



# Inside Mount Aloysius

## December 2020

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### A Christmas Like No Other

This year has definitely been a year to remember! It has also been a year to make us slow down and enjoy the little things in life - spending time with family and friends whether in person, video chatting, or talking on the phone. Christmas was a little different this year at Mount Aloysius without the usual Hanging of the Greens Day, where all the staff and residents join in to decorate the facility and apartments. The apartments did still get to decorate without the usual hub-bub of activity.

Each resident received personalized gifts for Christmas along with a Mount Aloysius hooded jacket. Many received gifts, cards, phone call, or video chatted with family or friends to help brighten the holidays!



Jeff Liggett



Bradly Tindall



Tyler Waggle



Ethan Peacock



Carl Jones



Michael Kinney

#### Inside This Issue:

Board of Directors & CEO Update  
Trunk or Treat Event  
Fall Fest  
DSP Appreciation Week  
Pictures  
Plus Much More!



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## **Mount Aloysius Board of Director's & CEO Update Submitted by Justin Gall, CEO**

The year 2020 has been an exciting yet challenging year for Mount Aloysius with many new challenges thrown our way. Today, we are experiencing a time like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to produce uncertainty and stress in our lives upsetting our daily rituals and routines. By now, we have all been impacted by this virus in some way or another. Despite our many challenges, this is also a time that is bringing out the best in many people. Together we leaned on each other, together we supported each other, and most importantly, together we encouraged each other to keep going. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our staff for always putting the health and safety of our residents first.

As you may be aware, Mount Aloysius is anxiously awaiting a vaccination clinic to take place. We are encouraging as many residents and staff as possible to get the vaccine. The population we serve has a much higher risk for getting very sick or being hospitalized and the more residents that get vaccinated, the better we can protect our community against potential outbreaks. The health and safety of our residents is always our top priority, and we are confident this vaccine will move us closer to obtaining immunity to the continued threat of re-infection.

Although this pandemic continues to gracefully redefine how we do business and interact with one another, we maintained our momentum moving projects forward. One of our goals outlined in the Strategic Plan is to specialize services by developing expertise in complex medical needs, in addition to diversifying our service array to meet the needs of our community. Our community identifies short term care and respite options as a gap for many individuals receiving services from the County Board. I am excited to announce that Mount Aloysius has obtained the necessary waiver certification to begin providing short term care and respite as a step to begin closing this gap for our community. As we move into 2021, we will continually work with the community and County Board to further identify gaps and identify new service venues to move closer to being a well-rounded provider of services to all individuals with developmental disabilities.

Finally, we have a few building enhancements identified to begin in 2021 to continually modernize our facility. Some of these projects include: new flooring in the dining room and hallways, lobby restroom remodels, new heating and cooling systems, new LED lighting, and enhanced security. We are hopeful as a vaccine becomes available; we will be able to invite you to an event so you can see all our updates in person.

I would like to end by thanking all of you for your continued support, understanding and trust throughout this past year. The national pandemic gave all of us challenges we were not prepared for; however we stuck together and made the best decisions we could in the best interest of the individuals we serve.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, Shannon or Kim with any questions, suggestions or comments. We welcome your input.

### **Two DSPs Promoted to Shift Supervisor**

We are pleased to announce that Jonny Aubery and Jamie Horn were recently promoted to Shift Supervisors. Jonny began his career at Mount Aloysius in December 2018 as a Direct Support Professional. Jamie has nearly 10 years of experience at Mount Aloysius and has been a Direct Support Professional and also worked at Options Unlimited. Jamie and Jonny have really taken to the Shift Supervisor position and are doing a fantastic job. We appreciate their dedication to the residents and staff of Mount Aloysius. We wish them both many years of success at Mount Aloysius.



Jamie Horn



Jonny Aubery

## Behind the Scenes Staff Award



Congratulations to Amy Ross, Head Cook, for recently receiving the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) District 3 Behind the Scenes Staff Award. Amy was nominated for the award for her efforts to improve the lives of those she serves on a daily basis. Amy began her career at Mount Aloysius 29 years ago, 10 of those years as a DSP and 19 as a cook. She currently leads our Dietary Department as the supervisor. You can always find Amy in the kitchen doing what she loves, cooking and working alongside her peers. Amy takes great pride in her work. She shows up to work every day with a smile on her face and ready to take on whatever challenges she faces.

What many do not know about Amy is that she has faced challenges herself. In April 2019, Amy experienced a ruptured aneurysm that nearly took her life. She was told she would be dependent on others for all her care for the rest of her life. If you know Amy then you know she is a very stubborn and determined person. She was determined to get back to work doing what she loves, so she took the bull by the horns and fought back. Amy had to relearn how to walk, talk, and eat, and she did that in just five months and was able to return to work in September 2019. Despite her struggles, she continues to win while pushing herself to improve her strength on a daily basis. Amy is living proof of perseverance and is an inspiration to those she serves and her coworkers. She is truly a great asset to Mount Aloysius.

