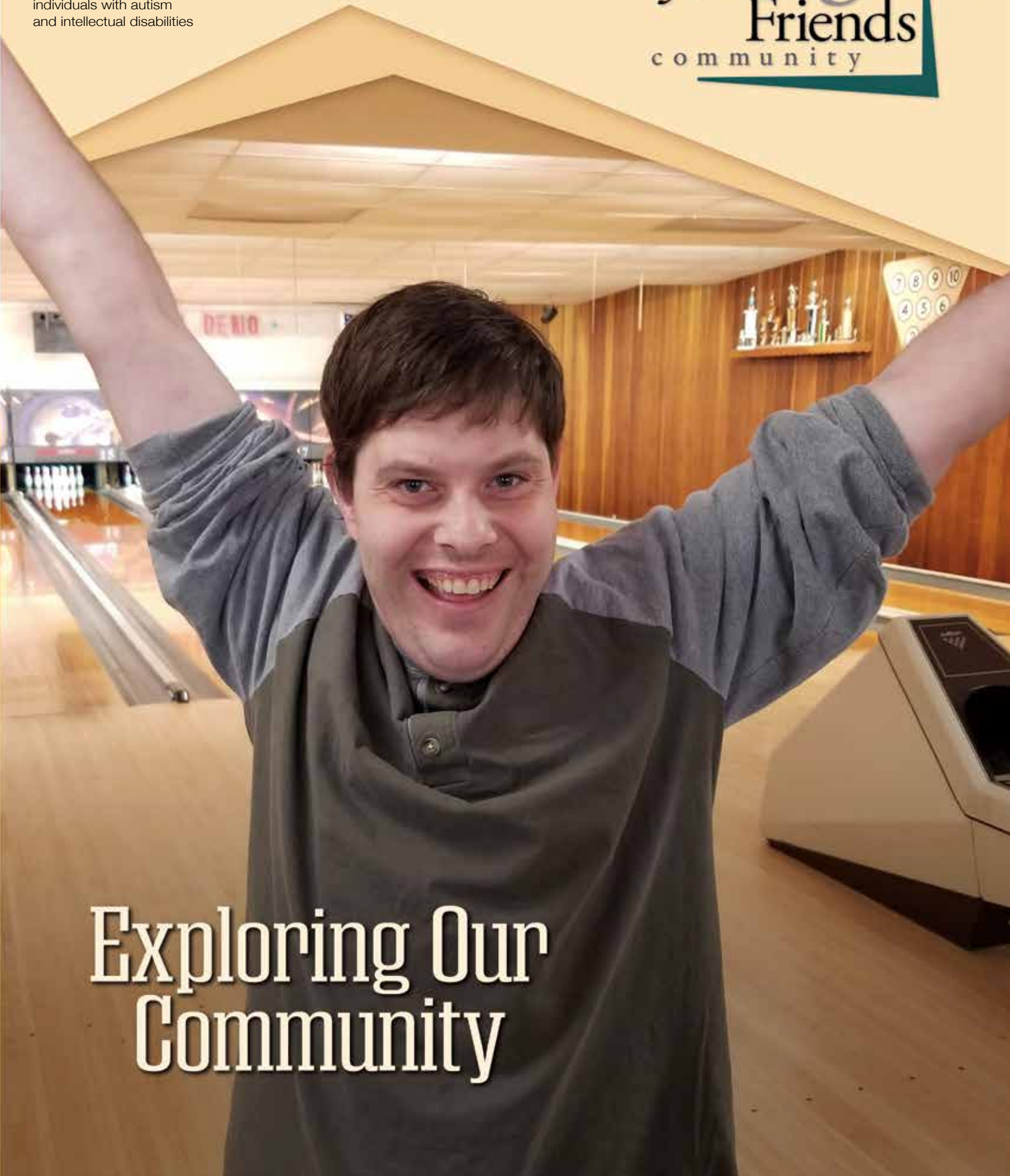


**SPRING 2024**

Faith-based support  
and services for  
individuals with autism  
and intellectual disabilities



# Exploring Our Community

# A MESSAGE FROM Jane Merolla, CEO

Community is at the heart of everything we do here at Jessica & Friends Community. As we look to the future, it's never lost on us how our daily actions today shape the future of J&FC. Every conversation with a parent about a problem they've faced leads to the search for a solution. Regardless of whether the stressor manifests itself in an inability to access a community home placement, the need for a day program or supported employment, or having difficulty getting Medicaid funding: all problems lend themselves to timely solutions.

The Board of Directors and I have set our sights upon a future at Jessica & Friends Community in which those we serve become the architects of their own futures. Whether they dream of home or business ownership, having an apartment of their own, or prefer to stay with the traditional models of day supports and community home living, we're in the process of educating ourselves on ways to make it all happen. We firmly believe that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). He's brought us to where we are currently, and He will lead us onward.

