

Letters from Home

for the friends of Gianna Homes

FALL/WINTER 2013

Serving our community since 1999



AN AUTUMNAL EVENING IN TUSCANY...

Celebrating the Moments that Touch Our Lives



Guests
enjoy
Gala

What is the Resident Care Fund?

The Resident Care Fund helps
Gianna Homes provide
financial assistance to
residents who are unable to
pay for their care. As part of
our mission, we are committed
to keeping our residents in
their "Home" and with staff
who know and love them.

On Friday, November 8, friends, donors, volunteers, and staff of Gianna Homes gathered for an Italian Feast and evening filled with art and music. This annual fundraising event focused on gratitude for moments in our lives and how Gianna Homes residents retain abilities throughout their journeys with their diagnoses.

Nothing demonstrates the residents' abilities more adequately than the artwork done with the help of Mneme Therapist Suzy Volden. Art with Suzy allows residents to make beautiful paintings with simple back-and-forth brushstrokes. These gentle movements are theorized to help increase brain connectivity as well as create a rewarding experience for the resident. Paintings by the residents were sold at the event's auction and the images were used on note cards and jewelry pieces.

Event guests were invited to reflect on what brought them a sense of gratitude

and to write their thankful thoughts on olive leaves used to form a collage to be displayed at Gianna Homes.

The evening continued with story sharing and lessons learned from Gianna Homes residents: Board Member Skip Orlady shared his wife Liz's journey; Resident Gladys was honored by her grandson Blake DeRosier; Volunteer Francis Tangney spoke of his relationship with Don, a resident who showed him how to appreciate and live in the moment; and staff member Veronica Wanchena talked about humility gained in helping a resident participate in the feast.

Special music by the string trio Bell'Arco Chamber Players and vocalists Nicholas Chalmers and Bergen Baker, accompanied by James Barnett on the piano concluded the event.

The proceeds from this event will be used in the Gianna Homes' Resident Care Fund.



Left to Right: Tamara Christoff,
Lisa & Bob Hanten, Debra Kopp



Vocalists Bergen Baker and Nicholas
Chalmers and pianist James Barnett



Kyle - the proud bidder of his
grandmother Gladys' work of art



Stephen Kane trying his hand
at Mneme painting



*For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord
Luke
2:11*

Gianna Homes' Board of Directors

Officers:

Anne Marie Hansen
Patricia Henjum
Terrence Kopp
David Orlady

Advisory Board Members:

Jayna Locke
Paul R. Mooty

WHAT A YEAR!!!

I officially joined the Board of Directors as Treasurer this past year and what a year it has been for Gianna Homes.

New Kitchen

We started the year with the demands of funding and completing the new kitchen project. The task, difficult under any circumstance, was further exacerbated with interaction from the city and neighborhood. Today all is good with the project; it was completed on budget and relationships are in good standing with the city and neighbors. The new layout allows for a safer and more efficient environment for staff and residents. The effort by many, including staff, was spectacular during this project. Thank you to all for your efforts!

Gladys' Place

The second location for Gianna Homes was added this fall with the generous support of Bob Kauffman and his family. Bob's wife Gladys had been a Gianna resident for several years. During that time Bob and his family exemplified leadership in volunteering time and resources to Gianna. Gladys' Place will allow for sharing of expenses with additional residents and a stronger business model going forward.

Evening In Tuscany

Many of you reading this letter were able to attend the annual gala in support of the Gianna Homes' Resident Care Fund. Over 170 guests attended the event, making it the largest turnout ever. This speaks to the impact Gianna Homes has had on the community-at-large over time. Our goal is to continue to raise funds to allow more individuals to experience this model of care. Thank you to all who supported this effort.

Gianna Homes had a very BIG year. Thank you Anne Marie, staff, volunteers, donors and most of all...residents—you are the glue that brings us all together.

Skip Orlady

Skip Orlady



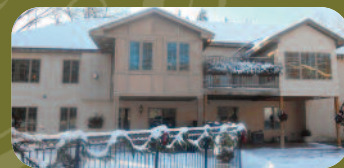
Skip Orlady with his sister, Sue and her husband Kurt Stenson



Looking for a way to help?

Gianna Homes is currently seeking these items or donations toward the following:

- Memberships to the arboretum, the Minnesota Zoo, and the Minnesota History Center
- Old jewelry pieces for resident activities
- Sponsor a dinner for residents and staff from Famous Dave's or Davanni's
- Sponsor an activity (e.g. Mneme therapy, a petting zoo, or a special music guest)
- Sponsor the garden flowers
- Pay for a piano tuning
- Help us shampoo our carpet
- Buy an iTunes gift card to add to our music library



- Fund a spiritual care service
- Instruments for music therapy groups
- Note cards for residents to write their friends and family
- Care products such as shampoo and conditioner
- No skid socks
- New bedsheets and pillows
- Afghans and blankets
- Backup generator system

RESIDENT PROFILE

Elizabeth Orlady Johnson
9-20-1955 / 3-18-2012



LIZZY'S STORY

by Skip Orlady



A family photo of Liz, Grace and Skip at Gianna Homes



Liz snuggles with her daughter Grace



Liz relaxes by Green Lake with her dog Mae. The family would often visit their cabin here on vacation.



