

Choice (choise), noun,

1. an act or instance of choosing; selection
2. the right, power, or opportunity to choose; option
3. an abundance or variety from which to choose
4. something that is preferred or preferable to others; the best part of something

This issue of *VantagePoint* looks at different ways in which the role of choice and the opportunities offered by Evangelical Homes of Michigan intersect. A writer named Abbie Dale said, "To decide, to be at the level of choice, is to take responsibility for your life and to be in control of your life." We invite you to look at the ways Evangelical Homes can assist and support you as you make choices about your life.

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Introducing *LifeChoices™*

Adding Choices to the Way We Deliver Services

"Evangelical Homes of Michigan continues to maintain a strong connection with its stakeholders discerning future desires and needs of older adults. The Board of Directors and EHM's executive leadership team are committed to providing an array of innovative programs and solutions wherever the client calls home. Many individuals want the comfort of knowing that services are close at hand should they need them while living in their home. LifeChoices™ and LifeChoice Solutions™ provide comfort and choice." – Denise Bortolani Rabidoux, President and CEO.



Evangelical Homes of Michigan is proud to announce the launching of two new subsidiaries: LifeChoices™ and LifeChoice Solutions™. Both programs provide individuals with services and solutions to help them to remain in their own homes throughout their lifetime.

LifeChoices™ began offering services May 1, 2010

With LifeChoices™, Evangelical Homes of Michigan becomes one of a handful of organizations across the country offering a unique program called a Continuing Care at Home Program, sometimes referred to as a Continuing Care Retirement Community Without Walls. LifeChoices™ provides a broad range of services and support throughout your lifetime, to help maintain independence and to remain at home. Members also enjoy the security of knowing that needed services will be accessible, affordable and of the highest quality.

An important aspect of a LifeChoices™ membership is the Life Connections team, which serves as your personal advocate or lifestyle coach. Your coach is a professional, usually a nurse, social worker or personal fitness and wellness coach, who works with you to understand your specific health and wellness history and care preferences. Your lifestyle coach will advocate for additional care and offer options when you are compromised. Additionally, coaches are able to arrange for any long-term care services needed, acting as a point of contact for both professional providers and family members. Members receive priority access within Evangelical's network of services, again providing the care and services as needed.

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Denise B. Rabidoux

As I see it...

Over the last few years, we at Evangelical Homes have been reviewing demographic information and forecasts to make sure we are positioned to meet the needs and desires of the growing number of seniors, not only in the short term, but for many years to come.

When we developed and introduced LifeChoices™ and LifeChoice Solutions™, we did so to be faithful stewards of the resources available to us and to the consumers who may desire our services to be delivered in their homes, surrounded by families and friends. The anticipated increase in the number of older persons will have dramatic consequences for public health, health-care financing and delivery systems, as well as family caregivers. The potential demands on unnecessary or premature long-term care pose a tremendous challenge to personal, family, and public resources. If people are able to access supportive services at lower cost than in an institutional setting, it is a “win-win” situation for the consumer, for society, and for Evangelical Homes. We believe individuals should be able to receive services in their home where a lifetime of joyful memories exist.

Evangelical Homes of Michigan understands that the “one size fits all” approach to providing services to older adults does not work. It does not matter if you are receiving long-term care or rehab services in one of our healthcare communities; if you live in our retirement community or still reside in your own home; and even if you are dealing with the effects of memory loss—you should have the opportunity to choose from a variety of options and solutions.

The Board of Directors of Evangelical Homes envisioned a set of Strategic Initiatives in 2005. These Strategic Initiatives emphasized the individual’s right to choose, and positions Evangelical Homes to offer an array of services from which people can select the programs and products that best meet their own needs. The Board recently reevaluated EHM’s Strategic Vision and its Desired Initiatives and felt so strongly that they renewed them as the heart of EHM’s Mission Strategy. The Strategic Vision set by our Board of Directors includes, in part:

- **Maintaining our tradition of high quality health care** in communities that continually evolve to meet the changing needs of those we serve;
- **Providing an array of services** that supports the elderly, their families and their caregivers; promotes personal relationships between the elderly and the community; and encourages pursuit of an individual’s fullest potential;

- **Having an extensive network of trained and faithful caregivers and volunteers**, who provide support and services to the elderly in the homes and communities in creative and innovative ways.

As you can see, the continuous transformation of Evangelical Homes over the last 5 years has been true to that Vision. I am grateful for the guidance and support of the Board of Directors that enables us to execute and deliver that Vision each day to those we serve, wherever they call home.

