Responding to the Challenge of COVID-19

A publication of Morningstar Living
Message from the CEO

Dear Friends of Morningstar Living:

Needless to say, what an extraordinary time we are all living in. When you think back to the first few weeks of March 2020, can you even recall what your most normal day-to-day life was like “before COVID-19”? It seems like such a distant memory for most of us and yet it was only four months ago. For me, it was a wake-up call as to how quickly life can change drastically in just a matter of days. And many of the changes that we have all experienced as a result of the pandemic are here to stay for a while. In the health care field, we are no longer thinking about “post-COVID-19”. Instead, we’re thinking about how to adapt our operations to living safely with the threat of COVID-19 at least for the foreseeable future.

In March, we quickly introduced many restrictions to mitigate the risk of the virus spreading within our communities. Over a weekend, we put together a COVID-19 Daily Crisis Management Team to deal with the myriad of changes and precautions that needed to happen in multiple departments in a matter of days. We closed our communities to all visitors and halted the movement of residents and staff between our different styles of living.

Staff have been faced with changing every aspect of the way we deliver services to residents in order to minimize their risk. Our dining venues had to be closed, with culinary services limited to take-out only. All group events and activities were canceled. The hair care salon was closed along with numerous other common gathering spots for exercising, socializing and recreation. Routine maintenance and housekeeping services were interrupted to focus on deep disinfecting and sanitizing of high touch areas. Our own grocery shopping and delivery service was established, literally overnight. Exercise classes were set up in hallways, while “happy hour and treats” were delivered to homes. We invested in new technology to bring all employee team meetings online and to allow those who could work remotely from home to do so. The main front lobby in the Administration Building became the only door open for employees to enter so that they could be screened before and after every shift.

Behind the scenes we were engaged in another battle – that of procuring sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment, food, sanitizing chemicals, and of course, IT equipment to support both residents and employee virtual communications. Everything we have ever taught our Morningstar Living employees about gracious hospitality and promoting friendly interactions with residents was completely upended by the pandemic. Staff who chose this type of work because they loved people had to be suited up with masks and face shields, and gowns. Staff had to “smile with their eyes” because procuring sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment, food, sanitizing chemicals, and of course, IT equipment to support both residents and employee virtual communications. Everything we have ever taught our Morningstar Living employees about gracious hospitality and promoting friendly interactions with residents was completely upended by the pandemic. Staff who chose this type of work because they loved people had to be suited up with masks and face shields, and gowns. Staff had to “smile with their eyes” because we could no longer see their smiles. Working at Moravian Hall Square and Heritage Village felt more like working at a high security, correctional facility instead of an active older adult community. I can only imagine how residents felt – as if they were being held prisoner within their own rooms, apartments, and cottages!

Thankfully, our vigilance and early restrictions at both communities have resulted in a very low incidence of COVID-19. A total of only three residents in independent living and personal care tested positive and only eight employees out of 400 have tested positive to date. We are so grateful that we have had no cases of COVID-19 among our most vulnerable population of residents who live in the nursing home.

And, in spite of all the fear and negativity surrounding this pandemic, I’ve had the unexpected joy of witnessing the very best of humanity at work. Employees who put their own fears aside and showed up for work, placing their concern for residents ahead of their own families. In May we placed a banner on the front of our administration building that says simply: “Heroes Work Here”. And that’s been an understatement.

There have been many other blessings to celebrate during these very challenging weeks. We mobilized an army of ‘mask makers’ - residents, staff and volunteers, who supplied all of our employees and residents with a spectacular array of face masks. Our residents at both campuses have been amazing troopers, putting up with all of the restrictions, and pages of instructions and reminders being sent out to them and their families. While some residents lived through the Depression and World War II, others would admit that they had never been through anything like this COVID-19 pandemic. I think it’s fair to say that residents’ initial fears, like that of our employees, eventually turned into the “we can get through this” survival mode! As long as we have food including DESSERT, shelter, television, WiFi, telephone, and of course, the proverbial toilet paper, we can get through anything! Heroes not only work here, but they also live here.

