



## Skybird Landing Apartments Now Open!



Project partners pictured here (from left to right) include SWBR Principal Joseph Gibbons, New York State Office of Mental Health Director of Housing Development and Support Brett Hebner, DePaul President Mark Fuller, Upstate Director of Development for New York State Homes and Community Renewal Leonard Skrill, Founder & CEO of Christa Construction David Christa, Noyes Health President Amy Pollard, Director of Public Health for Livingston County Jennifer Rodriguez and Director of Livingston County Mental Health/Community Services Michele Anuszkiewicz.



DePaul President Mark Fuller (left) and National Warplane Museum Volunteer and Historical Interpreter Jodi Beyer (right)

DePaul, State, County and local government officials, along with Christa Construction, SWBR Architects and financial and community partners recently announced the opening of the Skybird Landing Apartments, a 60-unit, \$17 million affordable housing development in the Village of Geneseo, New York. Half of the apartments are reserved for individuals who are eligible for on-site supportive services that offer job training and promote stability, health and independent living.

"This significant housing development in Geneseo will provide affordable, quality residential units for individuals and families in the area," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. "The Skybird Landing Apartments will include supportive services for residents on site, such as job training and health care resources. This development continues to grow the economy of the region as part of Finger Lakes Forward and builds on our efforts to invest in affordable housing across the state."

Thirty of the apartments are available to tenants with a history of homelessness who have access to supportive services and rent subsidies through

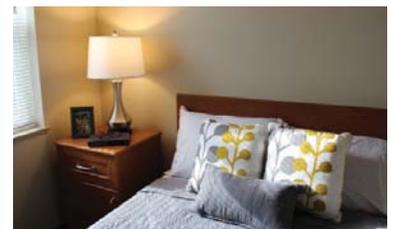
Governor Cuomo's Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, part of the Governor's \$20 billion, five-year Housing Plan which aims to increase access to high quality and supportive affordable housing to help residents stay in their community and live independently.

"Access to safe, affordable housing is a fundamental right and New York is making significant investments to combat homelessness and make housing more accessible throughout the state," Governor Cuomo said. "The Skybird Landing Apartments will provide residents with supportive services and security, creating an environment for them to thrive while building a stronger local economy that will continue to move the Finger Lakes forward."

The 60 new apartments, spread across six buildings, are affordable to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income. The Skybird Landing Apartments' amenities include a community room, lounges with access to a computer, laundry rooms and shared outdoor space for the supportive units. *continued on the next page*



Skybird Landing Apartments Property Manager Sarah Plantz (left) and Jodi Beyer (right)



## Skybird Landing Apartments Now Open! *(continued)*

Financing for Skybird Landing Apartments includes federal and state Low Income Housing Tax Credits which were used to generate nearly \$12.7 million in equity, \$3.5 million through the Supportive Housing Opportunity Program, and \$200,000 from the Rural Area Revitalization Program. Additional funding was provided by the New York State Department of Homes and Community Renewal, New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said, "Skybird Landing Apartments are already contributing to the momentum that propels the Finger Lakes Forward, strengthening the community by providing more than 60 residents with greater economic stability, personal security, and the supportive services that they need to succeed. We thank our partners for joining in fulfilling this critical mission."

Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "These beautiful, new apartments in Geneseo will give individuals with mental illness the safe, stable safety net that only housing can provide."

Skybird Landing shows New York's commitment to supportive housing, utilizing funding from Governor Cuomo's Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, and embracing a collaborative community approach to ensure individuals with mental illness lead rich, full lives."

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan said, "Skybird Landing is providing much needed affordable housing options for seniors and others in need of supportive services. By making it possible for more people to live independently, projects like this enhance the quality of life for residents and add to the fabric of our community."

Assemblymember Marjorie Byrnes said, "These apartments are an example of the thriving community here in Geneseo, New York. I applaud those at Skybird Landing Apartments and their collaboration with Finger Lakes Forward for providing access to necessary affordable housing to help residents live independently. These new amenity-filled apartments will help residents thrive and help stimulate the economy throughout Livingston County."