Our journey has been about providing an array of choices. This issue of *VantagePoint* gives witness to the success of those efforts and our faithful response, as Evangelical Homes has had to make its own choices from an array of possibilities, in a way that makes sense for our organization and our constituents. We have been blessed to be in a position where we could make these choices and continue to grow our role as a vital ministry within the United Church of Christ, the greater church, and the community at large.

Until next time,

Denise B. Rabidoux
President and CEO

Volunteering: A Choice for Spending Your Time

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul acknowledges that there are many different gifts bestowed by the Spirit. His expectation is that individuals will recognize their gifts and use them for the good of the community. At Evangelical Homes, we are blessed by the many people who use their skills and talents as a volunteer in one of our communities or programs.

How we spend our time represents a choice. Work life, family time, hobbies, chores, driving—our time is used in many ways, and we often complain about having so little time left to do the things we “want” to do. Still, I invite you to consider making the choice to use some of your time and talents as a volunteer.

Once upon a time, the image of a volunteer may have focused largely on Bingo and crafts. While there are residents who enjoy these activities, they also benefit from having a broader choice of activities in which to engage.

This year volunteers helped with the organic garden at Evangelical Home-Saline, donating supplies and labor, and helping residents with planting and cultivation. Master gardeners have been involved for many years at Evangelical Home-Sterling Heights.

A volunteer at Brecon Village has an interest in art and has helped several residents begin painting. Their paintings have become more expressive, as the residents have increased confidence in their ability to communicate through art.

Many residents have a limited working knowledge about computers. We have volunteers who assist residents to become more familiar with the capabilities of these modern marvels. Residents desire more individual help, which volunteers can provide.

We have a number of volunteer inquiries from teenagers. In a tight labor market, with jobs harder to land, even for the summer, teens can benefit from having volunteer experiences. This can help identify job skills and career goals, as well as the broader community involvement that is attractive to college admissions staff.

New college graduates and others who are between jobs may find value in getting some practical experience in a healthcare setting that might benefit them in future employment.

As a faith-based organization, we provide a broad range of religious programs so that residents have choices about the programs they want to attend. A number of local congregations provide Sunday and mid-week worship opportunities for our residents. We will always welcome additional programs. For example, one clergy is visiting with residents on a volunteer basis twice a month at our Sterling Heights community, and we would like to expand that, as well as replicate it in Saline.

The gift of time, the joys of providing companionship, the sharing of knowledge—these



Roger Meiller

The gift of time,
the joys of
companionship.

are ways in which the lives of our residents are expanded as you make the choice to volunteer. Feel free to contact me at meillerr@evangelicalhomes.org or 734-429-9401, x4180; or Susan Alexander at alexanders@evangelicalhomes.org (586-247-4700, x559); or Michelle Horazdovsky at horazdovskym@evangelicalhomes.org (734-429-1155, x2227). We would be happy to assist you in fulfilling your volunteer choices.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger".

Roger Meiller
Director of Religious Services

Your gifts help us bring music and art therapy, fitness and wellness programs, gazebo concerts, staff education . . .

Your Charitable *Giving Choices*

There are a wide range of choices available for those who wish to give charitable gifts to Evangelical Homes of Michigan. Those choices include what to support, ways in which your gift could be made, and how you wish to be recognized for your gift.

What to Support

Charitable Care

Since our founding, our greatest need has been charitable care. Charitable care represents the difference between the cost of care and the amount we receive from Medicaid. Nearly half of those in our healthcare communities are Medicaid recipients. Charitable care also represents the services we offer below our cost, such as home-delivered meals, flu vaccines, and wellness services. The total charitable care we provide is over \$2 million each year. Your gifts help bridge this gap. Gifts from our year end and spring appeals benefit our charitable care mission, as do all unrestricted gifts and bequests.

Memory Support Center at Brecon Village

Since last fall we have welcomed over 25 families to the new Memory Support Center at Brecon Village. Our residents receive specialized services

in a beautiful environment from specially trained care givers. Nearly 500 individuals made gifts totaling over \$1,650,000 to support the building of this unique Center. We are now seeking the remaining \$350,000 needed for program support. Your gifts help us bring music and art therapy, fitness and wellness programs, gazebo concerts, staff education and specialized training, and unique dining experiences, to mention just a few things.

Ways to Make a Gift

Evangelical Homes of Michigan offers many choices for someone wishing to make a gift.

Assets used to make a current gift

- Cash, check, credit card
- Publicly-traded securities
- Mutual fund shares
- Real estate
- Life insurance policies
- Qualified retirement plan assets
- Foundation grants

Assets used to make a planned gift

- Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Gifts of real estate, life insurance, and retirement plan assets



One of the gazebo concerts, sponsored by generous donors.

