



From the Office of Barbara Prosser, Executive Vice President

The Apartment Community of Our Lady of the Snows begins the year with a special sense of reflection and anticipation. The New Year, 2016, marks our 50th year anniversary. **Our new mantra: “Celebrating 50 years of excellence.”**

This is the year we celebrate the reputation, growth and memories garnered over the past 50 years. It also offers the perfect springboard for an exciting chapter of planning for the next 50 years. Together with seasoned leaders in the field, we begin an evaluation and planning process to reshape the campus and services we provide. We are grateful for those who have entrusted us with care of family and friends these past years. And we look forward with excitement towards our plans for another 50 years of excellence as we move into our future.

Stay tuned. These are exciting times at The Apartment Community!



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

“For it is in GIVING, that we RECEIVE,” said St. Francis of Assisi. Words that ring true here on our campus. We closed strong in 2015 with over \$1,153,000.00 in gifts contributed from less than fifty resident, family, friends and staff donors. This is a triumphant milestone for us. One which has single handedly launched us into 2016, our 50th golden anniversary year, with the following accomplishments:

Impact on our mission:

- Mortgage is paid off entirely and we are now debt-free.
- Annual funding to support the library.
- Gifts to grow the Development Fund Endowment, which provides ‘charity care’ for select residents who outlive their financial resources.
- Gifts toward infrastructure and capital projects to maintain the integrity of our aging campus.
- Funding towards programs and services in the Dammert Care Center.
- Gifts to underwrite new devices, equipment and programming in chapel and high rise building.
- Gifts to support the general operating budget. These are gifts of extreme value to the Apartment Community. General Operating budget gifts allow the leadership to determine where to spend the gift based on the greatest need.

See GIVING, page 3.

GIVING BACK



Dammert Geriatric Center Embraces Electronic Health Records

Dammert Geriatric Center has made the commitment to move ahead with embracing technologies to further drive our quality of care and staff performance. We chose BlueStrata EHR as our software model.

BlueStrata is user-friendly, and staff training has been easily incorporated into the daily routine. The use of electronic health records (EHR) improves resident safety, allows caregivers to document

accurate and “real time” resident care, and improves productivity allowing caregivers more time to focus on our residents.

Implementation of the software began late November 2015, and we plan to be completely “paperless” in early January 2016. The software model offers a full collection of charting, careplans, physician orders, interdisciplinary assessments, and clinical reporting. The Dammert Geriatric Center will now be able

to participate in properly capturing residents care to ensure we are meeting today’s standards. The accuracy and quality of medical record documentation will improve communications with physicians and outside facilities.

We’re thrilled about this movement and look forward to continued success as we benchmark quality assurance of our excellent care!

WELLNESS NEWS

from the Wellness Nurse

“KICK THE HOLIDAY BLUES”

“I’ll be home for Christmas; you can plan on me...” This favorite holiday song, popularized by crooner Bing Crosby, put into words the desire of many Americans to spend the winter holidays with families. Whether it’s Christmas, or another winter celebration, bringing the generations together is often part of our tradition. Families brave winter storms and crowded airports to be together with their loved ones. But remember that Crosby’s classic song ends with a twist, when the singer reveals that he will be home only in his “dreams”. The song was written for World War II soldiers, but it is meaningful any time we cannot spend time with the people we love. Our changing families make it harder to get together and generations no longer live in the same town. Sadly, these complex logistics mean the oldest family members aren’t always able to spend the holidays with family. We

all remember moments of celebrating past memories, whether it’s decorating, singing, baking or dancing at the Christmas party. Reminiscing can be a wonderful thing, but also make us a little “blue”. Families may not always be able to be here, but remember there are always people in the community that can. We can all get a little “blue” around the holidays, so reach out to someone, they may need it too! Let’s celebrate and make some “new memories”! Someone recently shared the following beautiful message:

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift.

That’s why we call it the “present.”

Enjoy your “present” and make “new memories!”

GIVING,
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“Living at the Apartment Community is like living near heaven,” remarked Genevieve Wehrheim, one of the residents who believes in the power and importance of giving back to the Apartment Community. “Immediately, upon entering the grounds, I feel compelled to offer prayerful thanks for the privilege of living here. The Apartment Community offers so many benefits, amenities and programs; any resident can find something of fulfillment anytime.”

“People see a good mission and trust the funds will be put to good use,” said Charlotte Yost, another resident donor who believes in funding our mission. “It’s God’s work here. The care and love I received when I came here was overwhelming. I am extremely grateful, so I want to pay it forward.” Additionally, Charlotte shared that she feels the Apartment Community is a special and rare place, because there are not many spiritually-focused communities anymore. Charlotte is thankful that God guided her here and feels compelled to give back to the Apartment Community because she knows her gift touches a broad spectrum of need. She pretty much summed it up in her closing remarks, “You know... this is the only place in our country like it, and I cherish it”.

“**50 Years of Excellence**” is the name of our 2016 Marketing Campaign, but it also marks a new era for the Apartment Community. We would not be the organization we are today without the philanthropic support from those who believe in our work and have an invested interest in seeing our organization not only exist, but thrive in the next 50 years.

We thank everyone who made gifts in 2015. If you have any questions about how to make a gift, where our greatest needs exist, or how you can direct a gift, please contact Rachel Luge at 618.394.6851 or Rachel.Luge@apartmentcommunity.org.

PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

From Mary Mertzlufft

We are proud to announce the 2015 results of our annual Christmas Angel Giving Tree program. In December, seventy five residents, employees and a few family members took up the banner of compassion and generosity and “gave back” to the children in East St. Louis who go to the Griffin Center “after school” care. The donors who participated, managed to shop, wrap and produce beautiful gifts for those in need. The results were phenomenal! Just when we thought it couldn’t get any better than the packages stuffed in every available nook and cranny, four children’s bicycles took their place among the gifts. What a sight to see and truly a reason we celebrate Christmas - God’s presence/presents among us in Jesus. He is the gift that lives on through the Eucharist and in the goodness of one another.



Wishing all a Blessed and
Happy New Year!

CALENDAR

EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Mardi Gras Cocktail Party • 3:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Lindbergh Middle School Fiddlers Perform • 2:00pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra • SAVE THE DATE • Afternoon

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Easter Egg Hunt • 10:00am

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

St. Louis Symphony Trio Family Night
(see details at right)

APRIL MID-MONTH

Resident Art Show Reception

Please Join Us!!

SYMPHONY EVENT

On Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00pm we are excited to host a St. Louis Symphony trio performance through the Symphony Cares for Seniors program.

This program provides a select few senior living communities in the St. Louis Metro area the opportunity to experience symphony music in their own surroundings. That evening we will enjoy the music of St. Louis Symphony musicians playing harp, flute and violin in our very own Apartment Community Chapel. We invite residents and families to join us for this rare treat!

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the
apartment
community

of Our Lady of the Snows



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