WESBURY WINDOW

Winter 2022
Volume 27 · Issue 1

Celebrating Our Staff for Their Commitment to Seniors

The month of October is always a special time as we celebrate the anniversary of Wesbury's founding in 1918 with our Annual Senior Tribute Banquet and Fundraising Event. Each year, we come together at this event to honor and celebrate the extraordinary endeavors of our friends and neighbors who do great things for seniors in our communities. Although we could not gather together due to the pandemic, we still chose to honor some extraordinary people who more than deserve recognition for their commitment to serving seniors. For 2021, we decided there was no group more worthy of receiving this tribute than the entire Wesbury staff!

This year, instead of holding a Senior Tribute Banquet, we celebrated "Tribute Week" from October 10th through October 16th to pay tribute to the staff for their commitment to the seniors living on our campus and around the region. To help in expressing our gratitude, we reached out to Wesbury residents to share with us how they feel about the staff who serve them in so many capacities.

Their wonderful remarks ranged from "You reach out to lift others who are struggling" and "We are grateful for your warm compassion and cool competence" to "selfless," "caring," "conscientious," and "kind." Most importantly, they recognized Wesbury staff for staying on their jobs when no one wanted to work, and for facing the fears and challenges of working in healthcare during a pandemic.

We honored the administration and their support staff for their vision and direction; our nursing staff for their physical care and wellness support; dietary staff for providing great nourishment and yummy treats; life enrichment coordinators for adding their sense of fun, creativity, and adventure; pastoral care for worship, prayer, and comfort; maintenance and grounds for providing a maintenance-free lifestyle; IT support for keeping the WiFi running and the network safe; and the beauty shop for pampering the residents! We also honored transportation for driving residents where they needed to go; laundry and environmental staff for keeping everything clean and disinfected; Wesbury at

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Wesbury residents showing their appreciation for Wesbury employees in their own words.

Celebrating *continued from page 1*

Home care workers who provide quality care to our off-campus clients; Wesbury Foundation staff who raise funds to support residents who have diminished financial resources, and our Security department who allow for safe sleeping at night…we honor all of your dedication and service to the Wesbury community.

Thank you to all our 2021 Wesbury Tribute Week sponsors: The Johnson Trust, First National Bank, Northwest, UPMC Health Plan, Building Systems Incorporated, PNC, RE Johnson Electric, and Sodexo.

Employee Appreciation and Recognition
In addition to Senior Tribute week, Wesbury staff was celebrated during Appreciation Week and Employee Recognition in the month of October.

For Appreciation Week, each Wesbury staff member was given a $26 voucher to select a Wesbury apparel item from local vendor, Iron Empire Clothing Co. of Erie, PA. They created a custom website where employees could shop online and choose from a variety of t-shirts and sweatshirts with the Wesbury logo. While on the site, they could also purchase additional items for family or friends.

For Employee Recognition, we celebrated staff members for their one year or increment of five years of service to the Wesbury community and thanked them for being a part of our team that helps to support so many residents and their families. Those being recognized had the opportunity to win raffle prizes and enjoy some cake with their co-workers.

Fall Fun at Wesbury
Every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday were considered Fall Fun Days. Sunday was "Game Day," when employees could wear a shirt or jersey that represented their favorite sports teams. Wednesday's themes included the holidays. For Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, staff showed off their black and orange spooky prints, their orange and brown turkey prints, and their red and green Santa clothes. On Fridays, we celebrated "Friday Night Lights" to represent any of the area schools (college, high school, even pre-school) that staff support. We also celebrated a variety of special days like National Cappuccino Day, where staff were greeted with free cappuccinos when they came in for their shifts and a "Count Your Buttons" contest on National Button Day where two lucky winners guessed closest to the number of buttons in a jar and each won a $25.00 gift certificate to Manino's Restaurant in Meadville.

left to right: Sharon Marburger (40 years), Tammy Jacobs (40 years), Ella Mattocks (40 years), and Vicki Bradshaw (25 years)

Wesbury employee enjoying "Cappuccino Day"

Thoburn Villa Chosen as Garden of the Month

Congratulations to Thoburn Village residents Ron and Elaine Reyer! The Meadville Garden Club selected their fall decorations as the September 2021 "Garden of the Month." The Meadville Garden Club was founded December 1, 1924 with the purpose to study gardening and allied subjects and to stimulate in the community an interest in better gardening and city improvement. The Reyer's combined mums and marigolds with a variety of fall gourds and pumpkins in their display. This marks the first time a villa in Thoburn Village has been selected as a "Garden of the Month."