Gift Recognition

Expressing our thanks for your gifts is one of the ways in which we show our deep gratitude for your choosing to make Evangelical Homes of Michigan a priority for your charitable giving.

Friends of Evangelical Homes of Michigan

Donors are recognized annually in the Friends of Evangelical Homes of Michigan Honor Roll of Generosity according to their giving level

\$50 Friend

\$250 Circle of Friends

\$500 Silver Circle of Friends

\$1,000 Golden Circle of Friends

\$10,000 Platinum Circle of Friends

Endowed Funds

Donors wishing to support our mission in perpetuity may create a named endowed fund with a minimum gift of \$10,000. We will spend a portion of the fund's interest annually, and then reinvest the remainder so the fund will grow and maintain value into the future. An endowed fund can be established with an immediate gift, payments over a five-year period, a charitable gift annuity, or through a bequest.

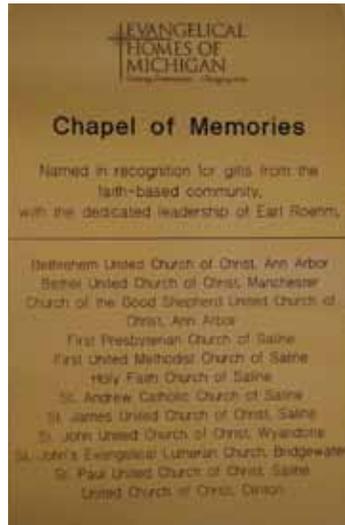
Giving in Memory or Honor

A gift in memory or in honor of a close friend or loved one is a meaningful way to show appreciation. Loved ones may be memorialized or honored through:

- Brick pavers at Evangelical Home Sterling Heights or the Memory Support Center
- Plaques at Brecon Village, The Courtyard at Evangelical Home Saline, or our Charitable Care Recognition Tree in Saline and Sterling Heights

Naming Opportunities

There are many ways we have shown our appreciation for charitable giving through special naming opportunities. Examples include rooms in the Memory Support Center, features and gardens in our various courtyards, and certain scholarships and programs. We are happy to talk with you about your specific gift and special naming choices that would be available to you.



Evangelical is pleased to recognize donations in support of its ministries, such as the donations that named the Chapel at the Memory Support Center.

Who to Contact

However you choose to support our residents, we are here to help guide you in choosing your giving options. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

Becky Pazkowski
Vice President of Development and Community Relations
(734) 429-1155, Ext. 2229

Susan Alexander
Director of Development and Community Relations
(586) 247-4700, Ext. 559

Thank you for your generous gifts to support our residents.



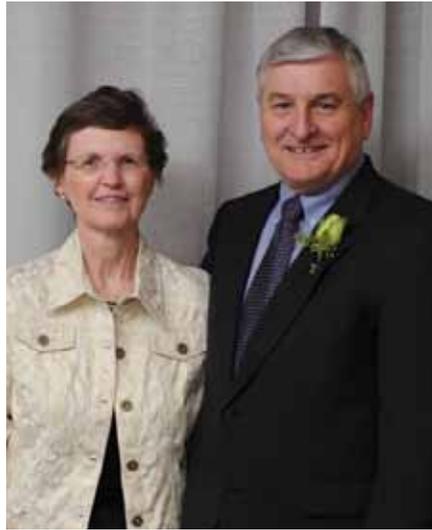
Evangelical Homes of Michigan welcomes Michelle Horazdovsky as the Director of Life Enrichment and Community Integration for the Brecon Village Campus. Michelle will be responsible for overseeing the Life Enrichment Departments on the campus, working closely with our Wellness staff, enhancing volunteer services, and expanding the programming and utilization of the Adult Day Program and the Memory Support Center resource library. She will also be creating educational opportunities and lifelong learning models for those we serve.

Michelle is exceptionally well qualified for this new position. With more than 30 years of experience working with older adults in occupational therapy, life enrichment, and operations, Michelle brings a breadth of experience and a depth of knowledge that will truly enrich the lives of our residents and staff alike.

Michelle can be reached at horazdovskym@evangelicalhomes.org or (734) 429-1155, extension 2227.

Choosing Service: Aging Services Awards

On a lovely April evening this year, Evangelical Homes of Michigan saw three of its own special people honored by the membership of Aging Services of Michigan for the exceptional ways in which they influenced not only Evangelical Homes, but also senior services in Michigan.



