



Community Village

An assisted living home for Seniors where God's love makes the difference.

tender. loving. care.

driven by **HOPE**

Community Village may never have another resident like Roy Howell. As thankful as he is for the care and friendships he's developed at the Village, he'd just as soon be outside every day.

Roy is a hunter. He bagged a deer this year, which is especially impressive considering the recent loss of his right leg confined him to a friend's shanty in the woods. From that spot, Roy used a crossbow to bring down his buck.

"It was just so thrilling to be outside and be able to hunt again," said Roy. "That day took me back to my younger years when I was hunting all the time with my dad. It was wonderful! I'm planning to treat some of my friends here at the Village to a special venison dinner."

Roy came to Community Village in July of this year, after caring for his ailing mother in the Chesaning area. Health problems for both he and mom, coupled with the resulting financial strain, had Roy looking for a place to live.

"As my mom's Alzheimer's got worse I knew I couldn't care for her like she needed. I'd take all her pain if I could. She is such a wonderful lady," he said with tears in his eyes.

"At the same time, I was seeing my own health go downhill and had no place to go. Thank God for this place. It's home to me now, and I love it here. I have wonderful friends, we all love teasing each other, and we encourage everyone to keep going every single day."

Roy has endured a considerable amount of pain—his mom's failing health, the loss of his own leg, staring homelessness in the face—and one can't help but wonder what has sustained him through

the trials. Roy readily provides an answer. "I have an old preacher friend who always told me 'with hope, you can survive anything so just keep pushing.' Well, I believe that. My hope is that someday mom and I will both have perfectly new bodies, be reunited, and not bothered with things like getting old and breaking down."



Even with that heavenly perspective, Roy has some dreams and plans for whatever time the Lord allows him to enjoy on earth. "I have always dreamed of going to Alaska on a grizzly bear hunt. I'm ready for it but haven't figured out how to get there just yet."

Having worked in the fur and hunting trade since age 13, it shouldn't be surprising to learn that Roy loves the outdoors and refuses to curtail his dreams of hunting adventure. In fact, his prosthetic leg has already won a battle of its own. "A dog attacked me last year, and bit my new leg. The dog lost its front two teeth and still doesn't know what went wrong!" laughs Roy.

Your generous giving to Community Village allows us to care for special seniors like Roy. Please share generously this Christmas as we reach out to those in need of care.





From The Administrator

You will note as you read this edition of the Village Voice that God's work is thriving as staff and volunteers share the joy of Jesus with our senior saints.

Ken Streeter

We try to make it our ministry to make life worth living. I'm reminded of the scripture verse where we read: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) This is a verse that has been used a great deal to encourage young people, but when we reach the Autumn years of life I think that hope and purpose are even more important.

I have the joy of working with the most loving, caring, giving, and generous people in the world. We have volunteers who give unbelievable hours to enhance the quality of life for our senior saints. But, I have just as much respect for our care giving staff.

We have people who have worked for more than 20 years with the Village. Joylee is retiring this month after spending the last 15 years cooking in our kitchen. Eloise is one of the staff who used to work at Community Village when it was operated by Saginaw County. Her love for the residents has prompted her to give more than 20 years of TLC, many times to people who were not so loving themselves. Eloise is just one of the Community Village staff who share the spirit of Christmas every day of the year.

The Practice of Giving

vol-uh n-teer: a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking, willingly and without pay



Volunteers help form the caring arms of compassion and kindness enjoyed by residents of Community Village. From daily activities and field trips to help with meals and special needs, those who donate their time and energy are a vital part of the Village experience.

Since 1997, the smiling face of Carolyn Dobschinsky has been a frequent feature at the Village. This dear lady lends her leadership skills during the annual Strawberry Festival as well as in the business office. You'll also find Carolyn helping chaperon field trips for the residents and pitching in wherever asked. All of it—no matter the task—is a labor of love for Carolyn.