Have You Considered Volunteering at Wesbury?

It can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering not only offers vital help to residents in need, worthwhile causes, and the Wesbury community, but also benefits you, the volunteer. The right match can help you find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving even in simple ways can help those in need and improve your health and happiness.

Benefits of volunteering:

- Volunteering connects you to others.
- Volunteering is good for your mind and body.
- Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life.

"Volunteers add so much to the lives of our residents. They have the opportunity to connect and build relationships that regular staff cannot. It enriches the lives of both our resident and the volunteer. They come in looking to bless and leave blessed themselves." Says Jamie Draa, Director of Life Enrichment and Memory Support Services.

If you would like to volunteer but don't know how to get started, Stacey Hoey, Wesbury's Volunteer Services Coordinator, would love to meet with you and discuss how you can share your time and talents with the Wesbury community. Stacey can be reached by phone 814-332-9280 or by email at shoey@wesbury.com.

Meet Stacey

Stacey Hoey was recently named Wesbury's Volunteer Services Coordinator. Stacey has been part of the Wesbury team for 11 years working in the Cribbs Life Enrichment Department. She will continue to be director of Cribbs Life Enrichment but have a strong focus on the Volunteer Program to assist with Cribbs Life Enrichment activities.

Stacey is from Cochranton where she lives with her husband Cliff whom she met while they both served in the Air Force. They have two grown sons and three grandchildren. According to Stacey, "At the end of our lives, we rarely say, 'I wish I wouldn't have done that.' It is much more common for us to say, 'I WISH I WOULD HAVE,' with that being said, I know you will never say, 'I wish I wouldn't have helped someone.' After you volunteer and help the residents, I guarantee you will leave feeling quite fulfilled."

Be a Difference Maker - Join the Wesbury Team

It's no secret there is a worker shortage. Drive through the business district of practically any town and you see many "Now Hiring" signs. At Wesbury, we are affected by this just like everyone else. We are currently maintaining a lower census to ensure the care quality we are known for while we are experiencing staffing challenges, and we are looking for more creative ways to ensure quality of care under these circumstances.

For over 100 years, our success has been directly related to the quality and dedication of people who chose to join our team. We have one simple goal. We want to provide the best we can to those who turn to us. And to be the best, we need to hire the best. We're looking for difference makers and purpose-driven people. Passion and trust are at the heart of everything we do and that's what we look for when hiring.

We treat our staff with the same respect and consideration that is given to the residents who call Wesbury their home. The work at Wesbury is meaningful and there are opportunities to grow. Imagine what it's like to make true connections. Think of the gratification that comes from being relied upon by your peers. Consider that feeling when you hear someone say you've made things better. Our team experience these moments each and every day.

Maybe you are a recent empty nester or retiree looking for just a few hours of work. Maybe you just want a career change. Whatever the reason may be, we are eager to meet with you. We feel a work-life balance is important. So is flexibility. This is why we offer positions that have creative scheduling to meet any availability. We also offer a competitive benefits package that includes medical coverage, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, mental health coverage, vacation, holiday and sick pay, tuitition assistance, 403(b) and more.

Do you want to put your creativity to work doing fun activities and going on outings with residents? We have openings in our Life Enrichment team. Do you like to cook and being in the kitchen? We have a variety of dietary positions available. Do you like to work outside or keep areas clean and tidy? We have openings in our Grounds and Environmental Services departments. Do you want to help people meet their daily needs and healing goals? We offer training that can open the door to a career as a direct healthcare provider.