Liz and Skip all bundled up on New Years' Eve

Liz was born and raised in Hutchinson, Minnesota. She had a wonderful life growing up in a small town as the youngest of four children. Her love of animals was fostered by her pet lamb, ducks, dogs and her beloved horse Sandy. Summers were spent at the family cabin on Green Lake in Spicer. She developed lifelong friends at "the Lake," where she was a lifeguard and taught swimming to area youth. Because of her love of water and swimming, Liz joined the Hutchinson High School boys swim team and was one of the first females in the state to participate on a boy's team.

Liz attended Gustavus Adolphus College, starting as a nursing student and graduating with a pre-med degree. She completed medical school at the University of Minnesota and went on to do a pediatric residency at the University of Pennsylvania. It was during this time that I met Liz. We had a long-distance relationship until she moved back for her final year of residency and to continue our relationship. We settled in South Minneapolis and had two children, Will and Grace. Life was good with beautiful children, nice careers and a full life ahead to enjoy it all.

Fast forward to May 2005. Liz came home from a day at work and informed me I was to attend a meeting with her and a few of her partners at her clinic. A situation was brought forward about Liz by nurses at a local hospital. This was the start of what led to a diagnosis of young onset Alzheimer's disease.

Over the next six years, Liz lived a very full life in our home. We were blessed with family, friends and financial resources to allow this, despite the disease. Like others caring for someone afflicted by this disease, the sun set on my ability to care for Liz approached. I was in crisis mode working full-time and Liz's care needs went beyond what friends and family could provide.

Liz entered Gianna Homes in April 2011 and was immediately embraced by staff and residents. On that first day, Claire played a Beatles song and a smile came across Liz's face. Not soon after, Liz's mom passed away. Anne Marie felt it was important that Liz attend her mother's funeral. I was not able to take her, but Anne Marie drove her to and from the funeral—150 miles—and sat with Liz. I looked across the church during the service knowing Liz was now in a place that would protect her and allow her to live life to the fullest.

Liz spent her last year of life at Gianna. My many beautiful memories of that time are a result of the model of care at Gianna. The most telling, however, was when Liz faced changes that would have had her removed from most other care facilities in our community. Anne Marie and the staff stuck with us as a family in need, and that is what I will carry with me over time.

THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A GROUP EFFORT: PLANTING FLOWERS

On a rainy June day, a group of volunteers got their hands dirty planting our colorful garden. The crew, with the help of employees from The Garden Gate, put annuals in our front boxes, down the driveway, and around our garden path. The residents enjoyed the volunteers' work throughout the summer as they picnicked and walked outdoors.



The whole gang of Gianna Homes employees, volunteers and residents' family members



*Laine Phillips
plants the
petunias*



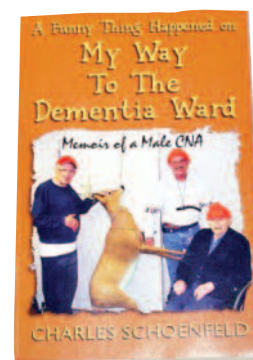
*Judy and Kay
beautify
the fountain*

Stocking
Stuffer
Idea

A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to the Dementia Ward

by Program Director Claire Klein

I recently received *A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to the Dementia Ward* as a gift and would recommend it as a stocking stuffer to any healthcare worker, caregiver, friend or family member who has experienced caring for someone with dementia. Although written pedestrianly, Charles Schoenfeld writes from a place of sincere love for his work. I especially enjoyed his recounting of a "hunting trip" at the nursing home where he worked in Wisconsin. The author gathered together the men on the unit, placed a blaze orange hat on each of their heads, and scoped out a deer decoy on the other end of the sitting room - much to the surprise and pleasure of his residents. Full of personal stories and general facts about Alzheimer's, this charming book offers insight to those first experiencing the disease as well as deep appreciation and humor to veterans in the field. This book could make a wonderful addition to this year's gift list!





HOW WE CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT GIANNA HOMES

Each year, volunteers and staff transform Gianna Homes into a Christmas Wonderland! Here are ways we celebrate the holidays:

1. Minnetonka High School carolers bring sounds of the season.
2. Dale and his family enjoy a Christmas Day dinner.
3. Bob helps his wife Gladys enjoy her Christmas Day dinner with the help of Team Lead Alice.
4. Karen, a resident's daughter, helps trim the tree.
5. Residents bake gingerbread cookies to serve to family guests who visit throughout December.
6. The snow decorates Gianna Homes.
7. Alice helps tie bows and baubles on Christmas gifts.
8. Sylvester helps put the finishing touches on the Christmas village.
9. Sylvester hosts his relatives for a family holiday gathering.

