New campaign pursues innovation and strengthens our ministry. (see page 4)
Resident cooking clubs serve up talent and smiles

At Jennings, we don't "guess who's coming to dinner," we wonder who's cooking today! Residents have been enjoying sharing recipes, baking delicious desserts and sharpening their cooking skills, all thanks to accessible kitchens. Residents have full access to all the supplies they need to prepare their creative cuisine.

The Resident Cooking Club (pictured below) hosted their first dinner party and prepared a delicious meal. They sent invitations to a few staff members and board members to be their guests for dinner, and created a lovely tablescape to welcome them. Jennings' life enrichment team lent their encouragement and support to the event preparation.

Upon gathering together at the table everyone shared their “highs and lows” of the day, and Resident Chris Jobson led a prayer of thanks. Dinner was an amazing caprese salad, sausage with onions and peppers, and potatoes. The impressive dinner was followed by splendid dessert choices: death by chocolate trifle cups and vanilla parfait trifle cups. Residents and guests enjoyed engaging conversation and family style reminiscing.

Whether baking apple strawberry strudel (pictured at right) or whipping up a meal, the kitchen is surely a gathering space for food and fun.

Save the Date
for our 8th annual
Spirit and Splendor

Friday, September 27, 2019
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
Doors open at 6:30pm
Admission by Ticket Only

Interested in volunteering or donating to the event? Opportunities available!
Please contact Emily Woods at (216) 581-2902, ext. 2292
Finding independence in assisted living

Given the choice, many individuals choose to continue living in their house rather than make a move as they age. Our houses are the place where we have built a home with milestones and memories. However, the house might also become a barrier to independence when stairs present a challenge, home maintenance grows overwhelming, and being alone feels lonely.

“We meet many people who feel a sense of loyalty to a house but really live only in the living room, kitchen and maybe a bedroom,” says Sarah Barger, Administrator at Jennings at Brecksville. “When they move to an assisted living residence, they regain independence. They become physically stronger because they are walking more. They regain abilities because barriers like stairs are removed and choices like transportation are provided.”

While the downsizing can be difficult and emotional, life in assisted living residences can bring many types of independence. Contrary to myths about restrictions, residents drive their own schedule, leave and re-enter the residence when they wish, and can enjoy an active lifestyle. Residents share their interests and have many opportunities available: regular fitness, local trips and day trips, activities with neighbors and lifelong learning. With physical barriers and home maintenance barriers removed, even everyday tasks like laundry become easier for a person to manage.

Ms. Barger adds that new residents find themselves surprised about all the choices they regain. She cites meals as a big example; people who live in a house have often stopped cooking and begin to eat microwaved meals. “At Jennings, residents have choices at each meal with fresh, hot, home-cooked meals prepared and served by our chef and culinary services team,” she adds.

Even knowing all the benefits, the change can be difficult to imagine. Jennings has created "Staycation" experiences that enable a person to try out a residence or provide respite when family caregivers attend to other responsibilities such as traveling for work or family vacations. Suites are furnished with everything a person would need to stay temporarily - typically from one week to one month - such as furniture, bedding and towels. "This experience has been very successful for nearly everyone who has tried it," explains Ms. Barger. "People come in and make new friends, savor the meals, and enjoy activities and socializing. Best of all, the experience has eased many fears about making a move."

“We’ve been telling people that they will change their address, not their lifestyle. For example, residents love to enjoy their favorite cocktails with neighbors at happy hour,” said Ms. Barger. “A big reward is when family members say they see a parent become more like themselves again.”

Staycations are furnished at our Garfield Heights campus and Jennings at Brecksville. For more information, to check availability or to schedule a tour, call Beth at (216) 581-2900, ext. 5515.
Jennings launches public phase of new campaign to pursue innovation and strengthen our ministry

Jennings' organizational vision for innovation and quality care doesn't end when we accomplish a milestone. As a leader in services for older adults, we are called to invest in a future that enables us to respond to the changing needs of Northeast Ohio's adults and champion innovative opportunities to impact quality. In this effort, Jennings is proud to announce the public phase of a $2 million Jennings campaign.

"Through the silent phase of this campaign, Jennings has already raised nearly $1 million," shared Jean Turcu, Chief Development Officer at Jennings. "In this public phase, we will raise the additional funding to continue to provide state-of-the-art residences and services that provide innovative and life-giving choices to those we serve."

