

Garvey Manor staying connected to its mission

As non-profit organizations continue to look for new and better ways to remain economically viable, Blair County can point to one industry sector in particular that seems to be weathering the storm by embracing some practical realities. That industry sector is long-term care facilities.

Garvey Manor Nursing Home in Hollidaysburg is one of those facilities. Opened in 1965 by the Altoona-Johnstown Catholic Diocese, Garvey Manor has been a partnership between the Diocese and the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm since the 1970's.

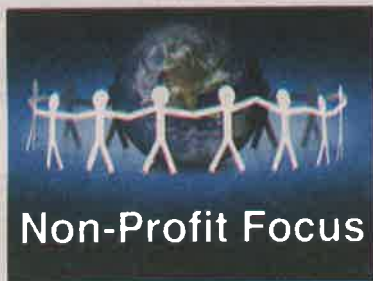
Much like the other non-profit homes in the county, Garvey Manor has been prudent in its approach to offsetting the things that it cannot control.

"One of our greatest challenges as a non-profit organization is the lack of adequate reimbursement from the Medicaid program," acknowledges Sister Joachim Anne Ferenchak, O. Carm., Garvey's administrator. "Since 2005, Pennsylvania only reimburses approximately 81% of the promised reimbursement. That makes our shortfall about \$1,360,000. This drastically impacts our budget and is considered part of our charity care."

That's the bad news. The really bad news comes in 2018 when Pennsylvania transitions the Medical Assistance program into a managed care model. Under that model, nursing homes will receive a three-year, per-diem rate freeze. Approximately 70% of the 132 residents in the nursing home portion of the facility qualify as recipients of Medical Assistance.



Sister Joachim Anne Ferenchak, O. Carm., administrator of Garvey Manor, shares a moment with resident Betsy Smith.



Garvey Manor's personal care predicament isn't much better, according to Sister Joachim.

"Unlike many other states, Pennsylvania does not provide any financial assistance for elders who reside in personal care facilities, such as Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence," she points out. "When an individual's personal funds are expended, we want to be able to extend a benevolent stay arrangement to our residents. This commitment to charity care impacts

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Sister Joachim Anne Ferenchak

Garvey Manor about \$300,000 per year. Our mission is to care for persons, including the poor, who deserve to live in dignity and security throughout their lives. But the financial challenges to do this are significant."

So where do the additional dollars come from? As a free-standing long-term care facility, relying on its own ability to be self-sufficient financially, Garvey Manor looks for ways to generate



Holly Keller, Director of Development at Garvey Manor stands in front of the facility's "Tree of Life," which pays tribute to deceased residents and also generates revenue for the nursing home.

revenue. Much like a for-profit business.

"One of the most prominent misconceptions that people have about non-profit organizations is that they don't or shouldn't make a profit," Sister Joachim admitted. "Non-profits are organized to carry out the mission for which they were founded. The goal is to carry out this mission in perpetuity. This can only happen if the non-profit is strong financially to survive and thrive well into the future."

Sister Joachim mentions the "mission" often when talking about how Garvey Manor has been able to build such a respected reputation in the community.

"Our mission is the heart of the home," she explains. "But it is the people who bring the mission

to fruition and they are its life-blood. Our Carmelite Sisters work along with more than 300 professional and ancillary lay staff members and about 100 volunteers. These dedicated staff members and volunteers embrace the mission, knowing they make life-enriching differences in the lives of individuals each day.

"We are proud of our history and proud of our current staff who continue to foster the quality of care and service that our residents receive. Each day, they fulfill our mission which is 'to promote and provide personal and professional quality of care and service in an atmosphere which reflects Christ's compassion, love and concern for the elderly.'"

Garvey Manor is a member of the Blair County Chamber.