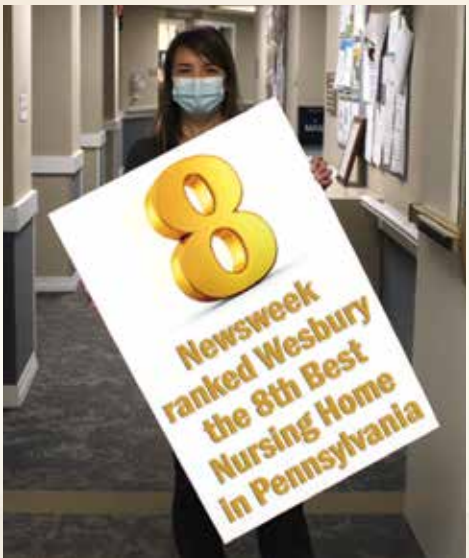
Check out what positions are available and apply online today by visiting *www.wesbury.com* and clicking "Careers." If you do not have direct online access or don't consider yourself to be computer "savy," you can always walk in and apply in person. We will be glad to provide assistance in getting your new career started!

Despite Challenging Times, We Continue to Receive Accolades

In 2021, Wesbury continued to be recognized and awarded by outside entities for our care and reputation. The honor of being voted 2021's Best Home Health Care and Best Nursing/Personal Care Home by The Meadville Tribune's Reader's Choice, maintaining a 5-star rating with Centers for Medicare/Medicaid, and being ranked 8th best nursing home in Pennsylvania for 2022 by Newsweek Magazine during the COVID-19 pandemic are just a few of the markers that show you how we are doing.

For Newsweek's Best Nursing Home list for 2022, they partnered with respected global data research firm Statista to create their annual ranking. The ranking identifies the nation's top nursing homes based on three critical criteria: overall performance data, peer recommendations, and each facility's handling of COVID-19, relative to our in-state competitors. We are humbled for being considered a Top 10 facility for Pennsylvania.

Dedication, especially amid challenges, is the greatest gift we can give the seniors that we serve. Residents, clients, and their families choose Wesbury for comfort, care, and security as well as the sense of family and a safe place to call home.



We cannot recall a time when we have weathered as many unexpected life events for such a prolonged period. As things got stressful and emotional, with so much stacked against us, our staff stared down each situation and pushed forward together. Amazing things have been accomplished during these unprecedented times. There were challenging moments and dark days, but we don't quit, and that is what makes us Wesbury.

Be assured that in our 103 years, we have proven we can weather the storms, and we do this because of the strength of the people who work for Wesbury. Change is difficult but it also makes us stronger. At a time when workforce challenges are impacting all organizations, we could not be more grateful to those who have chosen to face these times with us.

What we do matters, and it is important because people rely on us. We are grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support during this pandemic from families and the greater community. Your trust in us coupled with our outstanding team keeps us moving forward and able to provide the service that makes us worthy of these recognitions we receive.

A Look Back at Some of the Fun Times We Had This Summer!

Coming Soon: Wesbury Chicken BBQ and Sunset Auxiliary Days

After becoming a drive-thru event in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wesbury's Chicken BBQ came back as an in-person gathering in 2021. This summer tradition began in 1989 as a traditional resident/family picnic and for 2021 we decided to return to this tradition and host the BBQ exclusively for Wesbury residents and their families.

Over the years, the barbecue had grown to a public event with a car show, kids zone and craft fair. It would bring in about 3,000 people and had become an annual summer event that people looked forward to throughout the area; however it became overwhelming for many of the residents' enjoyment. In 2021, we were thrilled to host just the residents and families and allow them an opportunity to celebrate coming back together again.

On the menu was the barbecue's signature chicken dinner. There were also various musical groups performing during the picnic. For some residents, it had been more than a year since their extended family members were able to get together to see each other. Some residents had as many as eleven guests come to the BBQ. Seeing so many kids and grandkids coming together to visit and play was a delight for many of the residents. During the event, many attendees commented to staff how very grateful they were that Wesbury did the event in this way.

At this time, we cannot say if or when we will return to offering the Chicken BBQ and Craft Fair as a public event. For 2022 we are planning to stick with the original tradition of having a resident/family Chicken BBQ picnic. It will take place on Sunday, July 17th. More details will come as we get closer to the warmer weather.