Thank you for your continued investment in the mission and vision of Jessica & Friends Community as we help others continue to navigate their way towards self-actualization.

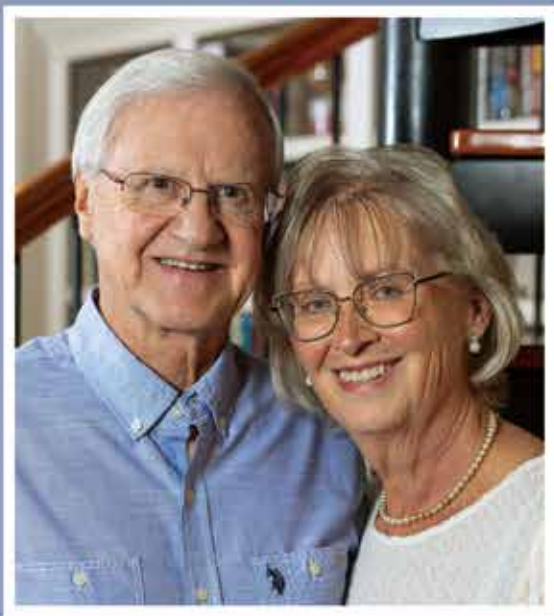


## 2024 SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR JESSICA & FRIENDS COMMUNITY

Dr. Teague introduced our scripture verse for Jessica & Friends Community to live out through 2024. It is our hope these words will increasingly be manifested in our lives:

**“Lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” - Ephesians 4:1-3 NLT**

## But God...



With the arrival of Spring our hearts turn to March 22, 1981 with the birth of our precious daughter, Jessica. Little did we know the impact this little life would have on so many 43 years later.

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary of Jessica & Friends Community this past year in many meaningful ways, the most significant event for us was the writing of “Jessica’s Story...but God.” The response we have received from many, as you entered into our challenging journey of raising a child with a severe disability, was very humbling and so encouraging. It is a testament of God’s grace and goodness on the impact one life, no matter the hardships faced, can be used by God to bring glory to Himself, shaping something beautiful and beneficial to others as witnessed by the raising up of Jessica & Friends Community.

As Jessica’s Story is being told literally around the world, many opportunities are coming to us. As our Board of Directors prayerfully plans strategically for 2024-25 we are evaluating our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, all in the context of our five pillars, programs and services. Our Strategic Plan defines achievable objectives, under six strategic imperatives:

- Closing the Gap Operationally
- Expanding our Geographic Market
- Deepening Ministry Outreach
- Strengthening Existing Services
- Expanding Offered Services
- Expanding J&F Products

**BUT GOD...** We firmly believe that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). He has brought us to where we are now, and He will lead us onward. Thank you for praying, serving, and giving alongside of us!

Ever grateful for you,

**Peter and Paulette Teague  
Co-Founders**

# Exploring Our Community

An integral aspect of improving the quality of life for our cherished friends involves understanding their interests and providing the necessary support. Through the Community Participation Support (CPS) Services we can organize services and experiences that enable them to explore their community and engage in everyday activities.

Ty, a resident of David's House, is an exceptionally sociable and amiable individual who takes delight in meeting new people. He enthusiastically shares his passion for trains and trucks by showcasing his latest pictures of them. Among his preferred destinations is the Strasburg Railroad, a place he has visited numerous times. Many of our outings with Ty involve activities such as bowling, enjoying his favorite food—pizza—and spending time with his staff throughout the day. He finds pleasure in visiting parks for activities like swinging or

playing basketball and frequently visits the library to use the computer for searching and printing the newest train pictures. Ty meticulously saves these pictures in a notebook, always placing the latest one in a frame to proudly display. Additionally, he relishes shopping for train and truck-related items, be it a small model of a truck or a railroad tie.

During visits to his family, Ty eagerly assists with household chores and property tasks. At home, he finds joy in building with Legos and unwinding by watching the TV show "Gold Rush" after his eventful day. We are thankful that through our CPS Services Ty is able to pursue his dreams and live a fulfilling life.





# Home and Community Pillar

Jessica & Friends Community offers a combination of services designed to help adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities create the lives they envision for themselves. However, Home and Community Services are the most flexible and creative of all. These service offerings are the perfect option for those who wish to live on their own in the community, or otherwise opt to stay at home with their families with professional supports in place. Designed to promote optimal independence, this program provides a combination of service options which can be delivered intermittently throughout one's week both at home and in the community.

