Molly Dobson Honored as Citizen of the Year by United Way of Washtenaw County

Women United chose Molly Dobson as the 2020 Citizen of the Year and celebrated her commitment to this community at its annual gala, Power of the Purse, held on March 3. Molly expressed her gratitude with a mix of emotions. “Being honored by UWWC as the Citizen of the Year fills me with pride. Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” said Molly when she learned of the award. She continued, “This award also triggers considerable nostalgia for me. As a conscientious donor, fundraiser, and member of the Budget Priorities Committee and later, the Board of Directors of the Ann Arbor Community Fund, my current United Way of Washtenaw County roots date back more than half a century. Since then, thanks to stellar leadership and ever-generous donors, UWWC has come a long, long way!”

Molly remembers when she first became part of United Way in the 1960s, a short time before the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti organizations merged. As the first woman to be on their combined Board of Directors, Molly was somewhat reluctant to speak up. But she soon found her voice and her activism grew steadily. Today, her philanthropic interests range widely including youth development, education, and gender equity. Her leadership of numerous community causes has inspired multiple generations to continue these good works, both as leaders and as donors.

According to Molly, one of the benefits of being older is the perspective it gives one on life. She recently commented that “life is a precious gift and I hate to see people waste it.” She has endured her share of heartaches but she never lets it define her. A vibrant nonagenarian, Molly believes in moving forward, and forever searching for ways to stay active, curious, and useful.

Molly moved to Glacier Hills in 2003. She has been an energetic volunteer and strong supporter of several programs at the Glacier Hills Foundation, including establishing an endowed employee scholarship fund. Becky Pazkowski, Executive Director of the Glacier Hills Foundation, is delighted to see Molly recognized by the United Way. “She is generous whenever there is a new need or cause on our campus, and she and her son Steve were instrumental in raising the funds to meet the Memory Care Excellence Program capital campaign goal. That campaign helped us to create the Stephen Dobson Life Enrichment Center, one of the most beautiful buildings on our campus,” said Becky.

Above all, Molly believes that it’s special people who make life meaningful, enriching our lives and our communities with shared kindness, generosity, and commitment. We thank Molly for being an inspiration to us all.
Dear Friends,

It is with such great joy to be able to share news with you on behalf of Glacier Hills. Over my years working in this industry, I have heard many wonderful things about Glacier Hills. I have spent my first months here observing, asking questions, listening and learning. What I have discovered is that this is a great place for residents and colleagues to live and work.

My goals are to ensure that Glacier Hills continues to be the premier community for older adults in the Ann Arbor area, a highly desired place to work, and that the quality of care and services is outstanding. Our mission is “to serve older adults with a continuum of lifestyle, care and support alternatives embracing enrichment of the whole person,” and that is what I want us to continue to do well into the future.

As you can imagine it has also been a challenging time for our community with the COVID-19 epidemic. The tremendous team at Glacier Hills has made the safety of our residents its number one priority. To help prevent the spread of this virus we have closed our campus to non-essential health care personnel and visitors. The environmental service department has implemented daily cleaning processes and our nursing staff and care teams are continually educated on infection control practices and symptoms to look for with COVID-19. Glacier Hills continues to communicate with residents and family members on this fast-changing situation. For the latest information on COVID-19 a good resource is www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

As I already mentioned, our colleagues and residents are fantastic! I am so pleased to announce Kathy Redies, Relocation Coordinator, will receive the Caring Spirit award this year at LeadingAge Michigan Annual Conference. Way to go Kathy! I am also thrilled to acknowledge one of our residents, Molly Dobson, who was recently named Woman of the Year by United Way. These are just two reminders of how great our colleagues and residents are in the Glacier Hills and Ann Arbor community.

I am enjoying getting to know all the wonderful individuals involved with Glacier Hills and I look forward to meeting many more. It is a very exciting time for Glacier Hills and I look forward to serving this vibrant community. If I have not had the opportunity to meet you yet, please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. Enjoy spring….we are looking forward to it at Glacier Hills!

Sincerely,

Craig Courts
President Glacier Hills
Foundation Supports Vibrant Art Programs Across Campus

It would surprise many to hear that Glacier Hills houses one of the finest, most complete collections of work by local southeast Michigan artists. The Foundation-funded Huron Room Gallery on the third floor of the Meadows allows for this collection to be explored and celebrated in a new light. Pieces from the farthest reaches of campus can be grouped together in one place, giving them a fresh audience and deepened appreciation.

Sara Head is the Art Coordinator for Glacier Hills. Funded through a grant from the Glacier Hills Foundation, Sara is responsible for managing and growing fine art exhibits and programs across campus. “Glacier Hills residents have a unique appreciation of fine art based on their diverse careers and lifelong cultural interests,” said Sara. Having a vibrant art program on campus is especially important to residents who don’t often get to a major museum. “Thanks to a grant from the Glacier Hills Foundation, we are bringing a lecturer from the Detroit Institute of Arts to campus, and we’re very excited to be able to offer this kind of programming close to home,” explained Sara.

