



Bill Pond - Administrator

I don't have to recap the trials and tribulations 2020 brought us. It was hard, and the challenges aren't over. Instead, I would prefer to focus on the positives from our year to remember.

We were Stronger Together.

In keeping with our mission to support "every individual's life wishes in a safe atmosphere," Noble made the decision to not accept anyone who tested positive for the Coronavirus. The move was a tough one financially and the right one ethically.

With a census reduction of 30% in 2020- and the accompanying drop in income-your support has been exceptionally important. Your gifts provide the essential resources needed to navigate these perilous times during which every member of the Noble team united relentlessly around one goal: to keep COVID out and every resident safe.

I am proud to report that of this writing, we have not only accomplished our goal but 100% of eligible Noble residents have been vaccinated. It is an honor to work on a team of such deeply devoted professionals who early in the pandemic united behind the motto: Noble Strong. There is no doubt that Noble is not only strong but that we are even Stronger Together.

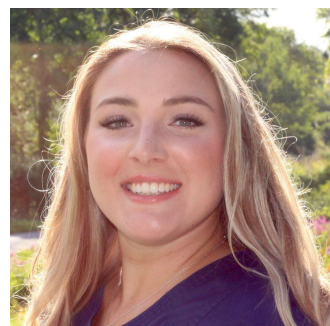
We've maintained our staffing levels to ensure the high standards of our 5-Star care never waver. You expect that from Noble Horizons and so do we. Our excellent staff-resident ratio, in particular, has been noted as has the caliber of our resident care.

In July, Connecticut's Department of Aging and Disabilities recognized Noble's innovative pandemic visitation center and in December we accepted an invitation to present to the State Senate's Sub-

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The Power of the Noble Scholarship Fund

Autumn's Story



Autumn Cockroft, Noble Horizons' Assistant Director of Nursing, is right where she is meant to be thanks in large part to the Noble Horizons' Employee Scholarship Fund.

Autumn began her

career in nursing at Noble and has held many positions including Charge Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Nurse Manager at Riga, and now Assistant Director of Nursing. She credits her swift rise to her drive, ability to work well under pressure, and most importantly, the support of her Noble Horizons colleagues and financial assistance from Noble. "If you have career aspirations, Noble will be here to support you. Many people don't consider going back to school because of the financial barrier. The Noble Employee Scholarship Fund rewards those who are committed to their education by supporting them financially. I couldn't have finished my Master's in Leadership and Management without the support of that fund."

Why Noble?

When asked why she loves working at Noble Horizons, Autumn notes the family atmosphere and team spirit of the staff. "The past year with COVID challenged all of us. Where many businesses struggled to keep spirits high and teams cohesive, Noble's leadership pulled us all together. We supported each other, we pitched in without asking – because that's what family does."

"Working at Noble is like no other," continued Autumn. "I encourage anyone who has the passion and empathy to work with the

continued on page 3...

Bill's Message continued...

Committee on Socialization, Visitation and Caregiver Engagement about our COVID-safe visiting centers.

Like you, we have adapted to a new rhythm of life under COVID, and there have been many highpoints. We partnered with Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance and the Lakeville Hose Company to stage a festive float parade throughout the Noble campus and when the weather turned, we paraded inside whether commemorating Noble Strong or New Year's Eve. Residents enjoyed fresh Dunkin' Donuts on National Donut Day, gathered 6' apart for Lime Rock Park's annual Vintage Race Car and Sports Car Parade, and participated in a moving Veterans Day ceremony. Several 100th birthday celebrations were enjoyed as was a cottager's 105th birthday! Using the Auxiliary's gift of raised garden beds, residents gardened and harvested vegetables through September which they prepared for weekly lunches in the Wickman Room.

What will 2021 bring?

No one knows. I do know that we have become Stronger Together and for that I'm grateful and proud. The pandemic has taught us that family, friendships, community, and our health are truly the gifts we should embrace.

I look forward to the day we can welcome you back to campus, whether for outpatient rehab, a class, or a summer evening concert pond side with friends. Until then – I'm embracing all that you and 2020 gave us here at Noble Horizons.



Bill Pond - Administrator

Noble Gives Back

We are Stronger Together



Caroline Burchfield, Director of Community Relations, donates masks to Sharon Hospital on behalf of Noble Horizons

We are grateful to be part of a community whose mutual support has made us Stronger Together, whether donating or receiving masks, face shields, PPE, or simply buying locally. Our community collaborations have also contributed to a robust schedule of online activities to replace our traditional on-campus events. Salisbury Bank, Studio Lakeville, the Scoville Library, The Hotchkiss School and others have joined with us to offer exercise classes, talks, and educational programs which the wonders of Zoom have made available to people throughout the country. Residents and family members in D.C. and Illinois have enjoyed guided book clubs together, Noble friends in Maryland participate in our exercise classes, and snowstorms haven't interrupted a single program!

