MCC Celebrates National Nurses Week

The COVID-19 pandemic has again highlighted the incredible commitment and dedication of healthcare workers and nurses who have been on the frontlines of the pandemic helping to fight and stop the spread of the virus.

In May, for National Nurses Week, we not only recognized the extraordinary nurses at MCC, but our staff also honored those nurses living here. Alyssa Campbell, our Assistant Director of Nursing, launched this project and began to collect information and stories about these remarkable women, their careers and their lives. These former nurses had amazing and rewarding careers. Several went on to obtain their RN or MSN degrees, others served in the Army and the Air Force, and one became a college professor.

Alyssa enlisted the help of her daughter Caeli to create a recognition sign with their name, and graduation year, and they were given a beautiful plant as our way of saying thank you for your service in care of others. Thank you to Alyssa and the rest of the MCC staff members who helped make this day special for these residents!

Please join us in honoring these residents:
Donna Blackburn (Geisinger, 1957)
Nancy Coyne (Western College Reserve University, 1953)
Joan Dillon (SUNY Morrisville, 1975)
Mary Fibiger (Crouse Irving Hospital in Syracuse, NY, 1938)
Elaine Gilbert (Millard-Filmore Hospital, 1949)
Althea Glenister (Keuka College)
Barbara Grimaldi (St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing, 1955)
Audrey Impink (Sisters of Charity, 1955)
Frieda Mazza (Crouse Irving Hospital, 1953)
Liz Noone (Community Medical Center School of Nursing, 1975)
Martha Peterson (St. Elizabeth's School of Practical Nursing, 1962)
Lisa Senteney (New Mexico, 1971)
Ruth Steltzer (Methodist School of Nursing in NYC, 1945)
Alexandra Voelker (St. Joseph's Nursing School, 1953)
Bessie Wadsworth (Albany Training School for Practical Nurses, 1954)

Our resident nurses were very excited to be honored in such a meaningful way, and we look forward to celebrating them again next year.

“To do what nobody else will do, a way that nobody else can do, in spite of all we go through; that is to be a nurse.” — Rawsi Williams
Now Is A Great Time To Give: New Charitable Rules Incentivize Generosity During COVID-19

The Masonic Care Community is facing the most difficult time in our 127-year history. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission to protect the health and wellbeing of more than 500 residents has never been more important. The CARES Act provides opportunities for donors to the MCC to enjoy new tax benefits. Here's how:

Anyone who gives up to $300 can get an easy tax break

Previously, the itemization was required for a tax break associated with charitable donations. Taxpayers can now make a charitable gift up to $300 in 2020 even if they don't itemize on their 2020 tax form.

Corporations can receive a higher tax break for their charitable giving

The CARES Act raises the annual cash gift limit from 10% to 25% of corporate taxable income. In the case of partnerships or corporations, each partner or shareholder must individually elect to receive the benefit of the increased charitable deduction on their taxes. Like with individual giving, the tax benefit does not apply to contributions toward Donor Advised Funds. The goal is to directly deploy donations to nonprofits on the ground who need rapid support.

Donors can give in higher amounts while saving money in the process

Donors should know about this tax code change for 2020: according to Section 2205, there is now no limit to the deductions you can take for charitable contributions if you itemize your contributions. Previously, you could only deduct up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) via charitable contributions. But under the new guidelines, 100% of your donation would now be tax-deductible, meaning if your taxable income is $500,000 in 2020, and you give away $500,000 to qualified organizations in 2020, you won't have to pay taxes on your income.

This change applies only to cash gifts made to charitable organizations qualified by the IRS, such as the Masonic Care Community. This incentive does not apply to contributions to private foundations or donor-advised funds — only individual giving.

For additional information specific to your own charitable giving, donors are encouraged to speak with your tax advisor. Or, if you would like additional information about donating to MCC in 2020, please contact Mara Roberts, the Director of Strategic Marketing and Philanthropy at robertsm@mccny.com. Mara welcomes the opportunity to connect with you directly.

In this historical moment, how will you define your legacy of giving? For MCC, we hope that donors who are in a position to make a charitable gift, make the generous decision to do so. There is a spectrum of philanthropic options so that we can combine resources and combat this pandemic together.
Helping Residents Stay Active and Connected

Since March, our Community Life Team has been tasked with creating new and exciting activities for our residents to safely participate in during COVID-19. Whether it be Zoom calls with family or table bowling on the households, the Community Life team have continued to bring joy and entertainment to our residents during this tough time.

Our intergenerational program is one of the most important resident activity programs we have at MCC. Residents from the Health Pavilion and Wiley Hall get to spend time playing and creating with kids from our Child Care program. For some residents, this is the best part of their day. A lot of residents also have great-grandchildren who participate in the Child Care program, so it’s more time they get to spend with them.

During COVID-19, the Community Life team has been developing new ways to continue our intergenerational programming safely. One of the crowd favorite activities is window tic-tac-toe with the kids. To play, our residents sit on the inside of the building with a marker, while the kids sit on the opposite side of the window. That way, the children and residents can still interact with each other, but keep a safe distance.

Another activity that was recently held was a window art contest. Households competed against one another in four different categories: Most Creative, Most Colorful, Funniest, and Best Overall. There were many different drawings on each household, as well as individual resident rooms. This activity brought a lot of joy to our residents, and gave them the opportunity to use their creativity in a fun and exciting way!

The winners of the contest were: Most Creative- Saratoga, Most Colorful- Adirondack, Funniest-Tarrytown, and Best Overall- Yonkers. Thank you to our Community Life team for keeping our residents happy and active!
In addition to our essential workers, other “Heroes” have rallied for MCC during these challenging days of COVID-19. Heroes like Heather Adam and Gary Forrest, who support our campus bird watching program which brings great joy to our residents, while also supporting their mental health. People have an opportunity to engage in a meditative and therapeutic activity, and research shows that meditation can help slow the decay of the brain’s gray matter which happens naturally as we age.

It is very important we continue our strong focus on resident activities such as these to help people through this continued period of separation from their loved ones. We thank Mr. Forrest for his generous donation which will not only help the program, but also create five new ground habitats so that even more people can enjoy bird watching here on campus.