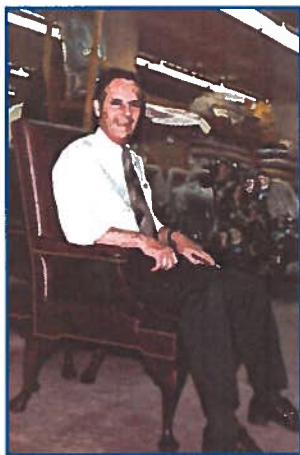


Continuing & Home Care Foundation

Quality of LIFE.

There's no place like home with Catholic Health's LIFE program.



Alois "Al" Szczepaniec lived life to the fullest. He played golf into his late 80s. At 90, he still drove his car, and he swam laps at the YMCA. Widowed in 2000, he had lived in his North Buffalo home for 67 years.

When health issues began to slow Al down, his family felt a man this self-reliant should be able to remain in his own home. Catholic Health's LIFE (Living Independently for Elders) program made that possible. LIFE is designed for older adults, who qualify for nursing home care, but wish to live at home.

Al's son, Richard Szczepaniec, says it was a lifesaver for his family. "I was the primary caregiver in the family and was running out of social work skills," he explains. "When my father landed

in Kenmore Mercy Hospital after a fall, I learned about the LIFE program."

Once out of the hospital, Al was enrolled in LIFE, which is based at the OLV Senior Neighborhood in Lackawanna. A van picked up Al at his home once or twice a week to take him to the LIFE center where he received physical and occupational therapy, personal care services, lunch, and recreational opportunities with other seniors.

Toward the end of Al's life, the program provided palliative care in his home, where he passed away at 95. Mr. Szczepaniec says he was touched by the dedication of the LIFE staff. "The LIFE program was as good for my family and me as it was for my father," he added. "We could not have cared for him at home without it."

EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES & SERVICES FUNDED ENTIRELY BY DONATIONS:

Programs:

- **McAuley Residence Cross & Care Project with Chaplain Joe Blatz** – McAuley Residence
- **"Oktoberfest" Entertainment for Residents** – Our Lady of Victory Skilled Nursing Facility
- **Nativity Display & Spiritual Care Items for Sr. Jean Klimczak** – Father Baker Manor

Equipment:

- **Courtyard Automatic Door Opener** – Father Baker Manor
- **Dietary Menu Board** – St. Francis Williamsville
- **CD players & LCD TV for Sub Acute dining room** – McAuley Residence

Education:

- **Lucia Dika Scholarship** – St. Catherine Labore & St. Francis Williamsville

Continuing education.

Couple creates scholarship to help nurses learn in geriatric care.

Lucia Dika was a resident at St. Catherine Labouré Health Care Center, a nursing home on the Sisters Hospital campus in Buffalo. When Lucia passed away at the age of 94, her daughter, Vera, and Vera's husband, Henry Seggerman, wanted to honor Lucia's memory and recognize the quality of care she received at the center.

The couple created the Lucia Dika Scholarship to help nurses and other staff involved in the care of the elderly at the center. According to Henry Seggerman,

the scholarship was influenced not only by the care Lucia received, but also by the changing face of geriatric care in our society.

"The staff was very compassionate with Vera's mother," Mr. Seggerman explains. "We also recognized opportunities for the staff to develop their careers that would benefit them as well as the residents."

The Lucia Dika Scholarship offers two different scholarship opportunities. One gives RNs and LPNs the opportunity to obtain

certifications in geriatric medicine to keep pace with the latest advances in the field, while the other supports nurses aides who want to further their careers by becoming an LPN or RN.

Because Mr. Seggerman and his wife live in New York City, the care Lucia received at St. Catherine's gave the couple added peace of mind. "The overall environment created very warm feelings of trust for us," Mr. Seggerman concludes. "The organization is very deserving of our support."

