

## Birthdays!

Happy birthday to our residents and staff celebrating in March and April.

### Residents:

- Vera Badura, March 23
- Margie McDonald, April 10
- Sue Beshears, April 28

### Staff:

- March:** Marie Brooks, 10th; Dorothy Bolden, 13th; Ashley Rice, 19th; Brooke Lorenz, 20th; Edith Kaburu, 25th; Diamond Erskin, 28th; Nick Hatfield, 29th
- April:** Zann Johnson, 21st

## Happy Birthday, Mary Culver!

In addition to the usual holidays, we are very proud to observe Mary Culver's Birthday on March 19.

In the early 1900s, Mary Culver (1841-1925) provided the money to build the original "Blind Girls' Home" on Page Avenue that was replaced by our current location in Kirkwood in 1966. It was renamed The Mary Culver Home



for Visually Impaired Women in the 1990s. Executive Director Amy Lepper hosted this year's celebration for residents and staff. The party included cake, punch, trivia and a presentation on our history. You can read more about Mary Culver and the history of The Home on our website: [maryculverhome.org](http://maryculverhome.org).

**H**ello, spring! We had a lot of fun this winter, but I think it is safe to say that we are all ready for warmer weather and some outdoor activities. We have taken full advantage of the nice days that we have had so far.

Speaking of outdoors, we are gearing up for our annual Grounds Beautification Day on Sunday, April 14, from 9am-12pm. If you have a few hours to spare, please consider spending the morning with us cleaning up the patio and yard. No experience is necessary; we will have some experts on hand to tell us what needs to be done. We also will have some donuts and coffee to sweeten the deal. We have a limited supply of garden tools so you are welcome to bring your own, as well as work gloves. Check your email for the flyer or pick one up by the front desk.

We had a lot of activities over the past few months, so be sure to check out our photos on page 3 from Soup Night, Mardi Gras, Leap Day and more. Also, we celebrated Willene's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and she even made it on Channel 4 news! If you

missed it, you can check out the video on our website, [maryculver-home.org](http://maryculver-home.org), or you can view it on our Facebook page. Last month we debuted a new staff spotlight introducing our employees by department. Our previous newsletter focused on our amazing housekeeping department, and this month you will get to meet our hardworking dietary employees. Make sure to check them out on page 4!

*Remember to like us on Facebook (our page is The Mary Culver Home for the Visually Impaired) and Instagram!*



## Amy's Updates



Willene is interviewed by a First Alert 4 camera operator.

**Amy**

### Wish-List Items

- AA or AAA batteries
- Nail polish remover, 100% acetone
- Baileys Irish Cream and Riesling wine for happy hour
- Gift cards to Dollar Tree to purchase craft supplies
- Postage stamps

# “I believe in the mission of MCH and I believe in volunteering”

Board of Directors provides guidance for Home

The Mary Culver Home is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. Members are recruited for their expertise in areas critical to The Home’s current and future operations.

A key component they share is a personal connection to The Home. John Kovac’s family has long been tied to The Home. His father provided HVAC service for many years, his mother was the long-time bookkeeper, and his sister works as the Business Office Manager. Also, his grandmother lived at The Home during the final weeks of her life.

A family connection is common. Tom Alferman’s mother was a resident in 2007-2008. He joined the board to honor her, as she was so well cared for in her final days. Kevin Miller’s mother, Eleanor Miller, was a respite and hospice resident until she passed away in 2015. Kevin is also a neighbor. Barb Watkins’ mother stayed at The Home for respite care twice.

Patty Flynn’s mother started respite care and became a resident in June 2009. Others were introduced to The Home by a friend. The son of a past resident introduced Ray Halagera to a former administrator, saying he would be a good addition to the board.

Marie Davis was recommended by her friend Anne Horner, The Home’s CPA. Jo Ann Emery and Karen Smith both were encouraged to join the board by a friend serving on the board. While she’s not an official board member, Anne Horner, the CPA, attends all the meetings and fre-



The Mary Culver Home Board of Directors comprises, from left, front row, secretary Patty Flynn, Kevin Miller, vice president Marie Davis; back row, Jo Ann Emery, John Kovac, Tom Alferman, treasurer Karen Smith, Barbara Watkins and president Ray Halagera. Lyn Lawshe is not pictured .

quently volunteers her time.

