



# VOLUNTEER VIEWS THANKGIVING EDITION 2011



Giving thanks and volunteering...they go hand in hand. Thanksgiving is a holiday based on gratitude and giving from the heart. These qualities clearly abound at Glacier Hills, as we watch volunteers (over 150 individuals and groups) come to us with love, creativity and a desire to make meaningful connections. In addition, GH residents are found visiting in the Care Center, and reaching out into the greater community. Truly a cornucopia of good works!

## BOUQUETS OF FUN.....SUMMER AND BEYOND

What a wonderful summer we had at Glacier Hills! While we are *now* putting The Wellness Garden “to bed”, our horticulture therapy volunteer, Magali Velez-Nelson, has been busy as a bee creating dozens of amazing experiences for our residents both in and out of the garden. During the summer, the Wellness Garden never looked so vibrant, and was so enjoyed by all of us on campus. Magali has helped residents relish the garden using *all* their senses; the colors of flowers and birds, the smells of herbs, and the taste of vegetables. Currently, she helps residents on every unit enjoy fall pickings, and horticulture related crafts.

*“This internship at Glacier Hills has given me a deeper understanding of how Horticulture Therapy is similar to some therapy disciplines and in other ways, how it is unique. Serving the senior population is amazingly enlightening and a true joy!”* says Magali.



*Magali and CRC residents enjoying garden-centered crafts.*



After working for several years in nursing, Magali went through a difficult health situation in her life. She found great comfort in gardening, and truly came to feel the therapeutic benefits of horticulture therapy. She is now fulfilling requirements to become registered through the American Horticultural Therapy Association and has seen her internship here at Glacier Hills as a great blessing. We, indeed are the ones who are blessed! Thank you Magali!

*One of the many gorgeous beds put together by Magali in the Wellness Garden*



## VOLUNTEERING IN VOLUMES

Marilyn McLaughlin is a librarian who wanted to share her love of books with our residents. Every month, she hosts a “book club” for residents on the Assisted Living floor. What a great gift to read to residents to spur conversation and reminiscing! Thanks for joining our A.L. family Marilyn!



## FRIENDS SAY GOODBYE

Bill:

Our Saturday nights in the Manor will never be the same. Bill Helfer, long time friend and volunteer at Glacier Hills retired formally from showing movies on Saturday nights. Bill's interest in film made him much more than just a "button pusher" to begin the show. His knowledge and enthusiasm about film made this a real educational and fun

event! We'll miss you Bill!



Louise:

Louise Babcock, of Community Support Treatment Services, is retiring from her organization. She has overseen a group of adults with special needs here on campus for over 9 years. They come 4 days a week, delivering papers, mail, distributing calendars and have an extra volunteer activity of sorting cards for troops. While her wonderful group of loving, and often humorous clients will still be here, Louise's absence will leave a hole. Thank you for such faithful and passionate service Louise!

## WOOF WOOF!

Volunteer dogs are abundant on campus and boy are they a cute bunch! Dogs and their owners from organizations Pet-a-pet, Therapy Dogs International and Therapaws of Michigan Inc. all grace our halls with cheer and confirmation that pet therapy does wonders for the spirit! Jerry Norblom, member of Therapaws, has been bringing his dog, Corey for over five years. "The coolest thing about Glacier Hills is that you get to make long term friends, not just with the residents, but the staff as well." Some owners bring dogs to the Manor, some love to wander campus – wide. Wherever they are, they are making a difference!



## ROSS MOMS & KIDS MAKE AN IMPACT

Spouses and children of the Ross Business School (University of Michigan) made a visit to our Care Center recently. Music Therapist, Deb, had a great time leading an intergenerational session with some children's songs, rattle instruments and "Ring Around a Rosie". You can only imagine the smiles and laughter from the residents and staff looking on as they watched the children play! We are planning these wonderful volunteers to be regular visitors. Thanks!

*A young child from the "Ross moms" group lights up the room!*



*Deb Ansari, Music Therapist helps toddlers & residents tap their toes and play "ring around a rosie"*

