

Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc.

FALL 2023



SPIRITUAL CARE AT WRSI

The Whitinsville Retirement Home was founded by members of the Christian Reformed congregations in town. At least one significant aim of the founders was to provide a place to care for older members of the churches, who could no longer live in their own homes. Christian community has been an important value of the retirement home since its inception.

The home offers a variety of ways for residents to grow spiritually, including prayers at mealtimes, Bible studies, and visits from pastors. In the last year, the two Christian Reformed churches in Whitinsville recognized the growing number of residents who find it difficult to leave the home, and decided to partner together to offer a time of worship on the first Sunday of each month.

Pastors Matthew Burns (Pleasant Street CRC) and Joel Vande Werken (Fairlawn CRC) trade off leadership of these monthly services, which include times of singing, prayer, and a brief message from God's Word.



Guest pastors also lead worship on occasion. About a dozen residents attend each month, with visitors from the CRC congregations occasionally joining them as well. The churches have each committed to lead a celebration of communion periodically as well. The churches and the retirement home are grateful for this opportunity to partner to offer spiritual community for the residents, and to continue the aim of caring for spiritual as well as physical needs.

HOSTING WCC EVENT

The Whitinsville Community Center (WCC) is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year, and having our own Retirement Home host the event! It has been marked by numerous occasions, all of them paying homage to the Whitins, the founders and sustainers through the years.

The WCC would like to spotlight the Retirement Home as a venue— obviously because it is a Whitin Mansion. The event is scheduled for November 15th at the Retirement Home, with an estimated 25 members of the community expected to be in attendance. The Board is excited to host this event and to bring more exposure of our historic Whitinsville Retirement Home.

SEEN AND UNSEEN



Anyone driving by recently can't miss the repaved driveways and parking areas, complete with newly painted color lines and symbols for parking, which reach all the way around our

campus from the Retirement Home to the Work Garage and the Senior Apartments. In fact, recently it seems we've had upgrades everywhere around our beloved property- both inside and outside, seen and unseen.

Although the new dark pavement is hard to miss, other changes are nearly impossible to see. For example, in and around the Retirement Home, the WiFi was enhanced with new and more powerful internet access points providing better service to our residents and guests connecting with phones and computers. This Summer, our Senior apartments were power washed and several common areas had new LED lighting installed, which brightens the area at a fraction of the cost. We also installed Doorloop, which is computer software to help manage our property, capable of automating and tracking work orders, collecting payments, handling taxes along with many other administrative tasks.

Loving people will always be the center of everything here, but these improvements help us carry out our stewardship, inside and out, seen and unseen!



DIRECTOR JEANNINE

As some of you may know, this spring I asked for a leave of absence to care for my daughter Jennae and my Grand Daughters Lilah and Rosie.

I want to thank Randy and the board members for their support and for all the improvements they were able to make while I was out. Our staff for their



commitment to the Home and Apartments and care for our residents. And to the residents for their Love.

I can't even begin to explain how this community loved and supported us through this very difficult and trying situation. We received cards of encouragement and meals. We could feel the prayers and love for us. The staff, board, and volunteers pulled together to keep things running smoothly for all the residents until I could return in August. I feel so blessed and full of gratitude for this community. As I reflect on the past few months and as Jennae works toward her healing I am reminded of what drew me to this place over the years.

Recently I visited with Heather Elster of the Whitinsville Community Center, she commented on Mr. Whitin's vision of community that set into motion the moving of this home to make room for the community center. What she described in that vision is very much what I have felt. While there have been many twists and turns along the way and different faces have represented the Retirement Society in one capacity or another the vision of community filled with the spirit of the Lord remains. It is a very special place unlike any other. God's work is so evident here. I have felt God's protection, seen God's plans unfolding, witness God's provisions, experienced God's Love, guidance and grace. I give thanks to God for all that is and was and will be, for the opportunity to be included in this community, to be of service, and for the privilege to work with our residents, their families, our staff, the board, and the society. To God be the praise!

Sincerely,

Jeannine Crawford

Summer/Fall Picnic



Beautiful, perfect weather graced our grounds on Saturday September 2nd, Labor Day weekend. The residents of our Home and Apartments filled the fields, with all gathered together enjoying the

company of family and friends at the picnic. There was pleasant talking and laughter. Board president Randy DeVries offered some opening words and a prayer of grace and thanksgiving. Adult children visited with their parents. Our caring director Jeannine welcomed everyone to a delightful afternoon. Loving residents visited with grandchildren. There was pizza, beverages including water, juices, a variety of regular and diet sodas, a large popcorn machine, music by Polka Paul and yes, even some dancing! Parked about a hundred feet or

so to the side was an ice cream truck with free cold treats of ice cream cookies, cones, candy, shakes and more. This magnificent day was like a glimpse of heaven, a gift from God to be enjoyed and remembered!