DePaul President Mark H. Fuller said, "DePaul is pleased to be a community partner in meeting the need for quality affordable housing options in Livingston County and throughout New York State. We wish to thank Governor Cuomo and the State for providing DePaul with the funding that has made this project a reality. Skybird Landing is an example of progress and partnership in action."

The name "Skybird Landing" pays homage to Geneseo's National Warplane Museum, a warbird and military history museum founded in 1994. Vice President of DePaul Properties, Inc. Gillian Conde said, "We owe a debt of gratitude to our nation's veterans. Skybird Landing is an important connection to the museum's dedication to preserving World War II and Korean War-era military aircraft, equipment and the stories of the men and women who selflessly served our country at home and abroad."



# A Snapshot of History: The Skybird Landing Apartments



Photographer  
Janet Cruz

**T**he following are reflections from photographer Janet Cruz's experience capturing images at the National Warplane Museum for DePaul's Skybird Landing Apartments in Geneseo, New York.

A visit to the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo is a front row seat to World War II history! During my several visits to the museum, I had the opportunity to walk around and speak to the folks volunteering and working on the planes. I quickly learned the history behind the awe-inspiring machines and gained a new understanding and appreciation for the stories, missions and lives of these planes and their crews.

## The Movie Memphis Belle

The Museum is home to The Movie Memphis Belle, a four-engine bomber also known as the flying fortress, not to be confused with The Memphis Belle, a famous B-17 which flew in every combat zone during World War II.

Named after the pilot Captain Robert Morgan's sweetheart, the original Memphis Belle has been restored and is on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio. The name on the plane in The National Warplane Museum is The Movie Memphis Belle so there would be no confusion with the original.

"Known as The Movie Memphis Belle due to her starring role in the 1990 film *Memphis Belle*, the craft is one of approximately 10 B-17s still flying," according to the National Warplane Museum's website. The plane has served as a VIP transport, a corporate aircraft and spent 15 years as a fire bomber. Having successfully completed 25 missions, it holds the distinction of never having been out of service in its history.

## Whiskey 7

During one visit to the museum, I talked to a volunteer mechanic and pilot at the museum as he was working on one of The Movie Memphis Belle's engines. He shared a personal experience he'd had sitting in the cockpit of another plane, Whiskey 7.

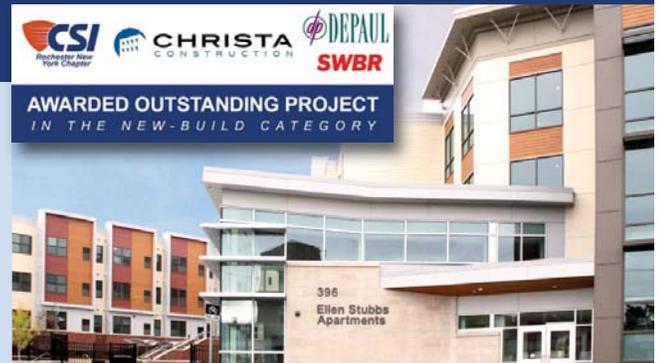
Built in 1943, Whiskey 7 is a C-47 Dakota cargo aircraft that carried 28 soldiers in full combat gear. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Whiskey 7 was one of the lead aircrafts in the first strike of the invasion over Sainte-Mère-Église, Normandy, according to the National Warplane Museum website. Over 6,000 paratroopers jumped from more than 370 planes on D-Day.

After he shared some of the aircraft's history, the volunteer mechanic encouraged me to actually go into the plane and spend time taking it all in. Sitting in the pilot's seat was surreal. I couldn't help but think about each person who stepped foot into this aircraft during WWII as I moved around the plane, wondering what they were thinking and feeling. Seated in the cabin looking across to where paratroopers once sat, I tried to put myself in their shoes, waiting to jump into the unknown, uncertain if they would ever see their families again.