### Welcome Note



On October 13, 2020 we were pleased to welcome Robert Sayres as a resident of Apartment 9. Robert likes to interact and joke around with staff. He enjoys sitting outside on the porch swing during warmer

weather. He enjoys making those around him smile and laugh. We are glad to have you with us Robert!

### Amy Kunkler Welcomed as Director of Nursing



On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we were pleased to welcome Amy Kunkler to the Director of Nursing position. Amy grew up in Guernsey County, graduating from Buckeye Trail High School. She attended Belmont College

and earned her nursing degree. Amy has worked the last several years as a psych/mental health nurse with several years of medical surgery history as well. Amy is no stranger to Mount Aloysius; she worked at Mount Aloysius as a contract nurse in 2019. Amy currently resides in Perry County and is married with three children (two girls and one boy). She also has six grandchildren and two step-granddaughters. We are glad to have you with us, Amy!

### New Program Supervisor Welcomed



On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Ashley Caton began as the Program Supervisor for Apartments 2, 11, and GLOW House. Ashley graduated from Zane State College in 2010 in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. In 2017, she graduated from

Ohio University with a Bachelor's Degree in Science. She is currently attending Muskingum University and is enrolled in the Master's of Occupational Therapy Program. She has held many positions in the occupational field over the last 10 years, including Director of Rehab and Regional Rehab Director. Ashley is married and has three children and lives outside of New Lexington. She enjoys riding horses and managing a small cattle farm.

Welcome, Ashley! We are glad to have you as part of the Mount Aloysius team!



# Fall Fest & Pumpkin Decorating Contest

This year we had our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Fest. Since we could not invite the community to the facility, we hosted a virtual pumpkin carving contest. We had an overwhelming response from the community. Congratulations to the top three community winners: Alexis Buckman - 1st Place (\$50); Edgar Gable - 2nd Place (\$25); and Ariana Vermillion - 3rd Place (\$15). Winners received their prize by mail. We also had a pumpkin decorating contest for the apartments and departments. Congratulations to Apartment 1 for receiving first place with a Pinocchio pumpkin and to the Administrative Department for receiving first place with "The Witch is In" pumpkin.

During the Fall Fest, residents enjoyed participating in games, a hay ride, and a bon fire. A Special Thanks to Pepsi-Cola Company of Zanesville for donating lemonade for the event.



Options Unlimited Staff



Tony Breining



Mike Niklas, Jim Anderson, & Robert Grinnell



Chip Tye, Robert Grinnell, & Mitchell Paul



Troy Dunlap

## DSP Appreciation Week

Direct Support Professional Week was held on September 13-19. All employees received a Mount Aloysius face mask, touch free stylus key-chain, and a scratch off lottery ticket. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, a lunch was held for all employees consisting of pulled pork, macaroni & cheese, and baked beans by KD Barbecue Company.

Employees were also asked to nominate their fellow peers as a DSP Hero. Congratulations to the following employees who were nominated as a DSP Hero by their peers:

### DSP Hero: Leatha Ross

**Nominated by:** Brittney Thompson - "Every single day that I come into Apartment 10, the apartment is clean and fresh smelling, and all of the guys are taken care of. Bad day or not, I can always tell she's here for the guys. She goes above and beyond every day."

### DSP Hero: Adrienne Goss

**Nominated by:** Anonymous - "Adrienne always picks up shifts when needed, and she makes sure the guys are taken care of the right way. She makes sure the apartment is clean, and she's always nice to the other staff."

### DSP Hero: Megan Robbins

**Nominated by:** Rebecca Stoltz & Donita Starrett - "Megan is a great coworker. She is always helpful, friendly, and reliable. She provides excellent care to our residents, and they all like her very much. She is always there for them if they need help with anything or are just having a bad day and need to talk. She has a caring and loving attitude that shines bright through her interaction with the residents every day."

"Megan has made a measurable impact over the years at Mount Aloysius. Despite the overwhelming amount of work that has to be done, Megan finds ways to help others. She's a great role model to new and older staff. The men at Mount Aloysius mean the world to her. These guys are her #1 priority. She's always looking for ways to get them out and enjoy life. This past week, we took the Glow House men to Amish Country. Megan went above and beyond to make sure the guys had the best experience possible. The men made memories to last a lifetime. I've never heard a group of guys thank someone so many times like I did that day. Those men appreciate everything she does for them. Megan is very passionate about her role as DSP."

