

# KINDRED SPIRITS

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND CATHERINE KASPER LIFE CENTER

## Our Donors Help Make the Holidays Festive for Maria Center Residents

**O**n an unseasonably balmy December evening in Shipshewana, several Maria Center residents attended “Noel,” a celebration of Christmas, at the Michiana Event Center. This outing was made possible in part by you, our donors, by underwriting a portion of the cost of admission for residents of Maria Center!

“Noel” is described as two full hours of nonstop Christmas excitement. This amazing and uplifting show is filled with continuous equestrian adventures featuring beautiful horses and talented riders, as well as death-defying aerialists performing jaw-dropping routines high in the air. There are festive lights and timeless music and costumes that evoke the special feeling of Christmas, as well as live nativity animals, including camels, in a “hands-on” setting. And last, but certainly not least, the show itself with heartfelt music and a touching portrayal of the Nativity.

Here’s what Maria Center residents had to say about “Noel”: Ken Jamsa said he was “Surprised! I also wasn’t expecting the animals or the circus and the opportunity they gave the children to have a ride on a camel!” Mary Alice Ziesenhene added that that she enjoyed the horses the most, “I love horses and appreciate how much training they had to do with the horses to perform like they did.”



Front Row: Mary Alice Ziesenhene, Jeff Brinkman.  
Second Row: Stewart Snyder, Habo Runkle, Rhonda Overmyer, Sr. Shirley Bell, Gloria Miller, Pauline Pierson, Sr. Kathleen Kelley.  
Third Row: Christine Lehiy, Sharon Ruane, Clarence Ventline, Ken Jamsa.

Jeff Brinkman, Executive Director of the Catherine Kasper Life Center, along with Rhonda Overmyer, Maria Center Resident Services Coordinator and Christine Lehiy, Maria Center Resident Services Assistant, also attended. Brinkman found the event to be “. . . a very special night to celebrate Christmas. During these couple of hours, it gave us a break on what is going on in our world. We all had a good time.”

The Maria Center Activities Fund makes attendance at events like “Noel” easier for the residents by subsidizing the ticket price. On a fixed income, entertainment expenses can become a real luxury. Support of the Activities Fund by you, our donors, helps to make those little luxuries affordable. Maria Center resident Pauline Pierson said, “We appreciate the donors and the opportunities they provide for us to do things we don’t normally get to experience.”



## Completion of a Puzzle: A Metaphor and a Wish

**DOROTHY GEISLER, MARIA CENTER RESIDENT**

It's bedtime - 2 a.m. - and yet another completed puzzle lies in the center of my octagon-shaped table. Yes, it's lured me once again; to continue until the last piece has been placed into its unique home within the intricate whole. But no matter what time of night it is, the sense of accomplishment is heady.

A completed project is really quite neat, in color and design, be it a landscape or floral scene or whimsical setting. It is artistic, and tomorrow I'll share this work of art with some friends.

Completing a jigsaw puzzle really can challenge your sense of endurance. A thousand pieces, with lots of snow-covered mountains, or a field full of wildflowers and grasses, or a critter done in either realism or abstract, or a mass of 500 assorted-colored jelly beans - each one

can become a real test of your sense of focus.

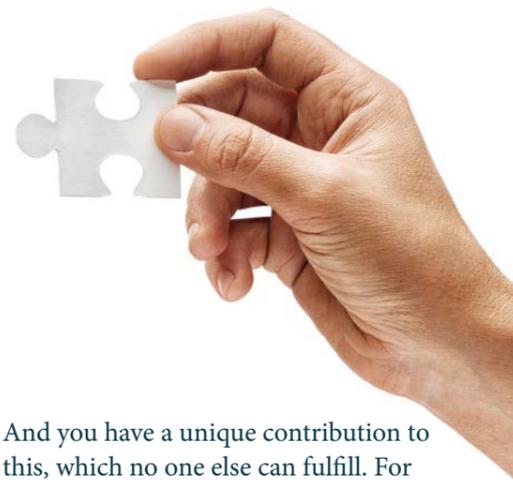
***Ask me. I've done them all. And doing them has helped me become better able to concentrate.***

***And that in turn has become an asset for me in my later years.***

You know, some puzzles are so finely printed and cut apart that you need to complete the center area first, and then fill in with the pieces around the edges. Talk about a reversal of the usual procedure! But you can learn from this, that each piece in a puzzle is designed to fit into only one space.

Carry this forward: You and your life and your place in the world can be compared to a grand puzzle. There is a definite design created by the Master of Design, who knows what the completed work will look like. Each

piece in the project has been shaped to fit into a space, but only one space, in this design. What great attention to detail! The completed work speaks of infinite planning and intense care in carrying out those plans.



And you have a unique contribution to this, which no one else can fulfill. For only YOU have been shaped to fit into this one specific place. Blessing to you as you continue with patient anticipation to complete your place in the grand puzzle of life.

## Fan of the Adorable Yellow Duck? You're in Luck!

Catherine Kasper Home, with the help of coworkers and family, held duck races for residents last summer.

The team of dedicated coworkers made a slide out of plastic, stakes, a hose, water and a rubber duck. Residents and coworkers were given squirt guns to join in the fun. We had some residents that went at least 6-7 times down the slide.

It was perfect weather for the race, and although nobody really won, a great time was had by all who participated, and residents are still talking about it. Families were so excited to finally be able to come and visit and watch the fun, instead of being confined to the resident rooms during certain hours of the day. It's just what we all needed to get over the COVID blues!



Tiffany Hardy, CKH Marketing & Case Manager, and Shirley Rowe enjoy a duck ride.



Sister Joan Fisher rides an inflatable rubber duck at a summer fun event at the Catherine Kasper Home.



CKH Assistant Director of Nursing Patty Back got in on the fun, too!



CKH resident Shirley Rowe is delighted as she rides the duck.



What do you do after stepping out of the salon? If you're Sister Michelle Dermody, you ride the duck!



## MARIA CENTER SPOTLIGHT

### DOROTHY GEISLER

**Getting to Know Her:** Dorothy is a thoughtful, creative person who loves the activities available to Maria Center residents. She particularly enjoys their “learning table” and says “we get to know each other there.” She is currently taking painting classes and is very excited to be working on a Christmas painting. But her favorite activity is working with the flower boxes outside the Maria Center entrance, and she is always looking forward to next years’ blooms.

Dorothy is great-grandmother and is very excited about the family photo taken at Christmas with her two-month-old great-granddaughter, Aspyr Fox.

# KINDRED SPIRITS

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines a kindred spirit as “a person with similar interests or concerns.” That must mean that we are all kindred spirits here on this Earth, for we all worry about providing for our loved ones and hope that life will be better for our children than it was for us.

No matter what part of the world we may live in, no matter the amount of our income or our age, these are our most basic interests and concerns. God gave us the materials and the skills to meet these needs, and we are grateful to our donors for sharing what they have so that our residents can enjoy their golden years more fully.



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Catherine Kasper Life Center is sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.