

# VantagePoint

A Publication of Evangelical Homes of Michigan

## Save the date! Sunday, September 20, 2009

Evangelical Homes of Michigan  
Annual Corporation Meeting  
2:00 PM

Dedication of the  
Memory Support Center  
3:00 PM

Brecon Village  
200 Brecon Drive, Saline, MI 48176  
(details inside)



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. 3180, or at [meillerr@evangelicalhomes.org](mailto:meillerr@evangelicalhomes.org).

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# VantagePoint

EVANGELICAL  
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Creating Communities...Changing Lives®

Summer 2009

A Publication of Evangelical Homes of Michigan

## Evangelical Homes' Annual Meeting & Memory Support Center Dedication

On Sunday, September 20, 2009, Evangelical Homes of Michigan will hold its Annual Corporation Meeting at 2:00 PM at Brecon Villlage. Each UCC congregation may send 6 delegates, including the pastor.

Those attending the meeting, as well as the general public, are invited to attend the Dedication of the Memory Support Center at Brecon Village. The dedication service will begin at 3:00 PM. Tours and refreshments will be provided.

## Inside:

- 2—As I See It  
Candidate Bing
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## Memory Center nears completion



Julie Sage

This summer will mark the opening of the Memory Support Center on the campus of Brecon Village in Saline. Construction of the cottages is nearing completion, and within the main building walls are going up giving definition to the space. Formal admissions will begin in late summer. The vision is becoming reality.

As the Center moves towards completion, the task of filling the residence and letting the broader community know the scope of services that will be available takes on added importance. Julie Sage, Director of Sales and Marketing, comes to Evangelical Homes with over 25 years experience in the senior health and housing industry.

Julie will be regionally responsible for not only the Memory Support Center, but will be coordinating the marketing

and sales efforts for our home care divisions, Shared Care Services and Shared Services Home Health Care.

Even though Evangelical Home in Saline has been operating since 1974, and Brecon Village has been serving the community since 1999, there are still many people who are not aware of all the programs and services that have been developed in recent years. Julie will help Evangelical Homes tell its story and market the full continuum of services to area seniors.

"I am excited to be a part of Evangelical Homes of Michigan," Julie noted. "In the short time I have been here, it is evident that there is a strong history and commitment to service that will continue to benefit the community and meet the varied needs of potential clients in a broad range of settings. I look forward to getting to know the people in the area, and helping them learn more about Evangelical Homes."

To learn more about how the Center might benefit someone you know, contact Julie at the Memory Support Center at Brecon Village at 734-274-0890 or email her [sagej@evangelicalhomes.org](mailto:sagej@evangelicalhomes.org).



Denise B. Rabidoux

# As I see it...

For health and human service ministries, this is a time for leadership to revisit budget assumptions in light of changes to our payment streams and create a business plan that sets priorities and focuses on our organization's core values and mission. Perhaps the most important discovery for Evangelical Homes during these difficult economic times is the same as Santiago, the main character in Paulo Coelho's book, **The Alchemist**, as he makes his journey to find a secret treasure.

In the book, this fictional shepherd boy, Santiago, travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian pyramids where he is convinced he will find his treasure or discover the secret that will allow him to turn lead into gold and multiply his wealth. But what Santiago discovers in his journey is that his greatest treasure is found within himself and there is a transformational power in staying true to himself, allowing him to follow his heart.

In recent years Evangelical Homes has redefined itself as a broad-

based ministry providing long-term care, community based services, independent housing, physical health and wellness programs, assisted living services, short term rehabilitation, hospice care, and soon, state-of-the-art programs for those suffering from dementia and memory loss.

As we continue to focus our efforts on developing a solid business plan that calls for program diversification and service excellence, we are an organization that is committed to staying true to ourselves and the core values and mission that guide us. Like Santiago, during these challenging economic times, we have discovered that the greatest treasure and the greatest opportunity is found within Evangelical Homes and its 130 year history.

Until next time,

*Denise*

Denise  
President and CEO

The State of Michigan, like most states, is facing a continuing challenge to raise enough revenues to meet the ever-growing needs of its residents. At the same time businesses are attempting to redefine themselves and individuals living in Michigan are transitioning to new homes and seeking new jobs.

When there continues to be a revenue shortfall like the one that currently exists, the legislators need to develop solutions that often have negative impacts on some service sectors that rely on State and Federal funds for payment streams. Long-term care supports and services is one area that has recently received notice from the State of Michigan that providers, like Evangelical Homes, will experience a 4% reduction in the amount of payment received to care for our elderly Medicaid residents.