The campaign gives life to plans that will support advances in technology and best practices, enhance the delivery of quality care, grow in our mission and build resources that allow us to explore and respond to dynamic breakthroughs. Gifts to the campaign can impact priorities such as:

- Champion cutting-edge practices and technology that will help Jennings serve older adults in the most dynamic way possible.
- Renovate the main entry on our Garfield Heights campus to improve the home qualities of the lobby and create horticulture areas for resident participation.
- Enhance the safe movement program to complete the addition of en-suite lifts for the comfort of residents and safety of staff.
- Strengthen the reserved funds to ensure the future of tomorrow's ministry, with particular concern for those whose limited resources may mean fewer quality choices.

"We rely upon and are so grateful to our generous and faithful donors who have valued Jennings in the past and present to carry us into our future," said Allison Q. Salopeck, President and CEO at Jennings. "As we navigate the constantly changing landscape of services for older adults, we want to move forward creatively with quality, compassion, integrity and leadership. We also want to be able to respond quickly when we are called as leaders."

The campaign has already led to successes. Jennings established Jennings Home Care and Jennings Hospice, which support families at times of great need. Jennings has also begun a comprehensive fall protection flooring installation, which is finished in our Gardenside Rehabilitation suites (see page 7) and has now begun in our memory care neighborhoods.

Participating in the campaign is about connecting to our mission - one that has had a tangible impact in Northeast Ohio and looks to thrive for generations to come. Join us in ensuring that the vision of Monsignor Gilbert P. Jennings will live on. Discover naming opportunities and gift choices by contacting Jean Turcu, Chief Development Officer by email: jean.turcu@jenningsohio.org or by phone: (216) 581-2900, ext. 2327.
ADVOCACY: Jennings has been hosting legislators and their liaisons to showcase the innovative care we provide as well as share trends such as workforce development. It is a pleasure to welcome individuals like Michelle Gillcrist, Northern Ohio Regional Liaison Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (pictured at left with Mrs. Salopeck) and Clifton Williams, District Director for Congresswoman Marcia Fudge’s office. During these visits, Jennings President and CEO Allison Q. Salopeck introduced them to some of our innovative equipment and practices, such as the fall protection flooring in our rehab suites. We appreciated the conversation about the state budget, workforce and needs of older adults.

EDUCATION: Jennings at Notre Dame Village has begun intergenerational programs at this new location. Now open just over six months on the "campus of living and learning," residents have been attending events at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School, such as matinees of the theater productions. These high school students are also getting to know residents through volunteer opportunities. This spring marked the residents’ first intergenerational event with Notre Dame Elementary Preschool by hosting an exciting outdoor Easter egg hunt.

INNOVATION: How do we stay connected to the world around us? Studies show that older adults seek connectedness not only to the community where they live but to the world around them. Through distance learning opportunities via videoconference, residents connected with students from a school in Africa this spring. Residents enjoyed learning about the children’s lifestyle and education, and the students were impressed to hear from residents about their experiences.

MINISTRY: Jennings residents, adult day participants and volunteers shared their talents for the spiritual experience, A Walk Through Holy Week. Individuals had roles that brought to life events and holy days leading up to Easter Sunday, such as the crowd welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem with palms and Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (pictured at left). Visitors received handouts that offered prayerful guidance through the self-guided spiritual experience, then left with a prayer card and cross. It was a meaningful way to prepare for the holy days of the Easter season.
Program encourages staff members to discover their potential

A great reason to work at Jennings is that staff members have opportunities to grow their careers. One of our core values is discovery of potential, and we encourage staff to consider their personal and professional growth opportunities particularly through an initiative we call Rewarding Education through Advanced Careers in Healthcare (REACH). This spring we held a Discovery of Potential Fair at each of our locations so staff members could take the opportunity to meet with organizations that can help them pursue their goals such as furthering their education, finding financial assistance or working through personal life goals and challenges.

Following the resource fairs, we created Discovery of Potential Resource spaces at each location for easy access and up-to-date information from our educational and support partners. Partners offer support to staff members in their curiosity and career exploration. “We encourage staff members to care for themselves with the spirit in which they care for others. These resources help staff continue to grow and have more opportunity to fulfill their dreams,” said Denise Smudla, Chief Human Resources Officer. “It is also so important to our organization to build and retain our talent now and in the future.”

