

Staff Spotlight



3

Resident Events & Outings



5

Volunteer Spotlight



6

# The Charlotte Hall GAZETTE

Winter/Spring 2017

Issue #19



Serving  
Those Who  
Served





## Director's Corner



Greetings,

It has been a busy year with lots of support from our community. Charlotte Hall would not be the same without

its dedicated volunteers and we'd like to thank all those who support our residents! We were especially honored to have Governor Larry Hogan participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for our brand new roof earlier this year. The Hogan Administration and Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs' Secretary George W. Owings, III, have been instrumental in so many wonderful improvements at our Home.



The State Office would like to welcome Cheryl Redmond to our staff. Cheryl is our new Inventory Manager and will assist with contract

compliance. Cheryl is originally from North Carolina and moved to Southern Maryland in October 2015 after eight years living abroad in Australia & England. She previously worked for the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Consulate General in Melbourne, Australia, and for the Department of the Navy at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Additionally, she served eight years in both the active and reserve components of the

United States Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge in 2005.

Cheryl obtained a Bachelor of Business while studying in Australia. She is married to Patrick, a Senior Engineer at Pax River and they have three children, Kate, Cooper, and Ruby.

In her free time Cheryl enjoys participating in team sports and following both college and professional sports. She is particularly a fanatic of Australian Rules Football, or as the Australians would say, she is "a footy tragic".

Please stop in to say hello to Cheryl and give her a warm CHVH welcome!

Sincerely,  
*Sharon Mattia*  
Director

## Services Offered

- Skilled Nursing
- Assisted Living
- Rehabilitation
- Memory Care
- On-Site Optometry
- On-Site Dental
- On-Site Podiatry
- On-Site Beauty/Barber Shop
- On-Site Massage Therapy/  
Pain Management
- **On-Site Veterans Service Officer**
- On-Site American Legion Post 298

\* If you are interested in having a representative from Charlotte Hall Veterans Home present information at one of your upcoming events, please contact Carole Lewis, Director of Marketing at 301-884-8171, Ext. 483 or [clewis@hmrm.com](mailto:clewis@hmrm.com)

## Welcome Our New Director of Social Services.



Mrs. Kecia Northington became the Director of Social Services in June 2016. She graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University located

in Piscataway, New Jersey, and received her Master's Degree in Social Work. Prior to this, she attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Mrs. Northington's passion has always been to make a positive impact on the lives of each person whom she encounters. She loves people and has a desire to help those who are no longer able to care for themselves.

Her career, which spans over twenty years, has included advocating for those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and oppressed. Most recently, she was employed as a Mental Health Therapist for an Outpatient Mental Health Clinic in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Mrs. Northington was able to provide individual and family therapy to people who suffered from mental health illnesses. Since being at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, she has enjoyed being able to interact not only with the residents on the Skilled Nursing side but also those who are on Assisted Living. She comes to CHVH with a wealth of social work expertise and she is looking forward to contributing to the optimum care of the residents.

## Administrator's Corner



Hey everybody!

Since the last time we talked we have been a busy bunch here at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home!

Yes, we take care of our heroes on a daily basis and enjoy the time we spend with them and their families, but we always have something going on at Charlotte Hall. As everyone is aware, this facility was opened in 1985 and as it gets older, facelifts need to happen. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs funded a roofing project for our Core, A and B side units. This was a welcome project, but also a huge undertaking. The roofers started the project in November and worked through the winter putting on our new roof. It looks fabulous and has really made a difference for the facility. With the project nearing completion in February, Governor Hogan paid us a visit for a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony. Many dignitaries were on hand and when the ceremony was over, the Governor, his wife and all of the guests enjoyed lunch with the veterans.



In March we had the Baltimore Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration come down to the facility for our Welcome Home Parade. Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings and Antoine Waller both spoke at



the ceremony for our Vietnam Veterans. As veterans from that era, often times our Vietnam Veterans feel left out, but on this day, they were front and center! At the conclusion of the program, Mr. Waller's staff went through the audience and presented every Vietnam Veteran with a certificate and commemorative pin. That was truly a special day here at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

In June, the Annual HMR Corporate Awards Banquet was held and, if I can brag a little, Charlotte Hall made away with most of the awards! The facility received the Achievement of Excellence Award for all the hard work the past year by our staff.



We took home the Eagle Award for the Director of Nursing of the Year (Leslie Steffy). One of our nurses took home the Patriot Award given for Nurse of the Year (Elikem Konu).

And our Pharmacist, Alesha Entsua-Mensah, took home a Wow! Award for her hard work in getting our in-house pharmacy up and running. It was a terrific night for those who won, but they realize they were there representing an entire team!

