

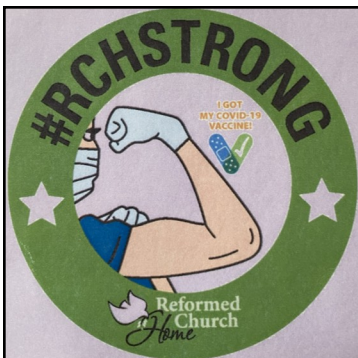
## We Are Vaccinated!

**I**t feels like forever since we have been able to share truly hopeful, optimistic news related to the pandemic that started – believe it or not – one year ago. In many ways, it feels like 10 years!

Driving this optimism is the COVID-19 vaccine itself. We partnered with Walgreens to conduct three vaccination clinics for our residents and staff, held on January 5, January 26, and February 16. We received the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine just 3 weeks after it became available in New Jersey – and not a minute too soon in my opinion.

I am thrilled that these clinics went smoothly and were very well-organized. Kudos to all involved, especially Jennifer Blandres, RN (our Infection Preventionist), Grace Brunner, APN, and many nursing staff members for countless hours spent reviewing consent forms, organizing the paperwork, answering questions from concerned families, and assisting during the clinics.

To date, over 90% of the residents have received the vaccine, with no significant side effects experienced by our residents nor our employees. Almost 80% of our staff members have been vaccinated at this time, each receiving an #RCHStrong sticker and special T-shirt after the second



dose, adorned with our 2020 team motto, which sums up how I feel about our amazing, dedicated staff:

***Individually we are special, Together we are spectacular!***

With the vaccine availability have come many questions about reopening to visitation. Please understand that we must adhere to the directives of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the state and county Departments of Health. These organizations dictate when nursing centers can accept visitors again based partially on the positivity rate in the surrounding community, which at this writing has been particularly high in Middlesex County.



***Nursing staff proudly display their purple T-shirts following the second COVID vaccine dose.***

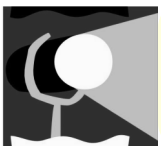
During a mid-February interview, Evan Shulman, CMS nursing home division director, stated, “It’s too early... [CMS] cannot change our visitation or other guidance now at this moment in time, but we are looking at it and want to change it as soon as possible.” One reason cited by Shulman is that health officials don’t yet know if the vaccine prevents transmission or how well it will hold up against new COVID-19 variants. As soon as we receive updated guidance, we will share it with our families.

Of course, the other main focus of this issue is our Annual Report. This accounting of the many generous donors who have helped our residents and staff throughout 2020 leaves me speechless. The support we received from families and local businesses for the Employee Appreciation and COVID Relief funds, plus our annual appeals like Silver Bells, was overwhelming. The new on-line donation section on our website has made it more convenient for families to honor or memorialize a loved one or donate to one of several special-interest funds like activities, ministry, gardens, or special projects. Whether your donations have been monetary or in-kind (such as snacks and water bottles to keep the staff going, or coloring books for the residents to pass the time), we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Here’s hoping the snow is finally over by the time you read this issue of *The Home News*, and that you are safe, well, and above all, vaccinated!

With my sincere thanks for your generosity & prayers,

*Kate Shepard*



## Spotlight on Our Vaccination Clinics

### Thank you Walgreens!

Residents and staff members at Reformed Church Home received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on January 5, followed by two more vaccination clinics on January 26 and February 16. The Walgreens team was very easy to work with and the clinics were very well-organized thanks to collaboration with our nursing staff.

Evelyn Arndt, who celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 25, was gladly one of the first recipients during the vaccination clinic, as well as Magdalene Holland, our assisted living resident who was the Home's first COVID survivor. When asked her opinion on the importance of the vaccine, Magdalene said, "We [the elderly] are at a high risk. It's there for a reason so I feel we should take it."