Earl and Doris Roehm

Trustee of the Year, Earl Roehm, is a retired banker and current real estate agent living in Saline. In his nomination it was noted, "Earl Roehm is one of those volunteers that every organization desires. His answer is always "yes" to our requests for his involvement. His enthusiasm and energy for Evangelical Homes of Michigan is never-ending." Indeed, even though he has just completed his first year on the Board of Directors, he has served in a number of other capacities, including the Saline Communities Advisory Board, program chair of the Church Ambassador Program, and on the Memory Support Center Capital Campaign Steering Committee, to name just a few. In addition to extraordinary volunteer work, Earl is also an important part of our philanthropy program as a committed donor. We are proud to see Earl recognized for his commitment to our organization, but even more, to the aging services industry.

The Shining Star Award recognizes a gifted aging services professional that embodies dedication, commitment and enthusiasm in his or her profession. When reading that description, the same name came to everyone's lips: **Mary Kay Wirth**, Director of Nursing at Evangelical Home-Saline. Mary Kay has spent the last 28 years with Evangelical Homes, coming up through the ranks of nursing and sharing her knowledge with all. Caring equally about the 190 residents and the many employees that she oversees, Mary Kay ensures that the smallest detail of resident care is met and strives to encourage personal growth and skills development in her staff. Although Mary Kay's humble nature would refute this accolade, we believe her selfless dedication, exemplary leadership, and flawless reputation is of stellar status. In June of this year, Mary Kay announced her retirement. We are so happy she was recognized as a "Shining Star" in senior services.



Mary Kay and Doug Wirth

Pat Grayson joined Evangelical Home-Sterling Heights in 1993 as Director of Nursing and retired in November of 2005 as the Director of Operations for the Evangelical Homes of Michigan. Pat exemplifies the criteria for the **Life Member Award**. In addition to the exacting work she performed for Evangelical Homes, she also provided meritorious service to Aging Services of Michigan and outstanding contributions in service to seniors. The largest contribution Pat made to senior services was through her long commitment to the ideals of hospice. She was a constant advocate for utilization of hospice services in the long-term care setting and was instrumental in introducing



Pat and George Grayson

hospice care to Evangelical Home-Sterling Heights during the time she was Director of Nursing. When

she became Director of Operations for the corporation, she developed an advisory committee for all of Evangelical Homes' facilities to address the Governor's Report on End-of-Life Care. This led to the establishment of Hospice Care at Evangelical Homes, in which each skilled nursing facility has a newly constructed dedicated unit for residents receiving hospice care and their families. The beds dedicated to this purpose are rarely empty and the utilization of hospice services in the facilities has grown substantially. The existence of this program has become a lasting tribute to Pat Grayson in the field of aging services.

LifeChoices™ continued from page 1.

Through your personal advocate, an array of care and services is available as you need them. These include:

- Personal fitness and wellness coaching
- Dietary services including meal preparation
- Housekeeping services and maintenance services
- Emergency response systems
- Technology components, such as tele-health, tele-monitoring, and medication management systems
- Live-in assistance if you have a change in health status
- Skilled nursing, assisted living, and home care services, should your health change

Our comprehensive, holistic wellness programming provides you with goals and techniques

to address physical, emotional, intellectual, vocational, spiritual, and social well-being.

You can receive the services and support you desire while protecting your assets into the future for an affordable up-front investment and a monthly fee. Should you need any long-term care services, such as assisted living or skilled nursing, you are protected and can access the service without additional cost. The membership fee and monthly fees are tax deductible as a medical expense.

Our program does have some eligibility requirements for applicants, which include:

- A minimum age of 60 with no maximum age

- Live independently and within the service area
- Agree to maintain health insurance
- Meet medical diagnostic criteria.

If one of your goals is to live in your own home throughout your years, LifeChoices™ is the answer.

For more information, contact Steve Hopkins, Executive Director, at 734-295-9292.

We will introduce LifeChoice Solutions™ in a subsequent issue of *VantagePoint*.

VantagePoint

A Publication of Evangelical Homes of Michigan



Evangelical Homes Participates in United Way Day of Action

Thanks to (pictured from left to right) Kelly Adams, Brent Welsh, Nancy Swierz, Adam Levengood, Kathleen McDaniel, Steve Hopkins, Jordan Hopkins, Jim Alspach, Larry Petroskey, Gary Acree, Matt Mancani, and Denise Rabidoux (not pictured), whose hard work spruced up the offices at Catholic Social Services, allowing the organization to continue to pursue its social justice mission and serve its clients in a bright, cheery new environment.

To report errors or address corrections, or if you no longer wish to receive *VantagePoint*, please contact Rev. Roger Meiller, at 734-429-9401, ext. 4180, or at meillerr@evangelicalhomes.org.

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