

# Villa St. Benedict Foundation Newsletter

## *Thank you!!*

2012 was a year of giving as you, the Friends of our Foundation, reached out to help us fulfill our mission. We saw unprecedented tributes to loved ones — both honoring those loved ones still a living part of our lives as well as those who are no longer with us.

This issue of our newsletter reflects on those tributes, and the residents we have lost but certainly will never forget. A look at their pictures on the second page reminds us of the joy that each brought to us while they lived here at

*Villa St. Benedict.*

### *General Fund*

Donations to our Villa St. Benedict General Fund are used to support its mission to improve the lives of our residents.

These donations may be used for future capital improvements or for general needs important to our residents.

### *Charitable Care Fund*

Unlike most senior care communities, Villa St. Benedict will never turn its back on a resident who can no longer afford to live in their VSB home.

This commitment is an expensive one, but is a major part of our mission.

### *Memory Care Fund*

Abby Lane is the name of our beautiful home for residents needing the special care that comes with diminishing memory ability. Donations to this fund will be directed to the enhancement of our Abby Lane residents.

### *2012 Contribution Results*

**Thanks to all of our friends who contributed to the Foundation last year.**

**We received over 400 separate donations to the fund last year, totaling over \$44,000. This represented a significant improvement over 2011, and we need your continued support to grow.**

**Thank you!**

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*The Villa St. Benedict Foundation was formed in 2006 and is a not-for-profit, philanthropic organization, qualifying for charitable tax donations.*

*The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the Mission of Villa St. Benedict and enhancing the lives of the people we serve.*



# Remembering Our Friends



## Our Tribute Programs

Many of our friends have been memorialized with lasting tributes on our beautiful grounds. We have many alternatives for remembering loved ones. A quick visit to our website will give you information on our tribute programs. Visit [www.villastben.org](http://www.villastben.org) and click on the "Support Our Mission" at the top of the home page to learn about our Foundation and the Tribute programs.



The first year of our tribute brick program was a huge success, with over 80 bricks lining our sidewalk linking our two main buildings. Our residents, visitors, and employees love to stroll along this pathway and read the thoughts etched on the bricks.



We now have more than a dozen benches lining our paths, each engraved with a message straight from the heart of family or friends.



Our tree and bush program is another aspect of our tribute program. We have a catalog of trees and bushes that our groundskeeper has identified to be well suited to our grounds. Each planting comes with a plaque indicating the type of plant along with a message of tribute to a loved one.

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# A Message from Villa St. Benedict

## Kathy DiCristina, CEO



Jo Jerak, Foundation Director



*I have been fortunate to lead an organization so steeped in their values. Over the years, I have witnessed first hand what a huge difference those values mean to our residents. One of the things that sets Villa St. Benedict apart from other senior living communities is our commitment to our mission – a mission to provide a home for seniors where they can live out the rest of their days in dignity and respect.*

*Unlike other senior communities, Villa St. Benedict will never uproot a resident who finds themselves out-living their finances. Can you imagine the anxiety and fear that would accompany the thought of having to move from the home you love, simply because you are outliving your financial resources? Our residents are protected from that fate through our Charitable Care Program.*

*I was recently reminded of the importance of this commitment when speaking with a tearfully grateful daughter of one of our residents who had recently passed. Apparently, this resident had always been fearful about money throughout her life. Shortly after she moved here, I had learned about her fears and so I met with her, explaining our commitment to our residents. I finished simply, “God brought you to a perfect place. You need not fear being forced to move from your Villa St. Benedict home for financial reasons.” The daughter remembered the phone call she received from her mother after that conversation, and the relief and comfort it brought. As the years passed, the resident did eventually apply for our Charitable Care Program. After learning that she was accepted for the program, the daughter received another phone call – this time with gratitude that we had kept our promise.*

*It is always comforting to be reminded of the impact that our commitment has for our residents and their families. This program is just one of the ways the Foundation helps us achieve our mission. Always know that your contributions make a difference.*

Kathy DiCristina, Villa St. Benedict CEO

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*Our Foundation continues to grow because of your generosity. As mentioned throughout this newsletter, the Core Values of Hospitality, Stewardship, Respect, and Justice are important in everything we do at the Foundation. Each year, one of these core values is highlighted — in 2013 the focus is on **Justice**. “Serving with Truth and Action” defines how we work together to respond to the needs of our Villa St. Benedict residents. We look forward to a great 2013 with your continued support.*

Jo Jerak, Villa St. Benedict Foundation Director



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## Villa St. Benedict Recognition Board



### *A special thank you!*

Friends of the Foundation are important to our mission. With your help, we will be able to continue our support of Villa St. Benedict programs and improvements to keep our community the best home it can be for our residents.

Our Recognition Board hangs in the lobby of Benedale Center, our Assisted Living community on campus.

We are proud to display the names of contributors to the Foundation whose lifetime contributions total \$100 or more.

The Board is divided into four levels of contribution, and states our mission and commitment to the Villa St. Benedict core values —

***Hospitality, Stewardship, Respect, and Justice.***

Villa St. Benedict Foundation  
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## Want to help?

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*The Villa St. Benedict  
Foundation was formed in 2006  
and is a not-for-profit  
philanthropic organization  
qualifying for charitable tax  
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supporting the Mission of  
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the lives of the people we serve.*

*Contact us today*

*Jo Jerak  
Foundation Director  
630-725-7015  
giving@villastben.org*

*Or visit our website  
[www.villastben.org](http://www.villastben.org)  
Click on "Support Our Mission"*



*Villa St. Benedict is a not-for-profit community, and the Foundation is committed to our mission to provide our residents with a continuum of care encompassing the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our residents.*