Your support throughout the pandemic has fortified our efforts to keep COVID off the Noble campus. Your donations to the 2020 annual fund allowed us to purchase a new van and your many gifts of encouragement including homemade cookies, pizza lunches, flowers, letters, holiday greens, masks, and countless other good wishes, including a 70" television for residents of Whitridge, are deeply appreciated. Your generosity has helped us maintain the quality of care and rich experiences that residents-and you-expect from Noble Horizons. Thank you.

We, in turn, are also giving, signaling our gratitude to neighbors like the Salisbury Ambulance Service with freshly baked cookies on National Cookie Day or to the hard-working Noble team members who have worked so diligently to keep Noble COVID-free. From the pandemic's outset, Noble staff members have been offered free meals to take home to their families as well as frequent free lunches and raffles. The Noble team offers 5-star care 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, and we constantly seek ways to express our gratitude. Despite the challenges, the pandemic has reminded us of how much stronger we are when we work together.

Autumn's Story (continued)

elderly to join our team. The culture here is different – we care about each other; we support each other and that is evident in how our leadership team encourages us to further our education.” “It’s not just the money – it’s being supportive of the time it takes to work a full-time job, have a family, and go to school. It’s a lot and Molly, the Director of Nursing and Bill, our Administrator, have always been there for me – be it taking time to study, shifting work schedules for testing – whatever it took. I can’t think of many senior living or nursing communities that would do that for their staff.”

The Employee Scholarship Fund was established with donations from grateful residents and families to provide Noble team members the resources needed to fulfill their career goals. It also ensures that the Noble team can access training to keep abreast of the latest advances in medical care. The Scholarship Committee includes Noble staff, cottage residents, and community volunteers who review applications and reward financial assistance twice a year.



Linda Castaldi, Director of Admissions, happily gets her COVID vaccination!

COVID Vaccinations Bring Welcome Changes!

Noble Horizons is thrilled to report that most staff members and 100% of eligible residents have been vaccinated. Following DPH and CDC guidelines, families and friends are visiting again, adding a welcome dose of normalcy to our lives.

“Slowly,” noted Administrator Bill Pond, “we are re-introducing familiar routines and programs into our days, with residents gathering together for meals and enjoying group activities again. I feel like we are starting to see that light at the end of the tunnel.”



Residents, Edie Blodgett and Adair Smith, enjoying Valentine wreaths made by members of the Northeast Community Center teen program.

“Overwhelmed with Gratitude”

Martha Pallone Reflects on her Mother's Ten Years at Noble



*Cobble Resident, Sylvia Simes,
at a weekly BBQ*

When asked why she gave so generously to Noble this year and why her family treated the entire Noble team to lunch in December, Martha offered a multitude of reasons.

“Mom has always been fiercely independent although she did put herself on Noble’s Cottage waitlist near her 80th birthday. In subsequent years, she was offered several opportunities to move into a cottage but never felt quite ready until she sustained a fall and told me “I’m ready to head to Noble.” Planning and making the move to Noble Horizons was a smooth process. She felt immediately at home, made friends, joined the resident council, and even started a Wii Bowling club! It was then we all realized “Your home is wherever you are.” In fact, Mom has said on numerous occasions - “I’ve never had so many friends and never felt so loved, I’m just so grateful to be here!”

Feeling the love one day, pre-COVID, I walked into her room for an afternoon visit and came upon one of the aides giving her a kiss on the forehead. It was just so lovely. The power of love and to be touched. Now with COVID, for my mother to have that kind of giving, care, and love in her life when I can’t be there is tremendous and it makes me teary! With all the scary news of the pandemic, I don’t worry about Mom’s care.

I talk to Mom just about every day and often do video chats. It’s like I’m there with her - and with no masks! The staff has been wonderful - helping coordinate our daily visits because as you can imagine, someone Mom’s age couldn’t coordinate all the technology without a little help! Appreciation has turned to overwhelming gratitude since COVID. I rely on Noble for transportation for my mom to doctor’s appointments and going to the store - all the things I used to do with and for her. I’m far more cognizant of all that Noble does for their residents, and how all those little things relieve stress for family members like me. It is huge for me knowing I don’t have to worry about anything - she has everything she needs and more.

Thank you for the extraordinary efforts of your staff- and it’s not just during COVID, it’s always. You have a wonderful group of people working at Noble and I am forever grateful for all they do every single day to make my Mother’s life extraordinary.