My time spent at the National Warplane Museum capturing images for DePaul's Skybird Landing Apartments was very emotional. I really have never spent much time thinking about the realities of combat. Actually being able to touch and photograph such an important piece of history was a humbling experience. I took all of these images with great respect for each individual that served our country. These images are dedicated to the men and women on the frontlines during World War II.

## Upper Falls Square Receives Award

**D**ePaul's Upper Falls Square Apartments in Rochester, New York recently won the Outstanding Project Award from the Rochester Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute! The multi-story 142,000-square-foot complex which opened in fall 2018 features two buildings containing a total of 150 apartments, 75 of which include services to help individuals with a mental health diagnosis live independently. Congratulations to project partners including Christa Construction and SWBR Architects!



# Apple Blossom Groundbreaking



Apple Blossom Apartments

Pictured here (from left to right) are project partners Chairman and CEO of Home Leasing Nelson Leenhouts, Vice President of DePaul Properties, Inc. Gillian Conde, New York State Office of Mental Health Director of Housing Development and Support Brett Hebner, DePaul Community Services Executive Director/Vice President Chris Syracuse, Upstate Director of Development for New York State Homes and Community Renewal Leonard Skriill, DePaul President Mark Fuller, Erie County Legislator Timothy Meyers, Erie County Department of Mental Health Commissioner Michael R. Ranney, Lead Member of the Buffalo Deaf Advisory Board of Professionals and DePaul Board Member Anthony Di Giovanni and Town of Cheektowaga Supervisor Diane Benczkowski.

DePaul celebrated the start of construction on DePaul's Apple Blossom Apartments in Cheektowaga, New York with a groundbreaking in early April. The \$37 million affordable housing development will be located on an existing campus on Old Union Road and will provide 110 units of integrated housing for income-eligible tenants.

"Affordable housing is a growing need in Cheektowaga and I'm proud that DePaul will be expanding their affordable housing options," Cheektowaga Supervisor Diane Benczkowski said. "The Apple Blossom Apartments project will provide much needed new and affordable housing options to the most vulnerable in our community. This is an exciting project and I look forward to its completion."

The project will include renovating the existing Apple Blossom building to include additional units and the construction of two new buildings. Tenants will have access to on-site support services such as rehabilitation training specifically designed to promote, health, wellness, and independent living.

Each building will have an elevator, community room with kitchen, lounges with computer access, laundry rooms on each floor, and storage areas within each apartment. Additional amenities include on-site parking and meeting space for tenant support services such as medical and mental health case management, and the ability to connect with other community-based social services and programs.

## Woodcrest Commons Renovations

Woodcrest Commons, a 120-bed DePaul Senior Living Community in Henrietta, New York, is undergoing renovations. Updates include improvements in the courtyard, dining room, medication room, resident rooms and bathrooms, new furniture in common areas, new paint and flooring throughout various areas of the building, lighting upgrades and more.





From left to right:  
Paul Edwards,  
Jonathan Krest  
and David Condello,  
each pictured with  
Noreen Salerno.



## 15th Annual Salerno Basketball Tournament

Players from DePaul, East House, Heritage Christian Services and the Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Service Office (DDSO) competed in the 15th Annual Brian Salerno Basketball Tournament, in honor of the late Brian Salerno, a longtime supporter of DePaul and a member of its men's basketball league.

"The talent, comradery and teamwork exhibited at the Salerno tournament is a testament to the legacy and commitment of Brian," said Recreation Director Dan Charcholla. "Fun was had by all."

An all-tournament team member was selected in addition to an overall MVP. A very special thank you goes out to Noreen Salerno and the Immortal Hoops League for their support, Custom Caterings for providing lunch, LaMont Trophy for the awards, and Big City Uniforms for the T-shirts.