As the months have passed, the COVID-19 Crisis Management Team has become the New Normal Transition Team, (NNTT) working with sub-teams to develop and implement and communicate detailed plans to move our communities forward again toward some semblance of “new normalcy”. Yes, that’s right, a “NEW NORMAL”. We don’t yet know exactly what the coming weeks and months will hold, but we can be certain that none of us will be able to rest easily until science and medicine know more about this virus, including the development of a vaccine or another type of treatment.

Be assured that all of us at Morningstar Living will continue to take a cautious and deliberate approach and one that continues to follow the recommendations and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the PA Department of Health. As the Governor eases restrictions in Northampton County, we will continue to follow a measured strategy of re-starting services and re-opening various amenities slowly. We know that residents have “cabin fever” and miss spending time with their families and friends immensely. And we intend to follow the Department of Health’s guidelines in regard to re-starting visitation, dining, and group events as soon as it is safe to do so.

I speak for all staff when I say we cannot wait until residents can experience the simple joy of being safely reunited with their loved ones! We are most grateful for all of the support and the patience that residents and their families have extended us. We ARE guilty, as likely charged, of over-protecting every resident who lives in our communities. And we did this because we care deeply. The extraordinary measures we’ve taken for infection prevention have served us well. While there has been much negative national publicity about nursing homes throughout the country where COVID-19 has spread like wildfire, I feel so fortunate, blessed and grateful that we have had such few cases of COVID-19 in our communities. This isn’t the result of good luck, good fortune or happenstance…it’s the result of a dedicated team of professionals working together towards one goal. God willing, we look forward to some easing of restrictions, in stages, over the course of the next several months.

During the month of April some residents painted the poster (below) to encourage staff through some of the darkest days of this pandemic and to remind them that there will be better days ahead. “The rainbow comes after the storm.” There have been many rainbows on display at Morningstar Living, despite COVID-19.

Thank you for all your prayers and faithful support. Please stay strong. I am confident we will persevere together.

All the best,

Susan C. Drabic
President and CEO

Morningstar Living
Enriching life’s journey

The Heritage is published for residents, staff, volunteers and friends to provide information about current events and programs at Morningstar Living.

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If you are receiving duplicates of The Heritage or wish to have a name removed or address changed, please contact the editor in writing.

Morningstar Living is a not-for-profit corporation. It is affiliated with the Eastern District, Northern Province, Moravian Church in America. Morningstar Living warmly welcomes people of all races and traditions.

The Heritage
Summer 2020
Morningstar Living celebrated a dedication event for the Heritage Village campus and the newly completed Cooper Center. The event, held in December, was attended by residents, staff, board members, dignitaries, and friends of the organization.

Sue Capobianco, Chief Marketing Officer, welcomed guests to the dedication celebration and acknowledged the major milestone this day marked in the history of Morningstar Living. Sue described how Heritage Village has been in various stages of planning and development for almost a decade. Construction of the site began in May 2017. Engineering and site work to bring public utilities to the site, as well as preparation of the site for construction of Phase One homes, occurred through the summer of 2017. Once construction of all nineteen cottages was complete in spring 2018 the first residents began moving into their new homes. By December 2019 Phase 1 and Phase 2 of construction were complete with reservations already being accepted for homes in Phase 3.

Morningstar Living Board Chairman, Barbara Seifert-Sigmon offered a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Over 300 guests attended the Dedication Celebration

Sue Capobianco welcomes guests to the celebration.

Susan Cooper Drabic celebrates with family members.

Phil Malitsch, Partner & Project Manager at Hanover Engineering, described the obstacles they had to overcome to ensure the entire site could be engineered without steps at front entrances to cottage homes on the campus.

Chris Brown, Owner & Landscape Architect at Brown Design Corp., described the emphasis Morningstar Living places on the importance of outdoor spaces.

Several guests spoke of their involvement in this project, the challenges faced, and the pride they felt as they celebrated the Dedication for Heritage Village and the Cooper Center.

Continued on next page
The Cooper Center includes a Fitness Center, a Game Room, a Pub called The Peace Tree Pub, a lounge and a large auditorium for educational programs, activities, meetings and private resident events. The center also includes locker and shower rooms to service residents using the outdoor, heated swimming pool and pickleball court.

