



## Faith Connections October 2021

### October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

## AMERICA'S RECOVERY POWERED BY INCLUSION

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The 2021 theme, "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion," reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during

the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic." ([US Department of Labor](#))

Rich\* has paraplegia. He is active and has many interests. built a galactic race car gaming system through his computer. His dream has been to work in the community. Rich unsuccessfully worked with four vocational training and employment services providers. With the support of Flat Rock's team, Rich was interviewed by five companies, including restaurants, printers, and manufacturers. Rich is successfully working at McDonald's cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting tables and touchpoints as well as learning to assist with scheduling. He is communicating independently with staff and customers, and his family says he is happier than he has been in a long time.

Rich's life has been transformed! Your support of Flat Rock restores hope, transforms lives, and demonstrates faith in action every day. For more information: <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/services/vocational-training-employment/> (\*Name changed for privacy.)

### October is Clergy and Pastor Appreciation Month!



We are thankful for our clergy and pastors as well as their spouses who serve alongside them.

- You prayerfully study and share the Good News, and **we give thanks!**
- You are on call 24/7, and bear the joys and concerns of your congregation, and community. **We give thanks!**
- You share the mission and ministries of Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services, **and we give thanks!**

**We ask God's blessings on you as you minister to your church and community.**

Please remember that we are here to support your work. We offer pulpit supply, and DisAbility Awareness messages and presentations. Also available are faith-based retreats, and music supply. Contact Deaconess Sherri Buehl at [sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org) or Rose M. Darling at [rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:rdarling@flatrockhomes.org) for details.

### Ohio DisAbilities and Ministries Collaborative

The Collaborative represents East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences' DisAbilities Awareness Teams. The group met in late September and continues to offer disability awareness presentations/sermons throughout Ohio. Our speaker's bureau is eager to bring messages of awareness and hope to your church and community. Read the latest newsletter here: <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/faith-connections-newsletter/>

Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services 7353 County Road 29, P.O. Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828  
Phone: 419.483.7330 [www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)



## Legacy Giving

No one cares for your loved ones and cherished causes like you do! A will ensures that this care continues for years to come. October 18–24 is National Write a Will week, but it is always good to consider if you have a current will in place. It only takes a few hours, and the peace of mind it provides is priceless. For more information on including Flat Rock in your estate plans, please contact Jill Kinser, Legacy Giving Specialist, [jkinser@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:jkinser@flatrockhomes.org).

## Mark your calendar for #GivingTuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

#GivingTuesday has raised nearly \$80,000 for Flat Rock Homes to help with many projects across our mission! #Giving Tuesday is celebrated in the US on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving to encourage acts of generosity during the holidays. Globally, this initiative has raised billions of dollars for non-profit organizations.

This year we are working toward the prayer labyrinth portion of the TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center. The prayer labyrinth and surrounding area will provide a safe, comforting outdoor sensory space for individuals and staff to enjoy and unwind. For more information on this year's #GivingTuesday project, visit:

<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/givingtuesday/>

## The TRL (Transforming Lives, Restoring Hope, Living Faith) Outdoor Therapeutic Center

This project, on Flat Rock's main campus in Flat Rock, Ohio, includes much that will enhance the lives of those served by Flat Rock as well as those who work at the Care Center and Community Services programs. The entire project is estimated to cost \$242,000. To date, we have secured \$137,560 for this project. The project was kicked off with #GivingTuesday 2020 as generous donors helped raise \$37,545. Included in this huge undertaking is a prayer labyrinth, upgrades to the current playground area, demolition of several on-campus buildings, and the long-awaited Memorial Walking Trail. We can't wait to share more on this project as we get closer and closer to starting and completing the space. Please click here to see renderings of the project and read how you can help make it happen: <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/trl-outdoor-therapeutic-center/> Our 2021 #GivingTuesday campaign will raise funds to add planters, benches, landscaping, and a barn mural around the prayer labyrinth area.

## The Wall of Hope Begins!



Bucyrus UMC begins preparations for the initial Wall of Hope project! Pastor Mike Corwin and Rev. Becky Stephens recently received Wall of Hope envelopes to make available to the congregation during the Thanksgiving season. We look forward to following their progress. The Wall of Hope supports Flat Rock's legacy of providing security, safety, and shelter to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

As you plan for 2022, please consider including the Wall of Hope project, which will once again be featured during the Lenten season 2022. This project can also be highlighted during any special season in the life of the local congregation. Watch for details in future editions of this newsletter.

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