## Candidate Bing visits our senior housing

During Dave Bing's successful campaign for Mayor of Detroit, he made a couple of stops at Evangelical Manor and Eden Manor. Mr. Bing arranged for meals for those who attended, and spent time answering questions about his qualifications for the job and his vision for the city. He highlighted the need for

enhanced services for seniors, especially transportation, and vowed to have an administration that responded timely and honestly to senior concerns. The residents were honored to be included in his campaign stops and gave him a warm welcome.

# Health reform needs faithful response

At the first White House Conference on Aging in 1961, Rabbi Abraham Heschel said that the measure of a society is how it treats its elderly. By that standard, despite our health care system's advantages over many countries, we still have a long way to go.

Health care reform is once again on a main stage of public dialogue and policy making. As many of the jobs—and benefits—to which we have grown accustomed disappear, the question about access to health care and the cost of services is needing to be addressed.

*We must not forget the elderly in the reform process.*

Health care is not just a financing issue. The United Church of Christ (UCC), as well as many other denominations, sees it as a justice and faith issue. An interfaith service of witness and prayer occurred in Washington, DC in late June to demonstrate support for healthcare reform. The UCC addressed healthcare reform at its General Synod in June.

The interfaith coalition believes that health care must be *inclusive*, because of our common humanity; *affordable*, using resources effectively, efficiently, and with equity; *accessible*, removing barriers

to and disparities in care; and *accountable*, reflecting a shared responsibility to maintain healthy bodies, minds, and spirits.

We must be careful that we do not forget about the elderly in this process. Financing for long-term care, support for those who can still live at home, and assistance for caregivers will help achieve that standard that Rabbi Heschel addressed.

Larry Minnix, CEO of the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (and a Methodist minister) recently quoted Will Rogers, who said, "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'nice doggie' until you find a rock." Minnix believes that each of us, as citizens with a vested interest in our future health care, is a rock. We need to continually and loudly clamor for meaningful healthcare reform, reform which also addresses long-term care services and supports.

If we believe that we are all children of a loving God, then we will raise our voices as an act of faith to advocate for meaningful, affordable healthcare reforms—now. Let your elected officials know that it is important—now.

*Roger*

Roger Meiller  
Director of Religious Services



Roger Meiller

For further information and suggestions:

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
[www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org)

This website will provide information about legislative issues, suggested language for legislative contacts, and can even generate an email to your congressional representative.

Sojourners  
[www.sojo.net/action/alerts/Health\\_Care\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.sojo.net/action/alerts/Health_Care_Toolkit.pdf)  
Sojourners (Faith in Action for Social Justice) has partnered to develop a Guide to the Health-Care Reform Debate.

Faithful Reform in Health Care [www.faithfulreform.org](http://www.faithfulreform.org) provides brief faith-inspired messages to send to legislators urging healthcare reform.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow  
<http://stabenow.senate.gov/healthcare>  
Michigan Senator is on the Senate Finance Committee and has numerous resources to inform citizens about healthcare reform issues.

# Continuity — Commitment —

## An Evangelical Homes tradition



Jewell Searcy can measure her career with Evangelical Home by tracking her daughter's life. "I started working at Evangelical Home-Detroit when my daughter was 6 month's old." Her daughter is now 36, which is how many years Jewell will celebrate with EHM come October.

Jewell began as a Nursing Assistant and also worked as a Clinic Aide in the Home for Aged. After 15 years, Jewell was ready for some new challenges, and she began attending school to pursue an accounting degree, and she expected that she would be moving on from Evangelical. However, she had begun working as a receptionist by this time, and when a Payroll position opened up, Jewell was offered the opportunity.

When Evangelical Home-Detroit was sold in 1996, Jewell was brought into the Corporate office as the Corporate Accountant. She currently oversees Corporate Payroll and Account Payables, pension and 401(k) plans, general ledger, and bank reconciliation.

While she might not have foreseen that she would remain with EHM for all these years (and counting), Jewell loves working here. She loves the flexibility that is afforded her and appreciates the mutual respect that she sees, not only in her co-workers, but also throughout the organization. Jewell also gives back to Evangelical Homes. She has helped pioneer the payroll deduction program that allows employees to support the work of EHM through regular giving.

Jewell's smile and positive attitude, as well as her continued professional growth, have been hallmarks of this lady who truly is a jewel.



