



## Giving Her All

If you were to walk through Raybrook Estates II on a Tuesday afternoon, you might be blessed to hear the sounds of singing men echoing through the corridors. These men are a part of the Raybrook Singing Men, a group comprised of 25 male residents, led by Carol Peters. In December of 1997, Carol was asked to serve as the pianist for the group, and she willingly stepped into that role. When then-director Mark VanderArk faced health challenges, Carol stepped in to direct the men. Today, Carol notes, "I have been 'leading and guiding' them for 25 years and I've loved every minute of it." Together they meet and practice, then sing in Raybrook Chapel Services and hold regular concerts for friends, family, and fellow residents.

Following weekly rehearsals, you will often find Carol having tea and sharing stories about quilts with resident Dorothy Baar. Carol and her daughter, Carin

Vogelzang are the co-directors of Margaret's Hope Chest, a quilting ministry in

memory of her mom, Margaret Herrema, who was murdered in 2005. Dorothy is one of a myriad of quilters from around the country who have made and donated quilts to MHC since 2007; over 4,000 quilts have been given as gifts of hope and comfort to so many hurting people, sometimes around the world and most often in our own community. Dorothy cheerfully describes Carol as "such a perfect person."

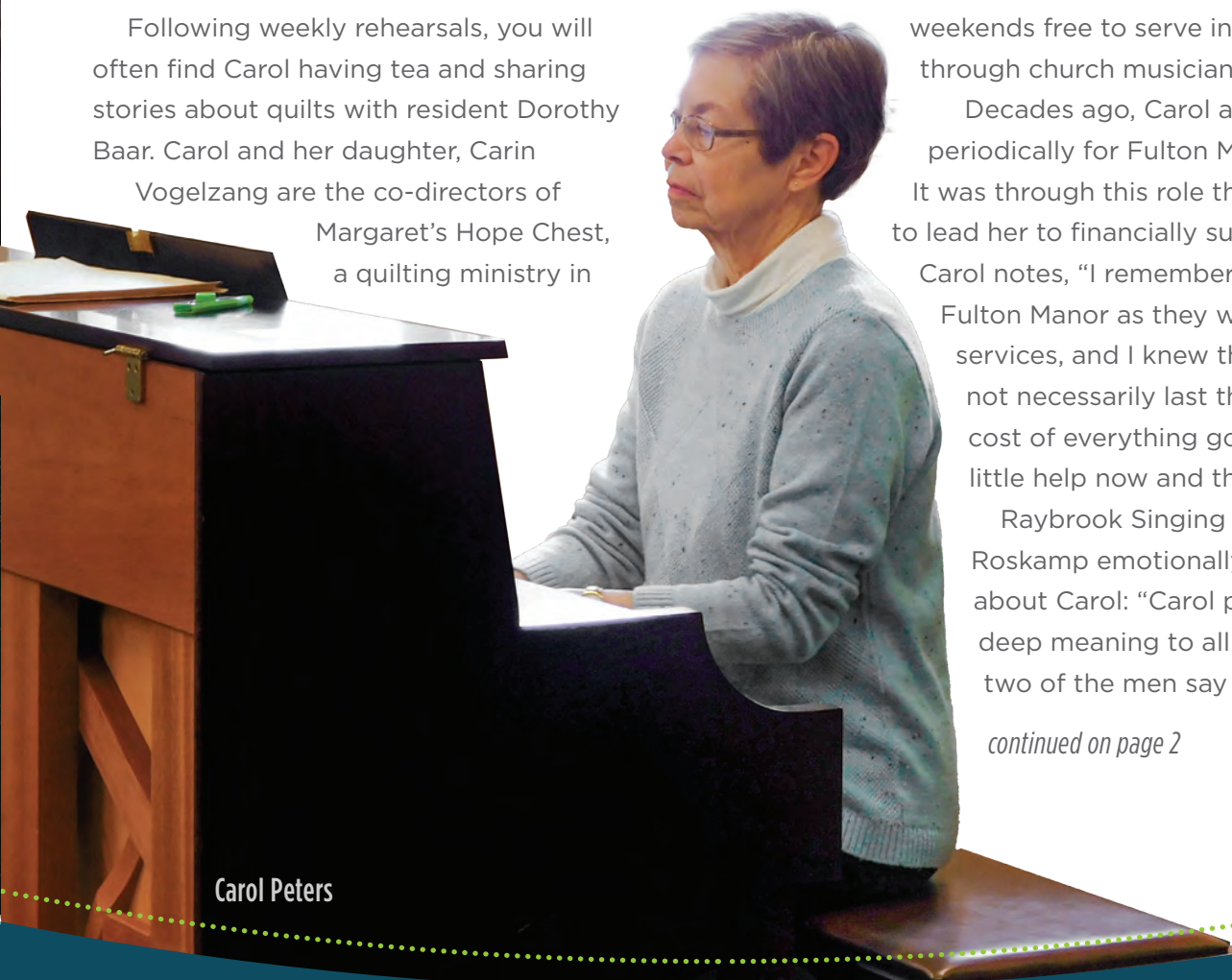
Carol's ties to Holland Home go back even further. She served as the administrative assistant in the Health Centers at Raybrook from November 1995 to May 2017. As a registered nurse, Carol was well qualified for this position and could use her gifts serving Raybrook's Independent Living residents while still having her weekends free to serve in other ways, such as through church musicianship roles.