"When I come here and interact with the residents, it's like taking care of my own mother," said Carolyn. "I miss her so much that coming here lets me honor her memory in a special way."

She first started coming to Community Village in 1997 as a member of the United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT). Her leadership of that organization's charitable efforts has resulted in numerous awards and recognition, but Carolyn isn't motivated by personal accolades. Instead, she just wants to be part of bringing joy to people who need care, encouragement, and positive interaction with others.

like home for the residents, and being a volunteer allows me the chance to be part of that effort."

For the annual Strawberry Festival, Carolyn oversees a team of 200 volunteers who come together for the event that raises more than \$5,000 for the Village. She's helping plan the annual Christmas party for the residents, and even lends her accounting skills to the business department.

But when pressed to name her favorite volunteer activity, Carolyn prefers field trips to the bowling alley. "It's so much fun watching the residents smile as they knock down pins and laugh with each other!"

The ministry of Community Village thrives because of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to join the team of those who donate their time and talents, please contact Marianne Holubowicz, Activities Director at (989) 792-5442.



Carolyn with bowling buddy Otto Bernreuter

"Many people don't realize how rewarding and enjoyable it is to just bring a smile to someone else's face," said Carolyn. "The staff here works very hard to make Community Village feel



- ⇒ Are you over 70½ years of age?
- ⇒ Do you have an IRA?
- ⇒ Do you prefer helping Community Village more than paying taxes?

Seniors over 70½, that own IRA's, are required to take a minimum distribution each year. For many this means adding income that can increase their tax obligation. Right now, those seniors are allowed to make a gift to nonprofit organizations directly from their IRA. Not only does this gift avoid taxes, it also qualifies toward the minimum distribution.

Let's take the example of a 73-year-old woman who makes an annual gift to Community Village of \$10,000. Her tax bracket is 40%, and the IRA she taps to make her donation is valued at \$100,000. To account for the 40% tax bite, she needs to withdraw \$16,675 to have enough money to make her \$10,000 donation.

By using the special tax provision known as 170(b)(1)(A), this woman can boast her donation by taking out \$16,675 tax free from her IRA and giving the entire amount to the Village.



It is most important to remember that the gift must be made directly to Community Village from the IRA, because the owner cannot take possession without creating a taxable event. If you would like more information about this unique giving opportunity and the benefit it provides for Community Village, please contact Kimberly Ancel at 989-752-6051. Additional details are also available online at www.r3monline.org!



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My Promise To Help Care For Seniors

Name: _____ I would like information about becoming a CV Volunteer

Address: _____ Please send me an Assisted Living brochure

City: _____ Zip: _____ Please contact me regarding a tour of CV

Phone: _____ I would like information about Planned Giving to CV

E-Mail: _____ My gift of \$ _____ is enclosed

A Home for Seniors Where Christian Love Makes the Difference!

CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE

Christmas at Community Village is a very special time for our residents and staff. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also see the child-like glow on the faces of those who call the Village their home.

Gifts are opened, choirs come to sing, family members often visit their loved ones, and the cheer of the season rings throughout the hallways, rooms, and chapel.

We are truly thankful for those who have made the Village their home, for the families that have entrusted us with their care, and for the generous donors who help make it possible for our doors to be open to all.

Keep in mind that even when Community Village is full, the cost of providing such excellent care is not met. Our policy of serving those in need—even those without the financial resources—may not meet with the “business model” approval of corporate America, but our ministry mandate is clear. We are to care for those in need.

With that in mind, will you please consider a special year-end gift to Community Village? As 2007 draws to a close, we are in serious need of your support.

We celebrate Christmas with joyful hearts that overflow with thanks to the Lord for his goodness to us, and ask you to help propel this vital ministry into the coming year knowing we'll be able to continue caring for the senior saints that come through our doors. Merry Christmas!



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DID YOU KNOW?

Community Village is an arm of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan (R3M).

Along with offering care for seniors R3M also reaches out to the hurting and homeless through the Saginaw City Rescue Mission and Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City.

