

# Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc.

SPRING 2024



Recently WRSI Board member Wendy Groot had the pleasure of spending time with our newest residents in the Home, Beverly Ebbeling and William Banning. Below are excerpts of her conversations with each...

Bev moved into the Home in January. Her biggest surprise was how easy the transition was from living in her home to living here! Bev was concerned the change might be difficult. However, the caring staff and residents quickly made her feel right at home. Bev attributes this love and care to the Christian environment of the Home. Serving on the WRS Board in the past, she knows how the Lord has blessed the Home through the years.

Bev has made good friends and enjoys all the activities bringing the residents' together. Music and the Sunday afternoon services have been a hit. Coffee time in the morning and tea time in the afternoon- wonderful times making new friends and

have good conversations. Bev is enjoying the homemade meals saying she's well fed! Bev loves to walk and is enjoying the grounds, even during winter. With Spring here she's enjoying warmer weather and spending more time outside. Bev's final words to me. "Good friends. Good meals. The Home is a good place to be. I am happy here."



Will moved into the Home full time in the middle of March. He was so pleased to be all moved in before Easter. This is a good place to be. Will loves his room, which he described as quite spacious. He' says the staff is caring, helpful and very friendly- their positive attitude each and every day is greatly appreciated. Like Bev, Will served on the WRS Board. He too is thankful for God's care of this place.

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**CONTINUED FROM COVER:** Will's love of flowers and gardening is legendary. During retirement he was cutting flowers and working in the greenhouse at a local flower shop on Monday afternoons. We're sure he will bless the grounds with his expertise this spring and summer. Will shared that the meals are very good and the staff is quite accommodating with meal choices. With a twinkle in his eye, Will said that tonight he was having meatballs instead of the quiche on the menu because you know "real men don't eat quiche!" Finally, if you are looking for Will, you just might find him in the sunroom with the new Echo. His love of music was on full display this past week as he "asked Alexa" to play the songs from the musical Oklahoma. His smile, as he shared this story, said it all.

Welcome Bev and Will- we're so delighted to have you join our community!

## STAFF APPRECIATION

As a small token of appreciation for last year, our staff was treated to dinner at a local restaurant by the board of directors. On Thursday evening December 28th we all gathered at Point Breeze in Webster, which specializes in New England Seafood but also offers some traditional American and Italian foods.



Overlooking the beautiful views of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg we gave thanks for Christmas, a successful 2023 and the upcoming new year! For a couple hours we celebrated...eating, drinking, talking, laughing, and reflecting some on the ministry that is the Retirement Home and Senior Apartments. We are so appreciative of our loving cleaners, cooks, floaters, director, groundskeepers, helpers with maintenance and coverage, and all the rest! Each person contributes their different God given gifts and abilities, making the Retirement Home and Senior Apartments a success. We have one staff but it has many parts. Why does that sound familiar? Where have we heard that? "There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ..."(check out 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). In so many ways our staff exemplifies that body!

## DIRECTOR JEANNINE

While searching for some information I came across the 1998 – 1999 Annual Report for the Retirement home. I was delighted to read that President Will Banning (our newest resident) opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 12:3-8 and a prayer. Secretary Beverly Ebbeling (moved into the Home in January) read minutes from the previous year followed by Director Ann Roon's report (current bookkeeper, past Board President). The financial report was given by Faye Postma and had been examined by Ted Haringa (resident from July 2022 until his passing in May of 2023), his wife Marie was nominated for the board (current resident) as was Edward DeVries (brother of current resident Winifred Nydam). The closing prayer was read by VP Hank Nydam (husband of current resident Gladys Nydam).

Refreshments were served by Helen Banning and Henny Kuipers. Helen was employed at the home in the kitchen along with Darlene Chesley (still at the home daily), Shirley LaFleur (sister to current resident Ellie Van Houten), Minnie Wiersma (mother of current employee/resident Donna Wiersma), Joan Stanick and a few others. Marge DeVries, Ruth Gjeltema (sister-in-law to current resident Lois Guis) and Gladys Nydam (current resident) were employed at the home helping with laundry. Mable Baker and Linda Paquette worked housekeeping while Oscar Kuipers and Keith Wiersma (brother to Donna and son to Minnie) handled maintenance. Other members of the board were Gladys Ebbeling, Jim Kramer, and Debbie VandenAkker.

