

# Enriching Lives

MARCH 2016



**Sybil Bell**  
Director of Philanthropy

## SYBIL'S MESSAGE

*ENRICHING LIVES* is a publication of Saint John's Communities Foundation. In this issue you will read highlights of 2015 fundraising activities as well as stories of contributions that create opportunities for Saint John's to be an even stronger leader in retirement living. Every dollar donated is important to provide ways to live life well and to secure our financial future. Our commitment to life-long learning and aging well is shared by our residents and other supporters.

As Director of Philanthropy, it is my privilege to connect donors with opportunities that fulfill their personal philanthropic goals and align them with Saint John's organizational needs. Together we are able to continue on the path as a Recognized Leader in aging services.

*Sybil Bell*



**Mary Przybylski**  
Annual Fund Coordinator

## PHILANTHROPY STAFF NEWS

We said farewell this fall to Deanna Schwenner, Donor Relations Coordinator, as she joined the staff of the Blood Center Research Foundation. After searching for a replacement, we found one right here at Saint John's! Our own Mary Przybylski, whose former office was literally next door, is the newest addition to the office staff in the expanded position of Annual Fund Coordinator. Mary brings long-term experience in senior services and fund development. As the former Saint John's LifeStreams Program Coordinator and the former Director of two Wauwatosa Senior Centers, Mary has transitioned seamlessly into this role which focuses on donor services for annual giving.

Come to Mary's office to inquire about philanthropic matters or to get your signature notarized! Contact her at: 414.831.6905 or [MPrzybylski@SaintJohnsMilw.org](mailto:MPrzybylski@SaintJohnsMilw.org).

# Foundation News

## 2015 FOUNDATION REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY

Saint John's Communities Foundation Board is charged with fiduciary accountabilities that include prudent investment management and the stewardship practices of our endowment funds. At year-end, the Foundation had an increase in net assets of \$942,880 – far exceeding our goal of \$151,000 – and bringing total assets to \$5.25 million. Many donors chose to contribute to a favorite interest fund in the Foundation with our full menu of eleven offerings. The focus in 2016 will be to continue to build up the corpus of individual funds within the Foundation. Through charitable giving, donors play an essential role in sustaining future needs while advancing each program's unique importance in Saint John's community.

## NEW LEGACY DONORS

Tower residents, Eileen and Dan Meehan have always had big hearts to help those in need, and their recent gift to the Foundation reflects their values perfectly. With an assignment from their future refund on their residency contract, Eileen and Dan designated a gift to the Directors Fund for Charitable Care. The Fund enables residents whose personal resources are no longer adequate to fully cover their residency costs. We give thanks to the Meehans for this most generous gesture. Is there a goal we could help you achieve with a planned gift?

## LEGACY SOCIETY LUNCHEON

Each November, the Foundation hosts a luncheon to honor donors who have arranged for legacy gifts in their estate plans, as well as donors who have lifetime giving-levels of \$10,000 or more.



Among the attendees in 2015 were five former members of the board (*pictured left to right*), Carol Erwin DeLind, Jack Bryson, Jon Barsanti, Saint John's President Renée Anderson, Earl Lillydahl and Charles Koeble who enjoyed sharing stories with the guests of Saint John's past.

President Renée Anderson addressed the entire group with highlights of our 147-year proud history.

*We can't advance our Mission without you.  
If you have named Saint John's in your will or  
estate plans, please tell us so we can include you  
as a member of our Legacy Society.*

*-- We love to thank our donors!*

## LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

All members of Saint John's Communities Foundation Board contributed in 2015 with a total giving of \$62,592. All members of Saint John's Communities Board who were in office at year-end were contributors in 2015 with a total giving of \$14,830. All members of the Leadership Team were contributors with a total giving of \$8,220. We are grateful for all the time, expertise and financial support from these committed individuals.

# Philanthropy

## REPURPOSING GOODS

The Thrift Shoppe now works in partnership to sell vintage items through Etsy.com – a website with a large following and 24/7 access. Resident Marge Polack has created a Saint John's shop called **SurprisingFindings** to generate additional income for the Scholarship Award Program (scholarships annually total \$20,000). In just two months, six items have already sold for a total of \$538.00 – YAY! We give thanks to Marge and to Dale who work hard to champion these sales and to all the donors too. Items donated to Saint John's are sold on Etsy or in the Thrift Shoppe as determined by Marge and Thrift Shoppe manager Dale Neese. Either way, the Scholarship Award Program wins.

