

A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

DIXONHOUSE.ORG • 410-822-6661 • 108 NORTH HIGGINS STREET

SPRING 2017

VOL.1 NO.5

Your Donations at Work

By Joan Muzzillo, Dixon House Board Member

In 2015, after careful assessment of the current needs for the Dixon House, the Board of Directors (BOD) created a "Project List." High on that list was upgrading the residence's security system. Although maintenance had been done over the years on our security system, technology has taken a giant leap past our old security system's capability.

A request for bids was made, as well as a grant request. The results were disappointing. Therefore, the Board of Directors reassessed the project and split it into two distinct phases: Phase 1 for cameras and monitors and Phase 2 for an emergency nurse call system.

We sent off a new bid request, as well as our annual appeal letter. Our efforts paid off and by June 2016 we had the necessary funds and a contract was awarded to Talon Security a local security firm in Trappe, Maryland. Phase 1 of the security system project was completed in August 2016 thanks to all those who responded to our annual appeal with a generous donation.

This phase provides the Dixon House with state of the art monitors and cameras, as well as additional cameras on corridors and in common areas where residents gather. It provides us with the ability to monitor access to the facility, but the biggest benefit is the added security and peace of mind for our residents, their families and staff.

We appreciate the opportunity to bring you up to date on the operations and needs of the Dixon House. With your continued support from the 2016 Annual Appeal we have begun work on Phase 2 of our security system, so stay tuned.

The Following pictures illustrate the difference in our old and new security systems.

OLD

NEW



In 2016, the following individuals and organizations made contributions to Dixon House.

Shore United Bank
Easton Elks Lodge No. 1622
Robert & Charlotte Krebs
Easton Utilities Commission
Keith & Carol Prettyman
Thomas & Patricia Reynolds
Faye Nave
Robert Agreen
Marilyn Bates
David & Mary Ann Hazen
Barbara Brown
Philip Foster
Kenneth Carroll
Sam & Rosemary Trippe
Lois Wimbrow
Linda King
Alice Bartlett Lane Fund
Craig and Vicki Atwood
Herbert & Della Andrew
Drs. Joe & Donna Nizolek
Paul & Linda Makosky
Maurice & Suzan Newnam
Robert & Sandra Dryden
Christopher & Sandra Atwood
Livingston Septic Service
Col. & Mrs. Robert Holden, Ret.
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Decker
Greg Gannon
Mary Jane Barnes
Laura & Tom Hollingshead
Sue Carney
Craig Siebert
Chuck & Janet Selby
Jefferson Haynes
Jacqueline Dianich
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Doris Hughes
St. John's Foundation
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 648
VFW Post 5118 Auxiliary
E E Streets Memorial Post 5118
American Legion Talbot Post 70
John & Faye Shannahan
Thomas Fountain
John & Jennifer Waters
Rosemary Fasolo
Marilyn Nace
David & Pamela Baker
Robert & Judith Musch
Oxford United Methodist Women
Richard Potter
Gary & Kathy Gannon
Rita Granger Cover
Stephanie Sokso
Dorothy Fenwick
Nanny Trippe
Anonymous

Wanda Cumberland
Phyllis & Lee Bailey
Carol Lofstedt
Jessie Browne
Dorothy Samonisky
Richard Hynson, Jr.
Frank & Jane Hopkinson
James & Wandalie Denny
Rorberta Gribbon
William Kirby
Charles & Caroline Sproule
Evelyn Leszczynski
Mary Ridgeway
Anonymous
John Atwood
Llandaff Family Foundation
Constance Muzillo
Nancy Whitten
Joseph & Marie Favinger
Eric & Amelia Steward
JoAnn & William Staples
Mattie Shafer
Thomas & Cathy Hill
William & Nancy Reybold
Mary Ann Hensinger
William S. Horne
Debbie Kudner
Dickie Messick
Peggy Mundt
John & Ethel North, II
Lou Ann Parson
Episcopal Church Women
of Wye Parish
Gustav & Donna Schlag
Doug & Melissa Honabach
Greg Bailey
Elena Esper
Pixel Print & Post
Cutts & Case
Linda Livingston
Dr. & Mrs. Nelson Trujillo
Ernest & Lynne Chadderton
Easton Hardware
Talbot Dermatology
Judy Caswell Allen
Carol Armstrong
Forest & Isabel Bedel
Mary Ridgeway
Lawrence & Katherine Callahan
John & Judith Coyne
Thomas Coyne
Roger & Heather Crow
Cecil & Sylvia Gannon
Richard & Susan Granville
Laurence & Lynda Haley
Carolyn Todd

As I sit here looking out my window, there are people on the porch enjoying 70 degree days in February. While I don't think winter is through with us, spring is on its way and we will soon be enjoying the birds and the flowers surrounding the **Dixon House** porch.