As for why they serve, here’s what they had to say:

## MCH Board of Directors

Tom Alferman, 16 years  
Marie Davis, 7 years  
Jo Ann Emery, 7 years  
Patty Flynn, 12 years  
Ray Halagera, 16 years  
John Kovac, 1 year  
Lyn Lawshe  
Kevin Miller, 4 years  
Karen Smith, 25 years  
Barbara Watkins, 15 years

volunteer service.”

**Jo Ann Emery**, retired: “I believe in the mission of MCH and I believe in volunteering.”

**Patty Flynn**, professional volunteer: “The concern and care for my mother prompted me to become a board member and help with the mission.”

**Ray Halagera**, professor and con-

**Tom Alferman**, retired civil engineer: “My years of serving on the board, especially as president for eight years, has given me the experience to continue to benefit MCH’s efforts.”

**Marie Davis**, consultant: “Helping others has always brought me joy. I have spent over 50 years in the

sultant: “I want to make whatever contribution I can make to MCH’s mission and therefore help the residents live out their lives to the fullest, which they so well earned and deserve.”

**John Kovac**, business owner: “The Kovac family has been blessed to be connected with MCH. I serve on the Board of Directors primarily to give back to the organization that has given so much to my family.”

**Kevin Miller**, director, charitable and planned giving, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate: “The quality of our experience during my mother’s stay, pure and simple.”

**Karen Smith**, retired real estate closer: “MCH is so unique in taking care of visually impaired women. I cannot think of another place where I’d rather put my time and energy.”

**Barbara Watkins**, retired nurse: “I just have a heart for these visually impaired women.”



Singer Deborah Sharn serenades Marilyn at the monthly birthday party.



Self-proclaimed drinking buddies Mary, left, and Janet raise their glasses during the weekly happy hour that follows bingo.

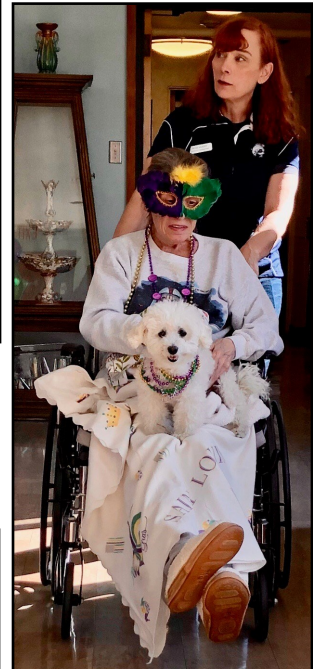


Eleanor cheers on the Kansas City Chiefs during the Super Bowl party.

# Cheers to celebrations!



Above left, Pat, an expert quilter, recently discussed her work with fellow residents. There's even a book highlighting Pat's quilts that Activity Director Brooke Lorenz read to them. Above right, the Leap Day party on February 29 included a leap frog game (residents rolled dice to move their frogs on lily pads), leap year trivia, green swamp juice and pretzels dipped in chocolate to look like frogs.



Resident Connie and her four-legged friend, Chloe, kick off the Mardi Gras parade organized by the activities department.

From left, Pat, Janet and Mary toast with their non-alcoholic hurricanes at the MCH Mardi Gras. They also enjoyed a parade and cake walk.



Our first family event of 2024, Soup Night, was held February 28. Above right, board members Tom Alferman, from left, Barb Watkins, Marie Davis and Ray Halagera joined residents and their families in sampling homemade soups. While they were all delicious, Barb Watkins' broccoli cheddar soup was deemed the spoons-down favorite.

The Mary Culver Home  
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*The mission of The Mary Culver Home is to provide visually impaired women with dignified, compassionate, holistic nursing care in a warm family atmosphere, as well as to promote security, confidence, and an excellent quality of life.*

## Staff spotlight



All of our employees know the residents so well, and the dining services department is no exception. The cooks and dietary aides pride themselves on knowing what the ladies like and dislike, and make sure their favorites are always available. Pictured from left are cooks Janicia Tidad and Barbara Kalemaj, dietary aides Matthew Yaw and Christian Lepper, Director of Dining Services Terry Beals, dietary aide Kevin Lavin, cook Nick Hatfield and dietary aide Michael Schaper.

**FOLLOW THE MARY CULVER HOME FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED ON FACEBOOK**