

PACE

of southwest michigan

Surrounding you with the care
you need to remain in the
home you love.

Newsletter

Winter 2020

INSIDE:

New CEO, Jim Schlaman

Donna Enochs, RN Intake
Coordinator

Participant Story
GrandPad[®] Update

Raking a Difference with
United Way

and more...





All the Best To You in 2021

In 2011, I was hired to develop PACE of Southwest Michigan which entailed bringing it to fruition from the ground up. In 2012, it was with great excitement that we opened our doors to our first 2 participants and this year we are celebrating our 8th anniversary with a census of 220! Developing this long-term care program for the elderly in our community and guiding its growth has truly been a dream job. What a privilege to work over the years with such dedicated and caring staff, our Board, our community partners and most importantly our participants and their caregivers. It has been a honor to share your stories, learn about your life and see the quality of your life improve

due to the care you received and the friendships you have developed here at PACE. Thank you for entrusting us and gracing us with your presence.

After serving as the PACE leader for the last 10 years, I have decided to end my tenure in mid-January. I am happy to announce that we have hired a new CEO, Jim Schlaman. Jim joined us in November. Some of you may recognize Jim as he served on our Board of Directors and on our Participant Advisory Committee for years. Included in this newsletter is a profile on Jim so you can get to know him better. I know he will enjoy meeting all of you when that time comes!

I am so grateful for the opportunities I have experienced at PACE. I am truly honored in knowing you over the years and wish you all the best in 2021!

Peace,

Therese Saggau

Donna Enochs

Donna Enochs, Intake Coordinator RN, is an integral part of the intake team at PACE. The intake team is responsible for spreading the word about PACE in our community so those who need us know we are here to help. They also speak with potential participants and their families to help them understand the PACE program, including the available services and eligibility requirements. The Intake Coordinators then help them enroll if they choose to join the program.

Donna, along with Natalie Amicarelli, Intake Coordinator Social Worker, visit potential participants in their home and complete several

assessments that help to determine what kinds of services the potential participant will need to help keep them safe and independent so they can stay living in their own home. Assessments may also be done, in part, on the phone because of infection control guidelines.

Once the initial assessments are done, the other PACE Interdisciplinary Team members—such as the Primary Care Physician, Physical Therapist, Activities Coordinator and others—look over Donna and Natalie’s assessments before calling the potential participant and conducting their own assessment. The Interdisciplinary Team then



meets to discuss the special needs of the potential participant and create a customized care plan.

Donna then discusses the care plan with the potential participant to make sure they are comfortable with the plan and understand how it will benefit them. If the potential participant wants to enroll, Donna walks them through the enrollment process and the signing of the documents. After enrollment, Donna takes a PACE binder to them at their home. The binder helps people to orient to PACE. It describes each department and service and even has photos and names of PACE staff so the participant knows who to contact with questions or concerns.

Donna brings a unique skill set to her position. She has been a nurse for over 26 years, 19 of those have been spent in long term care facilities. Before coming to PACE a year and a half ago, Donna spent three years as a homecare nurse and two years as a nurse serving dialysis patients. She was Director of Clinical Services at AuNOVA Homecare and she held the Director of Nursing positions at Silverbrook Nursing Home, Paragon Home Health Care, Royalton Manor Skilled Nursing and Long-Term Care facility and South Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Community.

In May of 2019, Donna accepted the position of RN Care Coordinator. Everything changed when Natalie Amicarelli, Intake Coordinator Social Worker approached Donna about the open position in the Intake department for an RN. “I wasn’t so sure so I asked about shadowing her for a home visit with a

potential participant. She showed so much passion for her job! And with both our backgrounds being in long term care, we had a common bond. We do not like that people had to go to a nursing home instead of being able to stay in their home. I was hooked after going out on just one visit! I knew I could offer my clinical knowledge and help the enrollment team.”

“Donna has a way of helping potential participants and their families feel comfortable,” explains Natalie. “She is very patient and enjoys explaining everything to the potential participants and their families,” Natalie added.

Continuing to screen participants, assess them and help them through the enrollment process has presented some challenges during the pandemic. “We have to follow very strict infection control practices; we have to mask up, maintain social distancing, and we aren’t able to hold a hand or give a hug, even though we want to.”

When asked what her favorite part of her job is, Donna replied, “I love being part of a team that supports the PACE model of keeping our elderly and disabled able to remain living in their home. Its so rewarding to see the new participants that were really struggling with their independence at home and then a few months after enrolling them, I see that they are doing so well.”

