

FAITH & WORK



St. Barnabas Charities

Christmas 2014



**PRESENTS FOR
PATIENTS®
A Team Effort!**

Year-End Giving Means Tax Savings



*Hance Legacy Society members Jane and Robert Blair
of The Woodlands at St. Barnabas.*

Your contribution to the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund will help continue our 114-year-old tradition of providing care to those in need regardless of their ability to pay. Plus, you can save on your taxes with a year-end donation. Donations can include the following:

- **Cash** – Many employers will match your gift, thereby doubling it.
- **Securities**
- **Real Estate**
- **Life Insurance**
- **Life Income Gifts.** Gifts such as Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts give you an immediate tax deduction for 2014 and provide you with a steady and competitive fixed (or variable, if you choose) income for the rest of your life.

For 2014 tax credit, donations need to be postmarked or made online by Dec. 31, 2014. To learn more about year-end giving opportunities and tax benefits, contact St. Barnabas Charities at 724-625-3770 or dpane1@StBarnabasHealthSystem.com

St. Barnabas Charities is a 501(C)3 charity. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



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Nancy Brem and Valerie Day Wilden

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Nancy Brem, *Production Manager*

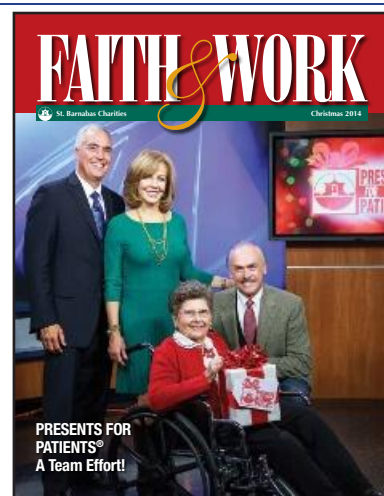
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On the cover

It's a team effort for PRESENTS FOR PATIENTS®, led by Honorary Chairman Rocky Bleier and long-time Chairpersons David Johnson and Peggy Finnegan, WPXI-TV news anchors, with 89-year-old patient Shirley Lapone of St. Barnabas Nursing Home, receiving the first gift of the season. See story on page 6.



Many of us have heavy hearts these days as we pray for those in our military who are protecting us from harm around the world. Please think about them and their relatives and support them in your words and deeds.

As you know, nearly 5,000 of our heroes have been killed in recent wars. Our hearts go out to their families who will live forever with the pain of loss. Of the finality of loss. Of questions about the loss. These are dangerous times.

Pray for Our Military

A MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM V. DAY

We Christians know that Jesus came to save us, all of us. To help us cope. He was born in a small town called Jerusalem. Now an important and famous city, but once quite small. Jesus came to teach us how to live in peace and prosperity. Teachings so very important today.

His 30 years on earth were full of triumph and sorrow. Of violence and peace. Of teaching and prayer. But I believe that no other person has ever had such an impact on the world. Because He was God. Still is God.

Let's put our faith to work and our trust in God. Let's agree that He knows the future because He has a plan. His plan may not be as ours, but He does have a plan.

Let's ask for His help as we celebrate a joyous time with our families. And let's ask for God's blessings upon our past, present and future members of our military and their families.

God Bless America
and Merry Christmas,

WVD

President@StBarnabasHealthSystem.com

Meet Dr. Charles Krauthammer



**Extraordinary American. Trauma Survivor.
Pulitzer Prize-Winner. Syndicated Columnist.
Best-Selling Author. Physician.**

St. Barnabas Founder's Day

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Marriott Pittsburgh North • Cranberry Township

VIP Reception

5:30 pm

\$500 + dinner

Silent Auction Reception & Wine Cellar

6 pm

Awards Dinner

7:30 pm

\$300 / \$350*

**Premier seating for dinner program.*

Purchase Tickets Today!

