



# Porter Hills Foundation

Linking Tradition With Tomorrow

Number 22  
Winter 2006

## Faithful Mary Ann

- **Steadfast patron leaves a legacy at Porter Hills**
- **Generous bequest builds Wellness Center Endowment, reflects personal commitment**

You could get to know Porter Hills Village resident Mary Ann Young easily. She lived directly across the hall from the Garden Apartments East Lobby reception desk. And she thrived on the activity outside her usually open door. Many days you could find her working at the desk. She truly enjoyed talking with passersby or reading the newspaper to a friend.

Mary Ann steadfastly supported Porter Hills during the 17 years she lived here. She served on advisory councils, worked as an Emporium storekeeper, and enjoyed her duties as greeter at the East Lobby. In all, she recorded over 1,270 service hours to help make Porter Hills a better place.

She also helped many residents in need with her annual gifts to the Benevolent Fund. Being a part of the Samaritan and Pillars (giving) Clubs was very important to Mary Ann. She never forgot to make a

memorial gift when a friend of hers passed on.

She also gave toward the building and operations of the Martindill Wellness Center (MWC).

She liked the idea of having such a convenient place to exercise. Thanks to Mary Ann's and many other donors' support, residents can now swim, work out, or go to an exercise class any time. And because of the MWC Endowment Fund, it's all free of extra charge.

Mary Ann's ultimate act of kindness was remembering us in her estate plan. She showed her faith in us and in our mission by asking that her bequest go wherever it was needed most. Because of her interest in promoting fitness, the Foundation Board added it to the MWC Endowment.

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*Mary Ann Young  
(1915-2005)*

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## Caring for our Care Givers

- **Annual Christmas Party**  
= TLC for staff
- **Door prizes add to the fun, help**  
**show how much we value their work**

Can you think of a better place to host a Christmas party than a banquet center called St. Nicholas'?

We can't. So that's where Porter Hills employees gather for our annual holiday event. The party is one way we try to express our thanks to staff for the wonderful care they give our residents every day. Our staff and their guests enjoy a fun-filled night, with a delicious buffet dinner and entertainment.

But the highlight has to be the prizes.

Each year the planning committee assembles an array of prizes to raffle off. Everyone is given a raffle ticket when they walk in the door. You can feel the excitement in the room grow as it gets closer to the time for the drawing. Cheers and groans follow the reading of each ticket number. The lucky winners are all smiles.

Most of the prizes are donated to us by area businesses and individuals. This year they included: gift certificates to area restaurants and shops, tickets to local sporting events, and a digital camera. The grand prize was a trip to Mackinac Island's Mission Point Resort! As you'd expect, winners are very grateful for each gift.

We're grateful, too. For our outstanding staff. For the tremendous job they do caring for older adults each day. For the chance to tell them so in a fun-filled way.



*Rachel, Leigha and Jill welcome staff to the 2005 Christmas party. Such events help us show employees how much we value the great jobs they do every day.*

And for the loyal donors who agree and whose gifts help us do that.

We hope you feel the same way. You can help us keep the Christmas Spirit alive all year long. Say thanks to a staff person for the care she gives you or your loved one. And if you meet or do business with one of these friends, don't forget to thank them for helping us care for our care givers:

- **Bob & Roberta Boyer**
- **Eileen Brown**
- **Cookies By Design**
- **Creative Dining Services**
- **Custom Printers**
- **Chuck & Bette Fuller**
- **Grandville Floral**
- **P.B. Gast & Sons Company**
- **Gordon Food Service**
- **Life EMS Ambulance Service**
- **McKesson (Rockford, MI)**
- **Noto's Old World Italian Dining**
- **OfficeMax (36th Street SE)**
- **Outback Steakhouse (28th Street SE)**
- **Trigo Hospitality (St. Joseph, MI)**
- **Valley City Sign**
- **Verhey Carpets**
- **Voss Lighting**
- **John Wayne Construction**
- **West Michigan Whitecaps**



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## Faithful Mary Ann Continued from Page 1

Mary Ann's final gift will live in perpetuity to help us meet the Center's growing operating costs.

