

# 2023 COMMUNITY REPORT

# YOUR IMPACT MATTERS





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**ON THE COVER**

MCC Community Life staff member Michelle Hill takes a ride on the pontoon boat with MCC residents at Round Lake.

# DEAR MCC SUPPORTERS,

Our annual Community Impact report has been created for you, our MCC donors and supporters. Within these pages, we can only capture a small part of what your gift makes possible for the people who live here. Yet you are responsible for so much more. From the joy of special holidays and events to the happiness of weekly Bingo games, outdoor boat trips on Round Lake in the Adirondacks, and beautiful paintings that are created in our Therapy in Arts program, your philanthropy changes lives every day. It makes it possible for MCC to offer and support our wide variety of resident activities, and it also makes it possible for us to have the best Community Life team of any senior care community led by the most incredible Community Life Director, Jay Snow.

The Masonic Care Community is special, but we would never be what we are without the financial support of you -- our donors. The past few years have been extremely difficult for senior care communities like ours, and they have also been extremely difficult for nonprofits. We are continuing to face challenges that we have never experienced before. But we must also celebrate our successes. The Masonic Care Community celebrated its 130th anniversary. We received Best of the Best awards yet again for Best Nursing Home and Best Adult Living Facility. We created a beautiful new Veterans Memorial Garden that not only honors those who served, it also recognizes and provides a special space on campus for the more than 50 veterans who live and receive care here. This is the power of your donations at work at the Masonic Care Community.

On behalf of our residents, thank you to our returning donors as you provide ongoing and committed support that is vitally needed. Thank you to our new donors as we are grateful you chose the Masonic Care Community for your charitable support. Thank you to our memorial gift donors who honored a loved one with your donation. Thank you to our local Foundations, businesses and sponsors for your investment and belief in our mission as an essential organization serving our community. And a very special thank you to our legacy donors who made donations to the Masonic Care Community through their meaningful planned gifts.

We are all stronger together. Please enjoy the Community Impact Report and the life-changing impact you have had, and we hope that you will join in supporting our mission once again in 2024.

Best wishes,



*Mara Mulligan*

**Mara Mulligan**  
 Director of Strategic Marketing and Philanthropy



2020 • 2021 • 2022 • 2023





# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

As we look back on **2023**, we are reminded of what is most important at the Masonic Care Community - our mission. And that mission is to provide purposeful living for the older adults in our care. This past year, there were many joyful moments and activities for

our residents from birthdays to parties, field trips, holidays and celebrations. We commemorate these special moments and the people we have the honor to serve, and to share them with.



**TOP:** The MCC residents, staff and volunteers that are veterans on Veteran's Day

**MIDDLE (L-R):** Resident Doris Firsching goes for the point in balloon volleyball; MCC Executive Director Robert Raffle; HP resident Helen Diefendorf entertains a young trick-or-treater on Halloween

**BOTTOM (L-R):** Resident Jean Pysnik shows off her artwork in the lobby at HP; Resident Raymond Philo plants tomatoes in the garden outside the HP; The Easter Bunny visits with resident Lillian Spaziani



## 2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year, members of the Resident Council of the Masonic Care Community choose an individual to receive the Volunteer of the Year Recognition Award. Created and named in memory of Carolyn Dove, a beloved and dedicated social worker at MCC, this much-deserved and special honor was awarded in 2023 to **GARY FORREST!**

Gary has been serving as a volunteer at MCC for just over one year now, but has made a big impact in a short period of time. The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village resident, Gary is a mainstay at helping with bingo, happy hours, trips to the camp and fishing excursions, among several other events.



# THE BEST VOLUNTEERS



Volunteering is an extraordinary calling that takes very special people, and here at MCC, we have the most amazing people who help support our cause and our residents. We thank our MCC volunteers who provide the most beautiful gift - the gift of their time and talent in support of others!

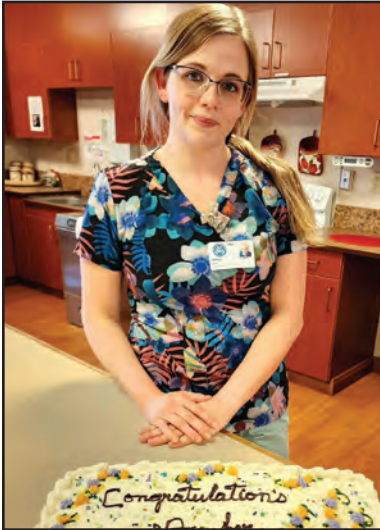




# TRIPLE “E”

The “Triple E” is awarded each of the four quarters of the year to an employee who excels in the performance of their duties, contributes to the overall well-being of all our residents’ quality of life, and creates a positive environment to work and live.