724-625-3770

StBarnabasCharities.com



**ST. BARNABAS
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Great Gift Idea!

You can surprise a loved one or treat a friend with tickets to hear an inspirational speech by Dr. Charles Krauthammer. Tickets to Founder's Day 2015 are the perfect gift for Christmas, a birthday, Valentine's Day or any occasion!



Give Back

Nothing lights up the eyes of elderly patients more than the happy surprise of Christmas visits from neighbors, friends and caring people eager to be friends. Since the founding of PRESENTS OF PATIENTS® by St. Barnabas Charities in 1984, individuals, families, businesses and groups have helped spread Christmas cheer to thousands of patients living in nursing homes and living assistance facilities in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. Please join them and spend a little time to light up the life of a lonely patient this Christmas.



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this Christmas!

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Make checks payable to St. Barnabas Charities



Live on the news set of WPXI-TV is the inspirational leadership team for St. Barnabas' 31-year-old Christmas project, PRESENTS FOR PATIENTS®. The team (l to r) news anchors David Johnson and Peggy Finnegan, long time PFP Chairpersons; St. Barnabas' PFP Spokesperson Valerie Day Wilden; Superbowl champion Steeler Rocky Bleier, PFP Honorary Chairman; and 89-year old St. Barnabas Nursing Home patient Shirley Lapone, who received the first gift of the season.

Fighting to Keep a Legacy Alive

By Rachel Farkas

(Excerpts reprinted from *Pine Creek Journal*, Nov. 9, 2014, An edition of the *TRIBUNE-REVIEW*.)

Jack Snyder, a resident of The Woodlands at St. Barnabas, has made it his life's work to keep alive the legacy of the Marines who fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Snyder grew up in Monessen, Westmoreland County. . . When World War II broke out in 1941, he said {Monessen} lost a significant portion of the male population to military enlistments. "Everybody was going," he said. "People were dropping out of high school to enlist."

He graduated from Monessen High School in 1942, but was only 17, so he had to wait a year to enlist. In 1943, he enlisted in the Marines. . . In September, 1944, Snyder joined the 4th Marine Division to train for combat. . . {in} 1945, they were shipped out to an unknown location for an amphibious landing. That was Iwo Jima, a small volcanic island south of Japan. . . a strategic stronghold for Japanese forces.

Before the invasion of the island, Navy and Army Air Forces began naval bombardments and air raids for several months to "soften up the defenders." But unbeknownst to the advancing Marines, the island held 22,000 Japanese fighters in a system of underground bunkers and tunnels. . . The 4th and 5th Marine divisions sent the first wave of what would be about 30,000 Marines to land on the beach at 9 a.m. Feb. 19, 1945. As soon as they hit ground, the Japanese sprung from their hiding places and opened fire.

. . . "Once we had all those men on the beach, there was nowhere for them to hide. . . they decimated us. . ."

As part of a reserve regiment, Snyder landed on the beach at 4 p.m. to back-up the first assault wave. He was part of a machine gun squad. They fought until March 26, 1945 when they claimed control over the island. Snyder calls his time in Iwo Jima "scary," saying he said more prayers in 26 days than he had in a lifetime.

. . . One of the defining moments of the war for Snyder was on March 1, when he and six other men had taken a defensive position in a bombed out Japanese anti-aircraft {foxhole} overnight.

. . . "They {the Japanese} recognized that we were there and lobbed a concussion grenade that hit the wall and rolled in. Sgt. {George} Barlow sounded 'grenade'. . . when he covered the grenade, it exploded and . . . tore into his midsection. And he was in real bad shape."

Snyder called for a medic and when none appeared, he ran out of the foxhole to get a corpsman. . . by the time Snyder got back to the foxhole, Barlow had died. When Snyder was evacuated from the island, he told officers on the ship of Barlow's heroism and tried to get him a bronze star. But he had lost track of the other members of the squad in the foxhole that night and could not get a second witness to corroborate his story.



World War II veteran Jack Snyder, surrounded by his war memorabilia on display in his home at The Woodlands at St. Barnabas.