As we move forward, Wesbury's Sunset Auxiliary, which raises money to purchase items for Wesbury residents and staff, wishes to continue to offer some of the fundraising components of the BBQ and suggested the idea of having Sunset Auxiliary Days. This event will be a fundraiser with its rummage sale, book sale, and bake sale that was originally started shortly after the BBQ was established. Look for dates and times coming soon on Wesbury's Facebook page, Instagram, or at *www.wesbury.com*.

Travel for Adventure…Travel for a Cause…

Over the past decade, Wesbury has become known for its fundraising travel adventures. What started with a small group of Wesbury residents has grown to a large following of people from our greater community who travel with us via bus, train, plane, and ship to exciting destinations in the U.S. and abroad. Travelers do not need to be affiliated with Wesbury, and all age groups are welcome.

COVID-19 definitely altered our travel plans, but we're thrilled to be back on the road again. In March of 2022, we are taking a group of sixty-five eager travelers on a Mississippi River cruise, all of whom booked the trip within a few short weeks of its announcement!

As we steam ahead, planning our itineraries for future trips, we invite you to join us. And here are a few reasons why that's such a great idea…

Advantages of traveling with Wesbury

- Competitive Pricing - By acting as the tour operator, Wesbury offers great group rates to our travelers, while receiving commission for booking the trip, allowing Wesbury to raise much-needed funds at no cost to our tour participants.
- Convenience - We make all the arrangements and plan a hassle free itinerary so you don't have to worry about anything. We pick you up at a Wesbury-owned location and invite you to leave your car there, in a safe, convenient place, free of charge, for the duration of the trip.
- Inclusive Travel - Our bus trips include most meals and admission fees to attractions, while our longer trips include airport transportation, air travel, and often complementary excursions. Plus, we help to arrange optional add-ons.
- Experienced Wesbury Hosts - Our hosts are experienced travelers who have hosted tours for over 10 years around the Eastern United States, Alaska, and Europe. They will be there to help you navigate your adventure and assist you should any challenges arise.

Trips we are considering for the future

- Scenic rail trip through the mountains of West Virginia. Experience breathtaking views and travel back in time on this nostalgic bus/rail trip in fall 2022.
- Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC and Pigeon Forge, TN. Kick off the Christmas season in style with this bus trip in late November 2022.
- Columbia and Snake River cruise. Retrace the steps of Louis and Clark as we take in majestic sights from Portland to Spokane in 2023.

It's all about the cause

While it is sometimes assumed that the Wesbury Community is only for people of wealth, the truth is that Wesbury is a nonprofit organization that serves persons of all economic levels and needs. Although Wesbury's care environments are priced within dollars of other area facilities, the cost of care can quickly deplete a person's resources. Simply put, after financially

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Are You Ready to Really Enjoy Your Retirement? Start Planning in 2022.

After working in Senior Living Sales and Marketing for over 17 years, "I should have moved here sooner" is a phrase Melissa Porter has been told time and time again by many residents. "It's not because they have waited so long to come that they are not well enough to enjoy it", notes Melissa, "It's because they realize how much more freedom they have and wish they had made the move at a younger age to maximize their retirement". Often, we are so accustomed to our daily tasks that it's hard to recognize they are consuming our free time and energy. So when is soon enough? Some say as soon as they retire as they would rather golf, fish, travel and enjoy the grandkids than maintain a home. Others say when the house and property start to feel more like a burden than a joy or hobby. It isn't until we no longer have these responsibilities that we realize how much time and energy they took away from doing things we truly love. If it has crossed your mind that you'd rather be enjoying the day than taking care of your home, it's time to explore what's out there.

Due to the large "boomer population", there are more "senior living" options popping up around the country than ever before. Options include condos, apartment rental properties and continuing care retirement communities. Be careful when looking, and really weigh the choices. Some places are not well established and change hands frequently or lack management. It's important to choose a community that fits your goals for a secure future and your budget. Simply downsizing to a smaller one level home or condo doesn't really check all of the boxes. With these options, you are still responsible for some or all maintenance, paying taxes and insurance, and selling the unit when it no longer meets your needs and that could be at a very challenging time if your health has declined. Wesbury's Vernon Square Apartments and Thoburn Village retirement community offer the maintenance free lifestyle you are seeking with added security that Wesbury has a continuum of care that can provide solutions as your needs change. You will not be responsible for maintenance and you won't have the burden of a home to sell at a later time in life.

