



## STAFF:

### MOVING FROM CNA TO NURSING DEGREE TO HELP RESIDENTS

*“You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...When I awake, I am still with you”*

—Psalm 139:2, 18b

You are part of our Edison Christian Life Services community continuum of care. Maybe you’ve experienced the sense of Christian care and trust among residents, families, and staff here. Since we deeply value our employees, we support their career path development wherever possible. For example, people interested in nursing sometimes start out as certified nurse aides (CNAs) to test that interest before investing in training to become licensed nurses.

We are thrilled when CNAs not only return to school to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs) or registered nurses (RNs)—but also use their new degrees right here, among treasured residents and colleagues. Meet two people who’ve followed that career pathway at Edison Christian Health Center.

**Jordyn Bowers** says she’s dreamed of becoming an RN since age four. “I come from a family of nurses. My grandma was a DON (director of nursing) and my mom is an RN. In high school, I went to Kent Career Technical Center to get my CNA and started working at Edison Christian Health Center (EHC) just before Christmas 2010.”

She’s grateful for the support from family and colleagues as her career developed. “Edison Christian has always been so warm and welcoming since I began as a CNA. I’ve trained and worked on the east wing for much of the last 12 years.”

Jordyn credits her grandma, mom, and unit managers Deb Mroz and Jane Gotberg for “being such great role models.” They encouraged her as she went through Grand Rapids Community College’s associate degree nursing program. Finishing the program took her 15 months, and then she trained for six weeks at EHC to get to know all the units well from a nurse’s perspective.

“Schooling was quite intense once I began the nursing program. My class schedule changed every seven weeks, but Edison Christian was flexible and encouraging. They helped me get the CNA hours I needed financially to get my RN degree.



**Jordyn Bowers**

“I have a special place in my heart for our Ritzema Hall residents, who have dementia. I worked there as a CNA. While in school, I knew I would stay at EHC for a while to get some experience as a nurse. I didn’t realize I would fall in love again with my new role as a Ritzema Hall charge nurse. When Deb retires, I will become unit manager,” Jordyn says.

She finds deep purpose in her work and counts it a special honor to care for elderly residents. “To me, it is similar to the impact that labor and delivery nurses have in bringing new life into the world. Long-term care nurses are often present and holding the hands of the elderly in the last years and last moments of life.”

Jordyn is currently part time, working Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other weekend on first shift. Her daily tasks include administering medication and treatment and overseeing CNA staff on the unit. Staff have gotten more tech savvy since she began at EHC 12 years ago. As a CNA and even during her first years as an RN, everyone charted on paper, which took far more time than the current practice of electronic charting. Back then, many lift devices weren’t electronic.

“The technology has changed, but our empathy and love for residents has remained strong,” she says. Though Jordyn has less resident contact than

*(continued on page 5)*



# FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Our year-end newsletter highlights licensed nursing staff. The staff members in this newsletter have pursued a career track at Edison Christian Health Center (ECHC) from certified nurse aide to registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. Our licensed nurses complete resident assessments, take residents' vital signs, administer medications, monitor residents' conditions, and complete detailed charting in our electronic medical records. Our licensed nurses work closely with physicians and direct the care of staff under their supervision to implement care plans. The licensed nurses coordinate with our interdisciplinary team to provide the best care possible for our residents. We hope you enjoy learning more about the roles of our licensed nurses.

The Women's Service Board thanks all who attended their October 9th concert with the Voices of Victory Quartet and the Covenant Christian Chamber Choir at Westend Christian Reformed Church. The concert was inspiring, God-honoring, and a blessed time of fellowship. The offering provided nearly \$4,600 for items to benefit our residents. Recent purchases include iN2L subscription services, Alexa devices, iPad cases, music therapy, musical performances, and ongoing expenses for our bird aviary.

