Working as One for the Good of Many

Each year we gather in March for the annual meeting of our Association of Congregations. It is a time for us to share the good news of our ministry, the stories of those we serve, and give thanks for all who come together in support of this vital work. Our theme this year, “Working as One for the Good of Many”, embraces the shared vision of our affiliates and expresses the principles of service we hold so dear.

The unwavering commitment of God’s people, called to serve others, makes a real and lasting difference—one person and one family at a time. When staff members, volunteers, and community partners join hands, each life we touch in small ways is powerful. A kind smile, a shared laugh or a friend in deed... all can make a significant difference in the health and well being of those to whom we reach out in need.

As we answer the call to service we are thankful you are beside us. We hope you will join us on March 9th as we come together to celebrate the work of our family of ministries.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

-Romans 8:28

Wishing you blessings in the New Year,
Terri Rodriguez,
President and CEO

Thank you all for celebrating The Mission is the Legacy with us! Filling Homes’ founder, Carrie Filling Vajen, would be proud and pleased to see the continued commitment to the mission to support people with developmental disabilities set forth by the Filling family!

It has been interesting and inspiring to dig into the past and share Filling Homes’ blessed and prolific 60 year history over this past year!

The celebration has ended, but the legacy lives on! God willing, and with your support, we will continue this mission, counting our blessings along the way for the next 60 years!
Transportation Checked Off Our Christmas List!

Filling Homes’ mission is to assist people with developmental disabilities in pursuing all of the meaningful opportunities that life has to offer and to achieve inclusion and participation in their communities. Transportation is a critical part of providing that support, and a whole fleet of vehicles is necessary to accomplish it. In 2019, our fleet grew in number thanks to help from our friends! In fact, Filling Homes was fortunate enough to add two new adapted minivans each of which will aid 154 individuals to get to and from work, doctor appointments, church, grocery shopping, social events and many, many other needed personal trips that you and I take in our own daily lives. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to anyone who generously supported our Transportation Fund! The hard work and extreme dedication of the Women’s Guild cannot go unmentioned in this regard. These ladies, who, historically, learn of resident needs and set to work to get them met, have not been daunted by costliness of our need for transportation. This year, the Filling Fall Fling, a Women’s Guild auction fundraiser, collected more than $28,000—every single dollar of which they donated to the transportation fund!

Also this year—quite as a surprise—the UAW Local 211 Women’s Committee sponsored their own Quarter Auction event to raise funds for our Transportation Fund! By the time they were finished, these ladies brought a contribution of more than $5,100!

Festival of Tables Helps Therapy Pool

The fruits of the Women’s Guild’s September Festival of Tables efforts were realized before 2019 came to an end. This event is another fundraiser coordinated by the Guild for Filling Homes. Each year, the Women, with help from staff, determine a worthy program or capital need to put the proceeds of their 22-year-old luncheon tradition toward. This year, a new hydraulic lift for the pool was identified. It was purchased to replace the one original to the building in 2006. After resurfacing the pool, the old lift could not be reinstalled. This lift is essential to making the pool accessible for some residents.

The Festival of Tables is a delightful time that serves a much greater purpose for those who benefit from it.
Spirits Made Bright

There’s No Place Like Filling Homes for Christmas!

Whether benefitting from the kindness of our community or benefitting others by participating in ways to give back to our community, the Reason for the Season was all around Filling Homes as we took many opportunities to celebrate Christmas with each other, with our friends and with our families.

You can tell by the smile on Tina’s face (below) as she made trip after trip around the Therapy Center gym packing boxes as a volunteer for Henry County Christmas Cheer, that just as much pleasure was derived from giving as from receiving this Christmastime. As a way of giving back to the community that does so much for us, Filling Homes has, for the last six years, donated four days use of the gym to the Christmas Cheer group to gather, sort, pack and distribute the donated goods that they collect to help those in need at Christmas.

This has also provided residents and clients with the opportunity to volunteer alongside community members. We are thankful for every opportunity to bring people into the Filling Home—many never knew the Therapy Center was here!

Trinity Place, our Adult Day Service center in Bryan, also got in the spirit of outreach by collecting items and packing shoe boxes to help New Hope Community Church of Bryan, Ohio, with the Operation Christmas Child project. Shoe boxes were filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies and shipped to children outside the US affected by war, extreme poverty disease and natural disasters.

We could use the rest of the page to thank all those who remembered us this season and helped to make our Christmas extra Merry. Napoleon Walmart, Zion Lutheran Church of Defiance and several individuals made donations of gifts and cash to ensure that every resident at our Base Facility had a gift under the tree on Christmas morning! Additionally, several donations were

Tina volunteered to pack boxes for Henry County Christmas Cheer!

Geri participated in the First Wednesday Community Worship activity!

Marissa met Santa at the Christmas Luau!

