



## *Roxborough Home for Women*

From the Desk of the Executive Director:

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## ***View From the Hill: Reflections of the ROXBOROUGH HOME FOR WOMEN***

*Quarterly Newsletter – Winter/Spring 2026 Edition  
(January – March 2026)*

Dear Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Supporters:

As we begin a new year at Roxborough Home for Women, we are filled with gratitude, momentum, and optimism. The first quarter of 2026 has already brought meaningful moments of joy, community engagement, and significant progress in preserving and strengthening our historic Home.

This newsletter offers a snapshot of life inside the Home—celebrations, milestones, improvements, and the everyday experiences that make this such a special place for the women we serve.

## **Welcome New Resident**

We are delighted to welcome **Arlene Paul**, who joined our community in January. Arlene has already become a valued part of daily life at the Home, and we look forward to the friendships and memories she will build here.



**Arlene Paul**

## **In Loving Memory**

We honor the life and memory of **Joyce Gallagher**, who peacefully passed away on March 22, 2026, at the age of 93.

Joyce lived a life centered on family, compassion, and service. She was deeply devoted to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and her warmth touched all who knew her. Her years of service at Roxborough Memorial Hospital reflected her caring spirit and commitment to others.

We are grateful for the time Joyce spent as part of our Home. She will be remembered with great affection and respect.



**Joyce Gallagher (1932–2026)**

## **Preserving Our Historic Home: Capital Projects Update**

### **Porch Restoration – A Community Effort**

Originally designed in 1887 by the renowned architecture firm led by Frank Furness, our Victorian Mansion front facade and its attached porches are defining features of the Home and a cherished gathering place for many.

After weather-related and permitting delays, the restoration project is now back on track and expected to be completed within the next month or so. Soon, our residents will once again enjoy peaceful sunsets from the rocking chairs overlooking our

beautiful grounds. We will also need new porch rockers and other comfortable furniture for the ladies. Any donations to help fund the costs of these efforts are greatly appreciated.

Amusing to watch from our porches are one of our long-time, cherished, outdoor residents, the black squirrels, gracing the Horse Chestnut and Cedar trees that decorate our western acreage.



**Before the Work was begun**

### **How to Support:**

- Tax-deductible donations
- Business sponsorship opportunities
- Community advocacy and sharing

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### **First Floor Renovation Project (Upcoming)**

We are preparing for a major interior improvement project anticipated to begin in May/June 2026, including:

- Renovated bathrooms
- Creation of new meeting and gathering spaces

- Plaster restoration and repainting

This project is funded through a **Local Share Account (LSA) Grant** from the Commonwealth Financing Authority and the PIDC Financing Corporation.

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### **Infrastructure Upgrades (Upcoming)**

- **Full Facility Rewiring** – Funded by the Penn Home Foundation.
- **Central Air Installation (North Wing)** – Enhancing comfort for residents and staff, also generously funded by the Penn Home Foundation.

These investments ensure the Home remains safe, functional, and comfortable for years to come.

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### **Recent Repairs & Improvements**

- Restoration of historic stone wall following vehicle damage
- Waterline repair restoring full service to the Home
- Ongoing fundraising for replacement of the original exterior signage (for this we would greatly appreciate support for the costs of this replacement, taken down due to the pipe repair.)



(Repairs!)

## **Life at Home: Quarterly Highlights**

**Intergenerational Joy – January Bingo Event**

A heartfelt thank you to Church of the Saviour of Wayne, PA volunteers for a joyful Bingo gathering that brought together children, families, and residents for an afternoon of laughter and connection in January.



**(B-I-N-G-O!)**

### **Staff: The Heartbeat of RHW**

If Roxborough Home for Women runs smoothly, lovingly, and safely, it's because of the extraordinary staff who show up — day after day — with patience, professionalism, and genuine care.

In 2026, we will continue to strive for:

- Trust, transparency, and open communications
- A positive and respectful workplace culture
- Teamwork across roles and shifts
- Recognition, appreciation, and encouragement

This is not easy work — but it is extremely meaningful work. Our team shows care, concern, respect, and dignity for each of our lovely ladies. Our staff doesn't just

*work* here — they invest their hearts here. They serve our residents day and night, 24 hours, 365 days a year.



**Volunteers: Community in Action**

The year 2026 looks to be a promising year in new events, celebrations, programs, and volunteer engagement!

## **Our Volunteer Board: Leadership & Stewardship**

Our Board of Directors continues to offer steady guidance, thoughtful oversight, and meaningful partnership focused on strong governance, fiscal responsibility, and mission-aligned decision-making.

The Board extends its thank you to June Gondi, for her faithful service. She has stepped down in December due to professional commitments.

The Board welcomes its newest member, Kate Garrity, a local neighbor in Roxborough and Director of Library Services at Germantown Friends School.

Also new to the Board since the Fall of 2025 is Meghan McGeoy, representing a deep and long career in continuing care executive leadership.

