



Heartstrings

The Official Newsletter of Heart Havens

Fall 2020

Puzzle Time



This 1,000 piece puzzle adventure began in early July. Keith at the Heart Havens Elmwood home in Chester put the final piece into place at the end of August. His goal was to finish by September 1st and he beat his goal by several days. Keith loves working on challenging puzzles. Below is a picture of him with a finished National Parks of America picture from earlier this summer. What have you challenged yourself to lately?





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Administration

Jennifer Boyden, MA, QDDP
Chief Executive Officer
Jennifer.Boyden@hearhavens.org

Rebecca Huff, MSW, QDDP
Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca.Huff@hearhavens.org

Sara Becker
Development & Maintenance Coordinator
Sara.Becker@hearhavens.org

Elizabeth Brady, PHR
Human Resources Director
Elizabeth.Brady@hearhavens.org

Amie Brittain, QDDP
Quality Improvement & Program
Development Specialist
Amie.Brittain@hearhavens.org

Jill Gayle
Controller
Jill.Gayle@hearhavens.org

Mary Harvey, QDDP
Senior Residential Program Director
Mary.Harvey@hearhavens.org

JaLise Salvatto
Assistant Program Director
JaLise.Salvatto@hearhavens.org

From our CEO:

Dear Friends,

As you are reading this newsletter, I hope that you are well. This year has been one that has challenged us all in different ways. The best laid plans sometimes go awry, discarded in the moment in order to react to a situation. Heart Havens had to place expansion efforts on hold and focus our efforts on our response to changes in circumstances.

Many relationships have grown stronger and deeper during this time. Our theme for the Annual Report is "Better Together" and this has never been truer. The shout out goes to our supporters, volunteers, family members, Board of Directors, and staff. As a team, we pulled together and met the challenges of 2020 head on and are becoming an even stronger organization through these trials. We had families and volunteers jump in and bring much needed safety provisions when the supply chain was disrupted. Staff pivoted their roles, changed their work hours and settings, and created new and more frequent ways to communicate. The Board of Directors stood at the ready to support and offered words of encouragement. Donors provided gifts that enabled us to bonus direct care employees and purchase PPE items. And, our Direct Support Professionals were called to action in an elevated capacity- they became the staff that supported virtual experience exploration, facilitated new ways for our residents to communicate with their family members and friends, they became experts on sanitization of the home setting, and they were innovative with ways to engage people who are staying home to be safer.

We are still in this global pandemic and have started thinking about what's coming up. We feel whole and healthy as we embrace the changes that are occurring within our state and nation's service system. We are exploring how to meet our needs today while investigating what new opportunities might be presenting. New experiences are being offered to our residents in a virtual setting, such as virtual painting lessons. We are excited about the future!

We are better together! Thank you for being a part of our Heart Havens' family. Take care of yourself and others.



Jennifer with Heart Havens residents Jasmine and Lilli. (photo taken before COVID-19)

Warm regards,

Jennifer Boyden

Jennifer Boyden, MA, QDDP
Chief Executive Officer

Going Virtual

Even if our residents are not in the community like they once were, that does not mean that they cannot connect with the community. The Mary Beth Graff Heart Havens home held a virtual paint night with volunteer Derek Smith of Genworth. The first night, they painted a tree. It went so well that they scheduled another paint night soon after to paint a pineapple and are planning more painting in the future. The limitations of COVID-19 are opening up opportunities for our residents to learn new things in different ways.



Volunteers make a difference



We are so thankful to the many volunteers who help keep Heart Havens running. Chester United Methodist Men has adopted the Elmwood home and faithfully helped with yard maintenance. In September, volunteers from Chester United Methodist Men laid down weed barrier and mulch along the sidewalk and carport. Elmwood House Manager Renarta stated, "(They) did a wonderful job. It brings a whole new look to the house." Contact us at jennifer.boyd@hearthavens.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Meet Colin

We are so excited to welcome our newest resident, Collin, to the Ashland-Tate home! Collin was connected to Heart Havens through a glowing family referral of a long-time resident we serve. Collin is a young man who is finishing out his last year of high school in Goochland. Collin likes the Disney Channel and comedy movies. He enjoys swimming, taking walks, and being around animals. We are looking forward to getting to know him better and seeing him form friendships with the residents and staff at the Tate house!



Heart Havens supports people with the Community Living DD Waiver in four bed group homes. We currently have openings. Please direct referrals to Rebeca Huff at 804-463-1584.

Stay connected with us!

Stay connected with us on social media to see pictures, videos and lots of updates.



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7501 Boulders View Dr, Suite 205
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Holidays at Heart Havens

Christmas is coming soon! Heart Havens takes pride in providing a joyful holiday for all our residents. There are people in our homes who would not otherwise receive gifts. Would you or your church or community group help us by sponsoring a Heart Havens home for Christmas? To learn more, contact us at jennifer.boyden@hearthavens.org.



Giving Heart

Become a Giving Heart with a recurring gift. Visit the donate page of our website to learn how you can support Heart Havens year round.

Save the Date