In the early 1970's, Rev. Leland Booker was a member of the Board of Directors of Evangelical Homes and helped arrange the purchase of property on which Evangelical Home-Saline was built. Many years later, Rev. Booker resided at Evangelical Home-Saline when his health no longer permitted him to safely live in the home he shared with his wife Bertha.

For her part, Bertha was a member of the EHM Board of Directors when the decision was made to purchase property on which Brecon Village now stands. And Bertha helped make that decision, knowing that Brecon was where she wanted to make her home.

Bertha Booker had been a teacher for many years, but has been involved in church and community work all her life. In every community where Lee served a church, Bertha got involved with the local Hospital Auxiliary, including St. Joseph Mercy Saline Hospital. In addition to her volunteering at Brecon Village (where she is also employed part-time as a receptionist), Bertha has volunteered in many church-related capacities. She recently was on the St. Paul (Saline) church council, she

has been moderator of the Covenant Association, President of the Michigan Conference Board of Directors, as well as the UCC Women's Fellowship of Michigan. In 1987, Bertha was surprised when she learned that she was to be recognized at the UCC General Synod as Michigan's Woman of the Year.

Bertha and Lee have been faithful supporters of Evangelical Homes since Lee was first on the Board of Directors. Bertha notes that "Evangelical is a special place, and it is a privilege to be a part of this organization."

# Contribution

Evangelical Homes of Michigan has been blessed by the presence of many friends throughout the years. If we were to define the attributes of many of our most loyal supporters, the words would be Continuity, Commitment, and Contribution. We measure these qualities not just in financial terms. Here are stories of an employee, a resident, a volunteer, and a family member who have been a part of Evangelical Homes for a long time.



Jane Richardson has been a lifetime member of Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor. When her former pastor, Ernest Klaudt, left to become Superintendent at Evangelical Homes, he stated in his farewell sermon, "I go to prepare a place for thee." While Rev. Klaudt's

impact on the life of the Home was significant and did, in fact, further enhance a respected ministry—the creation of Evangelical Home-Saline has allowed many members of Bethlehem UCC to receive services there over the years—the impact of volunteers like Jane Richardson is no less important in the creation of that home.

Rev. Klaudt's wife Nina put out a call for volunteers when the Evangelical Home-Saline was opened in 1974, and Jane responded to the call. Jane has been volunteering ever since. She has served at various times on the Board of the Sunbeam Volunteers, and for many

years helped serve at various special parties and events. Jane currently assists with crafts once a week. But even more, she is an extension of the ministry of Bethlehem UCC, visiting with members and friends whenever she is in the building.

Jane's husband, Wayne, was a member of the Board of Directors of Evangelical Homes at the time of his death in 2003. Jane and Wayne have supported the Homes through servant leadership and commitment in quiet, unassuming ways, yet the lives of the residents of Evangelical Home are certainly much enhanced through Jane's continued presence.



When Gerald Marker first had contact with Evangelical Home-Sterling Heights, he had no inkling how long and how much he would be involved. His mother was one of the first residents at the facility when it opened, until her death in 1990. Gerald's wife had been so impressed with the facility that she was inspired to enroll

in gerontology-related classes, with hopes that she might contribute as an employee at the facility. Unfortunately, a progression of health concerns resulted in her being admitted as a resident in 1998, where she remained until her passing in 2002.

Currently, Gerald's aunt, who had previously received rehab services at the facility, has made the move into the facility, since she is no longer able to live alone.

Gerald has been a regular visitor to the home, and has brought his homemade cookies and muffins to some of the staff. He also serves on the Macomb Community Advisory Board.

Gerald donated a fountain and landscaping to enhance the Evangelical Home-Sterling Heights campus as a memorial to his wife. More recently, he made a significant contribution to the capital campaign for the facility's hospice care. "It was good timing," he noted. He was able to utilize the proceeds from a stock sale to fund several charitable endeavors. "I was glad I was able to help the campaign. The Sterling Heights facility has been there in my family's time of need, and I was grateful to be able to provide a donation that will help future families in their time of need."

## Passport to Living® Well program receives award

On April 28, 2009 the Passport to Living® Well Program at Evangelical Homes of Michigan was awarded the Leading-Edge Care and Services Award from the Aging Services of Michigan.

Each year Aging Services of Michigan, formerly the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA), honors the individuals, organizations, and programs that provide excellent care and services for their clients and residents while striving to make a difference in their local communities.

