

President’s Council: Vicki Loucks, VP, COO

It feels like time is now divided into two eras: Now, and “BC.” Despite what we might think, BC may now stand for Before Covid. Life has changed dramatically for us in so many ways. We have made efforts to return to life as it was BC in many ways, but it is challenging as you know. When it is possible, however, we are trying to move in this direction. You may remember that BC, our receptionist hours in Murrysville and North Huntingdon were more limited, because of the lower volume of visitors to those campuses. At the height of Covid, we added evening and weekend reception hours for those campuses, mostly to ensure that those entering the building were following protocols. Now, as we look to returning to life BC, we are going to shift those hours back to what they were before. On the Murrysville and North Huntingdon campus, receptionists will be in place Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. This schedule will be implemented on March 1st. At all other times, visitors will enter through the front doors, and follow the instructions on the signage that is being specifically designed for each campus. It is imperative that all of our visitors continue to screen for wellness upon entering our buildings, since this provides an important layer of protection for our residents. This change will help us to “right-size” our teams on the campuses with lower traffic patterns, and will address the challenges we have faced recently in hiring evening and weekend receptionists. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to your campus director or to me. We look forward to returning to more “BC” ways of life in the future!

COVID Corner

January seemed like a very long month in our efforts to keep Covid out of our Redstone communities. During this month, we saw the highest number of employees testing positive throughout the entire pandemic. We have also seen a few residents test positive as well. Our case numbers are reported regularly on the website, in the Coronavirus Visitor section. Fortunately, because we are a highly vaccinated bubble at Redstone, most cases have been mild and many employees have had no symptoms at all. It is likely that most of the cases we have seen in the past month are of the Omicron variant, which is highly contagious but brings milder symptoms, especially for those who are vaccinated and boosted. The state is increasing its efforts to encourage the booster for those who work in long term care facilities, and Redstone is following these required protocols. It has become clearer; even when vaccinated and boosted, you may get Covid, but the odds of being extremely sick or dying from the virus are greatly reduced. This has become our goal and our focus: protect our Redstone population from severe disease. In order to accomplish this goal we have to continue the following steps: get vaccinated and boosted when eligible, wear your mask when in public spaces, maintain your social distance as much as possible, and keep washing your hands. The good news is that many epidemiologists believe that we are entering a phase where the pandemic will transition to an endemic: like the flu, Covid will always be with us, but it’s grip on our lives will be lessened. Let’s hope this is true!

Fundraising Event: *That’s amore!* January Food Bank Donation Recap



This year’s Redstone donation to the Westmoreland County Food Bank was a success! Items were collected throughout the entire month of January. Although our spotlight items were pasta and sauce, we managed to collect a wide variety of items to be donated. In all, we collected an entire trunk load of boxes, 11 total, filled to the brim with canned goods, boxed meals, pasta, and so many other in-need items. Plus, we raised \$134.00 in addition to the food collected. These past few years have been tough to navigate through, and finding yourself in a food shortage or in the face of food scarcity can only elevate stress. We want to say thank you to everyone who donated or participated in our good will towards others in our area. It was a prosperous food and fundraiser.

Fundraising Event: February Snowball Fight!

Say it ain’t snow! The many days of snow we had call for an exceptionally wintery fundraiser. We will be having a Build a Snowman and Snowball Fight! This event will run from February 18th through February 28th. Snowballs are \$1 per entry and snowmen are \$5 per entry. All will be displayed on the campuses. You choose who you’d like to “hit” with your snowball and/or who you’d like to honor with a snowman and we will display them for you. It’s a great way to show someone you appreciate them or honor someone AND donate to help residents in need. All proceeds go to Benevolent Care. Purchase yours at the front desk in Greensburg or receptionist desk at North Huntingdon and Murrysville. Contact Kim Darragh at ext. 3378 with any questions.



Resident Spotlight: February Sweethearts

It is said that as the years multiply, love grows stronger and gets better with age— like good wine! Redstone is home to some couples that have spent many Valentine’s Days, and their whole lives, together. It is true love that has lasted decades. Meet some couples who have made love so much more than a Valentines Holiday tradition, they made it a forever lifestyle. **Louise & Edward Landini** have been together for 77 years, wow! What’s their secret for staying together so long? Louise says, “We love one another and we like one another.” They first met in Washington, DC back in 1943— the same year Bing Crosby wrote and released his hit ‘White Christmas’. Their first date was walking around the DC Capitol grounds, meeting because Ed’s barracks were right across from Louise’s apartment. Ed’s favorite thing about Louise is that she does everything for him and he does everything for her. Louise’s favorite thing about Ed? “The way he treats me!” she says. Of all the memories the two have shared together for the almost 8 decades of marriage, their wedding day claims to be their most fond. With Ed being an MP in the Army and Louise working for the Public Housing Authority, it was fitting that their wedding was celebrated on Capital Hill.



Donald & Norma Kauffman met in 1950 at Watson’s Gayway in Larimer. Let us paint the picture for you: It was a Saturday night at the barn that held energetic square dances. Donald says he remembers the top floor being a dancehall and the basement served as a refreshment and relaxation area (to cool off from all the boogying). Their first date was most likely on a Saturday night dance at Kennywood, you can tell they really liked to move! After then, they set their wedding date for April 10th, 1954 and have been married for 67 loving years. The secret recipe for a lasting love, according to the Kauffmans, is to split up the house and its responsibilities. The inside was Norma’s to take care of and the upkeep of the property belonged to Donald. That way, they claim, “they didn’t tread upon each other’s toes.” 67 years of marriage— how can you expect them to pick their favorite memory? Well, they have a few. “We liked to take cruises all around the world. We also really enjoyed raising the kids, watching all of their games, and staying together to flourish!”



