

April 2025

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Newsletter



Dueling Pianos

On Friday, March 14th, we held our annual Dueling Pianos fundraiser and it was so much fun. The sold out event brought people from the community to support Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home and we felt the love! Once again we were overjoyed to be entertained by the musical style of Evan and Tommy from the NY NY Dueling Pianos and they did not disappoint! They sang and played the songs that were requested all night no matter what the song was. The food provided by Alexander's was delicious and the raffle prizes were amazing! We raised much needed funds for Sanborn and we truly appreciate the community coming together to show their support!

We also couldn't have had such a fabulous event without the help and support of our wonderful sponsors; Blue Water Developmental Housing Inc., Nicholas Sears Construction, LLC, Scott Beedon—Fathom Realty, CIA Insurance & Risk Management/Hilb Group, Eastern Michigan Bank, In Memory of Jackie Ritter, Lake Huron Foundation, McLaren Port Huron, Michigan Metal Coating Co., Quality Computer Solutions, SEMCO Energy, Southeast Michigan Nonprofit Housing Corp., Women's Life Chapter 810, Woman's Life Chapter 830, Beacon Wealth Group, Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Genoa Healthcare, O'Connor Reality, Inc., Pollock-Randall Funeral Home, Inc., Sanborn Auxiliary, Shirkey Electric Co., Inc., St. Clair County Community Mental Health, Kathleen Swantek, Wolverine Market, Blue Water Women Magazine, Duraclean, Frohm Kelley Butler & Ryan, P.C., In Memory of Mary Jaros x 2, Independent Floor Covering, Mike David Painting, Overhead Door Co. of St. Clair County, and Professional Counseling Center, PC.



We couldn't have had such a great event without our sponsors and the wonderful community. Thank you for your support!

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home

Board of Directors

Tiffany Francis
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Nora Arnold
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Jeffrey VanDeusen
Treasurer

Scott Crawford

Juanita Gittings

Kristy Jones

Elizabeth Sawielski

Hargopal Tekumulla



Senior Millage
Recipient

Community Foundation





Smile FOR THE CAMERA





Please join us in welcoming our new board members and thanking them for their dedication and heart felt care for Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home.



Focus on New Board Member: Elizabeth (Liz) Sawielski

Liz brings over 20 years experience in nonprofit management, with a strong emphasis on leadership and fund development. Throughout her career, she has excelled in building collaborative relationships with stakeholders at all levels to effectively accomplish shared goals and meaningful projects. Her professional passions are deeply rooted in collaboration and human development, as she thrives on supporting others to succeed and reach their full potential.

Two years ago, Liz transitioned into manufacturing industry and currently serves as the Marketing Director at MMC, a metal coating applicator based in Port Huron.

Outside of work, Liz enjoys spending quality time with her three beloved pets (“mini—humans”), reading, gardening, organizing, exploring nature, and watching documentaries. Her passions include advocating for seniors, storytelling, creative activities and animals.

Reflecting on her new role with the Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Board, Liz Shares: “Older adults and seniors hold a special place in my heart, and I deeply admire Sanborn’s dedication to providing a safe, comfortable, and affordable housing for lower-income seniors. My passion is personal—I was incredibly close to my older father, and I cared for him during his final years. I often consider what his life would have been like without support, and his motivates me to actively contribute toward ensuring that no senior ever lacks shelter, food, or compassionate care. I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this community gem and carry on the work the five founding women began so very long ago.”

Focusing On New Board Member: Scott Crawford

Scott, a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, has worked for the Council on Aging for the past 30 years and became the Executive Director of the agency in 2015. He is currently the president of the Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging Association, has served as the president of the Michigan Association of Senior Centers. He currently sits on the Senior Advisory Committee of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. He is the Vice President of the Board of the YMCA. Of the Blue Water Area, Secretary of McLaren’s Marwood Manor Board of Directors, and a board member of Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Homes. He also sits on the Port Huron Advisory Board of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, and serves as the Vice Chair of the St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body. He and his wife Wendy have been married for 28 years and have two adult sons.

Focusing on New Board Member Kristy Jones



Married 34 years to Doug Jones, retired, Chief Probation Officer with the 72nd District Court, St. Clair County.

Together, they have a son, Owen, 28 years old, graduate of Michigan State University Law School, resident of Port Huron.

Currently employed as the Executive Director of the WPHB Business Network at *RadioFirst*.

As a third generation Port Huron/St. Clair resident, it is with passion that I speak of our community and all that it has to offer. My background in Social Work, Marketing, Real Estate, Municipal Government and Project Attraction of St. Clair County has not only afforded me an awareness of our area resources but also given me the opportunity to establish successful working relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders in the community.

