



Felician Village

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Suggested Headline: **Felician Village holds Fundraising Event**

Representatives of Felician Village presented the reasons community support is so important to the future of St. Mary's Home during the Crossroads of Compassion event held on Thursday, September 9 at the Holiday Inn. This one hour breakfast program was both a friend-raiser and fund-raiser for Felician Village.

Speakers emphasized to the 180 guests the importance for the community to partner with St. Mary's so that the nursing home can continue to provide its residents with the high quality of life they deserve. As Sr. Julie Weckwerth, Vice President of Mission Integration, Felician Services, Inc., explained, "We are at a critical crossroads and we are approaching you for a level of engagement in our campus. What we need are partners like you to help us continue to serve the needs of the elderly and to assure that St. Mary's is here when seniors need it." With the rapidly declining number of Felician Sisters, they are no longer able to subsidize Felician Village as they have done for many, many years, Sr. Weckwerth explained that the time has come when the Sisters need to turn to the community for support.

According to Pat Kaldor, President/CEO, Felician Village, the construction project, which will be completed within the next couple months, has positioned Felician Village as a premier senior living campus in the state. Based on the household concept rather than the traditional clinical model, Kaldor stated, "It's a concept and design that our residents love. When you see it, you realize, it's not like your grandmother's nursing home". Because the board of directors and administrative team want to continue to be progressive and to be able to offer residents the highest level of care and services in this new environment, Kaldor emphasized the point made by Sr. Julie, "We are here today to explain our mission and to invite you all to partner with us to meet the needs of our seniors now and in the future".

In addition to comments from Sr. Weckwerth and Pat Kaldor, testimonial comments were provided by Dave Yanda whose parents currently live in different housing options at Felician. Yanda emphasized the care and understanding his parents and family received when his parents initially moved to Felician Village as well as when his father moved from independent living at The Gardens to nursing home care at St. Mary's. As Yanda explained, "The progressive care given at Felician Village allowed my dad to smoothly transition to St. Mary's while allowing my mom to stay in her apartment at The Gardens."

Because few people have the opportunity to witness the daily interaction between residents and family, a video provided an inside look at this important relationship. The comments from employees interviewed for the video highlighted their commitment to their Resident FirstSM philosophy.

In conclusion, Sr. Weckwerth explained that the public should consider any financial support of St. Mary's not simply as a donation but as an investment in the community. St. Mary's meets the needs of many men and woman who have supported the community throughout their lives. They have supported local businesses, schools and many events in Manitowoc, Two Rivers and around the county. The community is now being given an opportunity to help that assure those people will be taken care of during their later years of life. In fact, Sr. Julie pointed out to the guests at the event that they are very likely making an investment in the organization that they themselves may depend on for their care in the not too distant future.

Caption for photo: Dave Yanda, President, Lakeside Foods, talks about his parents experience in the different housing options at Felician Village during the Crossroads of Compassion event held on September 9, 2010.