*Evelyn Arndt (left) and Magdalene Holland receive their first vaccinations at RCH.*

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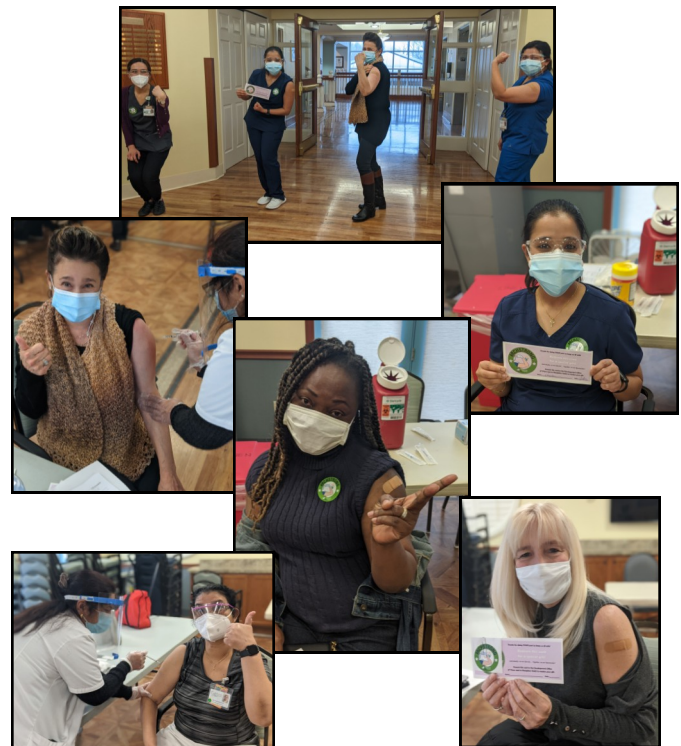
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Our advanced practice nurse, Grace Brunner, shared her enthusiasm, stating, "It was one of the happiest days here in a long time. We are starting the year off right, as in my opinion immunization is the only way out of this devastating situation. It's the first step to recovery as a nation and to a return to a more normal lifestyle for our residents." Grace, along with our Medical Director Dr. Edward Mezic, and our dedicated nursing team, have coordinated care for residents infected with COVID-19 throughout the past year and are looking forward to a return to more normalcy in 2021.



*Vaccination day at RCH... Staff doing their part to keep residents, coworkers, and families safe.*

### Wishing All the Best to Our Newest Assisted Living Resident!

**Ronald Chisholm D380**

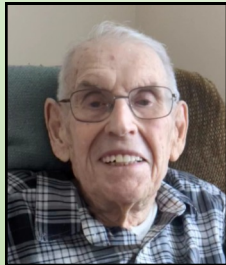
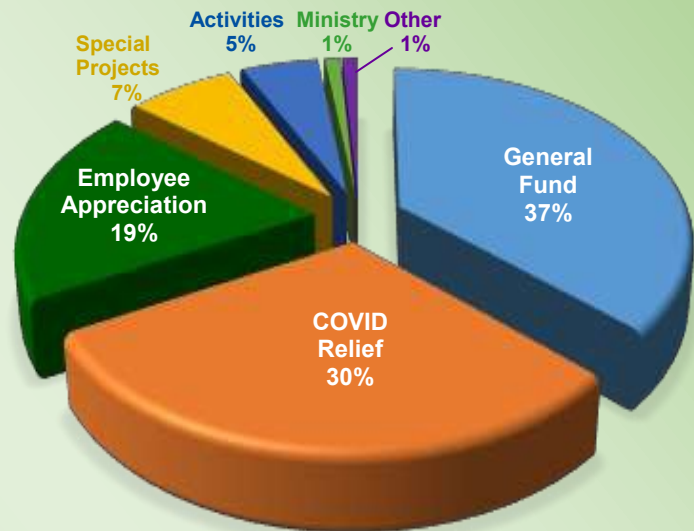
**The Home News** is published multiple times a year by the Marketing Department at Reformed Church Home. Questions, comments, or editorial suggestions should be directed to Andrea Walls, Director of Marketing, 732-607-9230 or sent via email to [awalls@rchnj.org](mailto:awalls@rchnj.org).

