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## Duo loves ‘singing for the Lord’

by Bettie Marlowe

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THE SINGING DUO Chuck Cain and Lois Nicholson are always ready to “sing for the Lord” at Signature HealthCare. The two are not “kin,” Cain said, “we just enjoy singing together. They say they enjoy singing at the special church services and at other activities. Banner photo, BETTIE MARLOWE

Andrew “Chuck” Cain found a singing partner at Signature HealthCare of Cleveland. And he continues his lifelong love of music in another setting.

Lois Nicholson, a Cleveland native, has been a resident of Signature seven years. Before she came to Signature, Nicholson said she just kept house. Now she volunteers and serves at the place she calls home. “I deliver menus, take mail to the rooms and help the church people when they come to visit,” she said. “I just want something to do.”

Nicholson has four children — three in Cleveland and one in Alabama, who was in the tornado disaster there. And although she doesn’t “keep house” anymore, she’s found another niche at the home — she sings.

The two are dedicated singers for the Lord, Cain said. They’re “on program” every Tuesday and Saturday at 10 a.m., and also through the week at random times. They have been singing together four or five years. It doesn’t hinder that they’re both in wheelchairs. He lost both legs 25 years ago.

Cain came from a musical background — “a long line of singers,” he said. His father taught singing 15 years and both grandmothers were singers for church and other functions.

At age 10, Cain began singing in bars and he played every musical instrument he could pick up. He played at the Grand Ole Opry — on stage with the Louvin Brothers. They were on top for 10 or 15 years, he said.

“I had many doors open for me in Nashville,” he recalled, and he said he met

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many stars such as George Jones, Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins and Porter Waggoner.

So it was natural that when he moved to Signature, he would continue his life’s love and find someone who would join him in “singing for the Lord,” which has been his focus since he “turned over a new leaf.”

Cain had been a tractor-and-trailer driver for several years and then for 17 years drove the bus as he traveled with the Canaan Light Quartet. It was after that he had to have his legs amputated because of circulation problems which occurred through being on the road continuously.

He has been a resident of Signature HealthCare for nine and a half years, coming after suffering a stroke. He has four children – two boys and two girls. Cain said his family’s love has been supportive through the years.

Cain and Nicholson both praised the health care facility – “The staff is wonderful and the place is nice and clean” they agreed, “and we enjoy being here.”

It’s so important, the two singers agreed, that you stay encouraged and “keep smiling.” Cain said there is always someone in “worse shape than you are.” And, he continued, we pray for people all over the world continuously. The most impressive thing you’ll ever see, he said, is when you see a soul “walk down the aisle” (to an altar).

“I promised the Lord, I’d sing for him,” Cain said. So he and Nicholson never pass up an opportunity to sing and praise the Lord. He said he feels this is a ministry for him.

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