

# LifeTimes

## WOODBROOK

Spring/Summer 2021 Vol. 25, No. 1 *Where Past and Future Meet*

### Mission Statement

*Woodbrook strives to create a safe, beautiful, and loving home for our residents, one in which they are celebrated and encouraged to thrive in a healthy environment with dignity, respect, and joy.*

Adopted by the Board of Directors  
December 11, 2013

### WOODBROOK

*Chemung County's premier  
assisted living residence*

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Woodbrook Assisted  
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to carry news from our  
busy world to yours.



## WOODBROOK

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### A Farewell Message

*"There is a time for every purpose under Heaven"*  
— Ecclesiastes

It is with deep emotions that I am writing this, to inform you of my anticipated retirement this August.

As Ecclesiastes says – "There is a time for every purpose under Heaven" – "a time to let go." After much prayer and contemplation, I realize it is my time to let go and pass the baton.

How can I ever sum up my thoughts, feelings, memories, friendships and love for this unforgettable family I know as "Woodbrook"? I have been blessed to be part of the history of Woodbrook for the past 21 years. I have been able to live a life of passion and purpose, and have been incredibly fortunate to witness the "goodness in people, the power of love, the beauty in the ordinary, and the presence of God" on a daily basis. I have always felt that Woodbrook is "where Heaven meets Earth."

Truly this past year has marked enormous change for Woodbrook, our community, country, world and humanity. As Oprah Winfrey states: "Turn your wounds into wisdom – where there is no struggle, there is no strength." Yes, this past year with COVID has been one of the most challenging ever! But here at Woodbrook, strength, wisdom and unity have endured. We grieve for our beloved residents who we lost and for their families. It was a heartbreaking year.

My leadership was formulated long ago by working many years with the Sisters of St. Joseph. They were early mentors in my life. They taught me "Learning, Loving, Living Leadership," to guide me at Woodbrook. First learn it, evolve into loving it and all it represents, and then live it each day. My outstanding staff supports me in carrying out this mission, providing a unique home, compassionate care and a meaningful life for our residents. Woodbrook's Board of Directors has always been an inspiring force in my life. Every Board member has had an impact, helping me to grow, learn and develop. I must also remember my son Patrick and his family Lisa, Brielle and Brendan, who give me peerless "meaning to life." Also, I honor my mother Bea, my sister Eileen and my aunt Firmina, who still influence and guide me today from Heaven.



Laurie Sweeney, RN, MSN  
Executive Director

*(See A Farewell on Page 2)*

## Salutations

### A Farewell Message

(Continued from Page 1)

And now to recognize the people without whom we would not be here – our beloved residents! They have also been my teachers in life. I have learned so much from these incredible people. They are indeed the “Greatest Generation.” The wisdom they impart to me reveal their past coping in extraordinary situations, their strength and resilience, and continued hope for better days. Throughout it all, God was always by my side and some days there was only one set of “footprints in the sand.”

“The journey in between what you once were and who you are becoming, is where the Dance of Life really takes place.” I am a person of Heart and will follow many paths in this “REFIREMENT” of my life. And I will “ever be alive to the music of life and the joy of the dance.” ~ Slainte

### What Some of Our Residents Have to Say About Woodbrook...



*Hi, I'm Janice. I am a retired nurse and I've lived at Woodbrook for almost a year! Something I love about Woodbrook, is the place itself – the building and the decorations are very nice. I also appreciate that the other residents and staff are so pleasant here!*

—Janice Murphy



*Hello, I'm Dr. Moore, retired pediatrician. I've lived at Woodbrook for a little over a year. Regarding Woodbrook, I'd like to say that I like the people here – staff and fellow residents. I've enjoyed walking the grounds and meeting new friends in a nice, supportive atmosphere.*

—Dr. Ralph Moore

**WOODBROOK**  
**Assisted Living...Carefree Living!**  
**Affordable Excellence**

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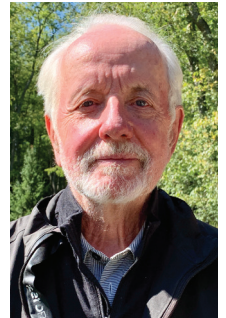
## Transitions

### Woodbrook Welcomes New Directors

Welcome to Dr. Jonathan Homuth, a retired local pediatrician. “My mother-in-law was a former resident and I saw what a wonderful place it was. As a pediatrician, I took care of the younger members of our community. Now I have an opportunity to be involved in caring for our older members.”

Also, welcome back to Michael Hart, Vice President and Relationship Manager for Chemung Canal Trust Company's Trust and Estate Division. This is his third term. He previously served as the Board's Treasurer and President. He's now Treasurer again.

“I'm proud to be back as part of the Woodbrook Board, which serves as the premier assisted living facility in the area,” he said. “I also look forward to working with so many great individuals working towards Woodbrook's Mission Statement.”