Snyder returned home to Monessen and joined the Marine Reserves in 1947... He took up his old job as a short order cook at Johnson's Restaurant... where he met his wife, Eleanore... They dated for about three years before getting married on Sept. 9, 1950. Several weeks after the wedding, Snyder got a call to come back into action to help fight the Korean War.

"My wife didn't even know I was in the reserves," he said.

... As a veteran, Snyder spent a year in Camp Lejeune, N.C. training a new outfit of Marines... to prepare them for the Korean War. He was discharged... on Dec. 8, 1951 as a staff sergeant.

He and Eleanore had four children and raised their family in Monessen... He retired from Beacon Supply Company in Belle Vernon in 1988 after 18 years there. Once he was retired, he took up the task that he had put by the wayside after



photograph provided by Trib Total Media

leaving Iwo Jima – he wanted to get Sgt. Barlow the {commendation} Snyder felt he deserved for saving his life in March, 1945. However, without the second

witness to verify the story, Snyder has hit more roadblocks... But he's continuing to pursue different avenues...

Today, Snyder maintains his collection of memorabilia from the war and talks of giving it away, but he needs to find the right person who will respect and share the history as he has done. He wants people to remember the Marines' battle in Iwo Jima.

"What I went through was probably historically one of the fiercest battles ever fought," Snyder said. 🇺🇸





Christmas Accident Victim in Recovery at St. Barnabas

Early Dec. 26, 2013, 69-year-old Jack Orseno was returning home to Franklin, PA from a family Christmas celebration at his nephew Matthew's home in West Deer Township. It was snowing. The roads were slick. Jack slid around a bend on Route 8 and crashed into a truck, sending him into intensive therapy and to St. Barnabas for treatment and rehabilitation.

Jack's brother Paul recalls: "He's lucky to be alive. His arms and legs were all smashed up."

Officially, his condition was described as "suffering hemorrhagic shock, multiple bone fractures, left hip dislocation, reduction of all extremities fractures."

Upon admission to St. Barnabas, Jack received physical, occupational and speech therapies. He required assistance with all daily living activities. He was on a feeding tube and a Hoyer Lift was used to transfer him.

Looking forward to a happy Christmas at St. Barnabas Nursing Home are 70-year-old patient Jack Orseno and Director of Nursing Maricris Regino.

Currently Jack is on a regular diet and is able to transfer himself to a motorized wheelchair with contact guard and to travel in and out of St. Barnabas Nursing Home. He can dress himself with adaptive equipment and can ambulate a restorative 75 feet with a walker.


Jack's recovery has been remarkable. And Jack's spirit is inspiring. Jack gives all the credit to the St. Barnabas rehab team. He is especially pleased that he can travel through the woods on the nursing home grounds in his electric wheelchair. According to Jack, he used to take daily walks in the woods around his Franklin home, regardless of the weather.

"My goal is to walk out of here under my own steam and into those woods at home," he confides.

Jack was born and raised in Franklin. He never married. His cats were his family. After graduating from Franklin High School, he worked at a foundry in Franklin for 17 years and then was manager of Hilltop Beverage in Franklin. His hitch in the U.S. Army took him to Viet Nam for a year and three days, Jack's exact count.

This year, Jack will be spending Christmas with his new family and friends at St. Barnabas. But his brother Paul, of Allison Park, and his nephews: Matthew, Bradley and Douglas, will be visiting and bringing his great nephew and niece to see him.

Jack's sights are set on Christmas 2015 and returning home to walk in the woods.

"But I will miss all my friends at St. Barnabas," Jack adds. "They are the ones who are working so hard to help me take those walks." 

Courageous patients like Jack Orseno are the reason St. Barnabas exists. And the hundreds of donors who support the Free Care Fund are the reason St. Barnabas not only exists but thrives. Please join these donors by sending a contribution to St. Barnabas Charities in the enclosed yellow envelope or go online at StBarnabasCharities.com.