*Catered staff party provided by the family
of Sylvia Simes*

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We apologize for omissions or misspellings.

Please call with corrections.



Noble Richards and Chris Galligan playing croquet

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2020-2021

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Kathy Mera, Resident Representative

Eileen Mulligan, ex-officio

Karen Bennett, FOT Co-Chair

Judy McKernon, FOT Co-Chair

Kathy Fricker, FOT Co-Chair

Joanne Elliott, Holiday Fair Chair

Mary Barton, Book & Tag Sale Chair

Karen Bennett, Country Store Manager

Joan McCue, Library Representative

Bill Pond, Noble Representative

Lana Knutson, Noble Representative

Auxiliary News

Another year has gone by, but certainly not a year any of us would have imagined. The focus at Noble has been on keeping residents safe from COVID exposure. Accomplished one hundred percent!

As respects the Auxiliary, our mission to fund special projects and programs at Noble through our fundraising efforts, was severely constrained last year. All fundraising events were cancelled, and we are uncertain as to the prospects for 2021.

Despite this bleak period there have been some bright spots. Board members have been loyal in their commitment to making an appearance every month via Zoom for our usual monthly meetings. We are happy to see each other's faces and to discuss what is happening at Noble and with our Auxiliary, even though we cannot truly be together.

Community members and friends generously sent contributions to the Festival of Trees despite the fact that we were not able to host the Festival this year, and others donated to our organization when renewing or signing up for the Auxiliary membership. We especially thank these loyal supporters.

The Auxiliary spent just over half the sum which we normally allocate each year to support our commitments to Noble – the fresh flowers in the dining room, newspapers, pet therapy program, employee scholarship fund, Wi-Fi expense, and many other offerings. Because the buildings at Noble have been closed, Recreation was not able to put on many of the in-house programs we

annually support. However, the Auxiliary purchased two NuStep quality exercise machines for the exercise room in Wagner. We provided funding for raised garden beds so that residents could enjoy gardening without having to be on their knees. This year both in house residents and cottagers were treated to highly praised lobster rolls, and the Auxiliary provided a special thank you lunch for Noble employees in July and were contributors this year to the Employee Holiday Fund which makes gifts to Noble team members in appreciation of their dedication and commitment.

No Book & Tag Sales this past year. No Holiday Fair. A closed Country Store. And no beautiful Festival of Trees to begin the Holiday Season! It was the most inactive year in the Auxiliary's forty five year history. But Noble's amazing success in keeping the campus free from COVID-19 can only leave us full of gratitude and hopeful for a more fruitful year to come.

Thank you to my great Board, and to the many people who support the Auxiliary and the work we do. Come and join us – go to the Noble website for information about the Auxiliary and how to join.

Judy McKernon
Noble Horizons Auxiliary
Board President

Noble Horizons Earns Another 5-Star CMS Rating

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services uses a quality rating system it developed to give each nursing home a rating of between 1 and 5 stars. Nursing homes with 5 stars are considered to have a much above average quality and those with 1 are considered to have quality much below average.

The gold standard for communities like Noble Horizons is the coveted 5-Star rating. It is difficult to earn, and with new inspections every quarter, scrupulous attention to detail is required to maintain it. Noble Horizons has the distinction of being honored with five stars for six consecutive quarters thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our team.

The overall rating is based on three distinct areas: Health Inspections, Staffing, and Quality Measures.

1. Health Inspections determine the extent to which a nursing home has met Medicaid and Medicare's quality requirements.
2. Staffing reflects the number of hours of care provided on average to each resident on each day by the nursing staff.
3. Quality Measures represent fifteen different physical and clinical measures to determine how well a nursing home cares for its residents' physical and clinical needs.

Every day at Noble presents a new opportunity to earn our 5-Star CMS rating; you expect it and Noble residents deserve it.



Resident Charlie Hepner in a mask decorating activity



Resident Ned Nickerson exercising with fitness trainer Liliana Ames



Resident Kay Carlucci enjoying pizza on National Pizza Day



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Hartford, CT 06106
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www.noblehorizons.org

Noble Horizons - YOUR Health Partner



Resident Lorraine Sullivan and CNA Lori Jones.

When it comes to your health, we are your trusted partner. Your health goals are our health goals. For nearly 50 years, Noble Horizons has been and continues to be the undisputed choice for senior living by offering four unique levels including independent living in cottages or in a residential hotel, intermediate, skilled nursing and memory care. Our in- and out-patient rehabilitation caters to people of all ages and needs, and all of our rehab guests have free lifetime access to our fitness center. Contact us today and meet your new health partner.

SENIOR LIVING | REHABILITATION | SKILLED NURSING | MEMORY CARE