The Cooper Center was named in honor of Morningstar Living’s President and CEO Susan Cooper Drabic. Sue joined the organization prior to the first campus, Moravian Hall Square, being opened in January 1988. Since becoming CEO and President in 1990, Sue has led the organization through many expansion and renovation projects. It is because of her leadership and dedication to the vision of this new campus that Heritage Village has become a reality. Sue was presented with a uniquely commissioned image of the completed Heritage Village campus, aptly named Dedication to a Vision, which is displayed in The Cooper Center in her honor.

Heritage Village was designed to have the characteristics of a neighborhood development, with homes in close proximity, to promote socialization and community among the residents who live there. Construction of the Heritage Village campus will continue in additional phases until the 50+ acre campus is complete. When complete, Heritage Village will be home to almost 300 people who will have the perfect retirement solution... an active-adult living lifestyle that includes a continuum of health care services provided for them at Moravian Hall Square.
Rock A Thon

It began in spring of 2019 as an idea from resident, Vic Peckenscheider and now, in 2020, Morningstar Living is hosting a second Rock A Thon event to welcome summer!

Monday, June 22nd – a few days beyond the solstice, but we have ordered sunshine and blue skies to provide the perfect backdrop for our front porch fundraiser! The Special Event committee instituted a new neighborhood plan with team captains overseeing rocking throughout the day.

Residents and staff use comfy porch rockers across all main porch areas of Moravian Hall Square and the Cooper Center at Heritage Village. Rockers will enjoy summertime snacks and friendly conversation while adhering to physical distancing.

Last year, this event was recognized as a nominee for the Innovative Project of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Although our event was not awarded the distinction of that prize, the Rock A Thon was victorious in providing Musical Therapy programming for residents impacted with Alzheimer's and other cognitive challenges.

The Rock A Thon Committee of staff and volunteers is hoping to raise even more participation and more money this year so that the proceeds can be directed to support the operational costs of the new Morningstar Memory Café outreach program.

This year, with the COVID-19 restrictions, we are limiting the rockers to residents and staff. We do, however, welcome virtual rocking supporters! Rock at home and send a photo to giving@moravia.com.

Additionally, donations to support the Morningstar Memory Café are welcome all summer long! Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website and make a secure on-line donation.

Even a pandemic can’t stop us from celebrating the sunny days of summer!

Morningstar Memory Café

The anticipated day of a community café for those impacted with cognitive dementia is here! Morningstar Senior Solutions is excited to offer an outreach program that provides hospitality, inclusion and activities for those dealing with dementia in a home setting.

Bi-monthly gatherings will be held to provide activities and social interaction for care partners and persons impacted with diseases such as Alzheimer's and the many other forms of dementia that affect older adults. Many households are dealing with a loved one that has a dementia diagnosis and it creates significant challenges. Morningstar Living has offered many forms of educational and emotional support to families who are faced with dementia challenges. A variety of support groups and community programs have helped provide education, tips and social support, but the café is a more focused effort to offer a setting where people feel welcome and free of social stigma that people with dementia often experience.

We are pleased to partner with Advent Moravian Church in Hanover Township, Bethlehem. This location offers easy access for people as it is located just off Route 512 and Route 22. In an effort to prepare the best welcome for guests, people are asked to call or email their registration a few days in advance of the program dates. Morningstar Memory Café is hosted by experienced professionals from Senior Solutions who are Certified Dementia Specialists.

Programming will occur on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month beginning Summer 2020. Thanks to the generosity of sponsoring partners, there is no cost or fee for those attending the Memory Café.
**Charitable Gifts**

