

Fall 2021

Grateful for the Holidays

It is that time of year again, a time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the upcoming one. Although 2021 started off with some twists and turns, we've been blessed with good fortune in the later part of the year. We choose to reflect on our progress and continue to work assiduously on improving our care and keeping our residents safe. Our sincerest gratitude goes to you for enabling Reformed Church Home to be successful. Many of the accomplishments and progress we've been able to attain would not have been possible without your continued support.

Fall has been filled with some wonderful activities thanks to agreeable weather. This included our 29th Annual Golf Classic. See page 6 for the fun moments captured. Residents and families enjoyed a farm day right on our front lawn, which was made perfect with some apple cider, donuts, pies and, of course, the farm animals. We were able to raise \$430 for the Alzheimer's Association through this event and successfully walked to end Alzheimer's with the help for our RCH families.

October had an exciting start with the Classic Car Cruise Night! What an event! We enjoyed having the community on our grounds and were blessed with wonderful volunteers who made this a memorable event for our residents. The months that followed showed just how strong we are as a community. Through our Stop Hunger Initiative, Toys for Tots program and Coat Drive we were able to give back! We can't thank you enough for always participating and supporting our cause. See more details on our Season of Giving on page 7.

I am so thrilled that we have been able to open our doors to the public again. We held multiple vaccination and booster clinics to ensure our RCH family is protected. At this time, 100% of our Long-Term Care and Assisted Living residents have been fully vaccinated as well as 95% of our staff. A special thanks goes to our Infection Preventionist Nurse, Jennifer Belandres, RN, for spear heading these clinics and ensuring that families had the tools necessary to make informed decisions.

We remain RCH Strong with the great teamwork of our wonderful staff.

As we now prep for holidays and all the exciting family functions to come, we want to encourage you to stay vigilant and practice safe precautions. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,
Kate Shepard
Executive Director/Administrator



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Reformed Church Home

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Spotlight on Parking Lot Expansion Project

RCH Makes Room for More Visitors

The Reformed Church Home received a special gift this holiday season. The much anticipated parking lot expansion project has begun just in time for the holiday season. This is especially exciting as RCH welcomes more visitors.

The goal is to comfortably accommodate guests and staff especially on those days major events are being held. This expansion will add 43 additional spaces and improve the appearance of our entrance. Grounds broke in late October and construction has been smooth sailing with workers here Monday through Friday. Work hours have varied depending on the weather but great progress has been made.

This project involves mass excavation, storm water installs and grading. Thankfully, there have been little to no disruptions during working hours and construction noise has been low. Impact to traffic flow isn't expected as all current parking spaces remain open. Arriving at Reformed Church Home, you'll see barricades and fencing in the construction area. This project is expected to conclude in spring in time for more events to come.

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RCH's Parking Lot Expansion Project well underway and making great progress. Projected to conclude in spring. Just in time for all the fun outdoor activities to come!

Wishing All the Best to Our Newest Assisted Living Residents!

Amelia Thorpe E280
Irene Sutton D320
Lois Houston E220

The Home News is published by the Marketing Department at Reformed Church Home. Questions, comments, or editorial suggestions should be directed to Abibat Abiola-Bisiolu, Director of Marketing, 732-607-9230 or sent via email to abisiolu@rchnj.org.

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From the Pastor's Study

Rev. Sam Youssef, Chaplain

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel "which means,*

"God with us"

(Matthew 1:23)

What a wonderful name that Jesus was given at birth: Immanuel, God with us. This name shows how much God loves us and wants to be with us. This is the real meaning of Christmas and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:20) It is a joyful truth that God loves us and finds His pleasure in abiding with us. Therefore, Christmas is always associated with joyful caroling, ringing bells, cheerful melodies and good tidings. During the advent season, we celebrate God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. In Isaiah 9:6 we read that: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Christmas brings us hope; it changes our darkness to light and our sorrow to joy "the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Matt 4:16) It is true that Jesus came to our earth so that His light shines in the darkness of our lives and brings us out of the darkness of sin. Also, the Heaven proclaimed the birth of that light to the shepherds when the angel appeared and brought them the good news: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;" said the angel, "He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Christ came to save us from the punishment that we deserve and to reconcile us with the Father and to enable us to have a relationship with Him without fear. He also came to bring us a great joy that cannot be removed from our hearts regardless of all the problems or sorrows that we may encounter. This joy is born in our spirits. It is an everlasting joy and nothing can overcome it: not death nor sorrow, not pain nor suffering can remove our joy. We may suffer physically, we may endure pain, we may encounter difficult problems yet we can still experience this spiritual joy deep inside. It is really a great blessing to have Immanuel with us amidst the turbulences of life.