Being present and an advocate of our county’s seniors has always been a passion of mine. I have been on the St. Clair County Commission on Aging since 2010. During my tenure, I was responsible for working with Blue Water Developmental Housing and bringing them on as a service provider for our homeless seniors in need of housing at Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home.

Sanborn holds a special place in my heart. As a young child, I remember visiting my great grandmother and sitting on her lap in the sunroom. When my great aunt, at the age of 103, could no longer remain in her home, her last months were spent in the warm, compassionate care of Sanborn.

It has always been apparent to me that those who reside and those who work at Sanborn Gratiot Memorial have a true love and belief in the history of care that has been given to our seniors over the past 80 years. I am happy to now be a part of the Board and continue the work set by those who have had the same passion for supporting this unbelievable gem of a community.

Board, Commissions and Organizations that I serve on:

St. Clair County Commission on Aging/Co-Chairperson, Lake Huron Medical Center Governance Board, Chair of Lake Huron Foundation, Member of Port Huron Rotary, Member of Community Service Coordinating Body/Community Mental Health, Member of Michigan Chapter of American Planning Association.




Join Us for The Big Give—A Day of Giving Back!

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home is excited to participate in
The Big Give

A special day of giving dedicated to supporting local nonprofits that make a difference in our community.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and help us continue providing quality care and enriching the lives of our residents.

 **May 14, 2025**

GIVE to Give: <https://www.thebiggivescc.com/organizations/sanborn-gratiot-memorial-home>

Your generous contributions will help us enhance our programs, provide meaningful activities, and ensure that our residents receive the best care possible. Every donation, big or small, makes an impact!

We appreciate your support in spreading the word—share this opportunity with family, friends, and colleagues who believe in compassionate senior care.

Together, we can make a difference!

For more information, please contact Kathy Baker @
baker@bwdh.org or 810-662-0957



MUSIC AT SANBORN



The Sanborn residents and Auxiliary enjoyed several February activities: Valentines, 80th Celebration, Music, and Staff Appreciation.



The ladies decorated special cards of red, white and pink decorations. Complete with a candy bar, to present each staff member on Valentines Day. Plus, each resident was surprised with a valentine bag filled with many useful items donated by caring friends.

Celebrating 80 years since the first guest moved into Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home.



You are cordially invited to
**Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Auxiliary
Spring Tea**



Thursday, May 8, 2025

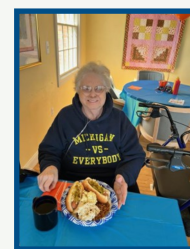
2:00-4:00

2732 Cherry Street, Port Huron

If you are unable to attend but wish to donate,
kindly send check payable to
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Auxiliary and mail to:
Mrs. Donna Class, 1635 Connecticut Ave., Marysville MI 48040



Once again this year, our residents were able to celebrate the Detroit Tigers home opener on April 4th with a party! Everyone gathered for goodies and to watch the game. The Tigers even brought a home victory by beating the Chicago White Sox. Final score was 7 to 4! What a great way to kick off the season!



Our Featured "Music Man" of the month began playing by ear at the age of three years! Pianist David Russell visited Sanborn on February 20th to delight everyone as he "tickled the ivories" and occasionally sang along. Bob Hope's theme song "Thanks for the Memories" took everyone back a few years to reminisce about Bob's many shows, entertaining the service men and women overseas. Voices chimed in when they heard the familiar, "New York, New York" by Frank Sinatra as well as several hits by the Beatles. Then "The Sting" and "12th Street Rag" got toes tapping and hands clapping. Following the music, David's engaging conversation with everyone continued over tasty lemon dessert. What a grand way to while away the snowy afternoon!





May 31st, 2025

9:00am—12:00pm

The annual spring clean up at Sanborn has been scheduled!! We need volunteers to come and help with the outside clean up from the winter months. Cleaning up any leaves, cleaning the flower beds, fixing any outside things that need fixing and all of that stuff that goes with outside maintenance. If you can spare some time, we would love to have you come.



If you can volunteer, please call
Betty Guigar at Sanborn
810-957-6048

MISSION

It is the mission of Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home, Inc. to provide an affordable, comfortable, safe, assisted living home to the aging community while striving to maintain a high quality of life for our residents through social activities, enrichment and involvement.

How Michigan Is Equipped To Dealing With An Aging Population

Scott Crawford, Executive Director of The Council on Aging, was on a webinar earlier this month. The topic was how Michigan is dealing with it's aging population. Michigan is currently ranked the 12th oldest state in the United States. Unfortunately, according to AARP, Michigan is the 31st in rating to be equipped with the resources to deal with our seniors.

