New Floor Boosts Moral

The Dining & Caring Center kitchen has recently been refurbished with a brand shiny new kitchen floor and freshly painted walls! All the kitchen appliances, sinks, and work surfaces had to be moved out of the kitchen in order to re-do the floor—huge task in itself. The old, cracked floor had to then be completely removed prior to laying new subflooring and then the actual floor tiles. The walls were painted, and then everything had to be moved back into place. We are thrilled with the results, everything had to be moved back into place. We are thrilled with the results, everything had to be moved back into place.

Save the Date
Tenth Annual
Dinner Among Friends
September 24, 2016.

Remembering Burt Ross

Those of you who have been volunteering at the Dining and Caring Center for many years will fondly remember Burton “Burt” Ross, who was a dedicated volunteer here until he lost his courageous battle with stage 4 colon cancer this past summer. Burt was an example of optimism and grace through his three years of treatments. He remained cheerful, always concerned and interested in others as he endured years of pain.

He was never critical, and he loved everyone. It didn’t matter who you were, how you looked, or what your social status or economic status was, you always had a friend in Burt. Dining and Caring Center director Michele Cooley fondly remembers, “I can still hear his laughter, which was robust and frequent.”

Burt made an impact on all. Before his death he asked that any memorial contributions be sent to the Dining Center, thinking of the DCC to the end. Burt had a brother, Barry, who lives in a lifetime assistance residence. Michele was touched to receive the following email—a sweet legacy to Burt’s memory.

“Hello. I am writing to you for Barry Ross. Barry’s brother. Burt thought very highly of the Dining and Caring Center and often talked about his service there. Since Burt passed away we have been trying to think of a way that Barry could honor Burt and the selfless life that he lived.

“Recently Barry realized a dream of his. He made a CD of six original songs that he had the opportunity to record. We decided to host a CD release party for Barry where he collected donations. Barry chose to donate all proceeds of his CD release to the Dining and Caring Center. Barry collected $120.00 from his party.

“We were all so blessed to know Burt, and proud that Barry is choosing to do this in honor of his brother.—Jennifer Yarrison, Acting Residence Manager, Lifetime Assistance.”

Giving can be realized in so many ways. Burt’s legacy continues at the Asbury Dining and Caring Center. Barry collected $120.00 from his party.

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Dinner Among Friends: Another One for the Records

What an evening it was! October 3rd was the night of the ninth annual Dinner Among Friends fundraiser for the Dining & Caring Center. Participants gathered at Asbury First to taste a variety of delicious appetizers prior to setting in for a lovely dinner at the home of one of our generous hosts. The event raised almost $22,500 for this ministry of hope, hospitality, and hot meals. Our thanks go to Paula Kuempel and the Appetizer Group for the hard work they put in to make this event a success. 100 percent of the money raised will go toward this ministry that feeds the hungry and homeless in our community.

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The Dining & Caring Center is grateful for the generosity of so many to help keep this ministry a vibrant presence in the lives of those who have so little and need so much. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event in 2016!

Many of you know Ron Wilson, a former member of the Asbury First property/maintenance team. He enjoyed keeping the Dining and Caring Center clean and tidy for staff, volunteers, and guests. He also offered a cheerful word of welcome and a smile that said: “I’m so happy to be here, and I’m happy to see you here.”

In 2013 Ron suffered a stroke and later, a heart attack. The double-whammy put him in the Rochester General ICU in critical condition. He pulled through and spent considerably more time at the hospital. Some of us believe that Ron had a strong will to live, primarily because he was thinking: “I need to get back to Asbury.” Staff and volunteers would visit him and see him wearing an Asbury cap and tee shirt. He would always ask about church and Dining Center people - often by his well-chosen nicknames.

Ron moved to Blossom Nursing Home where he resided for over a year, getting physical therapy daily. Even though he sustained paralysis on his left side that affected his mobility, he gained the ability to walk. He was given the okay to proceed to independent living and in September he moved to Southview Towers. Many people helped Ron with the move, providing furniture, cooking needs, and a supply of food. He visited the Storehouse and got clothes. A nurse and a social worker visit him regularly. A supply of food is delivered each week. People are working with him to get legal assistance and making sure all is as it should be regarding Social Security, rent, child support, etc. For all that he has been provided Ron is very grateful and he is finding inspiration by reading the Psalms.

Steps are being taken to help Ron ultimately move to University Towers, closer to church. Ron would like to work at the Dining Center, perhaps as a greeter, when he can again say: “I’m so happy to see you here.” What a blessing!!

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Michele Cooley Wins Award

ADCC Director, Michele Cooley was recently presented the Lena M. Gantt Distinguished Community Service Award from Action for a Better Community, Inc. at their 12th annual signature luncheon. The award is presented to “honor the one volunteer whose record of community service best reflects the life and work of Lena M. Gantt,” who worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to improve the lives of those in need.

Michele too, has spent her life helping others. After graduating from Ethaca College and receiving her degree at the SUNY Albany Graduate School of Social Welfare & Criminal Justice, Michele has focused on those living in deprivation and distress. Whether it is serving as an adult employment coordinator, implementing a court appointed advo-
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