Napoleon High School Jazz Choir
received to show appreciation for our dedicated staff! Thrivent Action Teams supported our Christmas celebrations that were made especially bright by visits from the Napoleon Community Elf Band and the Napoleon High School Jazz Choir, who played many Christmas favorites that made the atmosphere jolly.

Of course, no Christmas celebration would be complete without a visit from Santa. During our big residential Christmas party held in the gym, where all of Filling Homes’ clients and staff were invited to a Luau for lunch and entertainment, Santa did not disappoint! With live music playing in the background, he breezed throughout the place listening to Christmas wishes and posing for pictures! That same evening, the luau continued when families were invited to a special time of Christmas activities, movies and crafts. Family pictures were taken in front of the Christmas tree and memories to cherish were made.

And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. -John 1:14

Never forgetting the reason that we celebrate Christmas at all, Pastor Denise Brown, Filling Homes Chaplain, provided ample opportunity for us to worship and retell the story of the birth of Jesus. A Christmas program highlighted the weeks leading up to Christmas where everyone got to play a part in the story, whether as Mary or Joseph or an angel or a sheep! Another special Chapel service was dedicated to singing Christmas carols—some of our all-time favorite songs!

Above-Lucas, with Filling Homes staff member, Ed, enjoy worshipping with the community at First Wednesday. Below-The Napoleon Community Elf Band shares Christmas instrumentals.

Cathy played the role of a sheep in the Chapel Christmas program. At Trinity Place, Sheryl helped fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Lauren helped decorate the Christmas tree at Filling Homes Community Center.
In Loving Memory of Albert Hahn
Thelma Hahn, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Barbara Schweinhagen
Paul Schweinhagen, Ridgeville Corners, OH

In Loving Memory of Betsy Mix
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West Bethesda Women’s Association
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Zion Lutheran Church
Waterville, OH
Zions Lutheran Church
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Church of The Master
United Methodist Women
Wauseon, OH
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Napoleon, OH
Emanuel Lutheran Church Women
Napoleon, OH
Grace Lutheran Church Women
Fremont, OH
Hope Lutheran Church
Fostoria, OH
Hope Lutheran Church
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Hope Lutheran WELCA
Hamler, OH
Immanuel Lutheran Church Women
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Lutheran Men In Mission
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St John’s Lutheran Church
Montpelier, OH
St John’s Lutheran Church Women
Montpelier, OH
St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Defiance, OH
St Paul Lutheran Church
Sunbury, OH
St Paul Women Of Life
Napoleon, OH
St Pauls Lutheran Church
McClure, OH
St Peter’s Lutheran Church
Eden, OH
St Peter’s Lutheran Church WELCA
Eden, OH
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Long-time supporters of Filling Homes, Ray and Marie Cox, supplied a $5,000 matching gift to the Giving Tuesday campaign driving contributions.

**Focus on Filling│Winter 2019**

**Long-time supporters of Filling Homes,**

**Ray and Marie Cox,**

supplied a $5,000 matching gift to the Giving Tuesday campaign driving contributions.

**Mildred Sigg**
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**Todd & Deborah Miller**
Lima, OH

**Treva Kigar**
Houston, TX

**Vicki Giesige**
New Bavaria, OH

**William Smith**
Deshler, OH

Women’s Guild of Filling Homes
Napoleon, OH

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**Thrivent Choice Donors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Behrman</td>
<td>Napoleon, OH</td>
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<td>David Crandall</td>
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**In-Kind Donors**

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<td>Heather Vance</td>
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<td>Walmart Supercenter</td>
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<td>Zions Lutheran Church</td>
<td>Defiance, OH</td>
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**Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.**

-William A. Ward

**Thank you!**

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**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

Donations + Matching Gift Pledge = Good News for Adult Day Services Programs

Giving Tuesday took place, as usual, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving—December 2. Filling Homes participated to offer those who were inclined to join the movement and “give back” the opportunity to choose a Filling Homes project. And boy did they give!

This year’s Giving Tuesday donations raised $11,480 thanks to a very generous wish to match contributions up to $5,000 by Ray and Marie Cox, long-time Filling Homes supporters! The Cox’s understand the ability of matching funds to incentivize others to contribute and wanted their contribution, as well as everyone else’s, to have maximum impact. As a result, Filling Homes was able to fulfill the wish lists of all four of our Adult Day Services sites. The donations made possible the purchase of a commercial, deep freezer for the Hab Center kitchen where food service skills are learned, and a sun shade for the Filling Homes Community Center, so participants can spend more time outside enjoying the beautiful patio that was donated to that location two years ago. These are just a few of the program enhancements gained.

The remaining funds from the Giving Tuesday efforts were designated to support the Adult Day Services Activity Fund. This fund was established to make possible the activities and outings that allow clients to explore and have experiences in the community.