The winter has provided a productive time to accomplish many improvements in the house, including renovations which have provided us with another room for a resident and important updates to the **Dixon House** security system (see Joan Muzzillo's update in this newsletter).

If you have visited us recently, you will notice that the "old main office" has been converted to a new resident room, with a private bathroom with a handicapped shower, where my desk used to be. The bathroom is all tile and meets ADA specifications. The room was completed in January 2017 and we received our occupancy permit February 2017. The renovations were completed by Marvel Construction.

The security system with its additional cameras has enhanced our safety here at **Dixon House** and has given even more peace of mind to our staff and our families as we care for residents 24 hours a day.

Both of these improvements wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our donors.

In the coming year, we will be working on redecorating the common areas and resident rooms at **Dixon House** – all which are in need of updates. We have begun conversations with a designer and plans are underway. In the coming days, you will be hearing about ways you or your family can sponsor a room to make it feel more homelike.

Finally, while we said good-bye to some special residents this year, we heard from families and friends about what **Dixon House** meant to each of them and to their loved ones. Each year, I am amazed at the outpouring of support we get from our friends and the community. Your commitment to seeing

Dixon House thrive as an assisted-living facility in our community is testimony to the special facility we have.

Stop by and see what is new and exciting, or take a minute to sit, laugh, and relax on our porch for a while. You won't be sorry you did!

Linda Elben
Executive Director



Staff Profile: Kiera "KiKi" Roberts



Kiera "KiKi" Roberts, CNA, of Cambridge came to work at Dixon House in July 2016. She has worked as a CNA for 17 years on the Mid Shore. She comments, "I love working here with the residents and staff. It's like we are one big family."

Linda Elben, executive director of Dixon House, adds, "We are very lucky to have KiKi as a part of our team. She is a dependable team player."

KiKi lives in Cambridge with her three children, who are ages 7 through 16.

Resident Profile: Helen Brom



Pictured left to right are Helen Brom, age 97, a new resident at Dixon House, with her daughter Diane Lusby.

Helen Brom, age 97 of Easton, recently became a resident of Dixon House. Ms. Brom, who was born in Baltimore, spent her career years in food service at Westinghouse in Anne Arundel County. At age 55, Helen decided to get her high school diploma, something that had been her dream and to pursue a second career in health care. She decided to become a unit secretary at Harbor Hospital in Baltimore where she worked until she retired, at which time she moved to Cambridge with her husband. Following her husband's death, she moved back to Annapolis where she was an active volunteer for the Lutheran Mission in Annapolis. She returned to the Eastern Shore approximately 8 years ago, living at Park View Apartments in Easton and living an active life as a volunteer. She volunteered with over 500 volunteer hours with the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and also with Saint Vincent de Paul. Her hobbies

included dancing and playing bridge. She is a woman of great faith and has been an avid church goer for her entire adult life. She is currently a member of Grace Lutheran Church here in Easton.

According to her daughter, Diane Lusby of Easton, who has cared for her mother since 2012 when her mother began to have some cognitive issues, being active has been key to Helen's longevity. She quips that her mother says, "It's hard to hit a moving target." Diane and her family are so appreciative for the care their mother and grandmother is receiving at Dixon House. She comments, "The environment at Dixon House is not like an institution, it's like a home. The staff is delightful to work with, the residents here are content and my mother has adjusted very well. It gives us all tremendous peace of mind knowing that she is safe and being cared for in such a special way."

Dixon House Remembrances

The Dixon House mourns the passing of the following residents this fall and winter. Each of these women had special ties to Dixon House. We pride ourselves in providing generational care to our residents. Two of our residents had family members who lived at Dixon House – one whose mother lived here years ago and one whose mother is currently one of our residents. This provided a wonderful connection for the residents' families and for us as well. The other Dixon House resident to leave us this winter was an active member on our Board of Directors up until her death.



