



# Making A *Difference*

## Help In Times of Need



Many of us are reflecting on the hurricanes, disastrous flooding and wind damage that impacted so many communities. Our loved ones and neighbors

faced loss of electricity, property damage and loss of life. What we have seen on news reports or even experienced ourselves was almost too much to bear. But as in scripture, our hope is in the recovery and healing that continues to lift us up during times of despair. We see communities coming together to help those in need. For those who might have been forgotten, help and aid is abundant from strangers and volunteers who share love and hope with those that are most in need.

At Lutheran Homes, we too were impacted with property damage; from significant loss of trees to many days with no electricity and even concerns over availability of potable water. Trinity in Aiken, Lowman in the Midlands, RoseCrest in the Upstate and our offices of Lutheran Hospice were each impacted by the storms. Our staff enacted emergency plans for those most critical under our care.

Employees continued to serve our

residents and patients without fail even though at their personal residences there was uncertainty. But in the chaos there is hope and joy in the rebuilding of what was lost. We rejoice in the healing of community, and celebrate that we can come together to support those in need and rejoice in our faith, walking together during difficult times.

Each day I see firsthand the difference that donors make in the lives of those under our care. Your gifts helped the home-bound patient that was provided shelter, the residents who were comforted in the power-outages and the employees who received emergency assistance. Because of your gifts, care can be provided to meet the needs of those who have the additional burdens of worrying about this month's light bill, next week's medical expenses or even where they will live during their last days.

The Foundation is committed to being a faithful steward of your gifts in support of the mission of Lutheran Homes to provide compassionate care and promote the well-being of older adults. Thank you for your continued prayers and gifts. Your generosity impacts our ministry in meaningful and inspiring ways!

**Ernest L. Beck, MAR, CFRE  
President & CEO**



*Despite facing their own challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, our TeamMates continued to come to work to care for our residents with unwavering commitment. Pictured: Trinity on Lauren's Leadership Team with Frank Shepke, CEO of Lutheran Homes, who stopped by to offer his support.*



*Damage was sustained at the Heritage at Lowman, RoseCrest and Trinity on Laurens.*

## Response to Joy



Celebrating and recognizing joy has become a daily priority for our ministries of care. What does joy look like at Lutheran Homes of SC for our residents, families and staff?

- a ramp built for a patient's home so that she could enjoy her yard
- transport and medical services for a patient to travel out of state to visit with his mother one last time
- an anniversary meal for a hospice patient and his spouse
- transportation and wheelchair access for a patient to get to visit the ocean one last time
- care for those without resources in their times of deep need
- a chaplain who "brings absolute joy and comfort to our residents and employees"

Where and how do you experience joy? How do you respond to times of joy? For me, joy brings a smile, a lighter heart, a more positive outlook and ultimately, a desire to spread the joy by giving back. Will you join me in paying it forward with your gifts to Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation? With your help, our ministries will have the funds needed to continue sharing moments of joy in our five communities of care, at Lutheran Hospice and with BeWell Home Services. Please consider a gift today.

**Susan Troutman**  
Community and  
Church Relations  
Coordinator  
864.361.4242



## Welcome!

### Chris Heavner, Director of Church Relations



Pastor Chris Heavner, joined our Foundation this past spring. His area of focus is Congregational Partnerships.

When asked to explain what motivated him to

join the team, he offered the following: After retiring from three decades of working with college students as a campus pastor, I knew I wanted to continue to support the ministry of the Church in other capacities. I am excited to extend and strengthen Lutheran Homes' commitment to strong and active relationships with our partner congregations.

In many ways, the ministry to which I have been called is the same as my earlier service. Those entering college and those moving to a retirement community are entering periods in life marked by tremendous change. Those facing such

times should never be allowed to face them alone.

It would be dishonest not to admit another reason for asking to serve in this way: I get to visit the congregations whom I came to know through twenty-seven years of serving by "paying it forward." Will you join me in paying it forward with your gifts to Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation so that our ministries will have the funds needed to continue sharing moments of joy in our five communities of care, at Lutheran Hospice and within BeWell Home Services?

Let's discover how God is calling you and your congregation to serve those learning to live life differently. Let us partner together to make sure they know that the essential (and eternal) things have not changed—they are loved by God and cared for by God's people.

**Chris Heavner**  
**CHeavner@LHomes.org**  
**864.506.0080**

## Notes of Grace



Many of the gifts the Foundation receives come with expressions of deep gratitude for the care and services provided by our staff. Here are a few excerpts from some of the letters and notes recently received.