Immanuel came not only to give us peace with God, but also to make peace among people. He blessed peacemakers and commanded us to forgive our debtors as He forgave our debts. When Christ reigns in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities, we can absolutely experience the real peace on earth.

Christ's birth marks the beginning of the age of grace. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) When we seek God with all our hearts and minds, we will glorify Him, experience great joy, enjoy peace and find favor in God's eyes.

Jesus came to encourage each and every one of us and give us the strength that we need to face any hardships that may come our way. Therefore, we have to realize that our strength does not depend on our personal power which can easily be shaken at one time or another. Our strength comes from our faith in God's word. We fear nothing and no one because we stand firm on His promise that the One who is born is Immanuel...God is with us.

God who was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary longs to come in, fill our heart and bless our life. He is standing at the door and is knocking. He wishes everyone of us to open our heart for Him. This is the real meaning of Christmas and this is how we should celebrate it. We should open our hearts for Him, accept His friendship, and keep Him in Christmas because He is the real source of our joy and peace.

Let us remember in this advent season, that Jesus came in flesh and dwelt among us and showed us the perfect life we should lead. Let us all keep Jesus in Christmas because He is the real reason for the season. Let us, therefore, focus our time on adoring, worshipping, praising and glorifying Jesus, the Son of God who became flesh and left His heavenly place and came and lived on our earth for our sake.

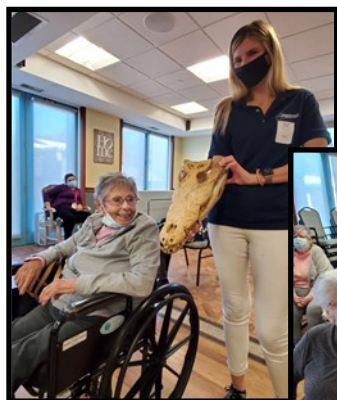




Fall highlights



Walk to End Alzheimer's



Reptile Day



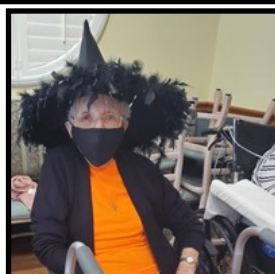
Art Class



Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Halloween Costume Contest / Trick or Treat



Honoring our Veterans



Halloween Wreath Decorating

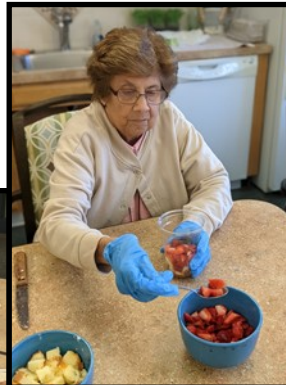




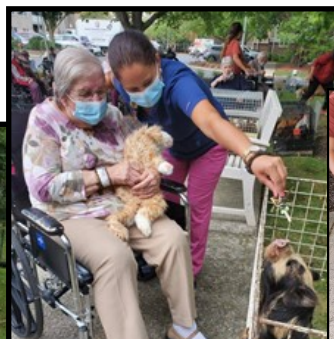
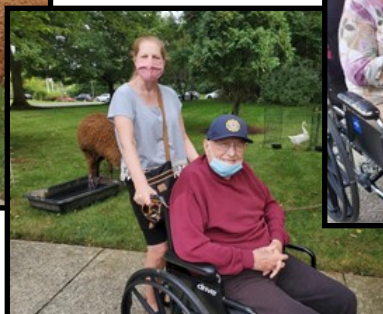
'Tis the season



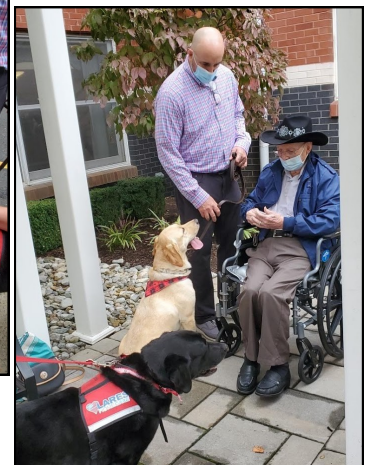
Cooking Classes



Farm Day!



Animal and Music Therapy



See more photos on our social media platforms:
[@ReformedChurchHome](#)





Development News

The Golf Classic Returns 29th Annual Golf Classic Recap - September

We were so thrilled to finally reunite in fellowship with so many of our friends, vendors, and local businessmen and women at Battleground Country Club on September 20th for our 29th Annual Reformed Church Home Golf Classic. Eighteen teams made up of 70 golfers arrived on this Monday morning to crisp, sunny, blue skies and 80 degree weather to play 18 holes in support of our mission at Reformed Church Home. It truly was the perfect day for a round of golf!