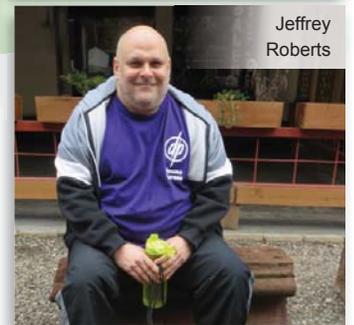
Louis D. (left) and Dennis D. (right)



From left to right: Chad Washington, Chris Howard, Gia Figueroa and Samuel Harris



Trudy Schimmel (left) and Austin Pettigrew (right)



Jeffrey Roberts



William Condon (left) and Vanessa Nobrega (right)

## Raising Awareness One Step at a Time

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and clients and staff in DePaul's mental health residential programs worked to help end the stigma by participating in walks across Western New York aimed at raising awareness about mental illness.

DePaul Community Services sponsored a team in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk in early May in Rochester, New York. The team included staff and residents from DePaul's Batavia, Edgebrook Estates, Neighborhood of the Arts, Ridgeview Commons, West Main and Wyoming County Apartment Treatment Programs; Edgerton Square, Parkside and Rochester View Community Residence-Single Room Occupancy Programs, and Elmgrove and Lyell Road Licensed Congregate Treatment Sites. Together, they raised nearly \$1,000 for individuals living with psychiatric disorders.

In Buffalo, New York, residents from the Seneca Square Community Residence-Single Room Occupancy Program participated in the Restoration Society's 6th Annual Flash Mob in May to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of mental illness and help break the stigma surrounding it.

## NCADD-RA Hosts Press Conference

DePaul's NCADD-RA hosted a press conference in February where New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$5.6 million dollars in federal grants to help create employment opportunities and provide employment training activities for individuals affected by and in recovery from opioid abuse. Director of the NCADD-RA Jennifer Faringer is pictured here with Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Criminal Justice Services Michael Green and New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. The NCADD-RA has offered the 16-month Addictions Counselor Credential Training (ACCT) Program for the past 25 years.



## NCADD-RA Raising Awareness about Problem Gambling

In recognition of Problem Gambling Awareness Month in March, DePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Rochester Area (NCADD-RA) joined the New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG) to raise awareness about the connection between gambling and problems in the workplace.

Nearly 668,000 adults in New York State (or five percent) are struggling with a gambling problem. The effects of problem gambling on the workplace include a loss of time, loss of productivity, and more extreme effects such as theft, fraud and embezzlement. Problem gambling can cause other addiction issues, depression and suicide. It's important that employers and the workforce are educated about the warning signs of problem gambling, and that employee assistance programs are prepared to assist those struggling.

Additionally, NCADD-RA is partnering with NYCPG for the eighth year to support the YOU(th) Decide project in Monroe County. YOU(th) Decide is a multi-dimensional prevention effort aimed at reducing underage gambling.



If you, your child, your school or community group would like more information about problem gambling or would like to get involved, contact Jennifer Faringer, Director of NCADD-RA at [jfaringer@depaul.org](mailto:jfaringer@depaul.org) or call (585) 719-3480. Find out more about our local efforts as well as resources at <https://ncadd-ra.org/awareness-campaigns/underage-gambling>. To learn more about statewide efforts, visit [YOUthDecideNY.org](http://YOUthDecideNY.org).



## Tail Waggin' Good Times

Some of the most popular guests at DePaul's Senior Living Communities have four legs and wagging tails! April 30 was National Pet Therapy Day. According to Therapy Dogs International, studies have shown a decrease in blood pressure and stress levels during pet therapy visits. From certified therapy dog Bogie at Wexford House in Denver, North Carolina to Pepper the friendly parakeet at Rolling Ridge in Newton Grove, North Carolina, residents are reaping the rewards of pet therapy.



Therapy dog Bogie with his owner Sue Schoenecker visit Dot Weinle



Margaret King with Pepper the parakeet

# Celebrating 100 Years Young!

Kindness has proven to be the fountain of youth for Elizabeth “Lib” Lennon Hester, a resident of Prestwick Village, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Laurinburg, North Carolina.