### DSP Hero: Peggy Grubb

**Nominated by:** Leatha Ross - "Peggy has a very positive attitude on the job and works really well with staff. She does a really good job on everything she has learned. She also brings things to work that she knows the guys would like to do."

A Special Thank You to our friends at Park National Bank for sponsoring DSP Appreciation Week!

## Benches Donated

The family of former resident David Therrien recently donated a memorial bench in memory of David to the facility. David lived at the Mount for nearly 46 years. His memory will live on with the residents and staff who were lucky enough to call him friend. Rest in peace, David!



A Huge Shout Out to Maple Avenue Christian Church and their Vacation Bible School Program for donating a bench made from recycled bottle caps to Mount Aloysius. Thank you as well to the staff, residents, and families who saved their bottle caps that were used to help make the bench. This bench will get a lot of use for years to come!



## Memorial Tree Planting Held

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, residents and staff gathered together for a tree planting ceremony for former residents who have passed away in the last 18 months. Several men joined in to help plant the tree in memory of friends/former residents: Mike Clark, Jeff Howard, Mike Marsh, David Moseley, Dan Shimp, and David Therrien. They will never be forgotten and will always be part of the Mount Aloysius family.



## Pictures from Christmas



David Hutton, Steve Berzon, John Purcell, and Jeff Penson with the Grinch & Cindy Lou Who



Don Brown with Cindy Lou Who & the Grinch



Bill Hayes



Garry Wojciak



Mark Gordon



Donald Ihinger



Steve VerHulst



Scott Berzon



Austin Denver & Shawn Daulton



Shane Blankenship

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Congratulations to the following employees who recently celebrated employment anniversaries:

### 10 Years

Lisa Crawford, Central Records Clerk  
Annette Hallowell, OTA  
Shane Norris, DSP  
Mike Tafoya, Janitor/Laundry Asst.

### 5 Years

Stacey Bell, DSP  
Paulette Crane, DSP

### 1 Year

Malcolm Boyd, Maintenance  
Justin Gall, CEO  
Adrienne Goss, DSP  
Geanieva Henley, DSP  
Angel Williamson, Dietary Aide

## Happy Birthday to our Residents!

### December

2 - Stoney Gordon  
9 - Mike Wills  
17 - Vance Clarke  
29 - Donald Ihinger  
31 - Mark Gordon

### February

17 - Daniel Fuller  
27 - Shawn Daulton

### January

7 - Pat Yahner  
14 - Tony Breining  
17 - John Frease  
8 - Mike Niklas  
20 - Don Amrine  
23 - Brendan O'Shea  
24 - James Enderle  
30 - John Colwell



## UPCOMING Events

### January

1 - New Year's Day  
No Options or PerCo  
4 - De-Hanging of the Greens  
Airport/Travel Day

### February

7 - Super Bowl  
14 - Valentine's Day

### March

17 - St. Patrick's Day  
27 - Mount Aloysius Spring Craft Bazaar

*The dates are subject to change and events may be canceled as a result of the pandemic or current orders by the Governor. If we decide it is safe to hold an event, please know that we will do so in the safest manner possible.*

## WELCOME NOTE

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff:

Shane Blankenship, Dietary Asst.  
Ashley Caton, Program Supervisor  
James Enderle, Main. Worker Asst.  
Amy Kunkler, Director of Nursing  
Loretta Stanley, LPN

### Direct Support Professionals

Colleen Benson, Caleb Fox, Kabria Lanning, Cameron Meadows, Sydney Meadows, Brandon Moore, Melissa Poston, Kia Scherer, Gage Tussey, Kaylee Vanoster, & Deana Wentworth

We are glad to have you with us!

## Trunk or Treat

Mount Aloysius participated in the First Annual Crooksville Trunk or Treat sponsored by BloodThirst, LLC in October. Social distancing and safety protocols were strictly enforced during the event. The Mount Aloysius Team received an award for Most Creative Set Up for their Scooby Doo theme. Pictured is Shannon Jones (Daphne); Rita Ratliffe (Velma); Justin Gall (Freddy); Kim Flood (Scooby); and Phillip Hembree (Shaggy). A Special Thank You is extended to the Options Unlimited employees for designing The Mystery Machine.



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## **INSIDE MOUNT ALOYSIUS NEWSLETTER**



We hope you enjoyed this edition of *Inside Mount Aloysius*. Please direct any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter to Mount Aloysius, c/o Kim Flood, P.O. Box 598, New Lexington, Ohio 43764. Telephone #: (740) 342-3343. E-mail: [kim.flood@mountalloysius.org](mailto:kim.flood@mountalloysius.org)

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