fund capital improvements, facility upgrades, and medical equipment, ensuring a higher quality of life for those we serve. In addition, \$497,000 supported program enhancements, operational grants, pastoral care, life enrichment activities, and special initiatives across our ministry sites.

Altogether, the Foundation provided \$1.9 million in support this year, benefitting every Lutheran Homes location—Rice Estate, Trinity on Laurens, Franke at Seaside, the Heritage at Lowman, RoseCrest, Lutheran Hospice, BeWell Home Services, and BeWell@Home.

This remarkable impact is possible because of our generous donors—both past and present—whose faith and compassion continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

DeeDee White
CFO, Secretary/Treasurer

Staff Spotlight

Judith Whisman, Donor Relations Coordinator



What is a Donor Relations Coordinator? Ask Judith Whisman, Donor Relations Coordinator for the Foundation, and she would explain

that this role is responsible for entering gifts into the donor database, preparing acknowledgment letters, responding to donor inquiries, generating gift reports, planning donor recognition events, and coordinating the employee giving program.

Ask other members of the Foundation staff about Judith's contributions, and they would tell you she is the central hub around which much of the Foundation's work revolves. They would also affirm her

warm and caring personality—combined with her strong accounting background and excellent communication skills—which make her an invaluable member of the Foundation team.

Judith moved to Chapin, SC in 1990 and married her husband, Mike, in 1992. Before beginning her professional career, she dedicated herself to being a stay-at-home mother and was actively involved in her children's education. Today, she takes great joy in spending time with her first grandchild.

Prior to joining the LHSC Foundation team in 2019, Judith served as Affiliate and Events Coordinator for the SC Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband have four children and have lived in Ballentine, SC for 28 years, where they remain actively involved at their church.

Emergency Employee Assistance: A Hand Up in a Time of Need

When life is steady, it's easy to believe we can manage on our own. But sometimes, we realize how much we depend on the generosity of others. For many years, Maria was the kind of employee every organization hopes for—faithful, hardworking, and endlessly compassionate. She showed up early, even stayed late when residents needed extra attention.

Then, in a matter of days, everything changed. On her way home from work, Maria's car broke down—her only means of transportation. Later that week, a fire in an adjoining apartment left her entire complex uninhabitable. Suddenly,

this single mother of two young children faced impossible choices: how to pay rent, how to repair her car, how to get to work, and where to live.

Maria had always been the one to give; asking for help did not come easily. A co-worker reminded her of the Foundation's **Employee Emergency Assistance Fund**, created for moments just like this.

Hesitant but hopeful, Maria submitted her confidential request.

With support from the Fund, the Foundation provided temporary housing for Maria and her children, allowing her the stability she needed to repair her car and secure new housing after weeks of uncertainty. Her fellow employees also stepped in—offering rides, meals, and encouragement.

Maria broke down in tears. "I didn't think people cared about someone like me this much," she said. "I always believed my job was to care for others—but now I know that I'm part of a family that cares for me too."



Why It Helps Us to Know: InnKeeper Legacy Society



Each year, the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation receives bequests from individuals who had not informed us in advance that they included one of our ministries in their estate plans. While we are deeply grateful for these generous gifts, it is extremely helpful for our organization to know about them ahead of time.

Notifying the Foundation of your planned gift gives us the opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for a future gift that will make a lasting difference in our ministries of care. When others see like-minded supporters of Lutheran Homes being recognized for their charitable commitments, they are often encouraged to take the same step.

Please be assured that any information you share will be treated as confidential, and no details about your future gift will

be disclosed without your authorization. With these assurances, we hope you will consider letting us know if you have included the Foundation in your will or designated us as a beneficiary in another way. We are deeply thankful for your generosity and for the trust you place in our organization.

The InnKeeper Legacy Society honors donors who serve as compassionate leaders in their support of Lutheran Homes' ministries for older adults and hospice patients. Inspired by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, the InnKeeper Society recognizes donors who contribute \$250 or more—or volunteer 100 hours or more within a calendar year—as Annual Members. Donors whose cumulative giving reaches \$10,000 or more, or who have volunteered 1,000 hours or more, are recognized as Lifetime Members.

We would be honored to talk with you about how your legacy can make a difference. To learn more about the InnKeeper Legacy Society or to share your plans confidentially, please contact the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation at **1.800.756.9443** or by email: **Foundation@LHomes.org**.



Meaningful fellowship was shared at our Innkeeper events, held across each of our five communities to honor those who generously support the ministries of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina.

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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Why People Give



Many people are drawn to support elder care not because it is easy, but because it is deeply human.

In our world that often relies upon instant gratification of news, time and work, retirement care communities remind us of the quiet sacredness of slowing down — of listening, of remembering, of cherishing the lives that came before ours. Those who give their time to work or volunteer in our communities often speak of the experience as a calling.

They come to deliver meals or medication, have a conversation or prayer, or simply hold a hand. And in these small moments, something profound happens: As one employee put it recently, “I came here to make a difference for them. I

didn’t realize how much they would change me.”

When you give — whether through time, skill, prayer, or financial support — you become part of something we get to have each day in our ministries of care. You make it possible for residents to live with dignity, for caregivers to serve with excellence, and for love to be visible in every hallway and patient room.

In the end, people give because they care deeply. And in communities like ours, that caring becomes the difference between despair and hope, between loneliness and belonging, between just getting by and truly living.

Together, we continue a legacy of compassion that blesses both giver and receiver — and reminds us all that the greatest wealth we share is the love we give away.

Awarded Highest Rating for Over a Decade



Charity Navigator announced earlier this year that the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation has again achieved highest marks with earning another 4-star rating. Congratulations are in order for demonstrating strong financial health, accountability and transparency. We are proud to announce over a decade of consecutive 4-star ratings,

which indicates that the Foundation outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets us apart and acknowledges our level of commitment to good governance, best practices and accountability. Charity Navigator is the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in America helping donors make intelligent giving decisions in reviewing nearly 1.5 million nonprofits.

