



FOSTERING INDEPENDENT LIVING
FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES



July 2019



WORDS FROM SUSAN DiSTEFANO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For the next several issues I thought I would share "Disability Etiquette." I believe so often individuals are hesitant of interacting with people who have disabilities for fear of offending them or doing something wrong. I would like to take a moment to share some of what I have learned.

Don't let fear and uncertainty keep you from getting to know people with disabilities. Remember, a person with a disability is a person with feelings. Treat him/her the way you would want to be treated. To help you, follow these

simple rules.

Basic Points of Etiquette:

- Avoid asking a personal question about someone's disability. If you have to ask, be sensitive and show respect. Do not probe, if a person declines to discuss it.
- Be considerate of the extra time it might take for a person with a disability to do or say something.
- Be polite and patient when offering assistance and WAIT until your offer has been accepted. Some individuals prefer to do things on their own even if it takes a little extra time. If your offer is accepted, listen or ask for specific instructions.
- When planning a meeting or event, try to anticipate specific accommodations a person with a disability might need. If a barrier cannot be avoided, let the person know ahead of time.
- Be respectful of the rights of people with disabilities to use accessible spaces such as parking or specially designed bathroom stalls.

When you are with a person in a wheel chair:

- Do not push, lean on, or hold on to a person's wheel chair unless the person asks you to. The wheelchair is part of his/her personal space.
- Rearrange furniture or objects to accommodate a wheelchair before the person arrives.
- Offer to tell where accessible restrooms, water fountains, etc., are located.
- When giving directions to a person in a wheelchair, consider distance, weather conditions, physical obstacles (curbs, stairs, steep hills, etc.).
- When traveling with a person in a wheel chair, be cognoscente of the things around you that could present challenges such mode of transportation, time out, etc.

Always remember, you can't always see someone's disability. If a person acts unusual or seems different, **just be yourself**. Let common sense and friendship break down any barriers you may encounter.

More to come in the next newsletter. Special thanks to the Tennessee Disabilities Coalition and Community Shares for their information and education.

Molly Miles and Catherine Brown: A Friendship by Chance, Empowered by Vision

A visitor walked into Molly Miles' apartment at Alexian Village, Signal Mountain, recently and handed her a book. The title, "Was That a Coincidence or What: Signposts from a Friendly Universe," had been written a few years ago by David Crippen, one of Mrs. Miles' close friends and one of four original dream-builders of a home for people with disabilities.

Coincidence. The dictionary defines it as "a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection." In many ways, "coincidence" also describes the twists of fate that grew the friendship of Molly Miles and Catherine Brown, a friendship that also helped grow what today is known as Hosanna Community.



Molly Miles

Crippen didn't introduce Molly and Catherine to each other. That happened, fittingly, by coincidence. The two women's mothers went to the same church, Christ Episcopal Church, South Pittsburgh. The mothers already knew each other – coincidentally – from long ago. Seems Molly's mother and father as newlyweds rented rooms from Catherine's mother and father. Both Molly and Catherine were single children and about the same age. The two little girls lived in different towns, and their two home lives were very different. But church life threw them together, and they soon developed a strong friendship.

Swimming at Battle Creek, a six-mile long stream in Calhoun County, AL ("We felt sorry for people who had to swim in pools," said Molly); setting up Catherine's 'beautiful' dollhouse; running around outside with local kids in Molly's neighborhood; playing croquet and hide and seek; driving pretend automobiles – the stuff of childhood. "We did everything together," Molly explained. They were so close that the two women roomed together at the University of Chattanooga (what is now known as UTC), even though Molly was a class ahead of Catherine.

Fast forward several years, and coincidence again intervenes: a chance meeting at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Monteagle between David Crippen and Marilyn Williams, who happened to be with friend Catherine Brown. They were headed to the convent at St. Mary's in Sewanee to talk about acquiring land on which to build a home for physically-challenged adults. Six months later, Molly joined their effort.

For the next three years, the four worked tirelessly toward building their 'dream' house. Molly, Catherine, Marilyn and David journeyed throughout the eastern portion of the country from New York to Florida visiting similar facilities.

In 1996, on seven acres of land in Hixson, TN, the vision came full circle. Faith House was opened to 10 adults with disabilities. Today, the place that Catherine and Molly helped build is called Hosanna Community, a place where folks become friends and family.



Catherine Nevitte Cook Brown
July 14, 1929—May 10, 2019

General Operating Support:

Carolyn Boyd, Dawn Hewkin, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Edward and Patricia Sutarik, George and Christine Veith, Dan N. and Joan Williams

For Special Needs:

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, Women of St. Timothy's, for new countertops at Faith House

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, for new carpeting at Hope House



In Honor of:

Bill and Jackie Dudley, 50 years of marriage, 50 years of ministry - Bruce and Carol Bishop

Judy Sharpe — Kathy Umbarger

In Memory of:

Harley Ross — Naomi Moon

Grandview Foundation Matching Gifts and Response Gifts

Jo and Susan Colmore, Grandview Foundation, Frank and Beverly Groves, John and Shannon Mowrer, Sandra Richard, Jim and Rosemary Dunbar, Jim and Juliana Ratliff, Jerry and Penny Ross, Beth Simon (UNUM Employee Match)



Legacy Society

What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden we never get to see. Here at Hosanna, we enjoy the gardens we see with green plants, blooming flowers and ripe vegetables. Looking ahead, we are working hard to preserve our homes for generations. It is essential for us to continue to build our endowment. Money left to us in estates will automatically go in our endowment fund unless otherwise specified. All donations made in honor or in memory of an individual are earmarked for the endowment fund. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about ways you can give to protect Hosanna's future. Call me and let's set up a time to meet and talk about options. I can be reached at 423-314-6921 or at the office at 423-870-6880.

Susan DiStefano

Legacy Society

Suzanne and Ed Barels
Gail and Bill Chapman
Susan and David DiStefano

Margaret Hubbuch
Molly Miles
Carolyn and Jeff Rice

Elizabeth Williams

We welcome new members of the Hosanna Community Board of Directors:

- Bill McGee
- Michelle Brown
- Johnny Payne
- Josh Powers
- Dina Martin

Thank you 2018-2019 Board of Directors for your continuing service. Shown in photo on right: Standing LR: Gail Chapman, Beth Gray, Carolyn Bond, Barry Teague, Sherry Paty, Ben Holt. Seated LR: Jennifer Mingola, Carolyn Rice, Bill Chapman, Janice Cruden, Joe Galbraith.



Not pictured: Suzanne Barels, Steve Coulter, David Hackett, Kailen Kehoe, Molly Miles, Sharman Sherfey, Steve Sherman



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Hosanna Community is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization which relies on the support of foundations, churches, businesses, and individuals to fulfill its mission. We, the staff and board, regard ourselves as accountable not only to you but also to God for stewardship of the funds you entrust to us. All contributions are tax deductible.

Blue Suede Shoe Sale

Save the Date

Hosanna's Harvest for Hope
Scholarship Fundraiser
Thursday, Oct. 3
5:30 - 8:30
Privateer Yacht Club