Employee Spotlight! Cassandra Hardman

It was always a dream of Cassandra’s to care for others in a very compassionate and personal way. From a very young age, Cassandra had a special affinity for geriatric medicine, taking care of her great grandmother and then several other close family friends before starting her career in healthcare. She started at Redstone when she was just 16 years old as a Dining Service Aide. When she moved back from college, Cassandra worked her way through the rings from a Dining Service Aide, to a PCA, to a CNA, and to a now Registered Nurse! Cassandra graduated from WCCC in December of 2021 as a Registered Nurse. Currently, Cassandra is a CNA for Redstone@Home Hospice, visiting mainly in the North Huntingdon campus. “In my new role as a nurse, I am looking forward to the new tasks ahead that I am able to complete to become the best nurse possible for the people I care for,” Cassandra says, “It will be challenging, I know that, but I am up for the challenge to give our residents the best care possible.” Reaching your goals can be discouraging at times, but Cassandra says, “To those who are unsure, not confident enough, or sacred to take the leap of faith into furthering your education, I know the feeling. I was in your shoes at one point, but now that I am on the ‘other side’, I can reassure you that it can be done. It won’t be easy, but God never promises us an ‘easy road’. He does promise to always be there with us.” Cassandra says her huge support network continued to root for her throughout her journey—her family, friends, church family, residents, co-workers, and God—she would like to thank them for lifting her up every single day! After Cassandra gets comfortable and confident in her new role, she would like to peruse her BSN. Outside of work, Cassandra like to flower garden in the summer months, is involved with her church prayer team & youth group, and loves spending time with those who have supported her. Cassandra loves her role at Redstone as she tells us the residents are her reason for being so passionate. “I am thankful I can get up in the morning and have motivation to come to work to better the lives of those who call Redstone home. They touch my heart every day.” Congratulations, Cassandra. We are proud of your achievement!



Volunteer Spotlight! Lenore Potthoff

Not only is Lenore a volunteer at Redstone...she is a current resident as well! In order to get acclimated and adjusted for her move to Redstone a while back, she spent her time volunteering by assisting the manager of the gift shop in North Huntingdon two days a week. Lenore got very familiar with Redstone as her 3 year anniversary for volunteering comes up this month. What Lenore loves most about her volunteer work is getting to set up the seasonal displays and become better acquainted with the residents and employees. “I feel as though I have two families,” Lenore says, “One is my Redstone resident family and the other is when I put on my volunteer badge as part of the employee family.” Lenore states that among many things, volunteering is rewarding, but it is also a privilege and responsibility. When Lenore isn’t volunteering her time at Redstone, she snuggles up with her rescue cat Rudy—he was a great companion during the stresses of COVID. She also enjoys reading copious amounts of comedic mysteries, online puzzles of many sorts, and watching enthusiastic sports games on television. However, Lenore states that spending time with her family is her most cherished activity. Lenore is a retired middle school and high school teacher in the Ligonier Valley School District. Her son and wonderful wife Melissa gifted her 2 extremely amazing grandchildren. Zack, a freshman at Swarthmore University, is a pitcher on the school baseball team. Megan, a sophomore in the Norwin School District, plays volleyball. She really enjoys sharing the moments of academic and athletic achievements with her grandchildren. Please make Lenore feel welcome for her big move in May!



Redstone Goes to Southern Shore | Wednesday, March 23, 2022—Monday, March 28, 2022

Just the idea of this trip is warming us up from Winter! Although this trip is two years later than originally planned, we are more excited than ever for this springtime travel. Because we require full vaccination for our trips, and masking when in any enclosed spaces, we believe that our Redstone Goes trips provide us with the safest possible travel opportunities. Our journey this time will take us to the Southern cities of Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA. We will depart Redstone on Wednesday, March 23, traveling to Columbia, SC for our first night. On Thursday morning we will make our way to Charleston, SC where we will enjoy time in the historic district, a tour of this charming city, and a delicious seafood dinner. On Friday we will make our way to lovely Savannah, Georgia. Our first stop will be right on the water to enjoy lunch at Paula Dean’s Creek House. Since we are staying in the historic district, we will have time to explore on our own. Dinner will be at the famous Lady and Son’s restaurant. On Saturday, a step on guide will meet us at 9 am for a city tour via our bus. The rest of the day is on your own to enjoy, with a group dinner by the river. On Sunday morning we will depart the hotel but will enjoy lunch and a tour at the Charleston Tea Plantation, then we will drive the rest of the way to Mt. Airy, aka Mayberry, the real life home of Andy Griffith. Monday morning we will have some time to visit the Andy Griffith Museum and downtown Mt. Airy before heading for home. Just a few spots remain! For questions or interest, please contact Amber at (724) 832-8402 ext. 3370.



Updated Gift Shop Hours

Our gift shop hours have changed until the end of February. For Murrysville, we will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am-2pm. North Huntingdon will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am-2pm. Greensburg will be open Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm and on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. We will still be carrying all of your favorite one-stop-shop items, that hasn’t changed. Come check out our snacks, eclectic gifts, crafts, and the friendly people who work there!