In-Home and Community services is a skill-building service that helps participants become as independent as possible in their everyday lives. We help folks learn to cook nutritious meals, do gardening, housekeeping, and make appointments. Learning to navigate the community is probably the best activity of all. The possibilities are endless!

Companion services are all about making new friends and visiting old ones. Companions are someone to sit next to in church, or a trusted person to stay at home when one's parents are out for an evening.

Both services can be delivered on a one to one basis as well as in groups of three participants. We currently provide these services in York, Adams, Lancaster, Franklin and Fulton Counties. Jessica & Friends Community looks forward to the blessing of meeting each person where they live.







# Above & Beyond

2023 proved to be an exciting year for J&FC. With all of our events resuming as we celebrated our 25th anniversary, so many of you came alongside of us to give support and encouragement. Due to your generous giving, our year end gifts amounted to \$126,597. Thank you for once again helping us exceed our goal of \$75,000. We are grateful for your gifts of love, notes of kindness and support for those we serve.

## Annual Christmas Celebration

Jessica & Friends Community welcomed the second week of Advent in a powerful way as we joined with the Wings Disability Ministry at Church of the Open Door in an amazing Christmas Celebration. Aaron Spangler heralded the birth of Jesus in a live broadcast on Teague television! The manger overflowed with the acting talents of our own folks from various programs. Mary and Joseph stood beaming next to the cradled baby Jesus, surrounded by shepherds, angels, kings, as well as cows and sheep. Everyone knew their parts, and played them with pride. Even the Innkeeper (who nobody ever wants to play) stood next to the Holy Family smiling from ear to ear. When the pageant scene became adorned by the performances of Gabby Gross on the piano and the Hosanna Ringers, our hearts rejoiced to the point of tears. It was an experience we will all remember for the rest of our days.

*"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Isaiah 40:5*



## Welcome Jerry

We are pleased to welcome our newest resident, Jerry Newcomer, into David's House. For over five years, Jerry has participated in our Person-Centered Pathway program. Jerry loves his new home, and enjoys spending time with his housemates Jesse, Ty and Steven. Jerry's family is so thankful that God provided this home for Jerry at just the right time. They could not imagine him living anywhere else.



## From Direct Support Professional to Licensed Practical Nurse

When Zaria Sheriff began her employment as a direct support professional with Jessica & Friends Community, she was also attending nursing school to earn her LPN certification. Three years later, Zaria graduated and was promoted to provide nursing services within our residential and Pathway Person-Centered programs. Some of Zaria's new duties include: Helping residence managers to schedule medical appointments, reviewing the quality of medical care our individuals receive, certifying direct support professionals in the process of medication administration, and providing other forms of staff training related to individual-specific medical protocols. Zaria is a blessing to the individuals and families we serve in the community, and we thank the Lord for calling her to her new profession.



Jessica & Friends Community is looking for caring, committed people to join our team. Please check out our website at [jandfcommunity.org](http://jandfcommunity.org) or call us at 717.747.9000 to learn more and to apply.

# Upcoming Events

## Lancaster Bible College Chapel Service

901 Eden Road, Lancaster, Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00 am  
(Public is welcome to attend)

## Rock On/Give Local York

We are excited to participate in this 24-hour Big Give Day beginning on Thursday, May 2 at 9 pm through Friday, May 3 at 9 pm. On Friday, we will also hold our Rock On event from 9 am to 2 pm.

## J&FC Annual Gala

Saturday, September 14. More details later.

# Prayer Closet

- 1) We are thankful for our visionary investors who helped us exceed our giving goal of \$75,000. We praise God that we received over \$125,000.
- 2) We are thankful for a committed and visionary Board who have prayerfully set forth a strategic plan for the next two years.
- 3) We are thankful for new staff that has joined us, and pray that God will continue to send those who will embrace the mission of J&FC.
- 4) Pray for the health and safety of our staff and for the Individuals they serve in our homes and programs.
- 5) Pray for those families who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- 6) Pray for Jessica's Story to be an encouragement to families and that many will find hope through Christ and assurance that God has a plan and purpose for every life.



# Rocking Again

Our J. Patrick Peters Rock On is back for the 4th year! It will coincide with Give Local York on Friday, May 3, 2024 from 9 am to 2 pm. Our friends will be rocking to raise funds to support program enhancements and ministry opportunities. In addition to rockers being set up at our York and Hanover Person Centered Day Programs, they will also be rocking at Godfrey Meats and CommunityAid in York and at Hanover Family Fitness in Hanover.