It's important to keep residents and staff safe and comfortable. Parts were no longer available for our malfunctioning Edison Christian Assisted Living fire control panel, so we had to order replacements for the control panel, smoke detectors, alarms, and wiring. We also had to order an unexpected replacement for the huge rooftop unit that air conditions our ECHC kitchen. This kitchen services all three of our facilities. We are grateful to preferred vendors Bazen Electric and Van Dyken Mechanical for their competitive quotes and reliable services. These projects totaled \$103,240.

Did you know that 82% of Edison Christian Health Care (ECHC) residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their care because their money is gone? Medicaid pays us far less than our actual cost to continue serving each resident. Our operational costs have soared due to the increasing cost of wages, employee benefits, and operating supplies to care for our residents. We need your help more than ever because the Medicaid shortfall has again increased. We continue to depend on the covenant community to keep the promise of mutual caring and to support our residents who are Medicaid eligible.

May God bless you this Christmas and in the New Year!

Todd Nyeholt

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES AND IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

As much as we value receiving checks to Edison Christian Foundation, we realize that other ways to give may offer more advantages to you. That's why we want to tell you about three sure things—charitable gift annuities, deferred gift annuities, and the IRA Charitable Rollover.

The people who've chosen a charitable gift annuity (CGA) say it is an excellent choice if you want to significantly help Edison Christian Foundation but still need a fixed income. And CGA rates have recently increased. In exchange for your gift to us, we offer you a CGA, with guaranteed lifelong income. The older you are when you begin a CGA, the higher your annual or quarterly returns will be. For example, the rate is 5.3% for a single person aged 70 and 6% for a single person aged 75.

Although a portion of your guaranteed income is taxable, you get an immediate tax deduction for a portion of your original gift amount. The capital gain is spread out, and money placed in your CGA is usually exempt from estate and inheritance taxes. When you pass away, Edison Christian Foundation receives the balance of your annuity.

A deferred gift annuity (DGA) is a popular choice for younger donors who want to plan for retirement. Say you have a stock that's soared in value. Instead of selling it and increasing your tax burden, you could create a DGA by giving the stock to Edison Christian Foundation. You'd get

an immediate charitable tax deduction and tax savings. Later you'd begin receiving annuity income, some of it tax-free. DGA donors choose a date, which must be more than one year after their contribution, to begin receiving payments.

If you own an IRA and are at least 70½, you might appreciate a tax break called the IRA Charitable Rollover. The rollover lets owners of traditional and Roth IRAs instruct their IRA custodians to distribute up to \$100,000 to a public charity. That distribution isn't included in federal taxable income but does qualify for all or part of an IRA owner's required minimum distribution. Each year Edison Christian Life Services usually receives about ten IRA rollover gifts from \$500 to \$5,000. Last year, we received \$12,000 in gifts from IRA distributions—in amounts from \$25 to \$3,000. Might you be one of those donors this year?

It's also possible that another type of planned gift, such as a will bequest or life insurance policy, is a better choice for your estate. For free, confidential advice on estate planning, phone Todd Nyeholt at (616) 453-2475. You can get the same free, confidential advice from Barnabas Foundation attorneys. Simply phone Barnabas Foundation toll-free at (888) 448-3040, or email [planning@barnabasfoundation.com](mailto:planning@barnabasfoundation.com). They will refer you to their nearest attorneys, such as Amy Bakker Baty or Steve Baker in West Michigan.

# MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

July 2022- October 2022

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Marilyn DeMeester

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Catherine Rogg\*  
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Timothy Hein  
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Lil Tacoma's family

