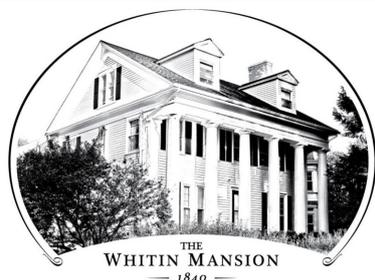
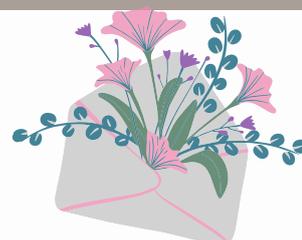


# Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc.



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER  
2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

**Dear Whitinsville Retirement Society members and friends,**



I don't need to tell anyone of the difficult year we have all experienced as we are reminded of daily in the news. In elderly settings, these struggles can be amplified and make daily interactions difficult. We are thankful for your prayers and support during this difficult time even though sometimes your "support" meant having to stay away from your loved ones. Though at times this remains a necessary step to protect our residents we are hopeful that we can return to "normal" soon. To that end, we are once again delivering our annual report once again via letter vs. an in-person meeting.

In non-Covid times we would be meeting in person and reviewing some of the steps we've taken to improve not just the property but also the Society. We would also talk about our struggles and successes and I would like to take a moment to do that here. I am pleased to acknowledge the incredible staff that has dedicated themselves to the Society, the Home, and the Apartments. As you may know, over the past couple of years the Home has struggled to become fully occupied, but I am happy to report that we have reached full capacity on and off over the last six months. This is not a small feat as eldercare is constantly evolving and the notion of a retirement home, communal living without assistance, has largely disappeared from our society. Our finances have been a struggle over the past few years. Thankfully, because of improved residency census and cost of living rental increases, the Society is staying profitable but with little breathing room.

I mentioned our dedicated staff but want to go a step further to highlight our new Director, Jeannine Crawford. Jeannine has been an employee for over five years but applied a year ago for the vacated Director role. This was no coincidence; we now know that God had a plan here. Jeannine's servant heart and big picture vision have played a large part in bringing us to the capacity we're at today. After assuming the role in February only to be met with Covid-19 in March, Jeannine has been nothing but humble and dedicated going above and beyond time and time again. We are all so incredibly thankful for the blessings that Jeannine brings and represents.

As I prepare to pass the torch as president, I want you as Society members and residents to know it has been an honor to serve here. This is a special place whose mission, to provide a Christian and affordable elder living community, is extremely rare. I am thankful that we have new Board Members ready to step forward to continue the WRSI mission. New Board members are Scott Schneider and Bill Vis.

Thank you again for your ongoing financial and prayer support. It is our desire to host an in-person event this summer to share fellowship, the property, and our future plans. We greatly look forward to being together once again. Lastly, I want to say that the Home is always in need of dedicated staff and/or volunteers, particularly in the kitchen. We desire to hire additional staff members and would love to develop an "emergency call list." This list would consist of 6-8 on-call staff members willing to step in during last-minute staff shortages. Please contact us if you are interested and would like more information.



*In His Service,*  
**Eric Wierenga, President WRSI**



# A Note from our Director

## ***The Retirement home welcomed a new director, Jeannine Crawford.***

Becoming the new Director as COVID-19 was starting to spread was certainly a challenge as new regulations had to be implemented in an effort to keep everyone safe. Staffing the home became increasingly difficult as many people were quarantined or being offered unemployment through the CARES Act. Marsha Day retired, and she is missed by all. Thankfully, Kathy Johnson was able to step into her position.

Staying safe, sourcing food, finding supplies (like cleaning produces, toilet paper, paper towels, and latex gloves), and figuring out ways to keep everyone safely spaced while eating became the main priority for spring.

Activities were limited, but as the weather turned we were able to do outdoor concerts for both buildings. It was dubbed "Concert on the Green!" We had an end-of-summer event in September with popcorn, pizza, ice cream, and two performers - Polka Paul and folk singer Phil Stockwell. It was a very relaxing sunny day that was enjoyed by all who attended.

We celebrated many birthdays in 2020. Jack Crossen requested corn from Foppema's Farm. Jack husked all the corn himself, something he said he loved to do. His family was able to join us for his birthday meal. This turned out to be such a blessing as Jack passed away shortly after on October 19, 2020.

The Holidays were difficult. The rise in COVID cases and the recommendation of not celebrating with family or anyone outside of the house caused a feeling of despair. The staff at the Home drew names and purchased gifts for the residents. We enjoyed prime rib and celebrated together making the best of the situation which turned our focus to our blessings.

