



Continuing the ministries of
LSS of Maryland
The Lutheran Home at Topton
LWS of Northeastern Pa.
Lutheran Services Northeast
Tressler Lutheran Services

DONOR *Blessings*

Published three times a year by the Advancement Department of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

*This publication is prepared especially for you,
our treasured donor, in recognition of your participation in our mission.*

2003 Benefactors Dinner benefits our children's services

The 2003 Lutheran Home at Topton Benefactors Dinner reached for the stars and raised a record amount, more than \$196,000 for children's services.

The success of this dinner proves that our mission still touches the hearts of our constituency. The personal stories shared by Karen and Patrick Meloy, parents of twin girls adopted through us, and Renie Kroll, a foster mother who opens her home to pregnant teenage girls and their infants, left no doubt that our children's services changes lives.

Proceeds from the dinner that attracted more than 535 people to the Holiday Inn, Fogelsville, on May 20, 2003, will go toward Adoption Services, Foster Care, Pregnancy Services, and the TresslerCare Wilderness Center.

We are blessed with the support of a benevolent community who consider the needs of children a top priority. We are



Children and their parents join Daun McKee on stage as he explains, "The children on stage are the lucky ones... the children you see on the posters still wait for a family of their own."

extremely grateful to the major sponsors of this event, Meyer Jabara Hotels (Holiday Inn, Fogelsville) and First Union, for their generous support.

My sincere thanks to everyone who made the 15th annual Benefactors Dinner a success with their attendance, gifts, and effort. You are a blessing to many children in need.

The Rev. Dr. Daun E. McKee
President and CEO

Our Mission

*In response to God's love
in Jesus Christ, Diakon
Lutheran Social Ministries will
demonstrate God's command to
love the neighbor through
acts of service.*

More pictures and stories from Benefactors Dinner are on pages 3 & 4.

Take **Action**

The Charitable Gift Annuity – income for you and a gift for us.

Give a gift that helps a child find permanence in a loving family, provides security to an older resident, gives youth a second chance at making better decisions, and helps yourself at the same time.

Now might be the right time to establish a charitable gift annuity for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. With interest rates at historically low levels, the charitable gift annuity may be an excellent vehicle to provide you with the income you desire and several tax benefits.

What is a charitable gift annuity?

Simply stated, it is a contract between a donor and a charitable organization. A charitable gift annuity, established through an irrevocable gift to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Foundation for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, pays you a guaranteed payment of income for life (or the joint lives of two people).

At the end of life (or two lives), the remaining interest is retained by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and can be designated to a program or facility of your choosing.

What are the tax benefits?

When a donor establishes a charitable gift annuity, several tax benefits may be realized:

- The charitable remainder portion can become a federal income itemized tax deduction;
- The total gift is exempt from federal estate tax;
- Any capital gains on the sale of appreciated securities will be partially spread over the life expectancy of the person holding the annuity;
- A significant portion of the annuity payment is treated as a return on investment and is not taxed at all.

How do I know what my annuity payout rate will be?

ONE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
Your Age	Annuity Rate	Your Ages	Annuity Rate
60	6.0%	70 & 65	6.0%
70	6.7%	75 & 70	6.3%
80	8.3%	80 & 75	6.8%
90+	11.5%	90 & 85	8.6%

Annuity rates are dropping. Diakon will honor these rates until December 31, 2003.

Annuity payout rates are calculated based on life expectancy and can be significantly higher than prevailing interest rates (see the chart in blue).

For example, Laura, age 80, a resident in one of Diakon's facilities, sets up a charitable gift annuity with \$25,000 of IRA funds with the ELCA Foundation for the benefit of the facility in which she lives. Her rate of return is 8.3%, or \$2,075 annually.

And best of all, Laura created her own personal legacy by supporting the Diakon facility that provides loving care to herself and loved ones in her community.

Charitable gift annuities may be the perfect retirement and tax-planning vehicle for persons who want to maximize their retirement income and, at the same time, make a gift to their favored charity, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries.

With interest rates at historically low levels, now may be the time to act. Diakon's Office of Advancement can help. Please call 1-610-682-1219 or toll-free 1-888-582-2230 ext. 1219 for a no-obligation personal annuity profile and a free brochure. Any one of our Advancement directors will be able to assist you.