Vernon Square Apartments is a Wesbury owned maintenance free rental property in Vernon Township for ages 55 plus. It is currently being constructed in phases. Phase one is complete and includes a pool, fitness center, dog park and 15, one and two bedroom apartments. Future phases will include additional apartments and common space. Phase one is full and we encourage interested parties to waitlist. For more information call 814-332-9009 or visit the website at *www.vernonsquareapartments.com*.

Thoburn Village is a maintenance free independent living community located on Wesbury's main campus for ages 62 and over. The community consists of 64 villas and 16 apartments, a dog park, wood shop and clubhouse with a full calendar of activities. This active community also offers priority to Wesbury's full continuum of care and financial security. While there

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Start Planning in 2022 *continued from page 9*

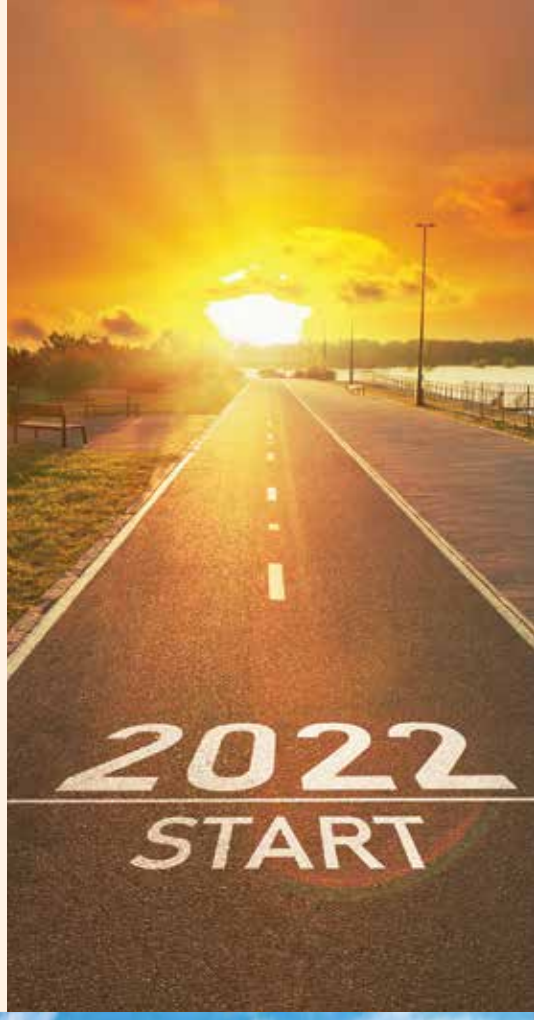
is a waitlist for most unit types, currently there is a two bedroom apartment available! For more information call 814-332-9009 or visit the website at *www.wesbury.com*.

The best way to learn about area options is to visit websites, call and ask questions, and then schedule a tour. Learn what is offered and weigh the pros and cons! It's important to ask:

- How will this option meet my goal of reducing home maintenance?
- How can this choice help me enjoy my retirement and live independent longer?
- Is this affordable for me?
- What happens if I age and need more services?
- What happens if I outlive my resources?

It's a New Year, take a step and join our waitlist in 2022. While options currently have a waitlist, one never knows when an opportunity might occur and sometimes it's the newest member of the waitlist that's ready when we call, so if you are ready this year, don't be deterred! If you are just starting to plan for the future, that's ok too. Get on the waitlist now so you are more likely to have an opportunity when the time is right!

Don't be another resident that says "I wish I had done this sooner". Start exploring your options; we look forward to hearing from you!



Travel for Adventure…*continued from page 8*

qualifying, if a resident runs out of resources, Wesbury pays for the uncovered care through our Benevolent Care Fund. We depend on philanthropic support and funds raised through our trips and events to supplement other resources, such as Medicaid. Our continual fundraising efforts help us to keep our commitment to our residents, including our personal care, long-term care, and memory support community members: They will always have a home at Wesbury.