Sara is also responsible for cataloging all of the artworks in the Glacier Hills Collection and works with a resident committee to help determine where and how to display pieces from the collection.

“Five Easy Pieces” is another art lecture series offered on campus presented by Sara and Ed Hoffman, a local fine art appraiser and host of WAAM Radio’s “Speaking of Art.” They choose five pieces of art from the Glacier Hills Collection and give a talk about the background and significance of these artworks.

The latest exhibit in the Huron Room Gallery opened on March 13 and features works created by residents of Glacier Hills in any media and created at any time in their lives. Chosen by a panel of professionals from the Ann Arbor art community, the first Resident Art Exhibition runs through May 1 with a second show of Resident Art scheduled for May 8-June 26.

For more information on these events and to confirm dates and locations, please call the GH Foundation office at 734-929-6759.

Legacy Giving – The Ultimate Gift

The Glacier Hills Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of The Walter F. Snyder Legacy Society. We are honored to induct individuals into The Walter F. Snyder Society when they have generously included a gift to the Glacier Hills Foundation in their estate through a bequest, refundable entrance fee, gift annuity agreement, trust arrangement, life insurance, or retirement plan.

The Society is named for Walter F. Snyder, a parishioner of the Ann Arbor Zion Lutheran Church, whose vision, passion, and wisdom inspired the founding of Glacier Hills. Mr. Snyder passed away suddenly in 1965, just as the Glacier Hills project was getting underway. Although he died before the project was complete, his vision for Glacier Hills lives on today as a leading retirement center of distinction. In addition to his contribution to Glacier Hills, Mr. Snyder was one of the three founders of the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health and was named its first director.

The vision and commitment of our founders will continue in perpetuity by supporting positive aging through The Walter F. Snyder Society. By becoming a member, you too will help to secure the future of aging for your friends and family that follow. If you’d like more information about membership in The Walter F. Snyder Society, or about the many ways you can make a planned gift benefitting Glacier Hills, please contact Becky Pazkowski, Executive Director of the Glacier Hills Foundation at 734-929-6703.
Kathy Redies Earns Caring Spirit Award from LeadingAge Michigan

Glacier Hills staff member, Kathy Redies, has received the Caring Spirit Award from LeadingAge Michigan. Kathy joined Glacier Hills in 2014 and is currently the Relocation Coordinator. “I’m thrilled to see Kathy receive the recognition she so deserves,” said Emily Abela, Glacier Hills Sales Manager and Kathy’s supervisor. “Our residents are always saying nice things about her!”

Kathy’s reputation for delivering top-notch customer service is well known at Glacier Hills. She regularly goes above and beyond to ensure that every experience, including the anxiety-filled process of moving house, goes as smoothly as possible for every resident.

Richard and Ann McCarthy recently had the opportunity to see Kathy in action. “Kathy provided us with extra support when we transitioned from a Meadows Villa to a Manor Apartment. Her support allowed us to focus on our health rather than worrying about the physical move. We could always count on Kathy to have a smile on her face and a helping hand,” said Ann.

Glacier Hills colleagues are as enthusiastic about Kathy as are the residents and families. Her role as a Hospitality Red Carpet Ambassador and active participation on the Staff Appreciation Committee (STARS) are great examples of her commitment to treating everyone with kindness and compassion.

Kathy lives with her husband, Mark, in Pinckney and has a winter home in Marco Island, Florida. She has three grown children and two beloved dogs. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys time outdoors on the water, spending time with family and friends, and she is a proud supporter of Michigan State University athletics.

The LeadingAge Michigan Caring Spirit Award recognizes the achievements of front-line staff and direct care employees who have made a significant impact upon the lives of older adults through exceptional proficiency and personal commitment in the delivery of quality services and the performance of his/her job duties.
We are excited to provide an update on the progress of improving the Wellness Garden, which is adjacent to the South Pavilion and accessible from the Birch memory care neighborhood (inside) and the grounds around the Villas (outside). The plan includes a beautiful water feature, a performance patio, covered seating, benches, swing, raised garden beds, and cutting gardens.

The garden offers a safe and comfortable outdoor space for our residents and families in Eva's House. We will be able to host musical performances, social hours, birthday parties, and much more. Residents will be able to enjoy a relaxing stroll out to cut fresh flowers from multiple beds.

The timeline calls for a dedication event later this year. We are thankful for those who have already donated to the garden campaign, and we are actively fundraising for the balance of the project. The total project is estimated to be $248,000. If you are interested in knowing more about the project, please contact Becky Pazkowski at 734-929-6703.