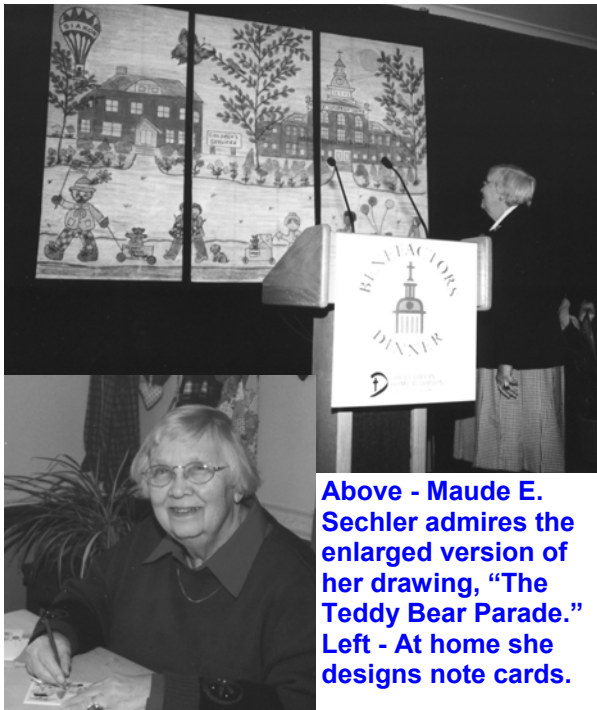
Donor Blessings is published by the Office of Advancement of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Comments may be directed to Linda Maxon at 610-682-1220.

Special Events

Maude Sechler's drawing serves as backdrop for dinner

The whimsical drawing featured on our Benefactors Dinner printed materials (invitations and program books) is the work of artist Maude E. Sechler. The drawing depicted the theme of our event so well and received so much acclaim as the invitation illustration that we found a way to use it as the backdrop behind the stage.

Maude is a resident of The Lutheran Home at Topton, in our Luther Haven cottages. She moved to Topton from Allentown 15 years ago. She continues to be an active member of Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield, Pa.



Above - Maude E. Sechler admires the enlarged version of her drawing, "The Teddy Bear Parade."
Left - At home she designs note cards.

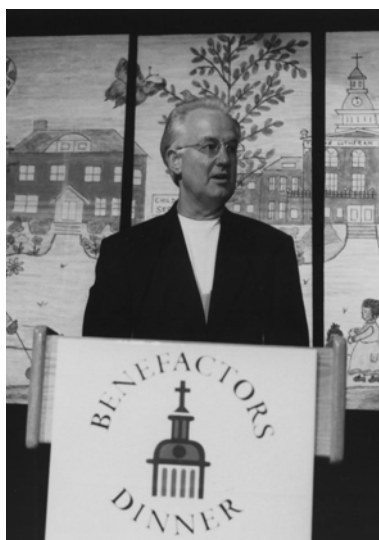
the weekly bulletin at Topton. Encouraged by the instructor, she has been drawing ever since... designing note cards... painting slates. Maude is a regular exhibitor at The Lutheran Home at Topton's Anniversary Day and Christmas Bazaar. She contributes the proceeds from the sales of her work to the senior center at The Lutheran Home at Topton.

No two of her drawings are exactly alike. Once she completes a pen and ink design it is photocopied onto white paper. The copies are each hand-colored by her with colored pencils. She signs her work with her initials and a little cat her grandmother taught her to make.

Other than art classes in high school, Maude had no formal art training until an art class was advertised in

Inspired by Grandma Moses, Maude says, "It's never too late to begin something you love."

Guest speaker, Pat Williams inspires champions for children



Special guest speaker Pat Williams delighted the audience with the story of his experience as a father of 19 children, 14 of whom are adopted.

Pat Williams is the senior executive vice president of the Orlando Magic/RDV Sports, the National Basketball Association (NBA) franchise in Orlando, Fla. Before assuming the

reigns of the Orlando Magic, Williams was the general manager of the Philadelphia 76ers for 12 years, including the 1983 season when they were NBA champs.

Pat opened his remarks with remembrances of his time in Pennsylvania that included several humorous references to the Lehigh Valley.

The focus of Pat's address to the Benefactors Dinner audience was to inspire **Champions for Children**, the theme for the evening. Pat eloquently detailed his philosophy of parenting with many stories from his personal experience rearing his own children.

Pat's stories confirmed what we know to be true, that



John and Carol Kuhns donated this dollhouse to Children's Services at The Lutheran Home at Topton. It is one of four John made especially for Benefactor's Dinner.

the individuals and families who open their hearts and their homes to a child in need are serving the Lord in a very special way. They deserve our prayers and our support.

In addition to his leadership with young people through the world of sports, Pat has authored numerous books and speaks frequently on topics that affect children. Inspired by his faith and the lessons learned through family trials and the ups and downs of his professional career, Pat believes, "You must list your values and then put shoe leather to them."

Pat and his wife, Ruth, live in Winter Park, Fla. Their adopted children are from four nations and range in age from 15 to 29. Four are from South Korea, four are from the Philippines, two from Romania and four from Brazil.