Try Etsy yourself at [www.etsy.com/shop/SurprisingFindings](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SurprisingFindings). Or come to the Lower Level Thrift Shoppe and shop on Mondays & Fridays from 10am-noon and Wednesdays from 3pm-4:30pm. PLEASE NOTE: This serves as a reminder to generously clean out those closets that hold treasures which could make a difference to our employees who are also students. We want (no, we need) your stuff! Donate your treasures (eligible for a tax-deduction receipt) by leaving them at the North or South Desk, at the Thrift Shoppe, or by contacting Dale at 414.347.2335 or DaleNeese@aol.com or by contacting Marge at 414.239.7889 or MarjorieP@mac.com.

## A WORD TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you! Well, that's two words, but what's important is that sponsors make the magic happen. Recent gifts: Bruce Fetter for food for the Sukkot event, Kent Mayfield & Jack Ford for partial funding of the Middle Eastern program series, Karen & Art Beaudry for sponsoring Storyteller David Novak, Bela Maroti for the Florentine Opera series, Bill Eastham for the Wisconsin District Opera Finalists event, and John Stewig & Dick Bradley for the reception following the Healing Arts program. We appreciate these many gifts; truly, we couldn't offer what we do without you. Do you have an interest to promote?

## AN ANTIQUE HAND-ME-DOWN FINDS A HOME

When Ben Williams and George Miller moved to Saint John's in 2008, one of their favorite antique furnishings – a stately fine wood sideboard and mirror – could not fit in their apartment. It had many temporary resting places over the years and has now found a home in Windsor Court in the east dining room.

Residents and staff love the beauty and the history it brings while paying such lovely tribute to the memories of Ben and George.

All financial gifts to Saint John's Communities and Saint John's Communities Foundation qualify under Section 170(f)(8) as eligible for tax deduction. Each gift will be acknowledged by letter to serve as an official receipt.

For information about any form of giving, contact: Sybil Bell at 414.831.6911 or SBell@SaintJohnsMilw.org or Mary Przybylski at 414.831.6905 or MPrzybylski@SaintJohnsMilw.org

# Focus on Giving



*Please join us at the  
Corporate Annual Meeting  
to hear the year-in-review  
Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.  
in the Cultural Arts Center.*

The 2015 Foundation Annual Report and the 2015 Communities Annual Report will be distributed at the event.



## INVITATION TO GIVE

We encourage you to enjoy the gift of giving by becoming part of our philanthropic family. It is our family of contributors who make Saint John's a special place to live and work. Be assured that your contribution will be used to continue excellence at Saint John's.

Our office accepts gifts by cash, check, credit card or appreciated stock. You may make gifts through our website at [www.SaintJohnsMilw.org](http://www.SaintJohnsMilw.org). Once there, look for DONATE NOW under the banner of our logo or click on OUR FOUNDATION. It's easy. It's secure.

## ESTATE & LEGACY PLANNING

There are many ways to give. Naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or in the refund option of your residency contract enrolls you as a member of the Legacy Society. You could create your own special-interest endowment fund or support an existing fund. You could also designate Saint John's in a retirement plan or life insurance policy by simply completing a form known as a change-of-beneficiary. As always, discussions with Philanthropy staff are confidential and can include your family and/or financial advisor to determine how to maximize tax savings and other benefits.

## FAREWELL OLD SPRING ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

*Saint John's is ready for a change.*

Starting this spring, the Office of Philanthropy will roll out a new and expanded Annual Appeal. This appeal will encompass all of the many funds that donors can support at Saint John's instead of just the Communities Annual Fund. As its name suggests, this will be an appeal that happens just once a year. The Employee Holiday Fund appeal will occur in October as in the past.

## Saint John's Communities Foundation Board

Renée Anderson, President

Sybil Bell, Secretary

Dick Bibler

Suzy Brennan

Bill Goldammer

Dan Lemminger, Treasurer

Lloyd Lewis

Dick Miller

Polly Beal, Communities Board  
Designee

## SAINT JOHN'S COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION, INC.

1840 North Prospect Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202 414.272.2022 [www.SaintJohnsMilw.org](http://www.SaintJohnsMilw.org)

The Foundation is a charitable organization whose purpose is to solicit, hold, manage, invest, and expend endowed funds for the benefit of the residents of Saint John's and its programs and activities. Saint John's mission is to enrich the lives of older adults through gracious retirement living, spiritual growth, cultural and educational opportunities, and residential healthcare services.