Filling Homes Adult Day Services is a very important part of the support that is provided to people who have developmental disabilities living in the community as well as in our care facilities.
Working Together for the Good of Many

March 9, 2020
5:30 pm
at The Pinnacle
1772 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee, OH 43537

Annual Meeting of the Association of Congregations

Please plan to join us...

LMMNWO Walks for the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

The Lutheran Men in Mission of Northwestern Ohio held their annual Fall Retreat at St Paul Lutheran Church in North Robinson, Ohio, on November 16, 2019. As has been the tradition for the last 10 years, the delegation of LMMNWO representatives recognized our combined ministries thanking us for the work we do. At that time, Lutheran Ministries of Mercy President and CEO, Terri Rodriguez, was presented the donations collected by the men for making their annual trip to Mackinaw, Michigan, for the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Their hard work and commitment to supporting the ministries of Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy and Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio, ensures people in need receive programs and services that enrich their lives. We are very grateful!

LMMNWO President, Mike Mock, presents Bridge Walk funds to Terri Rodriguez, President, Lutheran Ministries of Mercy at the recent Fall Assembly.

How does it work?

- Establish and name your Family Fund.
- Make an initial gift or pledge. There are several ways to fund an endowment. We’ll work to do what is best for you and your family.
- Support programs. Once the endowment is successfully funded, it will be invested within our Foundation and annual distributions will be used to fund your favorite programs.
- Create a Fund agreement. It’s a partnership, so a signed document will ensure your family legacy and IRS regulations are met.

Throughout our faith walk, God has placed different desires of love in our hearts. We are also grateful that many of our donors and volunteers first learned about our work from their parents. Today, this tradition continues as we see second and even third generation family members joining us in our work.

It’s been said, “Sharing your tradition of giving is like passing down a favorite family recipe; only in the case of giving, it is about passing down your love of philanthropy and inviting your family to join you.”

To help you pass down “your recipe” we have created a new giving opportunity called a Family Legacy Endowment Fund. This is a creative way for you to name a fund, make contributions and invite your family to join you now and for generations to come.

Please contact our Office of Planned Giving for more details.

Together, and by His Grace, tomorrow will be a better day for those in our care.

Jeanette Hrovatich
Director of Planned Giving
419-972-4373
jhrovatich@luthmin.org
Change of Address

Please clip and return this form, if you or someone you know has changed addresses. Thank You!

Name___________________________________________
Adress___________________________________________________________________
City__________________________________________State_________Zip_________
Phone___________________________________email____________________________

☐ Please make address/name correction
☐ I am receiving two copies
☐ I would like to receive the newsletter via email

Return form and address label from this newsletter to:
Filling Homes
N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH  43545
Email concerns to :
jcohrs@fillinghome.org

Recreation Needs List
- Easy-to-read books
- DVD’s (movies, musicals)
- Crayola markers
- Watercolor paper
- Drawing paper
- Stock paper
- Construction paper
- Tacky glue
- Hot glue sticks (mini)
- Silk flowers
- Paintbrushes
- Acrylic paint
- Wood plaques/crafts
- Clay pots (small/medium)
- Bubbles/bubble toys
- Plastic table cloths (long)
- Potting soil
- Bingo prizes (hairbrushes, ponytail holders, cloth head-bands, bobby pins)
- String, twine, raffia
- Beach balls
- Water/splash balls
- Swimming noodles

These Kids!
To honor their Great Uncle, Bill Thompson, who lived with Filling Homes for many years, these grandchildren of Bill and Mary Jo Moden took the opportunity of Napoleon’s downtown event, Ribfest, to sell lemonade outside of Soaring Arts Studio to donate the proceeds to Filling Homes. This year, the Modens, built a miniature stand so the children can have sales at their “satellite location” in Findlay. They sell cookies, lemonade and sometimes bracelets on Tuesdays throughout the summer donating the proceeds to Filling Homes in memory of Uncle Billy. He would be so proud! Thank you for your caring hearts and wish to help the less fortunate.

Walmart Employees Bring Christmas to Filling
Barabara Resendendez serves Filling Homes as Resident Properties Coordinator. Barbara manages the residents’ belongings and keeps tracks of needs and interests. She provides donors with wishlists. When gifts come in, she inventories them, wraps them and makes sure they get to the intended recipient for Christmas morning!

Napoleon Walmart employees delivered gifts for 15 residents, which were purchased by store employees, who participated in their employee Angel Tree project.
† Filling Memorial Home of Mercy †
N160 State Route 108  419-592-6451
Napoleon, OH  43545  fillinghome.org

Change Service Requested

Purses for a Purpose
Designer Purse Bingo

April 23, 2020

• Doors Open: 4:30
• BINGO Begins: 6:00
• Tickets: $40
• Location:
  *Filling Homes Community Center
  470 Independence Dr, Napoleon

  *Tickets available beginning
  February 1, 2020 at fillinghome.org

  **Sponsorships Now Available**