

THE SERENDIPITOR

The Brooks-Howell Official Newsletter

RESIDENTS SUPPORT UNITED WAY AND ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



Carol Greenspan and Nan Gordon

UNITED WAY Brooks-Howell's residents not only have hearts and feet of service, but also serve in action through contributing to organizations which serve our communities. Brooks-Howell's residents raised \$2,181 for The United Way, an organization that pools donations from citizens in their communities and allocates funds to not for profit organizations that provide services to those with needs. The theme of the United Way is Live United.

Carol Greenspan, an Independent Living resident, shares that Brooks-Howell's residents are passionate about a unique local service funded by The United Way which benefits three groups in need. Once a week, middle school parents and their children are offered one free meal, and afterwards, the students receive tutoring while their parents receive education regarding life-skills such as household budgeting.

The food is catered by Green Opportunity, whose mission is to train, support and connect people from marginalized communities to sustainable employment pathways. The food is prepared by former inmates who are being trained in the catering industry. Carol states, "It's a three-way win."

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S But the giving doesn't stop there. On September 21st, Brooks-Howell's residents, staff and friends participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's event and raised over \$700. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease. Brooks-Howell cares for many Health Center residents with dementia and is passionate about finding a cure for this disease.

THE GIFT OF THE GIFT SHOP

Virginia smiles as she welcomes guests to browse in the spacious gift shop and the guests smile back, especially as they begin looking at jewelry, purses, china, books, fall decorations and much more. The guests are impressed when they see the variety of available items.

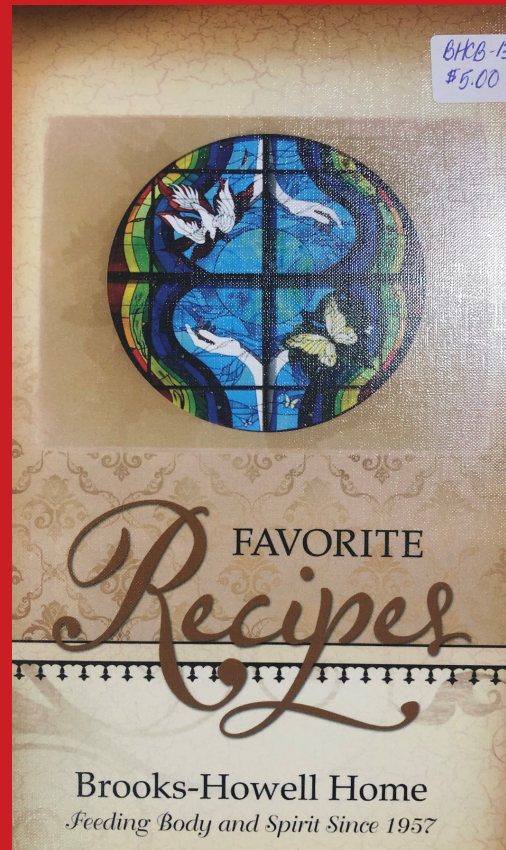
The shop also includes contributions by residents that include handmade cards by Mary Z. Longstreth, stained glass by June Fischer and books written by residents. The books include a cookbook filled with recipes by residents and staff, *I Remember* by Esther Megill, *If I Should Die Before I Live*, by Richard Smyth, and *Marks of Mission*, by Doug Weingeir.

Many do their Christmas shopping in the shop, and the reasonable prices are also attractive. The gift shop includes personal items such as toothpaste and hair products which saves residents trips to the store. Virginia Miller and Bobbie Markham manage the shop and many volunteers help with this wonderful service.

Come visit today!



More Shopping at Your Gift Shop



Virginia Miller

"I AM BLESSED"

By Cutie, with help by Joyce Hill, resident

I woke up Oct 4th hearing "Feast Day of St. Anthony". Channel 57 was posting: "Blessing of the Animals in the chapel at 3:30." So why did that matter to me? Then I saw them: the harness, leash, and my carrier out of the closet. The pieces started coming together. I was one of the pets at Brooks-Howell Home to be blessed! About 3 o'clock I was stalked. The harness was lifted from the table. I lost the battle. Later came the final skirmish: leash attached and I was in the carrier. I sang a protest song on my way.

Nearing the chapel, I heard them: DOGS! all sizes, all claiming their space, but all controlled by owners/parents who loved them. (I learned later there was a snake there as well.)

Things quieted down as Chaplain Alycia Johnson began the worship service which included a hymn about God's relationship to animals, her words about how we are loved, and then the blessing of us few cats, all the dogs, and, yes, even the snake.

Everyone prayed, "Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant them health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ. Amen."

On the way home, my song was, "I am blessed!"



DEBBIE PITTMAN - A LIFE OF SERVICE

Debbie Pittman, resident of Brooks-Howell, retired on October 17th after 40 years of service as a Deaconess. A native of Waycross, Georgia, Debbie felt the call to God's service in Middle School and while in undergraduate school, discovered Church Community Worker and Deaconess service. Debbie shared, "This is my calling."