**Editor:** Andrea Walls  
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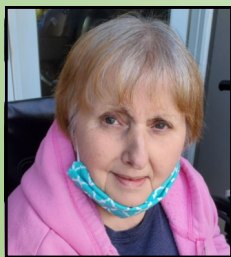
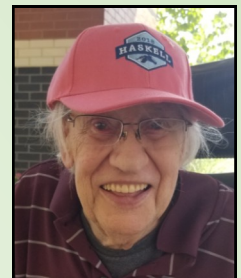
## We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

Reformed Church Home would like to say “Thank You, thank you, thank you!” for your generosity and support received this past year. In the most difficult of times, we have been blessed by the incredible outpouring of support from our families, churches, vendors, local businesses, and the surrounding community. Be it monetary donations, gift cards, snacks or food for our hard-working staff, cards, gifts, holiday presents, hand-made masks, hand sanitizers, or special-occasion activities for residents and staff, we are thankful for the important role you have played in keeping our spirits up and hearts full of gratitude in 2020! Your kindness and generous gifts make possible our mission to serve our residents in a compassionate, caring and spiritual environment, which indeed feels like HOME.

We wish to recognize each and every donor who chose to include the Home in his/her charitable giving plan during 2020. Every gift, regardless of denomination, makes a difference in these unique times. As you can see from the adjacent pie chart, the funds receiving the greatest support in 2020 were the General Fund, the COVID Relief Fund, and the Employee Appreciation Fund, followed by specific contributions for Special Projects, Activities, and Ministry. We never expected such an outpouring of support for our staff and our Home in the midst of the COVID crisis — for this we are forever grateful!



*Portraits of  
the People  
Your Kindness  
Has Helped*



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor listing.  
We kindly ask that you notify the Development Office of any errors or omissions and please accept our sincere apologies.

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by Ms. Mary Addy, Mr. William C. Addy, Ms. Pamela Coombe, Mr. Richard Dawson, Ms. Linda Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sak

***In Memory of Rose Arena***

by Ms. Alia Garfinkel, Ms. Mary Ellen Hillary, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller, Mr. and Mrs. John Puccio, Mrs. Dorothy Rosenblum, Mr. Richard and Barbara Alaimo Seta, Ms. Anne M. Strianese

***In Memory of Ethel Beattie and Barbara Zach***

by Dr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Beattie ◊

***In Memory of Helen Bechtold***

by Mr. James Simmons, Jr.

***In Memory of Ray Bishop***

by Mr. Donald Albinger and Ms. Holly Roge, Mr. Clayton J. Bosch, Ms. Anne Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Dedeo, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Franzen, Mr. and Mrs. John Franzen, Mr. and Mrs. John Kaczynski, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ludwig, Ms. Jean Omstead, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Passamani, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Quartullo, Ms. Beth Romano, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Rudnicki, Mrs. Louis O. Springsteen, Mr. Paul von Autenried

***In Memory of Emily Cerbone***

by Ms. Gilda Cartwright and Ms. Carol Imperato

***In Memory of Mary DeCillis***

by Mr. and Mrs. John Kline

***In Memory of Helen Drews***

by Ms. Shelda Maier

***In Memory of Mary Jane Gregor***

by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonanno

***In Memory of Helen Hawkins***

by Ms. Luann Vargo

***In Memory of Marie Kalli***

by Mrs. Grace Brunner

***In Memory of Joan Krempecki***

by Mr. Dominick Bongiovi, Ms. Georgette Lamberson, Ms. Paula LeBlanc, Mrs. Andrea Walls and Ms. Pamela Weiss

***In Memory of Joan Krenzel and in Honor of Joseph Mayer***

by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hoffman and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Krenzel

***In Memory of Sabina McCarthy***

by Mr. and Mrs. Terry Adams

***In Memory of Ida Pasternack***

by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brophy

***In Memory of Stamatis Smirlis***

by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rosario and Ms. Margaret Yanney

***In Memory of Elsa Springsteen***

by Mrs. Louis O. Springsteen

***In Memory of Harvey Uhl***

by Mr. Charles R. Uhl

***In Honor of Kate Shepard and the RCH Staff***

by our many supporters during 2020, too many to list again and listed elsewhere in this report