Residents from Luther Crest Retirement Village socialize on the terrace at Benefactors Dinner.

Dollhouse display tells stories of service to children

Eight dollhouses decorated the ballroom for the 2003 Benefactors Dinner. Each dollhouse told a story of a family brought together and served through The Lutheran Home at Topton's Adoption, Foster Care, or Pregnancy Services. Here is one of the stories.

This is Tyrone's House

Tyrone was a short, disheveled, immature boy with a big attitude when he came to live with Tim in the summer of 2001. They hit it off right away! They spent the summer camping, playing video games and visiting with Tim's family. As summer ended and their lives settled into the school routine, Tyrone began to have problems. He lied and skipped school. He was suspended and ran away from home.



Guest Speaker, Pat Williams, himself the father of 14 adopted children, reads Tyrone's story at the dollhouse display.

Eventually Tyrone was found and spent several weeks in a juvenile facility before returning to Tim. When he came home he sat down beside Tim and exclaimed, "You smell just like you did the day I came to live here!" They laughed and they cried and Tyrone thanked his father for loving him so much and for taking him back.

Six months later Tyrone was barely recognizable. He had grown six inches and looked and acted more like a young man than the scared, immature kid Tim had first adopted. But he still had that signature Tyrone attitude!

Donor Profile

Our Employees are donors too!

Raising Dough for Diakon: 2004 Employee Campaign

“I don’t just work here, I’m a donor too.” That is what many of Diakon’s 3,200 employees are saying as the 2004 Employee Campaign gets under way. This is the fourth year Carol S. Smith, advancement project director, has coordinated the fundraiser among the staff at Diakon’s 19 retirement health care facilities and various other programs throughout the three-state region.

Over the years, Diakon’s employees have responded with increased generosity and enthusiasm. The theme for this year’s campaign is **Raising Dough for Diakon** and has already incorporated a baker’s vocabulary.

The campaign began with a presentation to the Management Team. Recently at a Senior Management meeting, Daun McKee and Ken Feinour presented a skit that featured Daun as executive *doughraiser* and Ken as his trusty kitchen assistant. They presented the goals of the campaign in humorous fashion (assembling the recipe and mixing the dough) and challenged the management team to contribute 1% of their gross salary to the campaign.

“Last year 100% of senior management were members of the 1% Club,” says Carol. “We are hoping for the same response again this year.” After the management is on board, the same appeal is given to the Leadership Team (middle managers).



YEAR	GOAL	DOLLARS RAISED
2000	\$50,000	\$54,777
2001	\$65,328	\$82,018
2003	\$86,000	\$91,660
2004	\$96,000	?

Carol S. Smith juggles the dough ball that she hopes will rise to follow the trend. Can the 2004 Employee Campaign exceed its goal of \$96,000?

With the Management and Leadership Teams on board (last year 91% participated) the campaign is expected to have a strong backing before it gets into full swing in the programs and facilities. Adding to the fun and to give the campaign a local identity, each program and facility is invited to choose a local *doughraiser*. In addition to providing leadership to the local campaign, that person’s photo can appear as the dough person on a special campaign poster.



“It’s all in fun and for the best cause we can think of, our own Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries,” says Carol.

“Why wouldn’t our employees contribute to the programs where they are already invested and they know firsthand how much their *doughnation* is *kneaded*?”

Left - Daun McKee and Ken Feinour prepare a recipe for success for the Management Team as the 2004 Employee Campaign is introduced. Right - Daun McKee takes his turn as chief *doughraiser* on the campaign poster.



DIAKON
Lutheran Social Ministries

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Special Edition

2ND ANNUAL

An Evening of Thanksgiving

Dinner and Silent Auction benefiting
Luther Ridge at Seiders Hill and Volunteer Home Care
Thursday, November 13, 2003
The Pottsville Club
5:30 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program

For sponsorship and reservation information call Susan Kern, 610-682-1221

Razors · Razors · Razors

In our spring issue we asked for a donation toward the purchase of razors for residents in our nursing facilities. Many of you responded. To date we have received \$1,630 allowing us to purchase razors for nearly forty of our residents.

Please accept a sincere thank you from 40 clean-shaven, happy residents and the staff members who care for them.



WISH LIST

Children's services wishes for **monetary donations** to cover the cost of the following items for children who are separated from their families.

- Disposable Cameras - \$10
- Photo Albums - \$15
- Personal Care Sets - \$15
- School Supplies - \$15
- Backpacks - \$20
- Children's Books - \$25
- Music Lessons - \$25/week
- Gym Sneakers - \$45
- Dance Lessons - \$40-\$60/month

These items help children make the adjustment in foster care situations.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your gift. Thank you.