How to learn more about future trips and supporting Wesbury residents.

Our trips are typically announced via mail to individuals who have joined our "travelers list". If you have not traveled with us in the past and would like to be added to this list, please call Stacey Teuta in the Wesbury Foundation Office at 814-332-9712 or email her at steuta@wesbury.com. She'll need your name, phone number, and mailing address.

If you would like to make a donation to support our residents please send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Yes, I'd like to learn more about Wesbury.

Please send me information about:

- ❑ Independent Living
- ❑ Enhanced Living & Personal Care
- ❑ Skilled Nursing
- ❑ Short-term Rehabilitation
- ❑ Vernon Square Apartments
- ❑ Wesbury at Home
- ❑ Care Cottages
- ❑ The Wesbury Foundation/Making a Donation
- ❑ Other Areas of Interest

_____

❑ Send information via ❑ e-mail ❑ mail

❑ Contact me to schedule an appointment

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2022 WW

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Please clip out and mail this completed form to:
Wesbury - 31 N. Park Ave., Meadville, PA 16335 - Attn: Marketing Dept.

A Time of Reflection

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect early fall evening. Yes, the days were growing shorter, but the chill in the air was not yet making its presence known. As the day ending light show turned the western sky into orange and yellow hues a group gathered between Grace Rehabilitation and Health Center and Cribbs Residential Center.

It was October 19. One year to the date of Wesbury's first positive COVID-19 exposure.

The impetus for this memorial service came out of a series of meetings we were having for our annual Employee Recognition event. It was brought to attention because in addition to the residents we had lost to COVID-19, we had also lost a fellow staff member. It became clear that through this pandemic, we all kept moving because we had to, but we also needed to pause and recognize the difficult events that occurred over the past year.

After remarks from Wesbury President and CEO, Brian Nageotte and devotional words from Wesbury Chaplain, Rev. Sam Marchetta, the sound of twelve chimes cracked the sky as a reminder of each month

this virus has affected the heart of the Wesbury community. After the moment of silence, the healthcare heroes of Wesbury's COVID unit released balloons that hung like silhouettes in the day's twilight.

"As someone once said, we are only as emotionally healthy as we are honest. We felt like as a campus we needed a moment to be honest about how we were impacted by loss while also recognizing God's grace that was ever present to all of us" said Rev. Sam Marchetta. "Many of the residents in attendance who had battled COVID stated it was a time of closure and was part of their healing process."

Wesbury United Methodist Community
31 N. Park Ave. · Meadville, PA 16335
814-332-9000 Toll Free 1-877-937-2879
www.wesbury.com

Thank you Wesbury supporters!

Thank you Crawford Heritage Community Foundation and its great philanthropists! Together, you helped Wesbury raise over $22,000 in donations during 2021 Crawford Gives Days. We are beyond proud and grateful to be part of such a giving, caring community.

We Are Grateful for Your Holiday Gifts

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Christmas tradition by making a gift to Wesbury in honor or memory of somebody dear to you. The 2021 luminary posters were displayed in Grace Rehabilitation and Health Center and Cribbs Residential Center, and were also broadcast on Wesbury's Channel 900 during the holiday season. During this time, the entire Wesbury community is touched by the messages that honor and remember people who are or who have been part of our lives.

Your continued donations to The Wesbury Foundation support many areas of need for Wesbury residents, but most importantly, it supports our Benevolent Care Fund. This fund supports our mission of Christian care by assuring that all residents will continue to be cared

for even if they no longer have the financial ability. In over 100 years, we have never asked a resident to leave due to a lack of financial resources because of your charitable donations to our Benevolent Care Fund.

You can make a gift to The Wesbury Foundation by mailing your contribution to 31 N. Park Ave, Meadville, PA 16335; visiting our website at *www.wesbury.com* and clicking "Donate," or by calling 814-332-9264.

Wesbury provides individualized proactive health care and life enrichment services to assist mature adults in maintaining their independence, dignity and spiritual wholeness in a secure, Christian environment.
- Mission Statement -