**Can't think of the right gift for someone on your list this holiday season?
Share a gift created by the Gianna Homes residents!**



Note cards
featuring residents' artwork,
Set of 10 - \$20

Necklace sliders
feature residents' artwork - \$10

Contact Gianna Homes
for details
952-988-0953



GIANNA HOMES IS GROWING – OPENING OUR SECOND LOCATION

GLADYS' PLACE: A LEGACY OF LOVE AND GENEROSITY



Bob and Gladys Kauffman's family

Many of you knew the vibrant, loving and generous Gladys, who was wife, mother, sister, neighbor and friend. A few years ago, when her family brought Gladys to live at Gianna Homes, she was fairly advanced on her journey with memory loss. Bob, Tina, Chris and Cheryl—all of whom had been caring for her for many years—shared insights about Gladys' likes and dislikes, and her spunky way of dealing with the world around her. As she adjusted to her new home, she quickly stole our hearts with her beautiful smile and glowing eyes.

In the years that Gladys lived with us, her family befriended residents and their families. Everyone who entered our doors—be it visitor or volunteer—was touched by their generosity of spirit. Bob used to joke that he was one of our staff and often wondered aloud when he would get on the payroll. Seriously though, he always jumped in to help wherever he was needed. The staff truly miss his **daily** presence, much of which was spent coaxing his dear Gladys to eat.

In her final days, a certain luminosity emanated from Gladys' face. A woman quick to meet the needs of others, a mother who raised loving children, and a wife who '*glowed with love*' whenever she heard Bob's voice, shined with pure joy and love as she peacefully and ever so gently passed from this world to the next on November 13, 2013.

One would think that this outpouring of kindness would be legacy enough. But if you know the Kauffman family, they like to exceed expectations. Like Gladys, her family has a passionate commitment to make this world a better place for others, which led them to benevolently assist us in opening a second home for those suffering from memory loss. Gladys' Place, named in her honor, will live on as a testament of what unselfish love and generosity can do for the world around us. It seems to me there are those who come into this world and sprinkle so much angel dust that they leave it a far better place. As Bob said to me after Gladys had passed, "she now has her angel wings," and I couldn't agree more.

Dear Friends,

With *Letters from Home*, we hope to share with you, our friends and family, a little bit of what life is like here at Gianna Homes.

Each stage of life brings its own changes. At Gianna Homes we create a place where our residents can feel at home and where they will find care, companionship, and dignity.

-Anne Marie Hansen, Founder & President

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

Another American develops Alzheimer's disease every 68 seconds. In 2050, an American will develop the disease every 33 seconds.

Our Mission

To provide memory care with a loving kindness that respects the dignity of each resident – nurturing family, fostering friendships, honoring God and preserving life until its natural end.



After

OUR NEW KITCHEN

Thanks to generous donors and with proceeds from our 2012 fundraising event, Gianna Homes completed its kitchen remodel. The new kitchen has commercial-grade cabinetry, flooring and appliances. In addition, several resident rooms and the entryway received new flooring. The renovations also included a commercial ventilation system. The transformation took place during June, July and August. While the demolition and construction team worked upstairs, the residents were able to spend the day in the garden or in the family room downstairs with staff. Thank you to everyone who made this a success. We absolutely love our new space and don't know what we did without it.



Before



During construction

SAVE the DATE

Programming/Family

- **Communion services** are held in the chapel every 1st and 4th Thursday of the month at 10:45am
- **Lutheran communion services** are held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:45am
- **Volunteer piano performers play** every second Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm
- **Volunteers will lead a craft** every third Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm
- **December 14, 2013, 1:00 pm** - Family Christmas Party for residents and their families. Look for invitations with further details.
- **December 25, 2013, 2:00 pm** - Resident gift opening with Christmas cookies and cocoa

- **December 31, 2:00 pm** - New Year's Eve party
- **January 4, 10:30 am** - Jim Shaw will provide piano music for the residents
- **February 14, 2:00 pm** - Residents will make Valentine cards for their family members
- **March 17, 2:00 pm** - St. Patrick's Day party

Volunteers

- **New volunteer orientation** and volunteer specialty infection control trainings offered regularly

Lewy Body Dementia Support Group

- **Second Monday of the month**, noon - 2pm. A light lunch is always served.



*Merry
Christmas*



Dear friends of Gianna-

I love the holidays and the many parties that bring together friends and family during this time of year. Do you notice that the way we often connect about the year is through stories? I remember one such story from the Christmas of 2001. If you have supported anyone with memory loss, I think you would love it as well.

Mabel had lost her dentures again—not just partials—but a full set of pearly whites, uppers and lowers. We had searched everywhere for them. Mabel had a habit of taking her teeth out and hiding them, often never to be found. What to do? This wasn't the first time Mabel's family had to buy her a new set. She seemed to have the uncanny ability to find the best hiding places.

It was Christmas Eve and I was sitting with Mabel on the couch listening to Christmas music and enjoying the lights on the Christmas tree. As we looked at the various ornaments and commented on them, she pointed to one in particular and said with a big smile, "Mine." I looked to where she pointed and there, resting perfectly on one of the branches, were her dentures. I do believe she was very proud of her contribution.

Like Mabel, who contributed what she had to make the tree beautiful, I would like to thank all of you who so generously have contributed to supporting us during the past year, either through volunteering or donations as one of our many 'friends.'

We hope that during this Christmas season you will have many moments of joy as you celebrate with family and friends. From the Gianna Family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anne Marie and all the staff at Gianna Homes