1625 East Market Street  
 York, PA 17403  
 Phone 717.747.9000  
 Fax 888.509.2320  
 jandfcommunity.org

Equal Opportunity Employer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr. Thomas Brown  
President
- Mrs. Diane Sargeant  
Vice President
- Mr. Robert Teague  
Treasurer
- Mrs. Alex Ahlbrandt  
Secretary
- Mr. Dale Bubb  
Dr. Jack Kline
- Mr. Stuart Levey  
Mr. Doug Royer  
Dr. James Srour
- Mr. Douglas Swartz  
Mrs. Paulette Teague  
Dr. Peter Teague
- Mr. Lee Stare (Honorary)

## ADMINISTRATION

- Jane Merolla**  
CEO
- Susanne Reynold**  
Director of Human Resources
- Janelle Greathouse**  
Controller/Accounting Manager
- Kimberly Gockley**  
Director of Programs
- Tammy Gelsing**  
Director of Community Services
- Sally Janora**  
Ministry Support Coordinator
- Kelly Graham, Kim Kennedy,  
Gretchen Rhodes, Megan Richardson,  
Devin Sevret & Mitch Spangler,**  
Managers, Residential Services
- Glenn & Millie Martin**  
Innkeepers, Indian Rock Acres
- Scott Reynold**  
Facility Manager

## Jessica & Friends Community News

is published quarterly to provide relevant updates and current issues of importance consistent with our mission to the families we serve, churches, friends and supporters.

Please send all correspondence including address corrections to:

Jessica & Friends Community  
 Attention: Anne Fritts  
 1625 East Market Street, York, PA 17403

## Memorial and Honor Gifts

August 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

### IN HONOR OF/GIVEN BY:

- Great-granddaughter, Elsie Ahlbrandt**  
Mrs. Sally Janora
- Madison Anthony**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Clabaugh
- Barry Bailet's Birthday**  
Mrs. RuthAnn Bailets
- Willie, Anita & McKensie Forry**  
Employees of Forry Transport
- Bethany Godfrey**  
Mrs. Miriam Leaman
- Ellen Hartman's Birthday**  
Mrs. RuthAnn Bailets
- Troy Hoenstine's Birthday**  
Mrs. RuthAnn Bailets
- Celesa Hagan**  
Be Blessed By Wolfgang, Inc.
- Emily Hummel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Geiger
- Jayne Janora's Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hanley  
Mrs. Sally Janora  
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Stetz
- Sally Janora**  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Ahlbrandt
- Sarah Keeney's Birthday**  
Ms. Anita Brenneman
- Glenn and Millie Martin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clapsaddle
- Ginger Powell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Good
- Brandon Ream**  
Ms. Cinda Nease
- Erin Shaffer**  
Mr. Andrew Shaffer
- Scott Smith's Birthday**  
Mrs. RuthAnn Bailets
- Avery Sponseller**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Mathison
- James and Cushla Srour**  
W. Robert & Katherine Berkebile

### Jonathon and Claire Srour

- Wedding**  
Anonymous  
Ms. Margaret Ferguson  
Ms. K. Michele Sims  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Jessica Teague, "God Bless You"**  
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Liu
- Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague**  
Rev. & Mrs. Greg Funk

### IN MEMORY OF/GIVEN BY:

- Lloyd and RoseAnn Briggs**  
Sally and Jayme Janora
- Susan Drenning**  
Ms. Nancy Black  
Ms. Barbara Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dellinger  
Mr. & Mrs. John Diercks  
Mr. Fred Drenning  
Mary Glenn, Mark Kovanda,  
Valerie Kovanda, Susan Kovanda,  
and Brian Kovanda  
Mrs. Sally Janora  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Kovanda  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Letocha  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian McGuire  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Snyder & family  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague  
Mrs. Metza Whiteley
- Ruth Feder**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- James Geiger**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Matthew Grove**  
Mr. Ted Grove
- Carol Hampton**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- June and Kim Handwerker**  
Mr. Robert Handwerker
- Melanie Lynnette Harris**  
Ms. Adrienne Harris

### Mary Hildebrand

- Jeff & Pam Gay Community Fund  
Ms. Patricia Hildebrand  
LIU Preschool, Speech/  
Language, OT/PT Programs
- Herbert Karlip**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Jack Lescalleet**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Barrick
- Alice Markley**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Marty Mundis**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Sarah Myers**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Brickner  
Mr. & Mrs. William Ely  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Fisher
- J. Patrick Peters 77th Birthday**  
Mrs. Danielle Peters
- Harry P. Simione**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Mary Skold**  
Mr. Douglas Monroe  
Ms. Rebecca Postma  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stockley &  
Peg Fischer  
Mr. & Mrs. James Tanzola
- Don Snyder**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Fred Stuedler**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Mrs. Norma Stotler**  
Dr. & Mrs. Darrell Kopp
- Nancy Suloff**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Sallie Turoczi**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
- Jacob Young**  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Young
- Alvin Zook**  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague