

# Enriching Lives

JUNE 2016



**Sybil Bell**  
Director of Philanthropy

## SYBIL'S MESSAGE

On June 17, we celebrated Saint John's 148 years of continuous residential service to Milwaukee's seniors – the oldest such organization in Wisconsin. The churchwomen who founded Saint John's had a vision and a plan to serve. They secured commitments from local Episcopal parishes to pay the rent for one year and collected special offerings to raise capital for expenses. We've come a long way from these humble beginnings, but the culture of philanthropy remains today to advance our mission.

In this mid-year issue, you will read stories of charitable contributions that continue to impact our campus community. Every dollar donated is important to 'Enrich the Present and Enhance the Future' with financial support to offer programs and services of life-long learning and aging well. Our gratitude abounds for donors whose gifts ensure that Saint John's thrives for years to come.

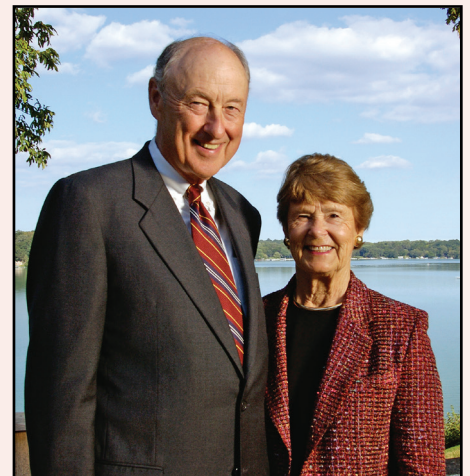
*Sybil Bell*

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: AB AND NANCY NICHOLAS

In 2016, the Boards of the Foundation and Communities embarked on a three-year, one-time campaign to fully endow the Chaplaincy and the Chapel Music Programs. This funding priority reflects the prominence of spiritual wellness in our community and the Chaplain's commitment to support residents—no matter their spiritual journey or their faith tradition.

To kick-start this campaign, the Foundation Board turned to local philanthropists, and friends of Saint John's, Ab and Nancy Nicholas. In 1999, Ab and Nancy were responsible for one-half of funding needed to build our present Chapel with a challenge grant of \$750,000.

Ab Nicholas is the founder and chairman of the Nicholas Company, Inc., a Milwaukee-based investment advisory firm that manages the Nicholas mutual funds. Born in Rockford, Illinois in 1931 into what he describes as a "middle income, depression-era family," Ab received an athletic scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics, and later, an MBA in finance and investments. He credits that scholarship as the springboard for much of his success. He and his wife Nancy Johnson Nicholas, also a UW-Madison graduate, have been substantial supporters of both UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee. In addition to their love of the UW system, the Nicholas' also have deep roots in the



**Ab and Nancy Nicholas**

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# Foundation News

## LEGACY SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new Foundation Fund. A generous gift from Bruce Fetter created the **VERENA FJERMESTAD & BRUCE FETTER MUSIC FUND** in support of classical music performances by faculty and students of the UW-M Peck School of the Arts.

Several other residents have completed the paperwork or are considering a planned gift to the Foundation. We are grateful to Bruce as well as Lloyd Lewis, Marge & Bob Polack, Pat & Allen Rieselbach, Katherine Smith and Nici Teweles for their lasting commitment to the Foundation.

Many residents find refund gifts to be an easy way to establish a legacy with the Saint John's Foundation since they do not require the services of an attorney or changes to existing estate plans. Tax advantages for heirs can be significant as well.

We are deeply appreciative of these generous and lasting gifts.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

For recent gifts, we acknowledge these supporters who underwrote some special events and some needed supplies: Claire Greene for an Early Music Now concert on April 17, Alice Nelson for a Fine Arts Quartet concert on April 28, and for two resident donors who contributed the funds to purchase new swings for the Plaza. We appreciate these many gifts; truly, we couldn't offer what we do without this support. Do you have an interest to promote?

## JUST ONE ANNUAL APPEAL

We promote charitable giving to Saint John's through our Annual Appeal. In years past we sent out two appeals – one in spring and one in fall – which typically focused on unrestricted support. New in 2016: our once-a-year, and just once-a-year, annual appeal in spring now emphasizes donor choice: to give to the unrestricted Communities Annual Fund or select from a menu of Foundation Endowment Funds.

The 2016 annual appeal announced our top funding priority to fully-endow the Chaplaincy and Chapel Music Funds in the next three years. Please give to whatever aligns with your philanthropic values and interests. Contributions are welcome all year of course, but aside from an end-of-the-year reminder, there will be no formal fall appeal.

The Employee Holiday Fund appeal will occur in October as in the past. If you are among those donors who have already responded to our request for support, you have our deepest gratitude.



**Mary Przybylski**  
Annual Fund  
Coordinator

## SHARING WITH OTHERS

Thank you to all those who participate in supporting area agencies that serve others. The food collection bin located in the Bistro averages about 40-50 pounds a week, and sometimes much more! That represents many meals to aid clients of the Riverwest Food Pantry and Cathedral Square Women's Shelter. Volunteer, Holger Petersen, averages three trips per month to deliver the donations to each worthy organization.