“The Passport to Living® Well program is about fulfilling excellent life experiences for the people that we serve,” said Steve Hopkins, Director of Wellness and Physical Health at Evangelical Homes of Michigan. “We’re about serving people, we’re about being creative, and we believe today is the most important day in everybody’s life.” The program focuses on six “spheres of wellness” that provide residents with a balanced life. These spheres include physical, intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, and vocational wellness.

As Steve notes, “We use that model so that on a regular basis, as an entire community, we can look

and say, ‘Are we balanced? Are we devoting enough attention in all those directions?’ Without a model, a community typically is very strong in one or two areas, but falls short in others. The goal of the program is to help residents achieve a balanced, active, and happy lifestyle. This involves insuring that every resident is engaged in all six spheres of wellness, meeting with residents one-on-one in order to determine what new activities and programs should be adopted, and helping residents to become more physically active.”

Steve and his staff are dedicated to collecting and utilizing data to gauge how effective different aspects of the program are. One benefit already seen is a decrease in the quantity and severity of falls while reducing the overall number of hospital visits.

For Steve Hopkins, receiving the Leading-Edge Care and Services award isn’t about recognition. Instead, he views it as an opportunity to help other communities as a peer mentor. Steve notes, “When you win an award a door opens and you get a forum to speak your message. That’s about changing lives outside of Evangelical Homes of Michigan.”



Angie Ouellette provides massage at Brecon Village. Residents speak about the enhanced feelings of wellness after they have had a massage from her.

# Doing something for yourself . . . and for others

John Brick, a condominium owner at Brecon Village, had a Certificate of Deposit (CD) that was nearing time for its renewal. Instead of extending the CD for another two years, John decided to use the proceeds to create a charitable gift annuity. "I would have received 1% interest on the CD. The gift annuity will give me an annual payment at a rate of 6.4%."

Although the value of CDs and stocks may change from day-to-day due to the fluctuations in the economy, John's payments will remain the same for his lifetime. John can count on these guaranteed

payments because the gift annuity is managed by the United Church of Christ Foundation and fully backed by their assets. At the time of the donor's death, the principal remaining in the annuity contract is distributed to the charity the donor specifies. Because Evangelical Homes of Michigan (EHM) is a health and human service ministry related to the United Church of Christ, the proceeds from a gift annuity through the UCC Foundation may be given to EHM.

Since there is a future gift for charity, the IRS favors these arrangements by giving donors an income tax

charitable deduction. Because John made his gift with a CD, part of his payment will be tax-free income.

John, who was originally from Manchester, retired as a Detroit postal worker and moved into his Brecon Village condo 4 years ago. He has been watching the construction of the new Memory Support Center that will open this summer. "This will be a wonderful place for individuals with memory loss to get the care they need. The gift annuity is a very good way for me to help support the Memory Support Center."

Below are the current rates offered by the United Church of Christ Foundation:

Annual Payment Rates*				
One Person				
Age	70	75	80	85
Rate	5.7%	6.3%	7.1%	8.1%
Two People				
Ages	70/70	75/75	80/80	85/85
Rate	5.2%	5.6%	6.1%	7.0%

\*Payout rates will vary according to actual age of each annuitant.

Please contact Jo Rahaim, director of gift planning, for a personal proposal tailored to your circumstances at (734) 429-9401, ext. 3191, or email her at [rahaimj@evangelicalhomes.org](mailto:rahaimj@evangelicalhomes.org). Or to view a gift annuity rate table, visit the UCC Financial Development Ministry at [www.ucc.org/giving](http://www.ucc.org/giving).

## Celebrating senior housing

National Nursing Home Week and Michigan's Senior Housing Awareness Week are occasions to recognize and celebrate the residents and staff who contribute to vital, supportive long-term care and housing communities. Each of our communities pick their own theme and means for celebration.

In Sterling Heights, the theme was "New Logo, New Experiences." Different departments were responsible for communicating an aspect of the logo that Evangelical Homes introduced last year. One example was when Dining Services took responsibility for presenting the "sunburst" behind the cross, the day was designated

"wear yellow" day, and the party they hosted utilized products that had "sun" in the name.

Saline utilized a "Goin' Country" theme and Saline Mayor Gretchen Driskell helped the official kick-off. There was a parade which included the Play and Learn Children's Place band, and floats designed and built by the departments at Evangelical Home-Saline.

Evangelical Homes participated in a Senior Housing Expo and Brecon Village hosted a community Open House.

Many, many thanks to the residents and staff who joined together to make these activities a terrific success!