Debbie graduated with a Church Community Ministry degree from Scarritt College and was appointed a Church Community Worker to Bismark, North Dakota in 1978. There she served at the Open Door Community Center with outreach to economically challenged families.

Debbie was then commissioned a Deaconess on October 17th 1979, and in Rhode Island ministered to Mong immigrants, and was then in Parish Ministry to 28 mountain churches in the heart of WVA coal land. "During my time there, West Virginia claimed my heart." Her passion for technology combined with a heart of service led her to teach computer skills at Bluefield State College in WVA for 20 years. These skills offered the opportunity for students to move out of the cycle of poverty.

After retiring from 20 years of teaching, Debbie moved to Brooks-Howell in 2010 for another active Deaconess appointment providing communications and technology support at Brooks-Howell. She also uses her skills to help other Brooks-Howell residents and has offered computer classes for residents as old as 93. October 17, 1979, was also a significant day for Brooks-Howell resident Ann Janzen who was commissioned that day.



Debbie shares "I am appreciative to the United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church for providing the opportunity for mission and for the support they have given me over the years."

BROOKS-HOWELL OFFERS HOSPITALITY TO HANDS AND FEET VOLUNTEERS

Brooks-Howell is housing four Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) who are with Hands and Feet of Asheville. This organization is associated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They are residing at Brooks-Howell for a year as they serve our community through many organizations. These organizations are Haywood Street Congregation ministries, Habitat for Humanity, A Hope and Homeward Bound. Brooks-Howell also hosted six Hands and Feet volunteers last year. To show their appreciation for staying at Brooks-Howell, these young adults volunteer on the weekends to help with resident activities. This is yet another way our residents care for those who care.



(left to right) Tony Schaufler, Deanna McDonnell, Meredith and J.T. Davis



VIGIL FOR JUSTICE

In Brooks-Howell's Chapel on Friday, July 12, 2019, Brooks-Howell residents joined thousands of people worldwide in the Lights for Liberty: A Vigil to End Human Concentration Camps including for those children held in camps on the border with Mexico. Into the streets, in their own front yards, in churches and at the camps, citizens around the world protested the inhumane conditions faced by migrants. Another example of Brooks-Howell residents' love in action.

BROOKS-HOWELL STAFF CERTIFIED DEMENTIA PRACTITIONERS

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners has certified over 55 Brooks-Howell staff members as Certified Dementia Practitioners. This professional development education promotes, encourages and enhances the knowledge, skills and practice of our staff who provide care to persons with dementia. This educational opportunity was funded by a generous grant from a family member of one of our former residents. Thank you to all residents, family members and friends who support our staff in so many ways!



From Left to Right:

Marselino Plascencia- Dietary Aid(Food Services)- 15 Years
 Tracey Owens- Director of Activities/ Deaconess- 10 Years
 Patty Higgins- Activities Assistant (Activities) - 5 Years
 Jeania Fisher- C.N.A (Nursing)- 5 Years
 Tat'yana Demets- C.N.A. (Nursing)- 5 Years
 Carole Gilham- Executive Director/ Administrator-20 Years

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

On September 25th Brooks-Howell held its 43rd annual Employee Appreciation Day and recognized the milestone service from five to twenty years of six employees.

Their efforts in Food Services, Activities, Nursing and Administration helps to ensure Brooks-Howell residents have a stellar retirement community in which to live. Sherie Prince, Human Resources Director shared, "We employ the best of the best, and we appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to our residents and the community."

CAROLE GILHAM NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"I hope I can enrich the resident's lives as much as they have enriched mine."

Carole Gilham is now serving Brooks-Howell as its new Executive Director and in her very capable hands, she is responsible for directing Brooks-Howell addressing community and resident needs while working in alignment with the mission and goals of United Methodist Women. Carole makes recommendations to the United Methodist Women leadership to ensure Brooks-Howell's legacy as a stellar retirement community continues. This legacy is best described by Mable K. Howell, former professor of Missions at Scarritt College and a founder of Brooks-Howell.

She stated "Brooks-Howell is a community where people live all of their lives in freedom of care, where they might be an asset to each other, to their community, and to their church."

Carole has been with Brooks-Howell for over 20 years starting as an Administrative Assistant and moving to the positions of Office Manager, Human Resources Director, Business Director, Assistant Administrator and Health Care Administrator. This along with her credentialing as a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator on both the state and federal levels since 2008 undergirds her strengths that she brings to the position.

Contact Us

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**Surrounded by
 friends and
 family, Margaret
 Moodie
 celebrated her
 99th birthday.
 Congratulations!**

Go Green! Notify living@brookshowell.org to receive The Serendipitor by email.



U. S. POSTAGE
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BROOKS-HOWELL HOME
 266 Merrimon Ave.
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