Verna D. Asplen (1940 – 2017)

Verna D. Asplen of Cambridge passed away on Monday, January 30, 2017 at the University of Maryland Shore Regional Medical Center in Cambridge. She was born in Salisbury, MD, was a graduate of Washington High School and attended Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, NC and Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. In 1964, she married Reginald A. Asplen, Jr., who passed away on January 5, 2003. She was a social worker for the Eastern Shore Hospital Center for 31 and a half years. She was a member of Zion United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, taught Sunday school, Habitat for Humanity, League of Women Voters, Eastern Shore Hospital Auxiliary, and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91. She is survived by a daughter Carol Masden and husband Mark and their children Meghan and Katelyn, a son Paul Asplen and wife Marianne and their daughter Julianne, and several cousins. Verna served on the Dixon House Board since August 2015.



Norma Lea Mills (1925 – 2017)

Norma Lea Mills of Easton passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Dixon House Assisted Living. She was a graduate of Federalsburg High School. For several years, she worked as the executive director for the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and later for WCEI Radio as the commercial manager. She was the former president of Delmarva Hospitality in Salisbury and past president of the Ladies of the Elks Lodge BPOE 1622 in Easton. Her husband Congressman William O. Mills preceded her in death. She is survived by a daughter Lynda Haley and her husband Laurence of Easton, a son, William O. Mills, Jr. and his wife Tami of Preston; three grandchildren: Laurence Haley, Jr. and his wife Lisa of Easton; Tabitha Strong and her husband Tony of Preston; James Joseph Mills and his wife Courtney Mills of Harmony; seven great grandchildren, one great granddaughter, and a niece. Although her stay at Dixon House was brief, Norma Lea followed her mother Cora Nichols' footsteps as she had lived at the Dixon House quite a few years.



Stephanie Michaels (1952 – 2016)

Stephanie Michaels, 64 of Easton died peacefully, Monday, October 3, 2016 with her family and Jody Gunn, Chaplain, Talbot Hospice, by her side at Dixon House. She is survived by her mother, Michaela Townsend of Dixon House in Easton; daughter, Marnie Solomon of Cambridge, brother and sister in law, Jon Yuhn and Susan Schindler of Perry Hall, MD; sister, Lisa Peterson of Shrewsbury, MA; sister, Paige Greene (Robert) of Pacific Palisades, CA; sister, Sara Davidson (Harry Jack) of Stevensville; sister, Virginia Dalton of New Port Ritchie, FL and sister, Kendra Marvel (Wade) of Ridgely; six nieces and six nephews. She is pre-deceased by her father, Louis A Yuhn; sister, Marta Gillian Yuhn; sister, Laurie E. Williams and her step- father, Kenneth G. Townsend. Following a rehabilitation at Genesis The Pines for a chemotherapy treatment for cancer, Stephanie came to Dixon House for a 30-day respite, staying just down the hall from her mother, Michaela, who has lived at Dixon House since 2013. It was a special time for both mother and daughter, spending time together, as well as having family be able to visit Dixon House before Stephanie's passing.



Jennie M. Nossick (1929 – 2016)

Jennie M. Nossick, a resident of Dixon House for over four years, died at Talbot Hospice House in Easton on November 20, 2016. She spent her early years on the family dairy farm in East New Market, MD. After graduating from East New Market High School, she went to college to gain her elementary teaching degree. She found much joy in educating hundreds of children in Dorchester County during her 30 years of teaching. She married John "Dunc" Nossick in 1952 and together they spent many years enjoying traveling, shopping, and sampling restaurants all over the United States. She enjoyed cooking, reading, and relaxing on the family farm. She was a lifetime member of the First Baptist Church of East New Market where she served in many capacities. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her son, John "Mac" Nossick and his wife Diana; two granddaughters Katie Nossick and Emily Nossick.



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THE DIXON HOUSE

Independent and Assisted Living

108 N. Higgins Street
Easton, MD 21601

DIXON HOUSE YARD SALE

Saturday May 20, 2017

Starting at 6:30 AM

Donations for Yard Sale will be
accepted May 15th, 16th and 17th

Board of Directors

John Atwood *President*

Verna Asplen

Gregory Bailey

Dorothy Fenwick

Joan Muzzillo

Craig Siebert

Mike Thielke

Phyllis Widerkehr

Dorothy Samonisky

The mission of The Dixon House, a non-profit independent and assisted living facility, is to provide high quality and affordable residential care to seniors in an enriching home-like environment.



THE DIXON HOUSE

Independent and Assisted Living in Historic Easton

just like home

ROOMS AVAILABLE

For further information contact
Linda Elben at 410-822-6661

The DIXON HOUSE, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Financial report available upon request.

410.822.6661