## Save THE DATE!

# 29th Annual GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY  
*September 20, 2021*



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## *From the Pastor's Study*

Rev. Sam Youssef, Chaplain

### *He Will Take Care of Us and Protect Us*

I would like to start this New Year with thanksgiving! Although we are living in very difficult and sometimes distressing times, we can always feel God's Hand lifting us up and helping us through every situation. Since we began facing the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, God has been preparing us to go through it successfully and to overcome any hurdles in our way. Here at the Reformed Church Home, we have great faith that all things work together for the good of those who love God (Romans 8:28), and we firmly believe that when we do our part diligently and conscientiously, God will bless our work and will reward all of our efforts.

Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5). And that is exactly what each and every member of the staff is doing. From the top to the bottom and from the eldest to the youngest, everyone at Reformed Church Home has dedicated themselves to serving the Lord through serving each other, whatever it takes. If the service requires longer hours, staff members have been keen to do so patiently. If it requires them to wear uncomfortable PPE to protect the residents they serve, the other members of the staff they communicate with, and themselves, they have done so readily. If it means depriving themselves from attending most outside gatherings and social events to prevent spreading the virus in the Home, they have willingly obliged.

***"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place."***

(2 Corinthians 2:14)

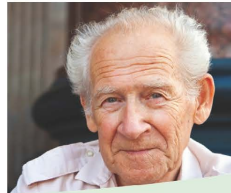
How true what is written in Nehemiah 2:20 that "The God of heaven Himself will prosper His servants who will arise and do the task that has been laid before them." Most everyone who has come in contact with our Home throughout the past year has acknowledged the great efforts and dedication of all those working in this blessed facility. Most everyone has praised the well-organized methods used in managing the Home, the cleanliness and sanitization systems implemented to keep our community as safe as possible, and the creative techniques used to keep the residents well-informed, spiritually nourished, and physically active.

Looking forward, we are of course hopeful that this pandemic will end soon and we will return to our normal way of life. We are so very thankful to the great scientific progress that humanity has achieved by producing the COVID-19 vaccines in such a short period of time. We are praying that by getting these vaccines we will be able to open our doors to visitors and families once again, that we can resume our regular activities, and meet once more face to face. Until this happens we must remain optimistic, full of joy and hope. As the Apostle Paul teaches us in Philippians 4:4-8, "We should rejoice in the Lord always and be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to God..."

Though we might not fully understand what is happening these days, throughout the Bible we see that God has a bigger plan for us, His children, and this plan is to promote our highest good at the end despite our short-term sufferings. Time and time again we see how God's plan comes about in mysterious ways, and we are confident that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts, our minds, and our spirit through Christ Jesus. God loves us unconditionally and each and every one of us is dear in His eyes. We are assured that He will take care of us and protect us. And as the Apostle Peter wrote in his first Epistle 5:10 "May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after we have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle us." ***Amen.***



# Assisted Living at Reformed Church Home



Free Echo Show device for new residents!\*

## We are ready for YOU!



EMBRACING QUALITY  
AWARD WINNER



5-Star Quality of Care Rating from the  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**We are vaccinated!** Most residents and staff have received 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.  
**We are family!** Our compassionate assisted living nurses and aides are committed to loyalty and longevity.  
**We are active!** We have creative, socially-distanced activities to keep our residents engaged.  
**We are connected!** Technology helps keep you in touch with family and friends

\*Move in by May 31, 2021, to receive Echo Show HD smart device with video calling and Speak2 Family app

### We are here for YOU! Call today to schedule a virtual tour!

## Have you been considering Assisted Living or know someone that is?

### NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO APPLY!

For a limited time, RCH will provide new AL residents with a **FREE ECHO SHOW HD Smart Device** to allow for video calling and messaging from the convenience of their apartment, plus other features available to families through an app called Speak2 Family.

**Curious?** We hope so! Please contact Abibat, 732-607-9230 ext 109 or abisiolu@rchnj.org for details.

Post-Acute Care Partner

RWJ Barnabas HEALTH



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Reformed Church Home 1990 Route 18 North, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

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# The Home News

Old Bridge, NJ



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