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## **Marian VerHage**

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilmeth

## **Harriet Witt**

Catherine Rosloniec\*  
Craig & Mary Zahrt\*

**Total Memorial Gifts ... \$15,102**

*\* Gifts designated for Edison Christian Foundation*

## ENCOURAGE US BY DOING THESE THINGS

- **Pray.** Please join us in thanking God for advances in preventing and treating COVID-19 and new freedoms for families to visit and residents to mingle. Pray for the well-being and protection of our residents and staff.
- **Send cards.** You can send encouraging cards, photos, or hand-drawn pictures—for residents or staff—addressed to Edison Christian Health Center, 1000 Edison Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.
- **Donate.** Support immediate needs at Edison Christian Health Center or give to Edison Christian Foundation to increase our endowment. Each spring the Edison Christian Foundation donates earnings from the endowment to partially fill the gap between what Medicaid pays and actual care costs for residents who've outlived their financial resources.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

July 2022 – October 2022

Georgia Gianakura	July 1	age 94
Lawrence Rekucki	July 2	age 82
Evelyn Trapp	July 3	age 90
Marianne Moore	July 10	age 88
Benedict Mol	July 20	age 97
Margaret Andersen	July 20	age 67
Thomas Perks	July 30	age 76
Harlan Oosterhouse	July 31	age 93
Louis Barnhart	August 17	age 89
Lucille Gregory	August 23	age 86
Carol Gura	August 24	age 81
Doris Terveen	September 1	age 93
Susan Lanting	September 1	age 76
Carolyn Beckman	September 9	age 98
Harold Brummel	September 11	age 97
Mary Andrus	September 14	age 100
Dorothy Koll	September 19	age 90
Ted Hall	September 20	age 75
Walter Bartusch	September 21	age 91
Irma Frazine	September 28	age 96
Shari Takus	October 8	age 97
Raymond Westra Jr.	October 13	age 78
Harriet Witt	October 16	age 97
Irene Eldridge	October 18	age 100
Harry Mencarelli	October 24	age 97
Stanley Karas	October 27	age 95
Eleanor Beoney	October 29	age 85

## YOUR NEXT JOB?

*“Helpful staff and friendly residents...  
a calling from the Lord...  
like working with family...  
upbeat and positive...  
better than my last job.”*

That's how new and long-term employees describe working at Edison Christian Life Services.

We'd love for you to join our caring staff.

## EDISON CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER

provides rehabilitation, long term and dementia care within the nursing facility.

**For more information, call  
Linda Elders, Director of Admissions,  
at (616) 453-2475  
or e-mail [lolders@edisonchristian.org](mailto:lolders@edisonchristian.org)**

## RECENT ECLS RETIREES

*In honor of your service from the  
Board of Directors:*

**Sue Jingles..... 15 years**  
**Sandra Pepper..... 14 years**

With our appreciation for your commitment to our residents!

## GIFTS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF

July 2022 – October 2022

In honor of... **Ann Slade's birthday** from Doug Slade  
In honor of... **Dorothy Koll** from Marv & Jan Dykema

## CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES

July 2022 – October 2022

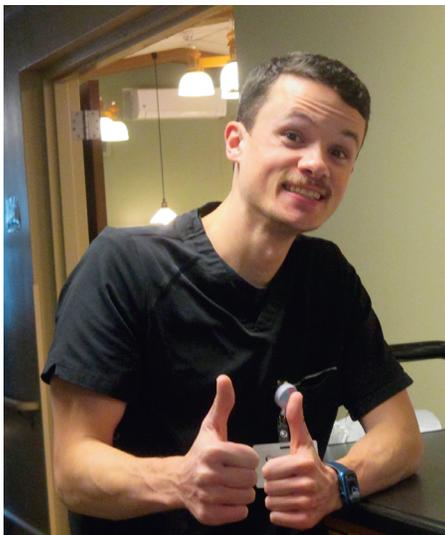
Bethany URC	Heritage Ref. Congr.
Bethel URC	Netherlands Ref.
First Evangelical Covenant	Remembrance Ref.
First Netherlands Ref. Congr.	Walker URC
First Protestant Ref.	West Leonard St. CRC
Free Ref.	

she did as a CNA, she welcomes any chance “to pull a chair up next to my med cart or at the nurse’s station and have a resident sit by me. I love to learn about their careers, their loved ones, and their interests. Our residents’ stories are incredible. The longer I stay, the stronger my relationships with residents and staff become. They are like family to me, and I can’t see myself working anywhere else.”