One of those blessings, a young neighbor, Elliot, made beautiful handmade Christmas cards for our residents. It was a sweet act of kindness. You might have read about it in the local paper!!

A Valentine Tea with residents from both buildings was held in February where Kay Buckley, Trish Kay, and Suzanne Fregeau volunteered. It was such a welcomed event! The presentation was lovely and the residents talked about it for days.

As the vaccine rolled out and politics consumed the news, we did our best to maintain a positive healthy atmosphere, to support one another, and to stay the course.

While we were without a Maintenance person, Kevin Conway did so much to keep up with maintenance and in January Jim McPherson joined the team. Steadily, we are making changes and improvements - new paint and carpets, new cabinets, new doors, and other updates are in the works.

Thank you to Donna Wiersma, Sue McClure, Darlene Chesley, Deborah Gray, Kevin Conway, and Kathy Marchand for their constant support and unwavering dedication. We thank our newest employees, Jim McPherson and Lynne McPherson, along with Andrea Casey, Kathy Johnson, Geri Jutras, Sarah Lydon, Doreen Drake, and Kay Buckley for coming to work for us in the middle of such a challenging time. Thank you to the Board of Directors who volunteer their expertise and time: Eric Wierenga, Kyle Green, Lindsay Kuik, Ann Roon, and Bruce VandenAkker. In addition, to the residents and their families, thank you for your support and encouragement. Last but not least, thank you Society Members for all your support, prayers, and donations.

The dedication to this endeavor is remarkable. The staff, Board, and Society are devoted and always ready to do whatever needs to be done for the Home. Their dedication is remarkable.

No matter who is in the Director's seat, on the Board, in residency, or employed at the Home, the one constant is the perpetual resilience that is beyond us all. As it continues, all of us become part of the foundation that supports and keeps the mission of the Society. It is a house full of God's love and to Him be the glory.

***Sincerely,***  
**Jeanne Crawford**



**Caring Together**



## New Board Members

The Whitinsville Retirement Society would like to welcome the following new board members, We look forward to working together to continue to service WRSI.

- Bill Vis
- Scott Schnieder

THANK  
YOU

We are thankful for the service of our outgoing board members!

## New Online Payment Method

The WRSI is excited to announce a new method of payment for Rent, Donations, and Society Memberships.

Through UniPay by UniBank, you may make your payment safely and securely using your checking account and routing number.

**UNIPAY**  
by UNIBANK

## Stay Tuned!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page or new Website for upcoming events and updates on the home! We look forward to hosting Concerts on the Green and our Ice Cream Social!



**We are grateful for your many prayers and continued support of the Whitinsville Retirement Society especially throughout the past year. We are blessed to be able to serve our surrounding community in this way.**



*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*Matthew 11:28*



## Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

This year the Whitinsville Retirement Society will celebrate its 45th year. We hope and pray that the Whitinsville Retirement Home and Whitinsville Elderly Apartments continue to bless those who enter its doors and also be a blessing to the community.

A loving atmosphere within a homelike setting is provided at the Whitinsville Retirement Home, as well as all meals, housekeeping, weekly laundry, and basic cable service. Each private room and bath, along with several common social areas, allow for carefree living and companionship.

The Whitinsville Elderly Apartments offer individuals secure, comfortable living in a pleasant environment at a very reasonable rent. Amenities include laundry facilities, inside mailboxes, an outside gazebo, and a community room for both informal gatherings and special functions.

A six-member Board of Directors oversees both the Retirement Home and the Elderly Apartments. Board members volunteer to serve a three-year term. Each year, two new members are elected. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this Board that serves to support the mission of this wonderful establishment.

Those of you who have been members, your prayers, and financial support of the Whitinsville Retirement Society (a non-profit organization) continue to be a blessing to those who reside there and to those who someday hope to make it their home. If you have not supported us in the past, we would like to extend an invitation to consider doing so. To become a member, simply send a check payable to the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., and the completed form at the bottom of this letter. If you would like to support the Society in more tangible ways as well as becoming a member, there is an opportunity to do that also on the membership form.

The residents love visitors, so if you get a chance, stop by! And please continue to pray for the residents, staff, and Board as they work together to make the Home and Elderly Apartments the best places they can be.

**Sincerely,**

**WRSI Board of Directors - Eric Wierenga, Ann Roon, Bill Vis, Scott Schneider & Lindsay Kuik**



You may mail this portion with your check payable to the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., to Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., 10 Chestnut Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

**OR**

Visit our website <https://whitinsvilleretirement.com/> and click on UniPay at the top of the page to complete your membership online!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership: \$35.00**

**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors:**

**(Please Circle)**

**Yes - I am interested**

**No - Not at this time**

**Possibly, please call me with more information, @ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_**