In August, we held our First Annual

Employee Assistance Fund Fun Day. And what a huge success that was! 'Baskets' were put together for the staff to buy raffle tickets for and what an amazing assortment of items we had on display. As always, there was some competition involved in seeing who could be the most creative or bring the biggest 'basket' to the party. We had a huge cookout and also had a dunking booth lined up. The donations to the fund were over \$3000 and as usual, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home won the competition between the other facilities by raising the most money. Now, we get to have another cookout and enjoy some good times and fellowship with each other.



In August I reached my two year anniversary of being back up here with the great staff at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Wow, how time flies when you're having fun! I'm so proud to be a part of a team that cares for Veterans the way the staff here does. With the holidays fast approaching, that's right fast approaching, please take the time to be thankful for what you've been blessed with. I want to sincerely thank you all for the hard work and dedication that you bring to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home every day. As I tell people all the time, Charlotte Hall...We go hard!!!

*Greg Osborne*  
Administrator

## Staff Spotlight

The relationship between residents and nursing assistants is often viewed by others as that of just the resident and the caregiver. However, over time that relationship frequently evolves into a meaningful relationship for everyone involved. Nursing assistants are often the first person a resident will encounter upon entering into residence in our facility. They are the primary caregivers, spending the majority of the day with their charge. Residents regularly see the nursing assistant as



they first wake in the morning and right before they turn in to sleep at night. These valuable members of our nursing staff are there to meet all resident needs any time of the day or night. It's no wonder our residents and nursing assistants develop a relationship that more closely resembles family than professional.

As with any family, we each have our good moments and our bad ones. Some days the stress of the daily activities can

cause the nursing assistant to feel stressed out or out of sorts. A resident who does not feel well or is having a hard time with the daily activities can also become distressed. Nevertheless, the nursing assistants carry on and continue to meet the needs of their residents. And eventually the resident begins to feel relaxed and comfortable again, making everyone feel at home. So the next time you see a resident and a nursing assistant, remember that they are not just a resident or just a nursing assistant, but part of our big family here at CHVH.

*Jean Palmer RN*

## Staff Spotlight



At the helm of our Housekeeping staff is Director Julia Thomas. Julia has been with us for 21 years. Her staff of 43 operate 24 hours a day, overseeing the cleanliness of the entire building. Floors are mopped and polished daily, windows and doors are shined, disinfectant containers are filled. Waste baskets are emptied multiple times a day, beds are changed, bathrooms cleaned, and they wash 3500 pounds of laundry a day! Meanwhile, they also set up

two multipurpose rooms for daily events. With a home as large as CVHH the list just goes on and on. They meticulously keep our home looking clean and beautiful.

Julia and her staff are a dedicated and hard working group. They are committed to providing quality care to our residents. Each staff member is assigned one unit, which allows the resident to get to know them. Oftentimes they become more like a family member.

Julia and her staff are enthusiastic and encouraging to all the employees in the building. They will go the extra mile to take part in events and programs within the building. One recent event was our Employee Assistance Fund Day. She and her staff challenged each department to build the biggest and best themed raffle baskets. They brought the music and fun to the day. It was a great success!

Julia leads by example as her infectious laugh and positive attitude spreads throughout her department and the building.



## Upcoming Events

### December

- Christmas Light Drives throughout the month*
- 4 Carol Fisher (Christmas Program) (MPR)
  - 4 Maryland Patriot Guard visits & passing out gifts to Residents (AL & Comp.)
  - 7 Classic Christmas Radio Programming for Residents & Christmas Light trip outing at Flat Iron Farm
  - 8 New Program: Southern Maryland History Hour for Assisted Living Residents (AL 2D)
  - 9 Holiday Movie Socials (AL 2D & 3D)
  - 10 Cub Scouts BINGO (MPR)
  - 10 Toni Carr Ice Cream Social (MPR)
  - 11 K-Kids Christmas Music (MDR)
  - 11 Jazz Band "The Reluctant Jazz Band" (EMPR)
  - 11 Dream Studio of Dance (MPR)
  - 13 Floyd Andrews Christmas Music (MDR)
  - 14 Holiday Portraits with John Curran (MPR)
  - 16 Holiday Movie Socials (AL 3D)
  - 17 The Art in Motion (MPR)
  - 17 Songs from the Heart-live entertainment (EMPR)
  - 18 Tuba Christmas (Outing)
  - 18 AWANA Kids Club Christmas Program (MPR)
  - 19 Nothing Fancy Band (MPR)
  - 23 Residents Christmas Party (MPR)
  - 23 Residents Christmas Party (EMPR)
  - 23 Christmas Caroling with Kids from Charlotte Hall Library (AL & Comp)
  - 25 Special Christmas Dinner Served by Volunteer Groups (MPR & EMDR)
  - 31 New Year's Party (MPR)
  - 31 Midnight Madness BINGO with appetizers & beverages (EMPR)