**GIFT MADE BY THESE DONORS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020**

- Barb Abel (Connie, Jane & Bobbie)
- Paul Ackerman
- Elizabeth Albert
- Marjorie Alderks
- Lester & Ruth Anderson
- Zachary Anderson
- Richard & Carol Andrews
- Anonymous
- Robert & Candace Aretz
- Arlene Ashton
- Ashton Funeral home
- Jane Atherholt
- Barb Abel (Connie, Jane & Bobbie)
- John Atherholt
- Ed & Shirley Batori
- Bath Supply
- Bath Supply
- Barbara Balla
- Bastian Carpet One
- Bath Supply
- Betty Bauman
- Mary Ellen Becker
- Jan Beer
- John Beitel
- Shelly Belotti
- Bill Benner
- Frances Bentkowski
- Phyllis Berg
- Frances Betz
- George Bickford
- Blue Valley Builders
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- Kathleen Cornelius
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- Doris Deen
- Gilbert Degenhart
- Vic Dennis
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- Peter Diehl
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- Elinor Dinsmore
- Steve Dobos
- Lois Doyle
- David Drabic
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- Jane Duffy
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- Richard & Marion Egge
- Jackie Ellenberger
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- Kathleen Ernst
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- Deb & John Esposito
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- Grace Evanko
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- Patricia Fishler
- Emily Fitzpatrick
- Shirley Flagler
- Jane Florenz
- Robert Foltz
- Deanna Forney
- Susan Forney
- Joy Frankenfield
- Ellie Frey
- Grace Fried
- Jeanne Fried
- Elizabeth Frisch
- Anne & John Fritts
- Karen Furler
- Ethel Galley
- Joe Galley
- John Gardner

Please forgive any omissions from this listing. Feel free to contact Mollie Santee for corrections via email at giving@moravian.com

**Charitable Gifts**

**GIFT MADE BY THESE DONORS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020**

- Richard Garr
- Donald Gentile
- Gibson Paving Services LLC
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- Karen Gil
- Maricel Glova
- Sharon Gotthard
- Green Pond Country Club
- Grube Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
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- Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.
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- Glenn Hartzell
- Deb & Richard Hatch
- Mary Hawk
- Dorothy Hege
- Timothy Heil
- Joan Heitman
- Maurice & Kathy Heller
- Nancy & Jeffrey Heller
- Joseph Herd
- Thomas & Janice Higgins
- Charles Hildenbrandt
- Sue Himmelreich
- Heidi Hinkle
- John & Joan Hobart
- Wayne Hoch
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- Dawn Holloway
- Sally Horne
- Harry Horton
- Richard Linda Hostelley
- Connie House-Wenzel
- Dawn Hughes
- Marilyn Hummer
- Val & Christopher Hunt
- Peg Hunt
- George Hunter
- Karen & Roger Huth
- Huth Insurance
- Janet Ikovits
- International Council on Active Aging
- Paul Iobst & Haunani Kekua
- Barbara Isenberg
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- Rodger Dusinski
- Eastern Dist. of Moravian Church
- Richard & Marion Egge
- Jackie Ellenberger
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GIFT MADE BY THESE DONORS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020

**Charitable Gifts**

Linda McMeekin  
Thelma McNulty  
Medline Industries  
Patricia Metz  
Linda Michael  
Diane Miller  
Mary Lee Miller  
Deborah Mireau  
Virginia Moore  
Denise Moore  
Moravian Larch Life Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O’Donohue  
Ruth O’Connor  
Mary Ellen Norton  
Community College Northampton  
Rose Nehring  
Hardware Nazareth Hometown  
Kay Murray  
John O’Donohue  
Edward Nawrocki  
Nazareth Hometown Hardware  
Rose Nehringer  
Northampton Community College  
Mary Ellen Norton  
Lena Nyffenegger  
Ruth O’Donohue  
John O’Donohue  
Ole Homestead Golf Club  
Anthonina Overholt  
Janet Overholt  
Hedwig Pambianchi  
Betty Pasternak  
Helen Pearson  
Pamela Pearson  
David & Kathleen Roth  
Trident Care  
Deb Shenberger  
Barry Trumbauer  
Eric Vogel  
Paul & Faith Voit  
Charles Wagner  
Jennifer Smith  
Halford Smith  
Willough & Arlene Smith  
Helen Snyder  
Sodexo Senior Services  
Helen Solfrank  
Richard & Linda Sollday  
Gordon & Susan Sommers  
Dolores Sost  
Leon Sostak  
Dorothy Sterner  
Frances Stoudt  
Bonnie & Tom Stubbfield  
William Swick  
Dorothy & John Talago  
The Bayou  
The Melting Pot  
The Philadelphia Trust Company  
Thrivent Financial  
Jill & Jim Tilney  
Jane & Roger Tressler