Decades ago, Carol also played the organ periodically for Fulton Manor Chapel Services. It was through this role that Carol's heart grew to lead her to financially support Holland Home.

Carol notes, "I remember the sweet little ladies at Fulton Manor as they would be in the chapel for services, and I knew that their resources would not necessarily last their lifetime. And as the cost of everything goes up, everyone needs a little help now and then."

Raybrook Singing Men member Roger Roskamp emotionally shared the following about Carol: "Carol picks out songs that have deep meaning to all of us. I recently heard two of the men say that they 'wake up in the

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Carol Peters



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morning, especially the day after practice, with music on their lips and in their minds.' The music we sing and community we share carries us for the week until we gather again."

Herb VanHassel, the longest serving member of the group, now at 20 years of singing under Carol's direction, commented, "She is one of the hardest working people I've ever been associated with. She puts so much time into selecting songs and prepping for services. Beyond that, she follows the needs of each of our members." The Raybrook Singing Men practices are a social event too. Herb noted, "For me and so many, this time is the bright spot of our weeks, a time not to be missed."

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*Herb VanHassel*

We couldn't agree more with Dorothy, Roger, and Herb. Carol is a true blessing to Holland Home, giving of her time, talent, and tithes.

**To learn more about the Raybrook Singing Men or for information on how you can support the Resident Assistance Fund as Carol does, reach out to Sarah DeYoung at 616-235-5462.**

# BretoNext

## In a Word...*Thanks!*

We set a \$1.1 million goal to help launch the Breton Campus improvements and, through your generosity, that goal has been reached! We are grateful to God for the 133 donors who gave 193 gifts totaling \$1,111,183. Gifts were given by campus residents, family members of residents, current and former Holland Home Board members, employees, and others who are interested in our mission.

Holland Home is investing \$16 million in the Breton Campus the centerpiece of which is the renovation of Breton Terrace, including the lobby, Woods Cafe, Centre Place, and hallways on every floor. This spring, the Terrace patio will be transformed into an attractive three-season gathering place for resident activities, outdoor dining, and visiting with friends and family members.

Many campus improvements have already been accomplished, and others are yet to come. With grateful hearts we say 'Thanks' for supporting the BretoNext Campaign.





# Faith Hospice Expands Complementary Therapy Program with Full-Time Music Therapist

We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our Complementary Therapy Program with the addition of our first full-time music therapist, LeAnn Chin! LeAnn is a board-certified music therapist with a bachelor's degree in music therapy from Western Michigan University. Her extensive experience includes working with diverse populations such as young children, children with physical and intellectual disabilities, adolescents navigating mental health challenges, and older adults in hospice care. Music therapy, a vital component of our complementary therapies, is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to achieve individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship. At Faith Hospice, music therapy has been shown to provide numerous benefits, including increased social support, self-expression, and engagement. It also helps decrease anxiety, restlessness, and agitation, while fostering family bonding and memory-making during the end-of-life journey.

LeAnn brings not only her professional expertise but also a deep faith that fuels her passion for serving others. She continually seeks opportunities to enhance her skills and knowledge to better support those in need. We are blessed to have LeAnn join the Faith Hospice team and look forward to the meaningful impact her work will continue to have on our patients and their families. Faith Hospice's Complementary Therapy Services include aromatherapy, music therapy, pet therapy, and massage therapy. **To learn more about or support this meaningful program, please contact Gina Schulz at 616.235.6309.**



LeAnn Chin has joined Faith Hospice as our full-time music therapist bringing comfort and joy to patients and their loved ones.