This is thanks to the booming economy in the 40's, 50's and 60's. The economy brough lucrative jobs to Michigan, partly because of the booming auto industry.

Our state is extremely ill-prepared to manage the situation. The funding simply isn't adequate for affordable housing, assisted living or provisions to keep seniors in their existing homes. This can cause a huge strain on family members. It's estimated that if you were to hire caregivers to assist these seniors, the cost would be an astonishing 13 billion dollars. Resources are unfortunately shrinking more than showing growth from agencies to accommodate the aging population.

It is the up most importance to not make out elderly feel isolated. They need to feel valued, heard, that they are an important part of society. Unfortunately many seniors fall by the wayside and become depressed. We are fortunate in the St. Clair County to have a transportation service that caters to senior needs. For over 50 years, the Council on Aging has serviced seniors age 60 and older. They currently assist over 12,000 seniors per year remain self-sufficient. Senior mobility can be a prime factor whether or not a senior is able to live independently. For Instance: They can organize a two-way trip for a Port Huron to Yale for a doctor's appointment. Every effort is made in cases when individuals may need weekly continuous trips for treatments, (such as kidney dialysis or chemotherapy).

Continued advocacy for seniors is needed at the state and federal levels. Don't be afraid to drop a line to your state or federal representative to advocate for senior cervices.

Council on Aging, Inc. has 4 Senior Centers in the St. Clair area. The main office is at 600 Grand River Ave. Port Huron, MI 48060 and can be reached at 810-987-8811. You can also visit their website @ thecouncilonaging.org.



About Us

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home, Inc. provides residential assisted living for the elderly with a mission to serve lower income seniors who are semi-independent and seeking a secure and affordable residence. We are located near beautiful Lake Huron in Port Huron, Michigan in St. Clair County. Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home, Inc. is the only "licensed home for the aged" in St. Clair County and the only senior residence with a mission to serve lower income individuals.

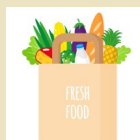
Our expanded circa 1890 Victorian-style house is comfortably designed for ambulatory individuals and we are licensed to provide care for up to 32 residents age 55 and older. Paraprofessional staff provide 24 hour compassionate care for residents including personal services, laundry, bathing and medication administration. Please see our Activities & Services page for more information.

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Do you know about Kroger Community Rewards? If you shop at Kroger, you can link your shopper's reward card to earn money for our organization at no cost to you and this will not affect your gas points! This program is designed so that Kroger donates back a percentage of your shopping total to the organization you designate and link to your shopper's reward card. Just go to Kroger.com and scroll to the bottom of the page where it says Community. Click on Community Rewards and follow the instructions to

sign up



Be sure to follow us on social media!
Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn!



Do you do a lot of shopping online? Want to know how you can help Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home while you shop online? Go to iGive.com and sign up for an account. It is a free service where shopping at any of over 2000 stores like Walmart, Travelocity, Chewy, Overstock and more will mean a percent of your purchase will get donated back to Sanborn at no additional cost to you!! Sign up for your free account today and start earning for Sanborn!



Contact Us

**Sanborn Gratiot
Memorial Home
2732 Cherry Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-5631
www.sanborngratiot.org**

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home has been an affiliated organization with United Way of St. Clair County for many years, enabling you to direct your gift to Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home. Sanborn Gratiot Memorial would like to encourage you to give generously to the United Way of St. Clair County to support its efforts to provide assistance to many deserving community agencies. Take some time to check out the United Way of St. Clair County's website to view current activities, fundraisers, newsletter and information about their current campaign.

Donations to the United Way of St. Clair County can also be made on their website or feel free to call 810-985-8169 to see how you can be an "everyday hero".

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial home is always accepting donations for our residents. Some of the items that we currently need are:

Kleenex, Body Wash, Shampoo, Combs and Brushes, Adult Wipes, Standard Size Pillow Cases, Lap Blankets, Twin Comforters, Craft Supplies and Prizes for Bingo.

If you or someone you know would like to donate these wish list items, please feel free to contact Betty Guigar at 810-985-5631 or email her at Sanborn@bwdh.org.



Endowment Fund

Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home is proud to partner with the Community Foundation of St Clair County.

The organization has established an endowment fund with the Community Foundation. This fund supports Sanborn Home by helping cover the costs of resident activities, furniture, supplies, and other operating costs that enhance the lives of seniors living in the home.

If you are interested in learning more about the Sanborn Endowment Fund or making a donation please go to:

www.stclairfoundation.org/fund/the-sanborn-gratiot-memorial-home-endowment