### *Mary Ann's actions a model for us all*

You can offer insight into your lifetime values with your estate plan. Gifts to family members tell of your love and concern for them. In the same way, you speak volumes by your

charitable bequests. Including Porter Hills in your will or trust, like Mary Ann did, reveals that you think caring for senior adults is worthwhile.

Your estate plan says so much about you. We hope you review yours from time to time to keep it up to date. We also hope you will consider following Mary Ann's model and include a gift to the Porter Hills Foundation. 

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## Benevolence Care Program in Danger?

- **Grants see double digit increases over first six months of last year**
- **Medical advances, quality care promises need will keep growing**
- **Review of options underway, future donations critical**

How long do you expect to live?

Nowadays chances are very good that it'll be longer than you think you will. Advances in medicine and the high-quality care provided at places like Porter Hills often result in seniors living longer lives. "Good news!" you say.

Yes, it is...but not if you outlive your savings. Then it could be "bad news."

Because medical advances and high-quality care are expensive, and because our dollars simply don't go as far as they used to, more and more Porter Hills residents are outliving their savings.

The need has grown so much that in six months we have already spent close to \$70,000, or 21%, more than the same period


last year! Expenditures so far are more than half of our full year Benevolence Care budget.

How long can we keep this up?

We don't really know. But thanks to your generosity in giving to Porter Hills, right now we're holding the line. We do know that ensuring we can keep pace with projected need is going to take some hard work.

Board members and staff are researching several options that could help. Among them are a long-term care insurance plan and a charitable income endowment program. A task force is also reviewing current benevolence qualifications.

You can help, too, by continuing to give to the Benevolent Funds. Or by starting to give, if you've never done so before. We know that no one wants to have to use benevolence care. But don't you want the funds to be there, just in case you (or a loved one) need them?

Use the envelope provided in this newsletter to send in your gift today! We can do this, but we can't do it without you! 

# Porter Hills Donor List

*Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations who generously made gifts and/or pledges between October 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005.*

## Honoraria

**Anna Aponas**  
Betty Anderson

**Florence Butler**  
Wendell & Opal Smith

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**Dick & Barbara Young Endowment Fund**  
Dick & Barbara Young

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- Y** Mary Ann Young Trust
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Chuck & Anne Zimmerman

\* Denotes Deceased

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## Coupon Clipping Donors Help Stretch Porter Hills' Budgets

- Wishes granted for two communities, Martindill Wellness Center
- Wish List program great way to see your gift dollars at work



*Betty Anderson and Anna Aponas.  
Betty fulfilled a wish in Anna's honor.*

When you manage an Affordable Housing Community, like Rick Warner does, there's no such thing as a small gift.

That's why he was so grateful for the donor who funded the cost of five upgraded deadbolt locks at Oak Ridge. It means he has that much less to squeeze out of a tight budget.

Rick told us that the effects of this seemingly small gift are farther-reaching than you might think. "The locks will help my Oak Ridge residents in several ways," he shared. "Right now our doors often lock automatically behind our residents. So, if they forget their

keys, they're locked out. New locks will help eliminate that pesky problem.


"Also, some folks feel more secure with a deadbolt lock. They sleep easier. And that's a plus, for sure. Finally, installing deadbolts reduces the premiums for those who have renters' insurance."

### *Big-hearted donors make wishes come true*

In all, four big-hearted donors fulfilled three of the twelve coupon wishes featured in our last newsletter.

Porter Hills Village resident Betty Anderson was one of them. She made a gift in honor of her good friend and neighbor, Anna Aponas. Combined with funds from another donor, Betty made it possible for the Catered (Assisted) Living area to buy four new wheelchairs.

### *You, too, can make a difference*

Do you have a desire to help enhance our seniors' quality of life? Do you like to see quick, concrete results when you give? Then our Wish List program might be a good fit for you, too! There are lots of wishes left to be filled. Call our office at (616) 954-1799, ext. 415. We'll be happy to help you find and grant one that suits your preferences! 

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## 1970 "Screaming Yellow" Mustang Sold



- Raffle ticket sales less than hoped
- No loss to Foundation

You might recall that last spring we tried to raffle off a 1970 Mustang in celebration of our 35th anniversary. But despite our best efforts, we didn't sell the minimum number of tickets required to conduct the raffle.