**"I have to say Thank you from the bottom of my heart!  
You are a gift from God to us!  
The peace you are giving all of us is irreplaceable!"**

**"I am 100% sold on the power of music therapy. I have been sad and depressed this week, but this visit lifted my spirit."**



## Setting Sail for Gun Lake

This year the 1892 Heritage Society members are invited to the Annual Thank You Event on Tuesday, June 17 at Bay Pointe on Gun Lake. Mike Cazer, CEO of the New York Yacht Club's American Magic Sailing Team will be speaking. **Questions: contact Marcia Timmerman at 616-235-5118.**

The 1892 Heritage Society honors donors who provide a planned gift for Holland Home, Holland Home Foundation, or Faith Hospice. **If you would like information on becoming a member, please contact the Holland Home Foundation at 616-455-5125 or [foundation@hollandhome.org](mailto:foundation@hollandhome.org).**

# Honoring Dignity and Faith in Dementia Care: Mary McNeil's Journey

Mary McNeil, a former Holland Home Registered Nurse, devoted much of her career to caring for patients at Fulton Manor in the 1990s, many of whom were living with dementia. Later, she continued her service at Faith Hospice's Trillium Woods until 2006. While at Fulton Manor, Mary developed a special affinity for people living with dementia, seeing them not as defined by their illness, but as individuals with dignity and worth. Her compassionate approach was rooted in treating each person with respect, despite the challenges dementia presented.

Recently, Mary's passion for this work was rekindled when Rosemary, a staff member from the Dementia Institute, spoke at the Raybrook Care Committee about the Evening Star Worship Services which are tailored to meet the spiritual needs of individuals living with dementia — providing meaningful worship experiences designed to uplift and comfort.

Working alongside Chaplain Josh Baron, they provide a weekly Evening Star Ministry service. The ministry emphasizes creating an inclusive environment where those with dementia can engage with familiar hymns, prayers, and spiritual practices, often with family members who are encouraged to attend.

In addition, Mary continues to volunteer for Faith Hospice at the Raybrook campus, embodying her lifelong dedication to caring for those in need and offering them the gift of dignity, faith, and love.

Regarding the deep spiritual fulfillment she experiences in volunteering, Mary reflects, "Volunteering with people living with dementia is a profound privilege, drawing me closer to the Lord as I witness His grace in every moment. In serving, I honor His love and glory, finding purpose in the simple act of being present, seeing the beauty and dignity in each soul He has created."

Mary McNeil has been selected



as the 2025 LeadingAge Volunteer of the Year for her dedicated service and compassionate commitment to Holland Home and Faith Hospice.

Mary's journey is a powerful testament to the impact that compassionate, person-centered care can have on the lives of those living with dementia. If Mary's story inspires you or you want to learn more about supporting individuals with dementia, join us for an enlightening evening with Teepa Snow. Snow is a renowned dementia care expert who will share her insights into the best practices and innovative approaches to care, offering a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding and engage with professionals dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by dementia. See below about this event; for details visit [dementia-institute.org/navigating-dementia-conference-ff](https://dementia-institute.org/navigating-dementia-conference-ff) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



## Teepa Snow Dementia Care Expert



scan with phone  
for more info

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**

**7:00-8:45 PM**

**Calvin University's Covenant Fine Arts Center**

***Free presentation open to the public!***

Until  
There's  
a Cure,  
There's  
Care.™

This event is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Authenticity Marketing Group, BAMF Health, Calvin University, Generation Trust Law Group, Jim & Barb Haveman, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services.





## Celebrating Our Wonderful Lives

On December 16, nearly 800 guests joined us for a special evening at the Keeping the Promise Dinner, featuring the heartwarming theme of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The night was a celebration of community, generosity, and the true meaning of Christmas raising \$200,000 in net proceeds for the Resident Assistance Fund. Surrounded by festive decorations that evoked the timeless charm of Bedford Falls, we reflected on the blessings of the season and the importance of coming together to make a difference.

Guests were treated to the enchanting sounds of a bell choir, lively swing dancers that brought an air of nostalgia and joy, and an unforgettable performance by award-winning Christian artist Francesca Battistelli.

As we reflect on this wonderful evening, we are reminded of the words from the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*: "No man is a failure who has friends." Thank you for being part of our Holland Home family.







Holland Home™  
FOUNDATION

2100 Raybrook Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-9915

**Questions?** Call 616-235-5118.



Holland Home™  
FOUNDATION

## 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

WATERMARK COUNTRY CLUB

## INAUGURAL CHILI COOK OFF

Thursday  
October 23, 2025

Breton Ridge



FaithHospice™

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

12:00-1:00 PM

Cascade Hills Country Club



*Keeping  
the Promise*  
DINNER

Monday, December 15, 2025  
DeVos Place



For information on any of these events please contact the Holland Home and Faith Hospice  
Development Office at 616-235-5118 or [marcia.timmerman@hollandhome.org](mailto:marcia.timmerman@hollandhome.org)