

# 2009: A Time to Rebalance

There are necessary choices we must all make to rebalance. Not all will be pleasant, but some can make an impact on the quality of life. That's when The Ohio Masonic Home's staff is at its best – trying to create better lives for seniors and their spouses and giving their families peace of mind.



- Springfield Masonic Community and Western Reserve Masonic Community earned the overall 5-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Ratings System of Nursing Homes.
- Masonic Senior Services' I-CARE program picked up 156 new clients in 2009 and has served 1,503 since its inception. There were 16 new I-CARE committees formed from lodges, now totaling 40 across the state.

- Joe Stewart has had more than his share of choices to make the last few years.

A combination of good planning and a reliable place to turn made Joe's life easier when he faced life-turning events, such as the loss of his spouse, whom he'd known since age 16.

Although young by senior standards at age 65, Joe Stewart was prepared. When his late wife, Karen, developed Alzheimer's disease, the Stewarts needed a place where Karen would be safe and Joe could find the help he needed.

They found it at Springfield Masonic Community. Joe's found everything he needed on one campus. Joe recalled the kindness and support he received after Karen's passing in rebalancing his life and chose to stay on the campus.



- Don Glanzman wanted to be near his wife, who needed special care at another facility. But he didn't want to spend all his time with that on his mind.

Knowing his wife is being cared for, Don has found new outlets to occupy his time. At Browning Masonic Community in Waterville, he's met old acquaintances and made several new friendships. He has plenty to do as part of a resident board, Wii bowling, working in the campus gift shop and helping with new projects.

"You can make your life whatever you want here," he said. "It's a big relief to have that."

- For some folks, making it to age 100 is a goal. Helen Stephenson reached 100 and continues to set goals for herself.

And she's able to continue living independently at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina. Helen says she stays independent through activities such as gardening and writing short stories, activities that don't give her time to worry about age.

Helen's family is proud of Western Reserve's Masonic affiliation and that she is being taken care of her.

"I have so much to be thankful for and so much more to live for. What is age but a number? If you don't use what you've got, you'll lose it."



- In 2009, Masonic Helping Hands offices in Fairborn, Cincinnati and Toledo served 206 clients and logged 38,688 hours in servicing them.
- In just its first year of operation as an Ohio Masonic Home subsidiary, Cornerstone Home Health & Hospice served more than 200 clients and made more than 13,000 visits.
- A record number of students received scholarships from The Ohio Masonic Home Scholarship Fund for the 2009-2010 school year. The program awarded \$33,000 among 20 students, representing all regions of Ohio, and has awarded more than \$100,000 total to more than 40 students since its inception in 2002.