Donor Chuck Morelli recognized for lifetime giving milestone

It was a great pleasure to celebrate Chuck Morelli, a resident, volunteer and donor at Jennings, who reached a significant lifetime giving milestone. Staff members, together with Chuck’s children and some friends, joined together to show gratitude for his generosity of time and contributions to Jennings. Chuck’s connection with Jennings began with Jennings when he was a caregiver for his wife. After many years as a dedicated caregiver, he turned to Jennings for assistance and grew to learn more about memory care. After his wife’s death, he devoted his compassion to assisting Jennings’ residents. He established the Chuck and Margaret Morelli Memory Care Endowment Fund to honor the experience and benefit individuals who have memory challenges. Staff applauded him, and his children heralded him as an example of faith, compassion and generosity. Thank you, Chuck, for making a difference in so many lives!

Donor Chuck Morelli (center) celebrated with family members near and far, including son Matt (left) and daughter Nancy (right).
Jennings renovates rehab suites with fall protection flooring

The prospect of getting physically stronger now has extra support in Jennings’ Gardenside Rehabilitation: fall protection flooring. Jennings has completed the installation of this specialized flooring in all the rehabilitation suites as part of its recent renovations.

Rachele Rosa, Executive Director of Jennings in Garfield Heights, explained that even with precautions and technology, it is nearly impossible to completely prevent falls. However, studies have shown that fall protection flooring can mitigate up to 60% of severe injury from a fall by absorbing much of the impact instead of the body. Jennings was able to complete the installation thanks to the generosity of foundations and donors at the 2018 Spirit and Splendor event.

"The new flooring is an added layer of comfort, especially for people who might be a little unsteady as they rehab in preparation to return home," said Ms. Rosa. "Combined with leading-edge therapy equipment, unique safe movement equipment and innovative practices, Jennings can offer amenities unlike other providers in Northeast Ohio."

Founder's Day marks 77th anniversary for Jennings

In March we celebrated our 77th anniversary in honor of the innovative legacy initiated by Monsignor Gilbert P. Jennings. We gathered with residents, staff, board members, donors and our extended Jennings family for a special Mass followed by a delicious brunch. Our special thanks to Father Andy Turner and Deacon Dan Galla for concelebrating Mass with Father Joe Pednekar and Father Kestutis Zemaitis as well as our volunteer choir and the Saint Ignatius student servers.

Our namesake is a memorial to Monsignor Gilbert P. Jennings. Monsignor Jennings was the founding pastor of St. Agnes Parish, then located on Superior Avenue near the old Cleveland Playhouse. Considered to be a socially progressive thinker, Monsignor Jennings was truly a visionary in meeting the needs of his people.

Upon his death on April 17, 1941, Monsignor Jennings gave life to a new era of senior care. Having inherited a large sum of money from the estate of his brother, Monsignor Jennings designated in his will that a rest home be built. His vision was to provide safe, comfortable and affordable housing for aging citizens who would not otherwise be able to provide themselves with a suitable home. What has evolved in his memory is a non-profit organization with a full continuum of care, services and progressive programs that inspire and celebrate life. We are proud to carry on Monsignor Jennings’ vision today by evolving to meet the needs of Northeast Ohio families.

Founder’s Day Mass celebrated the legacy of Monsignor Gilbert Jennings.
Discover Jennings' residences with memory support at Notre Dame Village

If you know someone who needs memory support, discover our small houses at Notre Dame Village. Jennings provides three houses, each that offer a natural home setting to 12 individuals. Through nationally-recognized small house philosophies and practices, the holistic approach honors each resident's choices and gives equal weight to all aspects of the holistic person, well beyond merely the physical/medical needs. These residences support individuals who have memory challenges and are equipped with fall protection flooring. For details or to schedule a tour, call Kate at (440) 279-9400.

Jennings wants to send you on vacation!

Jennings is hosting a raffle for an opportunity to win an amazing vacation!

Tickets are $75 each and only 250 will be sold. The winner will be announced on Friday, September 27, 2019 at our 8th annual Spirit and Splendor event. Winner does not need to be present.

For more information or to purchase your raffle ticket visit:

www.SpiritandSplendor.org

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