Greeted by our wonderful volunteers, golfers enjoyed an easy, safe, Covid-friendly check-in process due to our all-inclusive pricing structure. They were then invited to pick out their favorite style of Abaco sunglasses compliments of our event sponsor EMS, LLC. A special thanks also to our Gold Sponsor, Hawks & Company and Eagle Sponsor, TD Bank for making this year's event successful. A hearty breakfast was served sending our golfers out onto the course ready to hit the links, and so the tournament officially kicked-off with the ceremonial first tee shot taken by EMS. Golfers navigated their way through a perfectly manicured course at Battleground and challenged their abilities with a fun-filled round of scramble play golf. This year's Golf Classic saw the addition of the Closest to the Water Contest and Colored Golf Ball fun where all golfers who managed to NOT LOSE their colored golf ball during play were treated to a special prize upon returning their golf carts.

After a beautiful day of 18-hole play, additional lunch guests, a few Assisted Living residents, volunteers and golfers were treated to an outdoor Awards luncheon on the patio hosted by Investors Bank and prizes were given out to the top 3 team finishers overall (1st Place – Graham Company, 2nd Place – Center State Medical Center/AGF Marine, 3rd Place – Friends of RCH) along with the winners of all the contests - Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Straightest Drive, On the Green and Closest to the Water. The event culminated with drawing the winners of the Super Raffle CASH prizes and other donated gift cards and baskets.

The net proceeds from this year's event totaled just over \$41,000 which will benefit the Special Projects Fund at Reformed Church Home. These proceeds will be used toward expanding our outdoor gathering spaces which have become so important in allowing safe family visits, outdoor concerts, parades, and other activities.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who made this year's event a great success, including our wonderful Golf Committee and volunteers. We look forward to our 30th Anniversary Golf Classic in 2022, and we invite all our friends, supporters, and former, current and new families to participate. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the 2022 Golf Classic, please email development@rchnj.org.



Season of Giving



Stop Hunger

In our ongoing efforts to support our local Old Bridge Food Bank, our Development Department once again arranged activities to raise funds and collect food during the month of November. Non-perishable food items and toiletries were collected in our donation bin located in our foyer, and our collection bags were provided to make donating easier. Activities to raise funds included Thursday Night Football Wings (provided by our Dining Services Team), a Jersey Mike's sub sandwich sale, a one-day Bagel and Bake Sale and our annual Basket Raffle. In addition, we collected donations made directly to the Food Bank this year. RCH donated 659 pounds of food in total and raised \$1,950.00 for the Old Bridge Food Bank. Not a bad start to our Season of Giving!



New Jersey Cares Coat Drive

Our friends from Lares Home Care have been great supporters of our Season of Giving activities, so we partnered once again for their 3rd Annual New Jersey Cares Coat Drive. Gently used or new coats for adults, children and infants are being collected in our drop box in the RCH foyer through December 31st.



Reformed Church Home's Season of Giving ...

The RCH Employees, residents, families and friends have once again come through in the spirit of generosity during our annual Season of Giving activities:

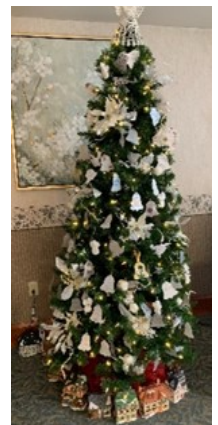
Toys for Tots

Our annual Toys for Tots collection began just as our Stop Hunger initiatives wound down. Two bins of toys overflowed with donations from staff, residents and family members before dropping off the toys on December 14th. Reformed Church Home has been an official drop site for the Marine Toys for Tots campaign for a number of years now. Our Assisted Living residents also held their annual craft sale, raising \$526.00 for the purchase of toys for donation.



Silver Bells

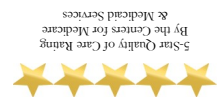
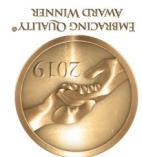
Thank you for the spiritual uplifting with each creative and beautifully written Silver Bell received in response to our annual appeal. The bells filled with messages of good wishes for the RCH Staff and residents, fond tributes to former residents, and honors of current residents adorn our lobby Christmas tree and bring much holiday joy and blessings to us all! With your generosity, we are well on our way to our TV conversion in the New Year.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

***PLEASE: Can you give us
the gift of your time?***

If you wish to be removed, or prefer an electronic copy
please email our Marketing Director, Abibat Abiola-Bisiolu by February 14, 2022
at abisiolu@rchnj.org, or call
732-607-9230, ext. 161. Thank you!



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The Home News

Old Bridge, NJ



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