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### RSVP Stations - a continuing series

RSVP partners with local organizations in Blair and Huntingdon counties to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for people age 55 and over. We are featuring these organizations in our newsletter to share information about what they do and how AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who serve there make a difference in our communities.



In the early 1960s Bishop J. Carroll McCormick of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese envisioned a Catholic nursing home to serve the expanding elderly population of Altoona and Hollidaysburg. He wanted to assure the frail and incapacitated elders in the diocese that if they needed nursing home care, they would have a place where they could receive exceptional service and live with dignity in a Catholic environment. Bishop McCormick knew that the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm's philosophy of caring for the elderly mirrored his vision. He invited Mother Angeline Teresa, O.Carm., foundress of this religious community which is based in Germantown, N.Y., to send her sisters to administer and direct operations of the home, which was then established in 1965 as Garvey Manor Nursing Home.

Garvey Manor is a 501(c)(3), faith-based, non-profit, incorporated organization. As a self-funded, privately owned Catholic Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), the community has expanded to include skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, personal care apartments, and independent living apartments. They are currently embarking on the newest expansion to their campus, Marian Heights at Garvey Manor. Marian Heights will offer spacious and unique independent living cottages and homes designed to promote independence while individuals can avail themselves of the amenities and services offered in a Christian community setting.

Under the leadership of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, the core values of shared commitment, respect for the sanctity of life, hospitality, and compassion, lived out every day throughout their entire community, give them their identity. As the only Catholic CCRC in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, their mission 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. The Carmelite Sisters who serve in ministry together with other professional and ancillary lay staff strive to make that philosophy of care a vital part of everyday life for the residents. The modern home-like community provides space, programs, care, and service to meet individual needs in a personal, dignified manner enriching the quality of life of each resident and family served. All aspects of their ministry's service focus on dignity, respect, independence and privacy. Garvey Manor welcomes and respects the beliefs of all persons of all faiths, gender, national origins, races, disabilities, and ages.



*AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer  
Naomi Yon leads exercise classes.*

The spirit of volunteerism has been embraced, utilized and appreciated at Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence throughout its existence. Volunteers are an integral part of Garvey Manor as they assist staff to fulfill its mission. The contributions of volunteers are a major factor in making Garvey Manor the special place it is for the residents.



*AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer  
Susan Nycum provides  
clerical support.\**