At home, Jordyn is busy with three “adorable, energy-filled little boys” aged five and under. She thanks her husband, Ryan, for “always being so supportive of my nursing career. Prior to the pandemic, Ryan would bring the boys in to visit. The smiles they would bring the residents were infectious. I look forward to the day we can do that again as we are getting back to normalcy,” she concludes.

**Casey Winn** grew up in Goodrich, Michigan, near Flint and Lapeer. He says that he’d always been interested in working in healthcare, especially as a nurse. After high school, he worked at a therapeutic equestrian center near his home. Some co-workers there were getting jobs as CNAs.

“It sounded like something I wanted to do as well. I got certified as a CNA at Mott Community College in Lapeer around 2016. I then worked at a couple different long-term care facilities on the east side of Michigan before moving to Grand Rapids.



**Casey Winn**

“When I got a CNA job at Edison Christian in April 2018, I was impressed that their standard of resident care is much better than I saw in other facilities. At those places, it was common for me to see residents not getting the attention and care they deserved. Many residents had preventable pressure injuries. At Edison, I see much more of a commitment to providing good care,” Casey says.

Working with “a lot of great LPNs inspired me to get my LPN at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) right in town,” he says. The Covid-19 pandemic started during his first semester of nursing school, which made for a chaotic time to be entering the nursing field.

Fortunately, he didn’t have to seek a new place to work after receiving his LPN degree. “I knew I’d work at Edison once I got my LPN, since I was already so familiar with the facility and residents.”

Casey now works full time on first shift, doing 32 hours a week and every other weekend. He describes his LPN job as coordinating with all facility departments to ensure residents receive the care that’s best suited for them. He’s also responsible for passing meds and giving injections as needed, doing treatments such as dressing changes and catheter care, supervising care provided by aides, and making sure care plans reflect each resident’s needs.

“The whole facility is one giant team, so lots of people report to me and I report off to lots of different people. Communication is such a big part of being a nurse. I’m now responsible for more residents, so, compared to when I was a CNA, I have a little less one-on-one time to spend with residents.

“The residents that always have the biggest impact on me are the ones in their late 90s and early 100s that are still so resilient and full of life. There’s a lot you can learn from them,” Casey says.

He lives in northeast Grand Rapids and has two pug mixes. Outside of work he loves staying active with running, hiking, biking, and traveling.

## EDISON CHRISTIAN INDEPENDENT LIVING

Edison Christian Independent Living provides senior citizen independent living and offers

meals, activities, and housekeeping services.

Our residents enjoy secure, homelike comfort and Christian companionship.

Studio and one-bedroom apartments are currently available.

**For more information and a tour, call:**

**(616) 453-0993**

**[edisonchristian.org](http://edisonchristian.org)**

## EDISON CHRISTIAN ASSISTED LIVING

Edison Christian Assisted Living encourages residents to maintain independence while acknowledging that assistance may be needed in the activities

of daily living. Assistance is available to help residents with bathing, dressing, taking medications, and other daily activities. Our support and services help our residents to live life fully. Assisted living apartments are currently available.

Assistance is available to help residents with bathing, dressing, taking medications, and other daily activities. Our support and services help our residents to live life fully. Assisted living apartments are currently available.

**For more information and a tour, call:**

**(616) 453-0581**

**[edisonchristian.org](http://edisonchristian.org)**



Edison Christian Life Services  
1000 Edison Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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EDISON CHRISTIAN  
LIFE SERVICES

# NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2022



Check out our website at:  
[edisonchristian.org](http://edisonchristian.org)

*LeadingAge*<sup>TM</sup>  
*Michigan*

Michigan Charitable Contributions Solicitation License Numbers:  
Edison Christian Life Services – MICS 6594  
Edison Christian Foundation – MICS 8956