Dr. Jon Homuth



Michael Hart

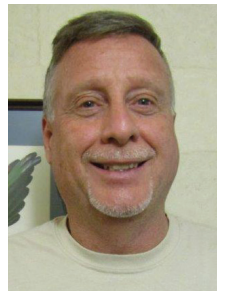
### Woodbrook Welcomes New Staff

Welcome to Dwayne Donaldson as Woodbrook's Buildings and Grounds Director. Dwayne is responsible for all maintenance and facility staff, including housekeepers and groundskeepers.

“Woodbrook is an outstanding facility in terms of its building and grounds, and it was like that when I started. When Covid became a concern, we implemented even higher standards for cleanliness, safety and hygiene. We go above and beyond to keep everything clean, safe and beautiful here.”

Also welcome to Rebecca (Becky) Ward, who is a Case Manager. She joined Woodbrook in June 2020. She's a Registered Nurse who assists residents and families coordinating health care needs while promoting wellness, communication and education.

“I love it here!” she said. “The staff and residents are so nice to work with. It's a very rewarding job.”



Dwayne Donaldson



Becky Ward



### At 103, Hazel Thompson Puts the Pandemic in Perspective

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic came to Woodbrook Assisted Living Facility, as it did everywhere else in the world. The contagion and its devastating toll on countless lives — through sickness or the isolation of the lockdown — has effected everyone in the world in one way or another.

One resident who got it and survived was Hazel Thompson, who has the honor and distinction of being the oldest living person under the Woodbrook roof. Hazel, who turned 103 years of age last September 5, has now outlived two international pandemics — the Spanish Flu of 1918, and the current outbreak that started in March of 2020... and still continues at the time of this writing, in the spring of 2021.

“The wars were the worse times I lived through,” she said, referring to WWI and WWII. She was alive when the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic occurred, but doesn’t remember it, as she was just a baby then.



*Hazel Thompson*

Another thing that was hard on her was the death of one of her younger brothers due to Tetanus.

“I had five brothers and five sisters,” she recounts. “We mainly went barefoot in the summer. He stepped on a rusty nail, got Tetanus, and died. There were no shots for it back then.”

Despite these challenges, Hazel doesn’t have bitter memories. She focuses on the positive.

“I had a very happy childhood. My father was a blacksmith, and I used to help him turn the handle of the forge to keep the horseshoes hot.”

“We lived near the river and were always going swimming. We played outside all the time, and enjoyed playing baseball.”

Some of her memories have dimmed with age, like her eyesight. She now enjoys a quiet life, resting, keeping mostly to herself with professional assistance with her daily activities at Woodbrook. She is well loved and cared for by the staff, as well as the other residents. Hazel is known for being sweet and kind, and is famous for outstanding volunteerism in our community.

“I’m very happy here at Woodbrook,” she said with a smile. “I can do what I want to do. I enjoy the people and trust everyone. I feel safe here, and I’m glad this is my home now.”

Her words of wisdom? What advice would a 103-year-old woman have to give on how she’s managed to live more than a Century?

“Stay busy! Do the best you can.” And she added with a twinkle in her eyes: “And try to make other people happy.”

### Facility Cleanliness is Housekeeping Staff’s Top Priority



*Housekeeping staff at Woodbrook follow rigorous daily protocols for sanitizing high traffic areas.*

**W**ith the pandemic threatening the health and safety of our residents and staff, tough new cleanliness protocols were implemented under the direction of Dwayne Donaldson, Building and Ground Director. The housekeeping staff took extreme and proactive precautions to minimize infectious disease transmission, which have now become standard protocols for housekeeping. These steps included:

- Installation of Merv 13 filters, which are state-of-the-art, hospital grade filters that trap micro-particles like influenza
- Routine disinfecting of high touch, high traffic areas multiple times a day
- Improved filtered ventilation and air quality monitoring.

### Residents Enjoy a Socially Distanced Happy Hour!



## Woodbrook Residents Rave About Mother's Day Celebration!



*"Great food, very delicious – food tasted as good as it looked!"*

*"The event was well organized, service was fantastic and staff was attentive to our needs."*

*"I'd heard about Mother's Day events at Woodbrook, but I couldn't have imagined this! The variety of food was almost overwhelming!"*

*"I was very impressed. Staff members were eager to wait on us and I felt honored."*

*"Variety was out of this world. It was a beautiful buffet presentation – one of the nicest buffets I've ever seen!"*

*"Unbelievable spread, loved the smoked salmon. Truly enjoyed the meal. Something you would not expect in assisted living, it was well done."*

### Executive Staff

Laurie Sweeney, RN, MSN

*Executive Director*

Judy A. Kennedy, BA

*Human Resources Director*

Bonnie Hart

*Administrative Assistant*

Marshelle Elliott

*Finance Director*

Becky Ward, RN

*Case Manager*

Denise Moonschein, BS

*Activities Director*

Dwayne Donaldson

*Buildings and Grounds Director*

Aamir Shaikh, BA

*Dietary Director*

Lori J. Jamelski, LPN

*RCA Director/Case Manager*

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