• "Thank you so much for the excellent care you provided to my mom. Our only regret is that we didn't utilize your organization sooner."

• "To all who work so hard at Franke - Because your thoughtfulness shows in all that you do, may the joy you give to others find its way back to you! Thank you for the wonderful care."

• "We would like to express our sincere love and gratitude to the Lutheran Hospice staff. Please accept this donation in hope it will assist you in continuing your mission of mercy and compassion."

• "The kindnesses shown to me and my husband during the time you cared for him will never be forgotten. All of the staff members we dealt with were so helpful and kind. We were so blessed."

# Foundation Financial Report



The mission of the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation is to support the ministry of Lutheran Homes of SC by enabling donors, who care about older adults and hospice patients, to achieve their philanthropic goals and by being a faithful steward of their gifts. In order to fulfill this mission, we carefully oversee the management of \$42 million of endowment funds, which produce income each year. In addition to this investment income, we received contributions from 1,800 generous donors, which totaled \$775,000 this fiscal year.

There are several programs of support to the ministries of Lutheran Homes. This fiscal year, subsidized care in the amount of \$621,000 was provided to 31 residents, hospice patients and BeWell Homes Services clients who were not otherwise able to afford the full cost of their care. We were also able to assist with capital purchases, facility upgrades and medical service equipment for \$982,000. This improves the quality of life for all of those served by Lutheran Homes. Additionally, \$305,000 was distributed to supply our ministry sites with program enhancements, operational grants and support for life enrichment, pastoral care and special projects.

In total, the Foundation was able to

give \$1.9 million of support to Lutheran Homes touching all locations: Rice Estate, Trinity on Laurens, Franke at Seaside, Heritage at Lowman, RoseCrest, Lutheran Hospice and BeWell Home Services. All of this is thanks to our generous donors, past and current!

Being able to give back is a good thing for the donor as well as the charity. And when you give a gift to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, it is good for our residents, hospice patients and clients because your gifts will be used to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

**DeeDee White**  
CFO, Secretary/Treasurer

## Finding Sanctuary

Throughout the history of Lutheran Homes, worship and pastoral care have been an integral part of the amenities and services provided within our ministries of care. After many years of hoping for the future, plans finally came to fruition with new construction at RoseCrest which provides much needed space for residential dining, a community hall and a dedicated chapel. Through support from donors, local churches and grant funding we are able to proudly support our residents and staff with a wonderful worship space and gathering hall. Residents will enjoy worshipping in a space specifically designed for that purpose and will also accommodate a multitude of other activities. When other functions are held in the community hall the worship furnishings and stained glass will serve as a reminder that God's Living Word is always at work through the ministry of RoseCrest.

*Worship furnishings provided by St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment, Spartanburg. Stained glass made possible by The Ernest and Kathryn Troutman Foundation.*



## Purpose Statement

Making a Difference is an official publication of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, Inc. designed to make donors and friends of Lutheran Homes aware of Foundation developments. Call Judith Whisman at **800.756.9443** or email **foundation@lhomes.org** if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

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Mr. Chad Coleman, Irmo, SC (Ex Officio)

## Awarded Highest Rating for 11<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year



Charity Navigator announced earlier this year that the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation has again achieved highest marks with earning another 4-star rating. Congratulations are in order for demonstrating strong financial health, accountability and transparency. We are proud to announce an eleventh

consecutive 4-star rating, which indicates that the Foundation outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets us apart and acknowledges our level of commitment to good governance, best practices and accountability. Charity Navigator is the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in America helping donors make intelligent giving decisions in reviewing over 1.0 million nonprofits.

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## Charitable IRA Rollover



The IRA rollover offers the opportunity to give to the causes you care about without suffering adverse tax consequences. This allows some investors to transfer funds from an individual retirement account directly to a qualified charity without having to count any of that transfer as taxable income.

Individuals who own an IRA must begin taking minimum distributions at age 70 ½, and those distributions could increase

the tax liability. These dollars qualify for the provision and do not need to be included in the individual's gross income if he or she makes a "qualified charitable distribution." The charitable IRA rollover is a way to donate to charity and avoid the tax liability.

There's more to charitable giving than just the financial and tax advantages. Donors who make a gift to the Foundation have the personal satisfaction that comes from supporting Lutheran Homes and knowing they are making a difference in their respective communities. It's for all these reasons—financial, taxable, and philanthropic—that it is good to initiate a conversation about charitable giving.

Check with us, your IRA administrator or your tax advisor for more information.

