

GATES-CHILI POST

Thursday, May 1, 2014

www.gateschilipost.com

Vol. 14, No. 19 ■ 50 cents

Gates-Chill Post | Thursday, May 1, 2014 | A13

NEWS

News from you

Want to see your news, photos, or events in print? Submit them to yournews@messengerpostmedia at least two weeks prior to the event to be sure they will appear in the paper. If you send photos, please include as much information as possible about who is featured in the pictures and what activity is going on.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Lee Reed, Niche and Community Publications Manager, at jreed@messengerpostmedia.com or 585-394-0770 ext. 330

VOLUNTEERS



Pictured above are Roberts Wesleyan students (back row, l-r) Breann Hoogenguis, Eddie Visagie, Michaela Swarthoutm Rachael Pollak, Becca Smith, (front row, l-r) Sarah Offhaus, Megan Glikes, Jessica Pollak and April Fedale. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Young adults from the Rochester Slavic Bible Baptist Church in Pittsford have also been paying it forward by volunteering at Westwood Commons. Pictured above are David Boguta, Pavel Tarasyuk, Oleg Didovets, Oleg Trukhlinskiy, Mira Didovets, Nataliya Nakonechnaya and Sophia Sapyla. SUBMITTED

Westwood Commons praises volunteers

Submitted to The Post

April was National Volunteer Recognition Month! Volunteering costs nothing — a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, or a tune to hum. And it pays in dividends uncouped. That's the motivation behind several young adults who have been spending time with seniors at Westwood Commons, a DePaul Senior Living Community in North Chili.

"I find such happiness and joy when I get

to spend time with the residents," said Breann Hoogenguis, a senior at Roberts Wesleyan College. "I know how much they love and appreciate the younger generation getting involved."

A nursing student, Hoogenguis began working part-time as a companion for a resident at Westwood Commons over a year ago. That inspired her to ask a few college classmates to join her for an afternoon of singing for the seniors last year. Hoogenguis

brought even more of her classmates to Westwood Commons to sing to and to make crafts with residents in March as part of a service project for their senior seminar.

"I think a lot of young adults just don't know where to go or who to contact to find opportunities to give back," she said. "The more I get involved with the community, the more I can see these opportunities and needs."

About 10-20 high school and college-aged volunteers from the

Webster and Greece area have been visiting Westwood Commons on a regular basis.

The group hopes to recruit members from the Slavic Pentecostal Church in Spencerport for a visit to Westwood Commons in April.

Sergi Boyuk started the volunteer efforts. He said volunteering to care for his elders has given him better perspective in his own life.

"Seeing the differences between how they lived and how we live, things

have changed quite a bit and in other ways, nothing has changed at all," said Boyuk. "At my age, they were having all the same worries, temptations and concerns that we have. They have a lot of stories and a reserve of knowledge that not everyone recognizes or appreciates."

For more information about Westwood Commons, please contact Administrator Karen Shaffer at (585) 293-2060 or visit us on Facebook.

DePaul is a progressive not-for-profit organization founded in 1958. DePaul is committed to providing quality services including assisted living programs for seniors; residential, rehabilitation and treatment services to persons with mental illness in recovery; addiction prevention and support programs, vocational programs and affordable housing.

For more information about DePaul, please call (585) 426-8000 or visit www.depaul.org.