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020 THAT HONOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Frank & Mary Ambrose  
Kline Ashton, Sr.  
Edwin Auerbach  
Patricia & Robert Aretz  
Eddie Bajan  
Elda Mae & Joseph Balla  
Dave & Phoebe Barta  
Ann Bauman  
Buck Beer  
Robert H. Becker  
Arthur Berg  
Keith Bodisch  
Marilyn Brewerst  
Paul & Ida Burley  
Elda Cairns  
Katherine ‘Kitty’ Calzetti  
Rev. Dr. Douglas & Mrs. Barbara Caldwell  
Thomas W. Christy  
Jeanne Cheston  
Sylvester Compton  
Morris and Jennie Cravits  
Jean B. Diehl  
Frank DiVanna  
Ron Roth & Lorraine Roth Dreger  
Jean Dreydoppel  
David Drinkhouse  
Alex J. and Elsie E. Dusinski  
Jim Evanko  
Anna Falcone  
William & Margaret Fehnel  
Edward ‘Bud’ Fisher  
Miriam M. Forney  
Kenneth and June Fox  
Michael Galley  
Mille Gilbert  
John Gyulai, Sr.  
H. Jennie Matejeck  
John McBee  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. McCurdy  
Margaret McInvaill  
Samuel McMeekin  
Thelma McNulty  
Richard Metz  
Murphy and Seibold Family  
Peter Todd, Peter Timothy, Jeff and Mike Murray  
Andrew Nestor, Jr.  
Anne Nilsen  
Howard F. Overholt  
Miroslaw Pasternak  
Orazio Prestifilippo  
Thomas V. Rinaldi  
Helen Arlene Sofranko  
William & Eileen Schuler  
William M. Schultz  
**GIFFTS MADE IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 TO JUNE 1, 2020**

Children of Phyllis Berg  
Gertrude Christy  
James Cook  
Otto Dreypoppel  
Frances Eckert  
Anne Fehr  
Des Forney  
Shirley Hell  
Theresa Jandro  
H. Jennie Matejeck  
John McBee  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. McCurdy  
Margaret McInvaill  
Samuel McMeekin  
Thelma McNulty  
Richard Metz  
Murphy and Seibold Family  
Peter Todd, Peter Timothy, Jeff and Mike Murray  
Andrew Nestor, Jr.  
Anne Nilsen  
Howard F. Overholt  
Miroslaw Pasternak  
Orazio Prestifilippo  
Thomas V. Rinaldi  
Helen Arlene Sofranko  
William & Eileen Schuler  
William M. Schultz  
Winifred & Rodman Seifert  
John Shaffer  
Dr. Robert L. Snyder  
Betty Sprague  
Donald Stoudt  
John & Lorraine Thierolf  
Elwood Vogel  
Lottie & Milton Kline, Edith & Edwin Weiss and David Weiss
**Why Do You Need a Plan?**

**MYTH:** Planned Giving is for those who have a lot of money, not for you.

**TRUTH:** Planned Giving is about making informed choices about directing your money.

I have been helping people make charitable gifts for most of my adult life. Whether working on fundraising efforts for local schools and charitable organizations, or directing the efforts of the Morningstar Living Foundation, part of asking for a gift of support is that the person understands the purpose behind the ask. What are your dollars supporting? Is it meaningful to you? Does it feel good to make the gift?

As you think about your current gifts to charitable organizations, do you ask these simple questions of yourself before making a gift? Regardless of the size of the gift, you should be confident that the purpose is clear and that you want to support it. This same strategy is true for planned giving, it is extending your support for causes important to you in a significant way.

In some cases, you might be able to have a greater impact with your gift by having a planned gift as part of your charitable legacy plan. Naming a qualified and registered charitable organization as a beneficiary in your will is often a popular method to making a legacy gift. However, there are some other assets that you own that also can be a part of your planned giving and actually limit inheritance tax implications for your heirs – naming an organization such as Morningstar Living as a named beneficiary on an IRA or life insurance policy allows those funds to go directly to the charitable organization and not be subject to traditional tax assessment.