### January

- 9 Elvis Birthday Party (MPR)
- 10 Stamp Art Activity (AL Art Room)
- 14 Coffee & Sweets Social (AL 2D)
- 15 ECC Group hosting a Pizza Social (EMPR)
- 21 Lions Club coming to host Ice Cream Social (EMPR)
- 27 Southern Maryland Old Man's Band (MPR)
- 29 Cracker Barrel for Breakfast (Outing)

### February

- Black History activities throughout the month*
- 5 Super Bowl Party (MPR)
  - 12 Reluctant Jazz Band (EMPR)
  - 14 Valentine's Day Celebration (MPR)
  - 14 Chocolate & Sweets Tasting for Valentine's Day (EMPR)
  - 24 Black History Month Celebration (MPR)
  - TBD Valentine's Day Dance

### March

- 17 St. Patrick's Day Ice Cream Party (MPR)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Fiddler (EMPR)
- 24 Sock Hop (MPR)
- 28 Mardi Gras Party (MPR)
- TBD Tax Preparation for Residents (EMPR)



# Resident Events & Outings



Celebrating Cinco de Mayo



Visiting the Korean War Memorial



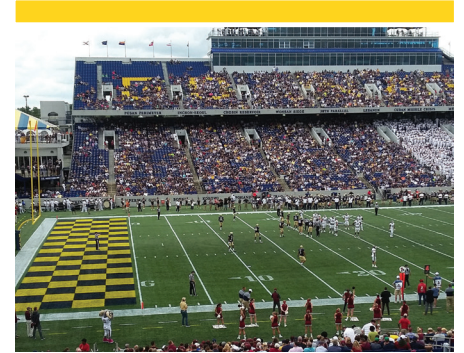
Off to The Races At Budds Creek International Speedway



Cruisin Southern Maryland Car Show



Our Very Own Casino Night



Watching a Navy Football Game at the Academy



Enjoying a Southern Maryland Tradition



Ladies Autumn Crafting Party

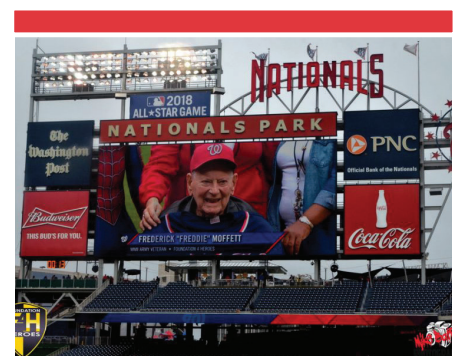


Mr. and Mrs. Pettis celebrating 70 years together

Full monthly calendars are available online



Resident artwork



Mr. Moffett celebrating 100th birthday at Nats Park



## Volunteer Corner



Ashley Radano has been a part of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for more than six years. She is now serving those who served as our Director of Volunteer

Service and Community Outreach. Ashley brings a wealth of knowledge about Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, has experience in customer service, a bright and positive attitude, and a passion for serving veterans. Ashley is a southern Maryland native and is happily raising her daughter here. We are happy to welcome Ashley in her new role.

“Upon accepting the position, I was introduced to so many warm hearted and

devoted volunteers,” Ashley reflects. “The commitment of our volunteers is unmatched. I have always said that each day I walk through these doors I am truly humbled by our nation’s heroes, whom volunteered to serve the United States. The volunteers and supporters that I now work with are not asked or required to spend their time and resources on our veterans. They have made the decision to do what they can to repay our veteran’s sacrifices. The heart behind each donation, each service hour, and each card written to our veterans is a pure act of kindness. I thank you all for what you do for our veterans and am looking forward to growing our program and providing for the needs of our veterans.”

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are very important to our residents and staff members. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is always seeking caring individuals and groups to volunteer with our nation’s heroes. Volunteers provide our residents with a deep and sincere feeling of gratitude. Our home has many different volunteer positions for individuals, students, families, various groups, and corporations.

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer program, contact Ashley Radano, Director of Volunteer Services & Community Outreach, at 301.884.8171 ext. 664, or via email at aradano@hmrmd.com.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

### Charter Boat Fishing:



The Lothian Ruritan Club sponsored a charter boat fishing trip for our residents. With volunteers from the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the Valerie Ann, the All In, the Vickie Ann, and the Skippers Pier, the residents enjoyed a leisurely day on the water.

