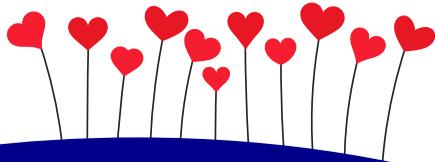


# Gratitude REPORT



**BECAUSE OF YOU!**



## It Takes a Village

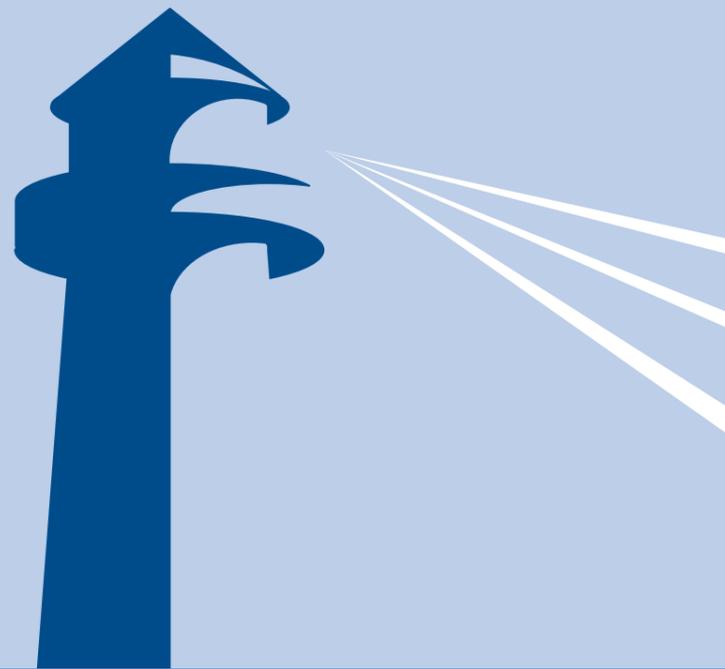
*It* has been a year since COVID-19 turned our lives upside down. A year ago, our residents suddenly could no longer visit with loved ones, dine with friends, gather in the chapel for prayer or participate in group activities — almost everything that enriched their daily lives.

For the families of our residents, including many of you, COVID-19 took away the ability to physically offer comfort and care to loved ones. Our staff came to work each day, dedicated to our residents' care, and donned layers of personal protective equipment to do so. The masks that hid their faces robbed the residents of seeing their caregivers' smiles and made it harder for the residents to hear their words.

**But in the midst of the most challenging circumstances, we experienced how a “village” of caring donors, including you, came together for a shared purpose: to protect and care for our residents and staff.**

The needs brought on by the pandemic created an urgent opportunity to work together — and our village proved up to the challenge. Your response to our calls for help and your unsolicited acts of generosity created a sense of solidarity: We were all in this together. Thanks to you, we were able to stay focused on being a lifeline for our residents and their loved ones. You offered comfort and connection during a time of fear, frustration and loneliness.





Those who  
made the first gifts  
to help establish our  
Employee Emergency  
Assistance Fund  
*lit a beacon of hope*  
for our employees.

To join our trailblazers with a gift to help even more employees, please visit [stmarysvilla.com/donate](http://stmarysvilla.com/donate).



## Employee Emergency Assistance Fund Established

Those who made the first gifts to help establish our Employee Emergency Assistance Fund lit a beacon of hope for our employees. Thank you! As a trailblazer, you set an example that will inspire others to give to this important fund that provides assistance for employees who face unexpected financial hardship.

The thoughtful and heartwarming notes sent with these gifts conveyed how thankful you are to those who care for your loved ones.

We continue to gratefully accept donations to this fund to ensure we will always be able to assist our employees during times of need. In the months ahead, we look forward to sharing stories about the impact of your gifts.

To date, we have received **58** trailblazer gifts, totaling **\$6,453.38**, through our recent appeal.

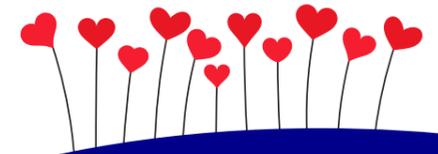
## iPads Continue To Bring Comfort

In the last Gratitude Report, we shared how your gifts to the COVID-19 Response Fund enabled us to provide iPads. These devices allow residents to visit with their family members, friends and loved ones. While nothing can replace in-person visits, virtual connections help ease the social isolation. But do you know the other ways the iPads are bringing comfort?



*Joseph and Joan Pilarz attend mass presented by their son, Father Scott Pilarz, on their wedding anniversary.*

*Thank you again for keeping our residents and their loved ones connected. The portable devices you helped fund — or provided outright — are enhancing the mental, emotional and physical well-being of our residents every day.*



**BECAUSE OF YOU!**

**Entertainment:** Virtual performances from local entertainers are creating a more joyful environment. Many residents are also using the Kindle app to enjoy their favorite books.

**Technical skills:** Through talk-to-text features, residents are writing to loved ones. Those who speak English as a second language are using translation tools to more easily share their needs and wants with staff.

**Compassionate care:** Using the iPads to stream calming music offers comfort to hospice residents and provides a way for loved ones to say their final goodbyes or attend online memorial services.





Left to Right: Sandi Blumer, RN, Michele Sabie, RN, ADON, Catherine Scanlon, RN, DON, Patti Bonitz, RN, Infection Control are excited to be vaccinated!



*Thank you* for all that you did! We hope that this report will convey the difference you have made during this difficult time and inspire your continued generosity as we move beyond COVID-19.

With a grateful heart,

Susan Oldrid  
Executive Director Philanthropy