Behind the scenes, essential work continues — compliance, policies, registrations, and systems — ensuring Roxborough Home for Women is positioned for a stable and vibrant future.

## **Music, Movies & Movement - Volunteering in all media!**

- Live music and dancing with classic vinyl records most every Tuesday morning led by our new, but very popular and regular volunteer, Priscilla Santana.
- “Night at the Movies” turning our Dining Room into a local movie theatre with a DVD projection machine onto an 8” x 8’ movie sheet, featuring the hit movie: *Home Alone* on February 19th. Next viewing is April 1st with Patrick Swayze in *Dirty Dancing*! The ladies lobbied HEAVILY for seeing this movie!
- Our ongoing commitment to create and promote new, exciting, creative, and engaging programming.
- Recently, a family member helped us purchase a a new, 75-inch television enhancing our 1<sup>st</sup> floor living room for the ladies to super-enjoy their network talk shows, game shows, soap operas, movies, sports, sit-coms, and news experience.
- **Special Visitors & Generosity**
  - We get regular visits from two of our four-footed friends, Bella and Tandy, bringing companionship and joy on different days and weeks.



(Bella the Dog is a favorite visitor with the Ladies)



### **TANDY & Ruth**

From program support to special events and celebrations, our volunteers brought new connections, talents, and joy into the daily life of the Home. Laying clearer foundations for volunteer orientation and support this year sets the stage for even

greater involvement in 2026. Volunteers remind us that community care is never a solo act — it's a shared commitment.

## In the News

We were honored to be featured on the front page of the *Roxborough Review* (January 21, 2026), highlighting the rich, 138+ years history of the Home, the daily life and activities of the wonderful women who live here, our programs, recent events, and the important work underway to preserve and strengthen this historic place of care and community.

The article was written by our Executive Director and proudly sponsored and supported by *Roxborough Review* reporter and freelance writer Richard Cawley, to whom we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for helping tell our story and shine a spotlight on the mission of the Home.



## St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Our residents celebrated St. Patrick's Day, not once, but twice this year! They couldn't get enough of the Irish luck! The week before and the week of the holiday, the ladies were treated to festive gatherings, music, treats, non-alcoholic libations, trivia, and a special luncheon featuring traditional favorites and seasonal treats.



### **Opening Day Celebration – A Home Run!**

On March 26, residents and staff celebrated the Phillies' Opening Day at the Bank, with a festive, ballpark-style tailgate featuring classic foods, decorations, and Phillies pride. Hot dogs and cracker jacks led the on-deck menu favorites, with ice cream to clean up the rooster.



## **Donors & Supporters: Generosity with Purpose**

To our donors — whether you gave once, monthly, yearly, as a board member, or as a grantee or Foundation or a friend — *you made this year possible.*

Your generosity supported:

- Quality care for women of limited financial means
- Program enhancements and meaningful experiences
- Operational stability and responsible stewardship
- Comfort, dignity, and peace of mind

Every gift carried significance, and every donor is sincerely appreciated.



## Community Connections that Spark Joy

This year reminded us of our appreciation for all of YOU, our friends, our supporters, our neighborhood, and the extended community. By using Facebook **Please like us on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/roxboroughhomeforwomen> in a more expanded way and sharing our posts with our neighborhood Facebook community pages, we were able to spread the word about our wonderful mission and work in the community, supporting our local, struggling senior ladies who need a place to live and thrive in the neighborhood they know. We also built support and involvement among our neighbors and friends.



## Looking Ahead

As we move into the next quarter, we look forward to:

- Completing the porch restoration
  - Launching the major renovation projects listed above
  - Expanding our programming, events, outings, and volunteer engagement
  - Continuing to provide compassionate, dignified care
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# Get Involved & Stay Connected

## We invite you to:

- Follow us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/roxboroughhomeforwomen/>
- Visit our website: [www.roxboroughhomeforwomen.com](http://www.roxboroughhomeforwomen.com)
- Watch for more stories, photos, and updates

## Opportunities:

- Openings for new residents
- Employment opportunities for Personal Care Assistants (PCAs)

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## Closing Message

Thank you for supporting Roxborough Home for Women and for helping us continue a legacy of dignity, compassion, and community for senior women in our neighborhood and beyond.

From all of us at RHW — and especially from the women who call this place home — thank you for being part of our story.

With sincere appreciation,

**Tom Wilcox**

Executive Director

**Athenae Evans**

Administrator

### **Roxborough Home for Women**

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The Roxborough Home for Women was established in 1887 to provide quality care and services for women of reduced financial means. The Home continues today as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable community providing superior personal, affordable care services for senior women in a nurturing, caring, and homelike environment. We're available to give tours seven days a week - just call 215-482-6615 or email us at [info@rhwomen.org](mailto:info@rhwomen.org) for more information. Check us out at: <https://roxboroughhomeforwomen.com/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/roxboroughhomeforwomen>

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