Many people aged 70 ½ and above have chosen to use their Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA as a Planned Giving Tool to make gifts to Qualified Charitable organizations. Some rulings regarding age and IRAs have been impacted by the recent passage of the SECURE act and it is best to consult with your financial advisor before making new gifts in this way.

There is no doubt that donors receive a direct benefit from giving – most of the benefit is emotional. The fact that you, as the donor made a choice to make a difference in a tangible way should be seen as a way that your plan of action resulted in positive impact for others.

Recently, our community was blessed with several legacy gifts that were realized after the donor died. I am pleased to know that in both cases, the intent of the donor when they made the plan came to fruition for the organization they cared deeply about. These donors were humble people who wanted to set up a way to extend their spirit of caring toward others beyond their own lifetime. In representing the charitable arm of Morningstar Living, I am humbled and filled with gratitude for these forward thinking philanthropists.

Contact Mollie Santee, Executive Director of Morningstar Living Foundation to find out more about Legacy Giving options.

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**LIFE All Aboard for LIFE!**

Morningstar Living has long strived to be an educational resource to residents and to the greater Lehigh Valley community. For many years Moravian Hall Square has offered a series of events offering a wide range of programs and topics, EventFULL, which is open to the general public.

This year Morningstar Living invited local colleges to partner to provide a new lifelong learning initiative in Nazareth PA. East Stroudsburg University answered the call and LIFE, Learning is ForEver, was launched. A team of staff and resident volunteers at Morningstar Living worked with ESU to develop the initiative and plan the first semester of non-credit classes.

LIFE offers a wealth of opportunities for personal growth through never-ending learning. Courses are offered in humanities, philosophy, social sciences, technology, and health and wellness. Classes range from 1 to 2 hours in length, with a single class or multiple classes per course, based on the subject matter. These small, seminar-style classes are held at The Cooper Center at Heritage Village.

“East Stroudsburg University (ESU) is proud of its new partnership with Morningstar Living,” said Joanne Zakartha Bruno, provost of ESU. “Considered a well-respected institution of higher education and the only public university within the Pocono region, ESU is proud to provide some of its finest offerings to residents of the Morningstar Living community as well as the Lehigh Valley community.”

The first class – All Aboard for LIFE! – was launched in February, when Dr. Tim Connolly, Professor of Modern Languages, Philosophy, & Religion emphasized the importance of lifelong learning – inter-generational learning, continuous education for personal grown, and the importance of a learning community.

The remaining classes filled up very quickly but everything came to an abrupt stop with the COVID-19 crisis. We are, however, hopeful that we will be able to offer LIFE programs in small groups and virtually as we transition to our “new normal” in the coming months. Check our website for updates.

“Dr. Connolly Full Class”

Contact Mollie Santee, Executive Director of Morningstar Living Foundation to find out more about Legacy Giving options.
Personalized Rehabilitation

Mary Louise Hawk’s world changed in May 2019 when she suffered a stroke. After spending time in the hospital, Mary came to the Health and Wellness Center at Moravian Hall Square to undergo rehabilitation therapy. The therapy team developed a personalized plan for Mary to begin to relearn many basic skills, such as walking, dressing herself and brushing her teeth during her therapy sessions.

As the team got to know Mary, they learned that she had spent her career as a Kindergarten Teacher. She had enjoyed teaching young children, in particular, the coloring and cutting activities that became part of her day…and what better tasks to improve both her fine motor skills and her gross motor skills! So Mary’s Occupational Therapist incorporated some of these tasks – organizing, cutting, coloring and crafting - into the sessions. By including things that Mary enjoyed doing it meant that therapy was less of a chore for Mary and she became more focused and determined to succeed. “I knew rehab was all about getting your body back to doing what it’s supposed to do and not having a lot of control over my right hand was frustrating. So to be able to do these things I really enjoyed, like cutting, was really a nice surprise”, Mrs. Hawk said. “I was always the ‘cutter’ when it came to craft projects, either at school or at my church, Arndt’s Lutheran.”

During her therapy sessions Mary played a big part in getting the department ready for Active Aging Week activities by working on a large poster promoting the event. Mary took great pride in showing her work which was displayed in the Commons at Moravian Hall Square during Active Aging Week, particularly when friends and family joined her for lunch in the Good Spirit Café.