Most likely there are other connections I have not put together here. I couldn't help but feel the full circle of God's love, caring and being cared for, the blessings are endless. As I sit at the director's desk typing this, I wonder if one day I will occupy a room here at the Home. I wonder if the future Director will be writing about those of us who have been fortunate enough to be on the caring side of this beautiful ministry and are finding ourselves being lovingly cared for by those next fortunate ones chosen to carry on the love. Thank you all for showing the way, you have left big shoes to fill and I pray I can do the same.



Decoration by Faye Manyak

## Last Christmas

2023 Christmas time was very festive at the home, which was decorated beautifully by the staff and residents. A favorite Christmas activity was Christmas caroling. This season the GEMS girls Club from the Pleasant Street and Fairlawn Christian Reformed Churches sang Christmas songs with the residents. We had a few girls play the violin and piano and even had joyous accompaniment from our favorite resident pianist Marie Haringa. The GEMS and residents enjoyed this special time together.

- Donna Wiersma



## Affordable Housing Needed for Elderly

### Addressing the Urgent Need for Affordable Elderly Housing in Central Massachusetts

Central Massachusetts, like many regions across the United States, is grappling with the challenge of providing adequate housing options for its elderly population. As demographic shifts continue to occur, the demand for affordable housing tailored to the needs of older adults has become increasingly urgent. With limited resources and rising housing costs, many elderly residents in central Massachusetts are finding themselves in precarious living situations, highlighting the pressing need for accessible and affordable housing solutions.

The aging population in central Massachusetts is a significant demographic trend that cannot be ignored. According to census data, the number of residents aged 65 and older has been steadily increasing over the past decade, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming years. As individuals age, their housing needs evolve, often requiring accommodations that cater to mobility issues, accessibility concerns, and healthcare requirements.

Despite the growing demand, elderly residents in central Massachusetts encounter numerous obstacles when seeking affordable housing options. Limited availability of

subsidized housing, long waitlists for assisted living facilities, and insufficient financial resources exacerbate the housing crisis for seniors. Many older adults are forced to choose between paying for housing, medical expenses, or other essential needs, putting their well-being and financial stability at risk.

Access to safe, affordable housing is essential for the health, security, and overall quality of life of elderly individuals. Affordable housing provides stability and a sense of community, allowing seniors to age in place with dignity and independence. Moreover, proximity to essential services, such as healthcare facilities, public transportation, and social support networks, is crucial for meeting the diverse needs of older adults.

To effectively address the shortage of affordable elderly housing in central Massachusetts, collaborative efforts from government agencies, nonprofit organizations, developers, and community stakeholders are essential. Policymakers must prioritize funding and incentives to encourage the development of affordable housing projects specifically designed for seniors. This includes investing in adaptive housing designs, retrofitting existing structures, and implementing supportive services tailored to the needs of elderly residents.

Furthermore, innovative financing mechanisms, such as tax credits, low-interest loans, and public-private partnerships, can facilitate the construction and maintenance of affordable housing developments. By leveraging resources and expertise from multiple sectors, we can create sustainable solutions that enhance the availability and accessibility of housing for elderly individuals in central Massachusetts.

The need for affordable elderly housing in central Massachusetts is a pressing issue that requires immediate attention and concerted action. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by older adults and prioritizing housing affordability as a fundamental need, we can build communities that are inclusive, resilient, and supportive of aging populations. Through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy, we can pave the way for a future where every senior has access to safe, affordable housing options that enable them to age with dignity and independence. The board of the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc is dedicated to increasing the availability of affordable housing in our local community. If you are interested in learning more about this need or would like to become involved, please consider becoming a member of the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc.

- Randy DeVries, Realtor

# Become a member today!

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters;

With loving residents living together independently, we approach our golden anniversary– this year the Whitinsville Retirement Society celebrated its 49th birthday! We hope and pray the Whitinsville Retirement Home and Elderly Apartments continues to bless those entering their doors as well as their larger nearby 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 seven-member Board of Directors oversees both the Retirement Home and the Elderly Apartments. Typically, 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 (using the form below) 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 Gjeltrema, Wendy Groot, Sandy Hollaway, Tom Kuik, Scott Schneider & Susan 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](http://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 (please check one):**

**Yes** - I am interested in a **Committee** or **Board** (please circle one or both)

**No** - Not at this time

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