**Amber Eckler (first)**  
C.N.A.



**Analee Greer (second)**  
C.N.A.



**Mary Gabriel (third)**  
C.N.A.



**Rahjaliek Hammett (fourth)**  
C.N.A.



# THE BEST STAFF





# SILENT NIGHT...

When someone speaks of “the holidays” the first images and thoughts that come to mind are of bright lights and festive music, laughter, family and wonder. On December 3, 2023, the Masonic Care Community, with the help of the Fenimore Chamber Orchestra, brought all of that and more to life inside the Daniel D. Thompkins Memorial Chapel.

The Fenimore Chamber Orchestra, based in Cooperstown, New York took the stage and delighted the nearly 200 guests, including many residents from Wiley Hall, the Health Pavilion and Acacia Village. The symphony, directed by Maciej Zoltowski, swayed guests with beautiful harmonies and carols.

To say that the concert was a success would be an understatement. The outpouring of love and support from our residents on campus, our sponsors, leadership gift partners, and Masons far and wide was incredible. Thank you to all of those that supported this event and in turn, the mission of the Masonic Care Community. We couldn't have done it without you and we look forward to hosting this event again in 2024.



## HOLIDAY CONCERT SPONSORS

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# COMING SOON...SJD 2024

This year, St. John's Day will be held June 20-23. The Masonic Care Community is honored to host this yearly event. We look forward to seeing Masons and their families enjoying our beautiful campus.

If you plan to join us this year, know that you can look forward to fantastic food and events.

As we sit through the dreary winter, MCC looks forward to sunshine, green grass and masons celebrating the craft of Masonry and the values of brotherly love. We hope that all Masons and their families consider joining us for a wonderful weekend.



# 2023 GRANT FUNDING

In 2023 MCC applied for and received grant funding from key local organizations that provide community support for organizations serving those in need. We are grateful for their support of our philanthropic activities and our residents!

## COVID-19 RELIEF

In 2023, members of the MCC continued their hard work developing additional applications for FEMA relief for COVID-19 expenses. In 2023, their work was successful and MCC was awarded an additional \$890,339 to cover contract staff and PPE expenses incurred during the pandemic. The Masonic Care Community extends its thanks to Lou Rossi from New York State's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services for his key help and support in assisting our organization with these important grant awards.

## WOUND CARE PROGRAM



Through a \$5,000 grant award from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and a \$2,500 donation from the Faxon Street Home Fund of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, the Masonic Care Community was able to expand and strengthen our wound care program. Often seniors develop wounds due to chronic disease, decreased skin elasticity, and restricted blood flow. These grant awards helped to provide training to enhance the wound care skills of our staff and increase positive patient outcomes. The funding also provided for new diathermy equipment which uses safe, electromagnetic waves to create therapeutic effects and assists in the treatment of slow-healing wounds for our residents.

## CHILD CARE

MCC has a proud tradition of caring for children as well as adults on our campus dating back to our opening in 1893. We offer a comprehensive childcare program to our staff and community. Every holiday season, Stewarts Shops, asks its customers to contribute to their Holiday Match program. In 2023, MCC Childcare was selected to receive \$750 by Stewarts to assist with our childcare and education programming activities.



## NEW ON-LINE TRAINING PROGRAM

Through a grant of \$3,428 provided by the Slocum Dickson Foundation, MCC implemented a new online training program for our home healthcare team to increase training efficiency. In turn, this allows staff more time to care for those in our community. Healthcare information as well as healthcare technology changes constantly and in response, healthcare organizations such as ours need to be able to provide constant, relevant information that will help healthcare workers of all specialties perform their job functions to the highest level and to the best of their abilities.

## SPECIALIZED WHEELCHAIRS

With a \$6,000 grant from the Kinney Drugs Foundation and a \$2,500 donation from the Mele Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, MCC was able to obtain specialized wheelchairs for our residents. Advanced care needs are always present in long-term care facilities. The use of specialized wheelchairs provides stability as well as comfort for residents while also increasing the safety of our staff who care for them by reducing physical strain. These wheelchairs assist residents by providing postural support, and therapeutic pressure relief and significantly reduce the risk of falls.





# HONORING A MASON'S MASON

Linton Linwood Smith, Jr., was described by his wife Judy as a "Mason's Mason."

Decades ago Linton was intrigued by a friends' Masonic ring and was invited to take an application. He soon joined the Olympia Lodge #808 on Long Island.

It didn't take long for Linton to become active in the Lodge. He and Judy quickly became involved with the Christmas in May program that is held each year to benefit the residents at the Masonic Care Community.