N E W S B R I E F S



Fashion gala emcee Courtney Brennan of WPXI-TV (l) and featured fashion designer Kiya Tomlin headlined the Glitz Glam event Oct. 18, 2014 at the Washington Place and Kean Theatre.

Glitz Glam Gala Draws 400 Fashionistas!

Highlight of the annual St. Barnabas Charities fashion gala was a cameo runway presentation of fashion designer Kiya Tomlin's Uptown Sweats Collection and an exclusive informal modeling of her designs at the gala's VIP luncheon.

More than 400 attendees applauded all of the fashions modeled on the Kean Theatre stage, including day and evening wear from Larrimor's, Tanger Outlets, Jockey Person to Person, One Brilliant, Esbe Jewelry Designs and One Enchanted Evening.

Among the many local celebrities modeling at the gala were Steve Blass, MLB pitcher and Pittsburgh Pirates broadcast announcer, and Jim Roddey, Allegheny County's first Chief Executive.

Guests enjoyed a shopping spree among 40 vendors of jewelry, fashions, holiday and specialty food items, taking chances on fabulous raffle baskets and chatting with friends over lunch.

WPXI TV reporter Courtney Brennan emceed the runway show as fashion stylist Suzanne Mauro, of Style Everyday with Suz, described the outfits. *All proceeds benefited the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund.*

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Elin Roddey



Always a Place at Our Table!

Christmas can be such a lonely time of year. Please share this blessed day with us at St. Barnabas. Anyone in need or simply alone is welcome to join us for a traditional Christmas dinner. We will give thanks and enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 25 at St. Barnabas Nursing Home, 5827 Meridian Rd., Gibsonia and at Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas, 85 Charity Place, Valencia. Reservations are not required but would be appreciated. Call Food Service at 724-443-0700 in Gibsonia or 724-625-4000 in Valencia.

Donations make these traditional free Christmas dinners possible, so if you would like to sponsor a dinner, please send a contribution in any amount to St. Barnabas Charities in the enclosed yellow envelope or give online at StBarnabasCharities.com.

Merry Christmas!



NEWS BRIEFS

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ADULT VOCAL COMPETITION

(19 and older)

Preliminary January 23 or 30

Final February 6

YOUTH VOCAL COMPETITION

(18 and under)

Preliminary February 15 or 22
March 1, 8 or 15

Semi-Final March 22

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Evancho Award** April 10



NBC's America's Got Talent runner-up Jackie Evancho (r) with the 2014 Kean Quest Youth Winner Gabby Barrett.

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Jackie Evancho Award

Medal to all Finalists



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Proceeds benefit the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund

Planned Giving Is Not Complicated

By Vic Conrad

Martha is a 79-year-old widow living in the Village at St. Barnabas. She enjoys playing bridge with fellow residents, never misses a movie in Hilltop Hall and still works the *New York Times* crossword puzzles. We are calling her Martha to ensure her confidentiality.

While Martha's stock portfolio has done fairly well since the credit crisis of 2008, the more conservative portion of her portfolio (bonds and CDs) is not generating nearly as much income as it used to due to the current low interest rates being paid.

She's also getting a little concerned that the stock market might be in for a drop, but if she sells some of her stocks to try to avoid this risk, she has to pay income taxes on the capital gains and her Medicare premium might go up. Martha would also like to increase the monthly income she receives from her investments to help keep up with inflation.

After meeting with representatives from St. Barnabas, Martha learned that there was a way she could:

- Reduce her exposure to stocks without triggering capital gains taxes to be paid.
- Increase the amount of income she receives every month.

- Generate a charitable contribution deduction, further increasing disposable income.
- Make a gift to help current and future patients of St. Barnabas.


St. Barnabas discussed several planned giving options and advised Martha to discuss these options with her financial advisor and trusted friends and family before making any decision. St. Barnabas also met with Martha's advisors, at their request.

