

MESSAGES OF **HOPE** & **RESILIENCY**

Dear Friends of Penn Highlands Healthcare:

This year was marked by hope and resiliency. Extraordinary measures were taken to assist our healthcare system with the COVID-19 vaccine dissemination. Doors were opened and amazing partnerships were made, ones that we know will last well into the future.

We are filled with gratitude and inspiration, from the stories heard throughout the year.

Ones involving schools allowing clinics to come in, partnerships with a local nursing home to offer support and volunteers coming out of retirement, to help at our vaccine clinics. It was truly a year marked by people coming together with a common goal, to help care for and vaccinate our community.

Penn Highlands Healthcare was one of the first health systems in the country to receive the COVID-19 vaccine last December. Since then, we have been one of the leading healthcare organizations in the commonwealth. Close to 90,000 vaccines were disseminated across the region, a number Penn Highlands Healthcare is truly proud of to date. Please enjoy our stories of community collaboration.

A registered nurse for 26 years and former chief nursing officer, Anna Anna had the opportunity to step away from her role as hospital president this year, and put her nursing background to use.

"Our staff was busy taking care of patients, so we couldn't pull them off their unit to give vaccines, and I couldn't force staff to try and figure out how to fix the shortage problem, when I could be a part of the solution."

Anna Anna, President, Penn Highlands Tyrone



Partnering Local Makes Things Happen

"When the pandemic began, Nelson's Golden Years in DuBois, did not have masks, struggled to get gloves and had to buy safety shields from a local hardware store, said Jackie Syktich, Owner and Administrator, Nelson's Golden Years."



I filled out surveys through the state department of health to apply to get the vaccine. Thanksgiving and Christmas came and went with no supply sent. I was then connected with the Regional Response Healthcare Collaborative Program, created to help long term care facilities, and **"By the grace of God, we were matched with Penn Highlands DuBois. Their staff was here helping us the very next week."**

We were taught hand washing protocol, and proper masking and gowning procedures for staff. Penn Highlands DuBois helped us order hand sanitizer and PPE. We learned quarantine procedures and how to create red zones for infected residents. At the end of January, Penn Highlands DuBois came through for us once again. We received vaccines for 75 residents and staff. "Everyone was thrilled!"

"I will forever shout praise and tell everyone I know, what Penn Highlands DuBois did for us when we had nowhere to turn. The staff came through for us for so many things, you have no idea. It goes to show, partnering local makes things happen!"

**Jackie Syktich, Owner and
Administrator, Nelson's Golden Years**

PARTNERING WITH NEIGHBORING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO

Vaccinate Educators and Community Members

Education staff throughout the Huntingdon region expressed the immediate desire to get the COVID vaccine once available. School administrators at the Juniata Valley School District, stepped up to offer space in the high school cafeteria to host clinics for the community. Nearly 3,100 shots were administered, during the 4 clinics that were held, according to pharmacy records at Penn Highlands Huntingdon. ***"I can't tell you how many folks came to me afterward, to tell me how much they appreciated, having Penn Highlands Huntingdon come here and offer the vaccine."*** They worked with us on anything we needed to do. Looking back I am very proud that we were able to host it. We would like to partner again for any needs of the hospital. I would be 100 percent on board!" **Mike Zinobile, Superintendent, Juniata Valley School District**



PENN HIGHLANDS MON VALLEY IS

Always Here for Us

"Our collaboration with our local hospital was strengthened, when the COVID vaccine became available to the public."

Darla Holley-Holmes, First Lady of Christian Life Ministries, Mon Valley

"In winter 2020, the people in our region were thrilled to learn that our community hospital, Mon Valley, was the first hospital in Washington County and one of only two health systems in Southwestern Pennsylvania to receive the COVID vaccine. Our delight was quickly diminished when we heard that the hospital's waiting list for public vaccinations topped 30,000 people and feared we would have a long wait. Our fears were unfounded because the hospital brought the vaccine to us," said Holley-Holmes.

The hospital set up clinics at local fire halls, social halls, high schools and food banks to administer the first doses. One elderly gentleman in our church cares for his disabled son, and did not have transportation to a clinic site, so hospital staff members took the vaccine to his home. ***The people of this region are very fortunate to have Penn Highlands Mon Valley providing their health and wellness. They are a blessing to this community.***

Join the Movement

November 30, 2021 is #GIVINGTUESDAY



#GIVING TUESDAY

Now more than ever, we need the continued support of our caring community to see us through to the end of this historic health crisis.

As we look ahead, the Penn Highlands Fund Development team continues to focus on the evolving health care needs of our community.

Please consider making a gift to our annual appeal. With you as our partner, we can adapt to the ever changing needs of our community, when you and your loved ones need us most.

With Our Sincere Gratitude,

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE

PENN HIGHLANDS HEALTHCARE AND BROCKWAY SCHOOLS

At the Door with Open Arms

"When I heard the COVID vaccines were going to be available to the public, I was exhausting all measures to get someone here at Brockway to administer not only to our staff, but to our community. I knew that we wanted to stay open as a district for our students for 180 days in-person instruction and this would be a layer in assisting us in doing so. When Penn Highlands approached us about hosting the clinics for the Brockway area I knew we needed to step up. I was at the front door with open arms."

"Two clinics were held here at our Brockway School. One for staff and another for the community. Everything went seamless. ***I want to continue to work together with Penn Highlands Healthcare to meet the needs of the community. I think by working together, we can protect our students, staff and the community.***" **Jeff Vizza, Superintendent, Brockway Area School District**



Please join us in our commitment of excellence by making a gift to any or all of our hospitals through this Annual Giving Campaign. An envelope is included for your convenience, or you can make your donation online at **www.phhealthcare.org/giving**

Penn Highlands Healthcare is a 501c(3) charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service