If you know anyone who might need PACE services, call the Intake Department at PACE at 269-408-4350.



Lula at home on her farm with her two dogs and PACE PCA, Olivia

Participant Story: Lula Holts

Lula Holts was born in 1934 in Mississippi. Her parents were sharecroppers with 11 daughters and two sons. As a young woman, Lula married and had four children. She ran a restaurant in town, and in the early 1960s, when the Freedom Riders were coming through, she prepared food for the civil rights activists. “People had to sneak it to them,” she said.

In 1965, Lula moved with her children to Michigan, leaving behind her abusive husband. In Benton Harbor, Lula supported her family with cleaning jobs, and working in two factories. “When they told me my pay was \$3 an hour, I thought I’d get rich!”

In 1972, she found a good man. “I was the lucky one,” Lula said of meeting her future husband, Joe, at church. Joe was nearly 20 years older than Lula. “He farmed until he was 97,” she said. “He was a strong old coot!” They had cows and hogs. “He’d butcher a hog and we’d make 200 pounds of sausage. And we would cook a whole hog for people,” Lula said. The hog would cook all night, while Lula and Joe took turns sleeping and tending

the fire. “It was fun,” Lula said. Joe also had a career as a welder at Clark Equipment Co. He died at the age of 101. “Thank God for Joe,” Lula said. “He was a good-hearted person.”

Lula raised her granddaughter, Tiffany. Later she and Joe began parenting a third time. They took on the care of Lula’s newborn great-niece, Courtney, and adopted her. “Oh, that man was crazy about that baby,” Lula said. The child’s mother – Lula’s niece – was a drug addict and unable to care for her child. “She was a drug baby,” Lula said of Courtney. “But we prayed the devil right out of her. Honest to goodness – prayer is that powerful.” Courtney lives in Detroit now, and has earned two college degrees. “I always told her: ‘God is on your side,’” Lula said. “Life is what you make of it. It can make you miserable. But you don’t have to be.”

Lula still lives at the farm she shared with Joe in Eau Claire, enjoying the close-knit farming community. “I’m treated like a queen. They are so nice to me,” she said of her neighbors, who likewise appreciate Lula’s cooking and her help at the farm market. “I go down on Friday and

work my fanny off. I’m blessed,” Lula said of her continued physical strength. She still tends chickens of her own. “I have to stay moving,” she said. “My grandmother delivered babies until she was 90.” Once when Lula was about 20 years old and her grandmother was not present in time for a family birth, Lula delivered her baby brother. “You just do what you gotta do,” she reflected.

Lula had a daughter who died in infancy. Her son, Donald, died three years ago. “He had respect for everyone,” she said. Lula has the three Purple Hearts that Donald earned in Vietnam. Lula’s sister died from COVID-19 in Detroit in the spring, as did five other members of her sister’s family who all lived together. “That stuff is bad,” Lula said.

While she misses going to the PACE Day Center,

Lula is thankful that it closed for the safety of participants. “I’m glad. That’s real caring about people.” PACE Chaplain Mary Beth Moran Cross visits Lula. “I love that preacher lady,” Lula said. “I be so lifted up by that lady. I enjoy her so much. She don’t even know how much she means to me. Everybody up there is nice,” she said of the PACE day center staff.

She also appreciates the helpfulness of the bus drivers. “The one – I make him laugh a lot. And that lady, Natalie – she’s my girl,” Lula said of the PACE Intake Coordinator. “It’s just like I been knowing her all along. Her heart is in what she’s doing. I love PACE. I love that place. I surely do. It’s a blessing. That’s what it is.”

Staying Connected with GrandPads

Although the PACE Day Center opened up a few months ago after being closed during the summer, attendance is currently extremely limited, in order to keep our participants and staff safe. In our last newsletter, we introduced you to a new way that PACE is connecting with our participants--the GrandPad®.



Participant Lula at home on her GrandPad.

This past spring, PACE applied for and received a grant to purchase these senior-friendly tablets for our participants to use. They are versatile devices that can be used for a variety of purposes including video chat, calls, email, photos, and more.

Staff has been engaging remotely with participants via their GrandPads for telemedicine visits, Bible Studies and other video group chats, and just to check in and say hi. Participants can also use their GrandPad to video chat with their friends and family and to email and share photos with them. Currently, 31 of our participants have GrandPads and the plan is to continue to increase that number.

Says Wendy Todd, PACE Activities Coordinator, “Participants love the video call feature on the GrandPad and how easy it is to call people in their contact list. Actually being able to see their friends and family on the screen helps them feel more connected, even at a distance.”