Note from the President

In the summer of 2021, Scott Schneider asked me to serve on the board of the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc. I honestly knew very little about the society or the property, even though I own several businesses that have a lot to do with housing and have lived in the community most of my life. After agreeing to serve, my term as a board member and Building Committee Chair started mid term in 2021, under the leadership of Eric Wierenga and then Ann Roon in 2022. I was grateful to view their leadership styles and learn more of the history and procedures of the Home and Apartments.

In 2023, I was asked to take on the role of President of the board. I accepted the position and was excited to work with our Director, Jeannine Crawford, and watch her leadership style. She is a quiet leader, who cares deeply for all the residents and staff. I felt I could contribute some of the knowledge I have learned in my businesses to create some systems that could be done differently and more efficiently.

Soon after I became President, our Director asked to go on family leave in order to help with a family member. This left me as the locum (fill-in) Director. So after a meeting that lasted less than an hour. I was handed the keys and the company credit card. Many of you know, I am a bit of a type A personality, which can be a bit overwhelming to some people. So, to the relief of many of the staff, Jeannine, and with the support of the board I promised not to make any big changes while she was gone. I also let her know that the board and the staff were available for her if she needed anything. My job was to keep the ship upright and moving slowly forward and not to break anything.



I can honestly say that the staff at the retirement home and apartments are an amazing group of people. They came together, volunteered for jobs and took on tasks that needed to be done

whether it was part of their job or not. They made sure that routines were followed and residents received what they needed. The staff was understanding when I did things out of the ordinary. They came up with solutions to problems before they became issues. I have a new appreciation for all the staff and the work that they do, which I would not have had without being in that position. This experience gave me the opportunity to slow down a little in my own life. I was able to enjoy sitting around a table at coffee time chatting with the residents and helping out where I could.

August came, Jeannine returned to her role as director and things are getting back to normal. I have a newfound appreciation for the work she does and the revitalized atmosphere when the director is back in house. I look forward to working with her in the months to come.

Through my time as the Board president, I have seen how God supplied what is needed in so many ways over the past few months and I give Him all the praise and glory for what he has done and continues to do with the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc.. I would encourage anyone who might be interested in serving on the board of directors or on a committee to get involved. You might just find it a rewarding experience as well.

- Randy DeVries

Become a member today!

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters;

With loving residents in their golden years, we approach our golden anniversary– this year the Whitinsville Retirement Society celebrated its 48th birthday! We hope and pray that the Whitinsville Retirement Home and Elderly Apartments continue to bless those who enter their doors and also are a blessing to the larger community.

The Whitinsville Retirement Home provides a loving atmosphere within a homelike setting and includes all meals, housekeeping, weekly laundry, and basic cable service. Each resident has a private room and bath, along with several common social areas, which allows for both 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, a community room for both informal gatherings and special functions and even a gazebo where they can enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Currently a six-member Board of Directors oversees both the Retirement Home and the Elderly Apartments. Between six and nine board members volunteer to serve a three-year term, and each year two or three new members are elected to replace those completing terms. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Board or a Committee serving to support the mission of this wonderful establishment.

To those of you who are members, your prayers and financial support of the Whitinsville Retirement Society (a non-profit organization) continue to be a blessing to those who live there and to those who someday hope to make it their home. To those who are not currently a member, we would like to ask you to consider joining. To become a member, simply complete the form at the bottom of this letter or visit our website and join online. Details for either method are found below. If you would like to support the Society in more tangible ways in addition to being a member, please note that on the membership form or speak with a board member.

The residents love visitors, we encourage you to take time to visit. Please pray for the residents, staff, Board and Committees as they work together to make the Home and Elderly Apartments the best places they can be.

Sincerely,

WRSI Board of Directors: Randy DeVries, Rolly Gjeltema, Wendy Groot, Doug Piquard, Scott Schneider & Sue Smith



Please mail this portion with your check (made payable to the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc.) to: Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., 10 Chestnut Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or visit our website (www.whitinsvilleretirement.com) then under the “Payments” tab select “Society Membership” and populate the form to complete your membership online!

Name: _____	Annual Membership:	\$35.00
Address: _____	Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ _____
_____	Other:	\$ _____
Email Address: _____	Total:	\$ _____

I am interested in serving on a Committee or the Board of Directors:

Yes - I am interested

No - Not at this time

Possibly - Please call me with more information @ (_____) _____ - _____