

# Thank You Nuell for Your Years of Service to CLH

*Extraordinary volunteer remembered fondly at Walnut Village*

He was known as a virtual fixture at Walnut Village every Tuesday afternoon for decades as a volunteer. He served faithfully on the California Lutheran Homes Board of Directors and he brought smiles and laughter to those who knew him. Nuell Lunde, who died in the summer after years of service to California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services* (CLH) is remembered as a friend, dedicated volunteer and a man of integrity and deep spiritual convictions.

“He pushed his store cart around the Care Center and spent hours talking to residents, making them laugh, listening to their concerns and telling stories of his own,” said David Dixon, resident services director at Walnut Village. “He was here every Tuesday. He never missed a day and the residents and his fellow volunteers loved him.”

Nuell, a former State of California employee and U.S. Army veteran, served as the Bishop’s Representative on the CLH Board in the early 1980s and continued to serve on the Board through the 1990s.

“Nuell Lunde was the epitome of self-giving and good judgment with a consistent focus on the other,” said CLH President and CEO Gary Wheeler. “His Board service and decision making were like few others. The greatest compliment you can offer another is to say I wish I were more like him or her. I wish I were more like Nuell Lunde.”

Following his service on the CLH Board, Nuell began his long career as a volunteer saying he was “answering a calling” to do so. His affinity for Walnut Manor created a natural fit for the Yorba

Linda resident.

“At the time his passion was physical fitness,” remembers CLH Auxiliary Director Bonnie Stover. “He loved volunteering at the Walnut Manor (later Walnut Village) Fitness Center showing residents how to work the equipment properly and safely. But what he was actually doing was making new friends every day. He was a soft-spoken man and an interesting one. He always knew the right things to say to get a conversation started. A lot of residents visited the gym just to talk to Nuell. That’s the kind of man he was.”



*Nuell Lunde with David Dixon, Walnut Village resident services director and Mary Kott, CLH Auxiliary operations manager.*

Bonnie said she soon realized that Nuell had a gift and encouraged him to do more at the newly opened Walnut Village and Walnut Village Rehabilitation and Care Center. She asked him to visit residents in the Care Center and he obliged.

“I feel people do their best doing

what they love,” said Larry Liles a fellow CLH volunteer and past CLH Board chair. “Nuell showed that love every minute he volunteered at Walnut Village.”

Developing relationships. That’s what volunteering at Walnut Manor meant to Nuell Lunde, he said himself during a 2005 interview with CLH Today ... “I enjoy meeting the residents. The best part of volunteering is developing some close relationships. I’ve made a great many friends and I hope they count me as one of theirs.”

Thank you Nuell for all of your service to California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services*. You will be missed. 🙏

# Trees of Life, Walls of Gratitude Recognize CLH Donors

While visiting Carlsbad By The Sea or Walnut Village remember to stop by each community’s Tree of Life and Wall of Gratitude and take a look at all the generous donors who have made contributions to California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services*.

The Walls of Gratitude list all individuals or organizations that have given to CLH within the past 12 months, updated quarterly. Those who have given \$5,000 or more during their lifetime earn further recognition on a donor Tree



of Life. These donors’ names are engraved on a bronze leaf. Tree of Life donors are invited to a special celebration every year.

For more information about becoming a CLH donor, please call Jill at 800-233-3709. 📞

## EDUCATION ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

“CLH is pleased to offer scholarship assistance to these two deserving individuals,” said CLH Executive Jill Hammer. “Both have shown a commitment to bettering their lives through education.”

Mylene, 23, attends California State University Los Angeles and is majoring in psychology. She will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in May 2017.

“I’m grateful for the tuition help,” said Mylene who received a \$500 grant from the CLH Scholarship Fund. “Practically all of the money I earn from my

job goes to pay for tuition. This scholarship money really helps.”

Matthew, 17, Mylene’s brother, also lives at Foster Avenue Apartments. He is majoring in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of California Irvine. He also received a \$500 grant.

“It definitely helps,” Matthew said. “I don’t work and I receive no financial aid. So my parents pay for my school. This extra money helps them out. I’m thankful to CLH for giving me this opportunity.” 🙏

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# CLH Names Bill Jennings New President and CEO

*Longtime CLH CFO will succeed Gary Wheeler*

Bill Jennings, longtime chief financial officer and former board member for California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services* (CLH), was recently named chief executive office and president by the CLH Board of Directors. Bill will succeed Gary Wheeler on July 1, 2017, following Gary’s retirement after more than 25 years as CLH’s president and CEO.

“I look forward to leading CLH into a future that continues and expands its mission of service,” Bill said. “In particular, CLH has the opportunity to invest in partnerships with others in building a better future for the underserved, primarily in the area of creating affordable, subsidized and supportive housing.”

Bill has served as chief financial officer for CLH since 1997. Since then he has played a key role in the growth of the CLH’s social ministry efforts as well as its philanthropic support of CLH sponsored retirement and affordable housing communities managed by senior housing provider and partner Front Porch and its affiliate CARING

Housing Ministries.

“Bill is exactly the right person to lead us forward,” said CLH Board Chari Sarah Olsen. “Bill has the heart, mission-focus, vision and management skills to guide us into the future. He is the real deal and we are very lucky to have been able to hire him.”