“Always be kind,” is Elizabeth’s secret to a long and happy life.

Born in March 1919 in Bladenboro, North Carolina, “Lib” celebrated her milestone birthday with a day of pomp and circumstance, surrounded by friends, family and fellow residents. The dining room was a colorful sea of tissue paper flowers on the tables and the fireplace mantle. The centenarian was presented with a tiara and proclaimed “queen for the day!”

One of six children, Elizabeth grew up in the country. After graduating from high school, she worked as a bookkeeper at a bank for twenty five years. She married her high school sweetheart Roy Wilbur Hester. The two were married for 60 years and had one son, three grandsons and six great-grandchildren. Among Elizabeth’s hobbies are crocheting and knitting – for family or for missionaries and those less fortunate.



Elizabeth "Lib" Lennon Hester

## Pinterest Envy with DePaul Seniors

When it comes to arts and crafts, DePaul seniors are taking their handiwork to the next level! Whether it be painted rocks or canvas, their art is having an impact, adding a decorative flair to their homes and providing an opportunity to socialize and collaborate with their fellow residents to create “Pinterest-worthy” results!

Residents at Dayspring of Wallace, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Wallace, North Carolina, brightened up the halls with their 8”x10” canvas art! This craft used a few simple supplies including masking tape, paint and sponge brushes to turn canvas into a piece of artwork resembling stained glass!

Snow globe kits purchased from the Dollar Tree took on new life when residents at Woodcrest Commons, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Henrietta, New York, added some confetti and rubber duckies.

Several of DePaul’s Senior Living sites in North Carolina have been painting rocks to spread colorful messages of hope and kindness throughout their communities. Seniors at Cambridge House, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Hildebran, North Carolina, adorned rocks with positive, colorful sayings, some of which residents kept in their rooms while others were distributed throughout the local community. Residents at Twelve Oaks, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Mt. Airy, North Carolina, also painted rocks and hid them around town in the hope of bringing a smile to someone’s face.

Visit the DePaul Blog at [www.depaul.org/blog/](http://www.depaul.org/blog/) for the full story!



Emma Usher



Henry Porter with Jamella Corbett

Marie Simpson



Andrea Heath



Joan Rangus





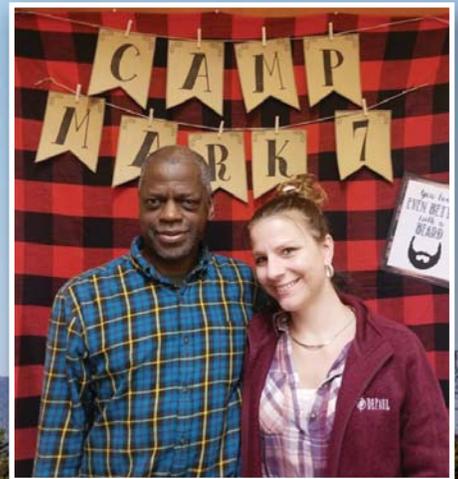
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## DePaul Supports Camp Mark Seven

**D**ePaul was pleased to sponsor this year's Mark Seven Deaf Foundation, Inc. Camp Mark Seven annual fundraiser! The camp "offers an array of recreational, educational, leadership and spiritual programs for Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals of all ages."

Denise Fry, Property Manager at the Rochester View Apartments (RVA) in Henrietta, New York and John Haynes, RVA Maintenance Specialist, attended the event at Veterans Memorial Park in Penfield, New York. Thank you to John and Denise (*both pictured right*) for representing RVA and DePaul at this special event!



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DePaul is a not-for-profit organization that provides senior living residential services, mental health residential and support programs, addiction prevention and support services, vocational services and affordable housing. To receive DePaul Details electronically, please provide your name and e-mail address to Monica Bulger at [mbulger@depaul.org](mailto:mbulger@depaul.org) in DePaul's Communications Department.

Please direct comments to the Communications Department at [communications@depaul.org](mailto:communications@depaul.org) or call (585) 426-8000.