"He was very passionate about Christmas in May," Judy said. "He and I both worked with the Nassau District (what was the first Nassau District). We were recruited because we showed some interest. In a very short time, he became the head of the committee. We've been to the Masonic Home for about 30 years for Christmas in May."

The Smiths also got their family involved. Their daughter, niece and two nephews started coming up for Christmas in May to help do the shopping for resident gifts and wrapping. The District collected donations from member Lodges and so many supporters joined in to help make this a very special annual event for the residents.

Linton also served in the U.S. Army and was a proud veteran. He was a communications specialist and began in the Honor Guard in Arlington, Virginia at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located in Arlington National Cemetery. In 1968 he also served in the Vietnam War.

It was his dedication to his country and the Masons that inspired Judy to dedicate a bench at the new Veterans Memorial Garden at MCC in Linton's honor.

"He was very proud to be a veteran," Judy stated. "This was a good opportunity for him to be recognized as a veteran."

Next time you visit MCC's campus please visit the Veterans Memorial Garden to pay tribute to our Masonic Fraternity Veterans like Linton.

There is also still time available to join in supporting the Veterans Memorial Garden with your gift online today at [MasonicCares.Com](https://MasonicCares.Com) under the "Give Tab". You can be included in the first installment of bricks for the Veterans Memorial Garden by donating before April 1, 2024.



Linton Smith Jr., with his wife Judy



The Veterans Memorial Garden at the Masonic Care Community honors the legacy of American military veterans. The Garden is a peaceful area dedicated to all five United States Uniformed Services and their respective Guard and Reserve Units - Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Veterans, military members, their families and friends will have a sense of pride in knowing the community cares, honors, and respects our veterans' dedication, sacrifices, and service.

Masons have an especially strong tradition of supporting our men and women in uniform. The Veterans Memorial Garden honors this long-standing tradition of supporting our troops.



# MCC DONORS

## 1893 SOCIETY DONORS



1893 Society Donors are very special people who care deeply about the Masonic Care Community. Thank you to the following for your annual leadership gifts in 2023 in support of our mission:

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# WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

There are many ways, and opportunities to donate to the Masonic Care Community.

## MAJOR GIFT

The 1893 Society honors individuals and organizations that make an annual leadership gift of \$500 or more to MCC. Members of the 1893 Society are essential partners in fulfilling our mission to bring exceptional care, comfort, and compassion to those who need it most.

## ANNUAL GIFT

Annual donations sustain our cause and make our ongoing activities possible throughout the year.

## RECURRING GIFT

These gifts are a commitment to ongoing support of MCC.

## PLANNED GIFT

You can make a lasting impact with your planned gift to the Masonic Care Community. Including the Masonic Care Community in your will is a powerful way to ensure that our programs are here for the elderly long into the future.

If you do want to support one of our charitable gift areas, your donation can be designated in support of the following:

## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Support our resident programs so people can enjoy an array of activities here on campus including our music, art, and gardening programs.

## HORTICULTURAL CENTER

Donations help support our Horticultural Center programs so our residents and MCC Child Care Center can enjoy gardening activities and our Bee Program.

## CHILD CARE CENTER

Support our New York State Licensed Child Care Center that cares for children from 6 weeks to 12 years old and provides both indoor and outdoor educational and recreational activities.

## TOMPKINS CHAPEL

Donations help with the care of the oldest building on MCC's campus that hosts events including weddings and the annual holiday concert.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Honor the legacy of American military veterans. The Garden is a peaceful area dedicated to all five United States Uniformed Services and their respective Guard and Reserve Units.

## CAMP TURK

Camp Turk is a waterfront summer camp located on 1,500 acres of private Round Lake property in Woodgate, N.Y. Donations help support programs so campers ages 8-16 can enjoy an array of activities.



Online:

[www.mccny.com/give](http://www.mccny.com/give)



Mail:

2150 Bleecker Street  
Utica, NY 13501



Phone:

(315) 798-4768



**THE MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY**  
2150 BLEEKER STREET  
UTICA, NY 13501



## MCC CHILDCARE

Children are such a big part of the Masonic Care Community and have been since 1893.

Care for children started here in the late 1800s and it continues to this very day.

At our New York State Licensed Child Care Center, we support children from six weeks to 12 years old and provide both indoor and outdoor educational and recreational activities.

We also have intergenerational activities that connect children from Child Care with our residents, who greatly enjoy these special interactions.

In the summer, we provide summer programming for children on the MCC campus as well as at Camp Turk on the beautiful Round Lake in the Adirondacks.