With the end of 2014 so close, Martha decided to create a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), donating appreciated investments directly to St. Barnabas Charities, thus avoiding any capital gains taxes. CGAs currently available to Martha are paying a minimum of 6.6% fixed rate of interest. Furthermore, creating a CGA has provided Martha with a charitable contribution

deduction to benefit her tax situation going forward, and a portion of her quarterly payments are tax free. And the icing on the cake is the knowledge that her investment will support the Free Care Fund for patients.

The benefits afforded to Martha, St. Barnabas and the patients by this CGA is a win, win, and win for all.

Thank you, Martha!

For information on how you can increase your income, earn tax benefits and support St. Barnabas patients, contact Debra D. Panei, Executive Director of St. Barnabas Charities at 724-444-5521 or go online at StBarnabasCharities.com 

P.S. Donations must be received by December 31, 2014 to earn tax benefits for 2014.



J. Victor Conrad, CFP(r), ChFC, AIF(r), CPA (inactive) is Financial Advisor and Founder of PINNACLE Financial Strategies and a member of St. Barnabas' Community Advisory Committee.

Memory

Rose Gravina



Rose and Art lived the first 22 years of their marriage in Art's hometown of Rochester, NY. Then they moved to Whitehall, PA, where together they operated a Hallmark card shop in nearby McKeesport and Rose ran a beauty shop out of their home – a skill she continued to practice at age 90.

Her smile and sense of humor were contagious, spreading happiness to all who knew her.

Her children came first in her life: Thomas, Carol Reis, Robert and Arthur, who predeceased her, and then her five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In April of 2007, Rose and Art made one of the biggest decisions of their life – to leave their Whitehall home and relocate to The Village at St. Barnabas. For more than five years they happily enjoyed their independence and all of the Village activities and amenities. When the Gravinass needed more care, they transitioned to living assistance at The Arbors at St. Barnabas III in Gibsonia, PA.

Their daughter Carol feels that the move to St. Barnabas was so right for her parents.

“Together, they truly enjoyed their life at St. Barnabas, and when Mother died, Dad was not really alone, he remained at The Arbors. Dad will be 100 years old on March 2, 2015. We are grateful for the care given both our parents by St. Barnabas.” *(As this issue of Faith & Work went to press, Mr. Gravina was transferred to Passavant Hospital, seriously ill. Our prayers are with him and his family.)*

Family and friends have paid tribute to this dear woman who brought so much happiness to others in her 104 years on this earth with gifts to the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund, which provided more than \$6 million in charity care last year. Please join them in remembering Rose by sending a contribution in the enclosed yellow envelope or by going online at StBarnabasCharities.com.

Imagine playing piano for an old silent movie like *The Sheik* starring Rudolph Valentino when only in your teens in your parent's hometown movie theatre in Rural Valley, PA!

What memories Rose Gravina must have had in her 104 years of life. From her Silent Movie Piano days to a life devoted to her husband of 74 years, Orlando “Art” Gravina and her four children. Rose died in July of 2014, leaving behind the “love of her life,” Art, who still makes his home at The Arbors at St. Barnabas III.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE GIFTS

August 22, 2014 – November 13, 2014

The St. Barnabas Special Tribute Gift Program enables you to honor a friend or relative on a happy occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, or to pay living tribute to the memory of a departed one. This tax-deductible gift helps make possible skilled, loving care for the patients of St. Barnabas Nursing Home and Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas and the residents of The Arbors at St. Barnabas.

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St. Barnabas Charities'

Mission Statement

The St. Barnabas Charities' mission is to help to provide new resources to St. Barnabas Nursing Home, Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas and The Arbors at St. Barnabas. The Charities exists to enable St. Barnabas to better respond to the health needs of the western Pennsylvania community. The Charities' resources help provide the finest personnel and latest technology to the community to promote a better quality of life. The Charities is accountable to those who support its activities and reports regularly to these constituencies. Through the efforts of the Charities, St. Barnabas is able to realize its full potential to serve society.

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