The clothing collection bin supports the work of Repairers of the Breach to provide for those in need. The contents are delivered each week by Volunteers Jim & Barbara Ballard. These many hands help to share the love.

# Philanthropy

**(SPOTLIGHT** *continued from page 1)*

Episcopal faith. In the spring of 2013, Ab and Nancy made a \$10 million gift to the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago – the largest in the Diocese’s 187-year history – to create the Nicholas Center at St. James Commons. The Center, named for Ab’s parents, was developed and is operated in partnership with the Living Compass Faith and Wellness Ministry. The Center offers programs in leadership to clergy and lay persons for service in the church and the world.

This love of the Episcopal faith and their history as benefactors to Saint John’s made Ab and Nancy ideal candidates to approach for a lead gift to launch our Chaplaincy and Chapel Music Campaign. Again, as in 1999, these big-hearted individuals offered half the amount needed with a donation of \$1,050,000.

This gift catapulted the Campaign toward its goal of \$2.1 million to be achieved by Saint John’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June of 2018. To-date, \$630,000 remains to be raised.

Our gratitude to Ab and Nancy, and to all our donors, runs deep.

*“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”*  
–Maya Angelou



**Nancy Klein Maguire and David Maguire**

## **COMMUNITY THAT CARES**

In February 2014, David and Nancy Klein Maguire anonymously gave Saint John’s \$50,000 to be used as seed money for a Knowledge Initiative. Conversations about the best use of the funds continued even during David’s last weeks. Nancy asked us to share that she has now begun again to work with staff and residents to honor David’s wishes as expressed in a final letter to fellow residents: “I hope that each day Saint John’s will be more a place of compassion and care...There is nothing I would be prouder of than to have been a small part of Saint John’s becoming a community where residents can live their lives strongly to the very end and can support each other ...”

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Maguire’s for this generous gift and to Nancy for her commitment to improving the lives of residents, up to and including, the very end.

We encourage you to enjoy the gift of giving by becoming part of our philanthropic family. Our office accepts gifts by cash, check, credit card, or appreciated stock. You may make gifts through our website at [www.SaintJohnsMilw.org](http://www.SaintJohnsMilw.org). Look for **DONATE NOW** under the banner of our logo or click on **OUR FOUNDATION**. It’s easy. It’s secure. All financial gifts qualify under Section 170(f)(8) as eligible for tax deduction.

For information, contact: Sybil Bell at 414.831.6911 or [SBell@SaintJohnsMilw.org](mailto:SBell@SaintJohnsMilw.org) or Mary Przybylski, Annual Fund Coordinator, at 414.831.6905 or [MPrzybylski@SaintJohnsMilw.org](mailto:MPrzybylski@SaintJohnsMilw.org).

# Focus on Giving

## REPURPOSING GOODS

The partnership of the Thrift Shoppe and SurprisingFindings – on Etsy.com – has had great success selling treasures both here and on-line. The most recent donation of 16 heirloom quilts from Dale Neese was indeed a windfall. Eight sold at an in-house sale for \$797! The remainder will be available at [www.etsy.com/shop/SurprisingFindings](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SurprisingFindings).

Every time you donate gently-used items to the Thrift Shoppe or vintage items to SurprisingFindings, or every time you shop for fantastic bargains at these venues, you are making the dreams of hard working employee scholars come true. Proceeds in 2016 for both venues already total nearly \$15,000 – WOW!

Come to the Thrift Shoppe on the Lower Level, Mondays & Fridays from 10 a.m. – Noon and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m – 4:30 p.m. REMEMBER: We want (no, we need) your stuff! Donate your treasures (eligible for a tax-deduction receipt) by leaving them at the North or South Desk, at the Thrift Shoppe, or by contacting Dale at 414.347.2335 or DaleNeese@aol.com or by contacting Marge at 414.239.7889 or MarjorieP@mac.com.



**Dale Neese donated 16 beautiful heirloom quilts to benefit our Scholarship Program.**

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Each year, Saint John's awards about \$20,000 in scholarships to employees enrolled in programs which will enhance their job skills or career advancement. Applications for scholarships are now being accepted through June 30. **Save the Date** to share in the celebration at our Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, August 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center.

## Saint John's Communities Foundation Board

Renée Anderson, President

Sybil Bell, Secretary

Dick Bibler

Suzy Brennan

Bill Goldammer

Dan Lemminger, Treasurer

Lloyd Lewis

Dick Miller

Polly Beal, Communities Board Designee

## SAINT JOHN'S COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION, INC.

1840 North Prospect Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202 414.272.2022 [www.SaintJohnsMilw.org](http://www.SaintJohnsMilw.org)

The Foundation is a charitable organization whose purpose is to solicit, hold, manage, invest, and expend endowed funds for the benefit of the residents of Saint John's and its programs and activities. Saint John's mission is to enrich the lives of older adults through gracious retirement living, spiritual growth, cultural and educational opportunities, and residential healthcare services.