### VA Acquisition Academy, Warriors to Workforce Program:



The VA Acquisition Academy’s Warriors 2 Workforce Program played games, served lunch, provided music, danced, socialized for hours and donated a large American flag made from reclaimed wood from Ft. Detrick.

### PAX First Class Association:



Members of the PAX First Class Association volunteered their time to plant garden boxes donated by the American Red Cross in our Memory Care Courtyard.



# Donation Spotlight:

## PAX River Weapons Logistics Team:



A monetary donation from PAX River Weapons Logistics Team, with contributions from Synectic Solutions, Inc. and Aviation Ordnance. The donations will be used to fund upcoming projects.

## Maryland Patriot Guard:



The Maryland Patriot Guard provided our home with a tasty BBQ luncheon, iPods for Music & Memory, dolls for the Doll Therapy Program, and rehab equipment.

## Cruisin' Southern Maryland:



Cruisin' Southern Maryland successfully raised \$20,000 for our veterans. This and previous funds raised have gone towards rehab equipment, and our senior prom and winter ball, building a large covered outdoor pavilion, an outdoor gazebo, a golf cart, computers, and the veteran's assistance fund.

Resident Wish Lists and Sponsorship Opportunities are available on our website.

## Foundation 4 Heroes:



The Foundation 4 Heroes joined us at our Senior Prom, donated televisions, insulated water bottles and sponsored a fun trip to the Nationals baseball game, where we celebrated Mr. Moffett's 100th birthday!

## US Military Vets Motorcycle Club



The US Military Vets Motorcycle Club held a summer time poker run to raise funds for holiday gifts for each of our residents. The residents enjoyed the company of the group and checking out the motorcycles!

## St. Mary's County Public Library:



In our new partnership with the St. Mary's County Public Library, our residents are able to access a portal to digital books and movies on tablets. The library also hosts a monthly programs for children in the community to come to the facility and read stories, make crafts, and celebrate holidays with the residents. Sometimes the best medicine can come from interacting with a child.





29449 Charlotte Hall  
 Charlotte Hall, MD 20622  
 301.884.8171 - [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org)

PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 WALDORF, MD  
 PERMIT NO. 47



**BUSINESS OFFICE:**  
 Lori Wood, Director  
 ext. 406  
 lwood@hmmnd.com

**ACTIVITIES:**  
 Kathy Smoot, Nursing Home Director  
 ext. 480  
 ksmoot@hmmnd.com

Bonnie Pelletier, Assisted Living Director  
 ext. 481  
 bpelletier@hmmnd.com

**MARKETING:**  
 Carole Lewis, Director  
 ext. 483  
 clewis@hmmnd.com

**SOCIAL SERVICES:**  
 Kacia Northington, Director  
 ext. 366  
 knorthington@hmmnd.com

**VETERANS BENEFITS:**  
 Lisa Donor, Director  
 ext. 429  
 ldonor@hmmnd.com

**VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**  
 Ashley Radano, Director  
 ext. 664  
 aradano@hmmnd.com

**MDVA:**  
 Sharon Mattia, Director  
 ext. 402  
 smattia@charhall.org

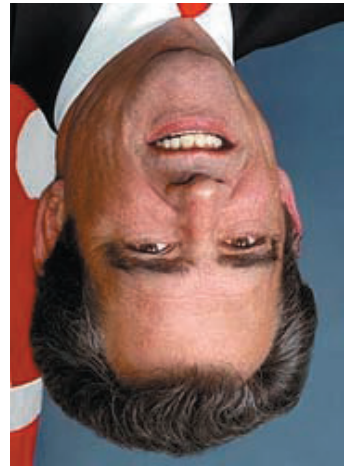
**ADMINISTRATOR:**  
 Greg Osborne  
 ext. 405  
 gosborne@hmmnd.com

**ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR IT:**  
 Russell Keogler  
 ext. 431  
 rkeogler@hmmnd.com

**ASSISTED LIVING:**  
 Pam Grzyb, Manager  
 ext. 455  
 pgrzyb@hmmnd.com

**ADMISSIONS:**  
 Lisa Murphy, Director  
 ext. 409  
 admissions@charhall.org

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**  
 Edna Neal, Director  
 ext. 427  
 eneal@hmmnd.com



Secretary George W. Owings, III  
 Maryland Department of  
 Veterans Affairs  
**CONTACTS:**  
 301.884.8171  
[www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org)