“Knew we would have a lot of fun and that Mrs. Hawk was the perfect patient. She was willing to put in the work.” Jeanne Fried, PT, MS, GCS, manager of Rehab Services and Mary’s primary physical therapist, said. “From the minute she arrived here, my ultimate goal was to get her to walk.”

Mary is grateful for all of the skilled personnel that have helped her throughout this journey since arriving at Moravian Hall Square. “It’s just a wonderful experience to be able to do more than when I came in. I really have been blessed with everything in my life,” Mary said. “I’ve only ever had good things happen in my life and I just feel completely blessed to be here at Moravian Hall Square.”

The Art of Scherenschnitte

How do you fill the day if your child is home sick with chickenpox? For Moravian Hall Square resident Nancy Shelly that is exactly what she was wondering back in the late 1970s when she was at home taking care of her three children who had all come down with chickenpox. With Valentine’s Day approaching Nancy thought it would a great distraction for them to work on some Valentine’s cards. So out came the paper and scissors and they got to work on their creations. Little did Nancy know that day that her Valentine’s Day project would lead to a whole new chapter in her life.

Nancy worked on many paper cutting projects while mastering her craft. As she became more accomplished in the art, called Scherenschnitte, a good friend asked her to decorate a booth at the Allentown Fairground Great Eastern Antique Show using some of her framed pieces. That booth drew a lot of attention and before she knew it Nancy was being commissioned to create special, one of a kind, pieces. Her work was accepted by the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen which qualified her to participate in juried craft shows. Nancy has displayed her work in many places – the Brooklyn Branch of the New York Public Library, Boston Symphony Hall, State Museum of Pennsylvania, and the New York Interfaith Center, to name a few. She was honored to be invited to create an ornament for the White House’s Blue Room Christmas tree during the Clinton administration.

Since Nancy and her husband, Dave, moved to Moravian Hall Square in 2018, life has been busy and Nancy has not spent as much time on her artwork. When staff learned of her talent, Nancy was invited to be a Featured Artist for Morningstar Living’s EventFULL Living series. During the month of March Nancy displayed a selection of her pieces for all to enjoy…and enjoy they did! A special Meet the Artist reception was held so that visitors could meet Nancy and hear firsthand the stories behind each piece of artwork. Residents, staff, family and friends came to view the exhibit expressing their delight at seeing the exquisite artwork on display. Being the Featured Artist, and seeing again the joy her art brings to others, has reignited Nancy’s passion to create again. We are all looking forward to seeing more of her work and another exhibit later in the year.
Good Job, Morningstar. Good Job.

Morningstar Living has 353 residents and 403 employees, who for the rest of their lives, will never forget the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis hit Morningstar’s campuses during March 2020, and continues to challenge and ravage the entire world. These are the faces of Morningstar Living – residents and staff - who took on the COVID-19 battle with courage, compassion, and hope for better days to come. They prevailed. And they are still here holding each other up day after day. Amazing people doing extraordinary things every single day. Good job, Morningstar. Good Job.

At a time when many people feel that they don’t have a lot of control over what is going on, our residents, staff, and friends of our community got busy sewing an array of colorful masks. The masks were distributed to staff, residents, local hospitals and Gracedale. A big thank you to our army of mask makers for helping to fight this battle… together.

The big 100th birthday party was put on hold but Elsie Frey still celebrated her 100th birthday with lots of smiles and visits from friends...all celebrating from afar.

“This is our small way of saying thanks to the Morningstar Living staff, to the mail carriers, truck drivers, grocery store staff, mask-makers, delivery people, first responders, medical personnel, teachers and all those on the front lines during this pandemic. We are forever in your debt. Stay safe.”

— Donna and Czeslaw Kuliczkowski

Families and residents enjoyed a drive up celebration for Mother’s Day.

Neighborhood Life team members brought Happy Hour and treats to residents at their homes.

Residents decorated stars in honor of the team members who worked diligently throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Residents worked on a poster for staff.

Mrs. Roller’s family express their gratitude to staff.
Let's get social...
follow Morningstar Living on...

We are in this together.