Among Bill’s accomplishments in the past few years is guiding Lutheran churches interested in leaving a legacy through land donation.

Prior to joining California Lutheran Homes, Bill served as senior manager, business systems consulting at Deloitte

& Touche, LLP from 1996 to 1997. While serving as CLH CFO, Bill also held the position of senior vice president of development for CLH partner Front Porch where he led several development and redevelopment projects. Bill is a certified public accountant and holds an MBA from UCLA.

*Be sure to read the fall edition of CLH Today in which we will have an in-depth interview with Bill.* 🙏

# Legacy Stories ... A Big Year for CLH

*A Message from Jill Hammer, CLH Foundation Executive*

Wow! It has been an exciting season for California Lutheran Homes and Community Services with extraordinary opportunities to love and serve others. The social ministry of CLH is about touching and changing lives in meaningful ways. Whether it is resident care and assistance, community support, volunteerism, congregational legacy, or bringing innovative solutions to help older adults live well in community, CLH stands ready to partner with you to create a better future for our neighbors and those we serve. For example, resident programs such as charitable care, chaplaincy, music, art, technology, educational activities and celebrative events have tangibly enhanced lives and received tremendous support from donors. The CLH scholarship program this year expanded to include affordable housing staff and residents of CARING Housing Ministries. In response to these met needs, lives are improving and changing!

In the fall of 2016, new opportunities for the CLH mission of service arose when our sister community, England Oaks in Alexandria, Louisiana, aided those who experienced terrible flooding in neighboring areas. Literally overnight, England Oaks staff, residents and facilities became a hub of support for those who lost their homes and were in urgent need of housing and support. Upon learning of this crisis, CLH leaders quickly met to leverage resources throughout CLH and Front Porch to provide essential items (water and paper supplies, toiletries,

bedding, etc.) to England Oaks to bolster their supplies to share with others. Sometimes, it is the immediate response to urgent needs that makes a difference.

It has also been an exceptional year for those thoughtfully-shaped estate gifts from donors who captured their imagination and estate to shape a better future for others. This year, more than \$3 million has been channeled into service through CLH. Thanks to individuals, families and churches deeply committed to our mission of providing vital services to older adults and support for those in need across our affordable housing communities. At this moment in our country's history with the critical need to care for those without homes, these estate gifts are largely supporting affordable housing initiatives and charitable care programs to residents whose financial needs have increased beyond their personal resources.

And finally, to the CLH extended family, on behalf of CLH, I warmly thank you for all you do in compassionate service and with generosity of resources – to respond to the needs of others within your communities, churches and organizations. There are many ways for you to make a meaningful impact to elevate the lives of others, as well as, your own. If you would like to receive additional information about our funds, programs, or giving opportunities, please contact me at **800-233-3709** or **jhammer@frontporch.net**. ☺



## Mylene and Matthew Villanueva Receive CLH Scholarships to Further their Education

California Lutheran Homes and Community Services (CLH) congratulates Mylene Villanueva and Matthew Villanueva on receiving scholarship funds to further their education. Mylene and Matthew reside with their family at Foster Avenue Apartments

in Baldwin Park, an affordable housing community managed by CLH partner CARING Housing Ministries.



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# Churches Can Continue Their Missions Through Congregational Legacy Even After Closing Their Doors

Congregations have lifespans and, at times, are best served by transforming a ministry into something of a greater service to fulfill a community need. In the past several years, a variety of collaborative models have evolved to help Lutheran Church congregations express their mission in new and exciting ways.

One such congregation, Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Barbara, Calif. closed its doors permanently in 2014. However, as one door closes, another opens as it found a new opportunity to continue its mission of community service. After experiencing dwindling membership and conducting much soul searching, the congregation decided to donate its church building and land to California Lutheran Homes and Community Services (CLH) for the purpose of transforming the property into an affordable senior housing community, satisfying a tremendous need in Santa Barbara. In this way, Grace Lutheran leaves a legacy to the community it served for more than 40 years and will continue to impact it in the future.

Another example is St. John's Manor in Glendale, Arizona. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church acquired additional land in the hopes of building a larger sanctuary. However, this viable congregation decided instead, to use the excess property for the expansion of its mission into the community at-large by sponsoring an affordable housing community. As a result of their efforts, St. John's Manor is a 43-unit senior affordable housing community adjacent to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. St. John's Manor is vibrant with a great deal of interaction between its residents and the church community.

California Lutheran Homes and Community Services has a long history of turning donors' gifts into lasting legacies. It is dedicated to the development and

enhancement of affordable housing and supportive social ministry and is uniquely positioned to help churches who wish to leave a service legacy. CLH is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with board members from constituent congregations of the ELCA and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). CLH partners with CARING Housing Ministries, a not-for-profit affordable housing management company that is part of Front Porch.



The future Grace Village.

Congregations seeking to leave a lasting legacy of social ministry can do so as an important outgrowth of California Lutheran Homes and Community Services' collaborative work through the church.

These two models illustrate the flexibility of the Christian mission in meeting the vision and mission goals of a congregation. They represent collaborative mission "fits" for each congregation and for California Lutheran Homes and Community Services, whose own mission is to meet needs through "faith in action."

For more information on congregational legacy, please contact Bill Jennings, CLH CEO-elect, at 818-254-4122. ☺

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