All of us at PACE look forward to the time when we can welcome participants back to the Day Center. In the meantime, we are thankful we can still connect with the help of GrandPads.



PACE Rakes a Difference!

On November 12th, 2020, PACE and hundreds of area volunteers mobilized to help seniors in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties rake and bag leaves and clean gutters. This day serves seniors, age 60 and older, who are physically unable to perform yard work and can't afford to pay for services. Seniors are helped on a first-come, first-serve basis and dependent on the number of volunteers available. PACE has been a part of this great event for the past 6 years.

Sandi Lewis served as the Captain of the PACE volunteer team made up of Natalie Amicarelli, Intake Coordinator Social Worker; Yumi Kuramochi, OT; Mary Beth Moran Cross, Spiritual Care Coordinator; Heidi Harrell, PT and April Binns, Day Center Supervisor.

Natalie shared, "PACE and all of the staff here are really passionate about helping the seniors in our community. I feel fortunate that I got to be a part of this well organized event and have so much fun doing it!"

New Faces *at* PACE!

PACE of Southwest Michigan is pleased to announce that Jim Schlaman has joined PACE as Chief Executive Officer. Schlaman brings more than 30 years of experience in healthcare to the position. "I am delighted to work with the PACE team to care for the community," said Jim. "The PACE model of care is innovative as we strive to keep people within the comforts of home while providing access to quality medical, social, and holistic services designed toward wellness and prevention."

Most recently, Schlaman was the COO of Spectrum Health Lakeland Hospital in Niles, Michigan. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Diagnostic Services and Executive Director of Post-Acute Care, also at



Lakeland. Jim served as a member of the Board of Directors for PACE of Southwest Michigan since its inception in 2012. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"I am confident that Jim will continue to build strong relationships within the healthcare system and the community," shared Therese Saggau, outgoing CEO of PACE of Southwest Michigan. "Jim has always been passionate about helping seniors. He is an effective and compassionate leader and has a thorough understanding of the

unique PACE model of care. Jim will excel at leading the organization in assisting even more seniors in the communities we serve."

In addition to Jim Schlaman, we are excited to welcome new staff members to PACE since our last newsletter. New staff members are Alexander Ault, Activities Coordinator; Kavita Amin, Pharmacist; Cathy Fick, Medical Coder; Corey Erny, Financial Analyst; Pam Hershberger, Home Care Supervisor; Jessica Sims, Homecare Coordinator; Donovan Simmons, CNA; Danyell Yarbrough, CNA; Marcie Brown, External Scheduling Coordinator; Kalee King, HR Generalist; Clint Morey, Quality and Compliance Specialist and Betsy Koebel, Receptionist.



Alexander Ault,
Activities Coord.



Kavita Amin,
Pharmacist



Cathy Fick,
Medical Coder



Corey Erny,
Financial Analyst



Pam Hershberger,
Home Care Super.



Jessica Sims,
Homecare Coord.



Donovan
Simmons, CNA



Danyell
Yarbrough, CNA



Marcie Brown,
External Sched.



Kalee King, HR
Generalist



Clint Morey,
Quality Compl.
Specialist



Betsy Koebel,
Receptionist

Message from Rev. Mary Beth Moran Cross, M. Div., Spiritual Care Coordinator

As 2020 comes to a close, we look back at a world changed by disease, want, and the search for peace amidst the search for justice. This first month of winter is referred to in many cultures and religious traditions as the Season of Light. This theme of light is common to many spiritual and religious paths at this time of the year. Celebrations as diverse as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Solstice, Buddhist, and Native-American celebrations have light as a central theme in worship and community. This is found in the lights of the Hanukkah menorah, the light of the yule log among some of those who revere the Solstice, the lights of Christmas trees, and many other celebrations. The commonality of Light as a unifying theme speaks so beautifully to the meaning of starry winter nights and of the season. Especially, it gives a glimpse (if just for a moment) of how we all want to be - focusing on gifts of love for one another and for the world.

From the Native American tradition:

“Love, gentleness, courtesy, never wearying in well-doing, always being ready to give help when help is called for; by these things the heart chakra opens, and the light streams forth from the heart.” —White Eagle

From the Christian tradition John 1: 4-5:

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

From the Buddha:

If you light a lamp for someone, it will also light your path....

My wish for you this coming new year is that you know we here at PACE think of you often, wish you the very best of wholeness, and with you will try to make the world a better place...

Peace,

Mary Beth



2900 Lakeview Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085