By rule it reverted to a 50-50 drawing. So one happy winner walked away with a \$14,500 cash prize. And one yellow Mustang was left in storage at Cook Valley Estates.

A few weeks ago a local Mustang enthusiast bought the car. We are grateful to report to you that we broke even on the transaction. And Porter Hills is out of the car business – at least for now! 

# Thanks a Million!

- Major gifts to special projects way up
- Annual donations for benevolence, general purposes lag behind
- Department expenses kept under budget

Wow.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity! You, and hundreds of other friends, have made this a record-breaking year for us. Even though we're only half-way through our fiscal year, your gifts have put us 237% over our annual contributions goal!

"Major" gifts make up a significant portion of this year's total contributions. They don't come along every day, but a few of you have blessed us with considerable donations. We are humbled by these gifts, which total more than \$4.5 million alone!

We're also gratified by the many other gifts, in all shapes and sizes, you've given us this year. However, there's a surprising fact tucked within all this good news. And that is: without the major contributions, we would actually be

more than \$83,000 under our annual goal.


That's because those major gifts are earmarked for special capital and endowment-building projects. We still need support for our ongoing benevolent, Wellness Center, and other program needs. *(We hope you will give, or give again, if you are able to this year. There's an envelope included in this newsletter for you to use.)*

**Without your major gifts, we would actually be more than \$83,000 under our annual goal**

## Using Your Gifts Wisely

We know you expect us to safeguard your gifts and to use administrative dollars wisely. You will be glad to learn that our

investment income is 78% over budget for the year. And Development Department expenses are more than \$17,500 under budget. Our ratio of expenses to contributions is 15.6%. The industry benchmark is 18-20%

It's important for you to know that you can place your trust in Porter Hills' financial stewardship. But you are our biggest and best asset. We depend on your support. Thank you so much for your dedication to our work! 


## The USO Show is Coming, The USO Show is Coming!

- Annual benefit salutes veterans, supports benevolence care

Join us for the Foundation's 5th annual fundraising event: *By George: The USO at Valley Forge!* Yes, we know the USO did not exist during the Revolutionary War's most difficult winter.

But what if the USO *had* been there for our earliest patriots?

Surely their spirits would have been lifted and their lives made better...just as Porter Hills brightens your or your loved ones' lives!

Mark Wednesday, June 14, 2006, on your calendar. We hope to see you at this celebration of our nation's birth which, most fittingly, falls on Flag Day! 

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Phone: (616) 954-1799, ext. 415

www.porterhills.org

**From the President's Desk**

**Vision Quest**

**• Porter Hills Voted “Best Retirement Community”  
in *Grand Rapids Magazine’s* Readers’ Poll**



*David B. Douma*

How do you know when you’ve met your goals? It’s fairly easy if you’re climbing a mountain or running a race. You reach the peak or cross the finish line. It’s a little harder if you’re trying to fulfill a vision. Visions are abstract. And measuring them can be a subjective process. It’s nice to get a little outside feedback once in a while.

We did recently. We were voted the “Best Retirement Community” in Grand Rapids by the readers of *Grand Rapids Magazine*.

What does that mean? Is it a big deal? We think so. It’s a sign that we’re on our way to being recognized as “the provider of choice” for senior care in West Michigan. It doesn’t mean we think we’re all the way there yet. You can be sure we won’t be resting on any laurels. But it’s good to know we’re heading in the right direction! 🍁

**Our Vision:  
Be the  
provider of  
choice for a  
continuum of  
cost effective,  
innovative,  
distinctive  
communities  
and services**

**The Porter Hills Foundation Newsletter**

is published for the friends of Porter Hills Retirement Communities & Services.

David B. Douma ..... *President*

Anne M. Benson ..... *V. P. of Development & Editor*

**Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to raise, invest, and monitor the funds that support Porter Hills Retirement Communities & Services in providing a continuum of high-quality communities and services.*

Porter Hills supports the principles of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, national origin, qualified disabled status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or other personal characteristics as protected by applicable law.



**Porter Hills**

Retirement Communities & Services

**Porter Hills Foundation**

4450 Cascade Road SE, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-8330  
Phone: (616) 954-1799, ext. 415

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