



A Love That Endures

Saint Elizabeth Home resident Donna Sawyer has brightened the atmosphere in the Cove since she first joined our community in April 2023. Every day, her devoted husband Bob brings her breakfast pastry and coffee to enjoy in the Coffee Shoppe, a sight that warms the hearts of everyone who sees them.

For many years, Donna was a force to be reckoned with on the tennis court, ranked second in Rhode Island's Super Seniors tennis league. Staying active was a cornerstone of their relationship.

Bob fondly recalls, "After retirement, we traveled extensively, starting with London and Paris. But our

greatest memories are from cycling together. We went on a 30-mile-a-day bike barge trip through the canals of Holland. The barge followed alongside, making it a memorable experience." Everything changed in May 2015 when Donna experienced a medical emergency during a tennis match. Soon following this event, which led to early detection screening, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and began to face a cognitive decline.

Support for Memory Care and Aging

For five years, Donna participated in a groundbreaking clinical study for Alzheimer's disease patients testing Omega-3 fatty acids to slow the condition's progression. The study concluded in 2021, then Donna transitioned to Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Memory Care Center in Warwick, attending three days a week. There she participated in engaging physical and mental activities while receiving care.

Finally, Donna found her new home on the Cove at Saint Elizabeth Home in East Greenwich. A specialized wing, the Cove is a secure living area for 40 residents with dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease. The staff are specially trained regarding the needs of individuals with memory loss, and they provide nurturing and compassionate care in a warm and supportive environment. Donna's husband, Bob, is a familiar face to everyone on the Cove and throughout the Home, visiting his wife daily. Although he is faced with the challenges of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's, he remains positive and upbeat.

"It's like we're falling in love all over again."

Bob emphasizes the new bond he and his wife formed. "It's like we're falling in love all over again," he beams. A simple act, placing a necklace on Donna each day, brings them immense joy. He finds solace knowing his wife receives exceptional care. Their love story continues to blossom, surrounded by their supportive daughters and grandchildren as well as a close-knit group of friends and a community of caregivers.

Message from the President & CEO



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share with you our Spring newsletter, showcasing highlights from our work providing compassionate care to our elders across the aging spectrum.

As you can see from our cover story, there are a wide range of feelings associated with aging. The Sawyers' story is filled with an enduring love, but we also must acknowledge the emotions connected with supporting someone affected by Alzheimer's disease. There is a tremendous strain on both the patient and the caregiver.

Reducing that stress on families is a critical part of what we do. Our Adult Day Centers, for example, provide respite – a break, if you will – for family members facing the day-to-day challenge of caring for their loved ones. At the same time, our participants are fully engaged in meaningful activities that reinforce their social, physical and emotional needs.

Saint Elizabeth Home Care also provides relief from this pressure, with services that range from companions who spend quality time with elders, staving off loneliness, to private duty nurses that care for those with more complicated conditions.

Our Aging Life Care Services, formerly called Geriatric Care Management, also helps reduce the stress of planning for long-term care whether it's for ourselves or our elder loved ones. Led by Caroline Rumowicz, our specialists conduct an assessment, identify the greatest areas of concern and develop a strategy to address them. Over the years, that plan is evaluated and revised.

I say it every day, but it's still not enough: None of this work would be possible without the commitment and dedication of our incredible staff. In this economy, we know that healthcare workers have many opportunities, and we appreciate the members of our team for choosing to be a part of our organization.

The same goes for you, our donors, volunteers, family members and friends who continue to support us here at Saint Elizabeth Community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew Trimble".

Matthew R. Trimble, NHA
President & CEO

P.S. We hope you'll stay in touch. Please be sure to follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube or subscribe to our E-News on our homepage: stelizabethcommunity.org.

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- Matthew R. Trimble, President & CEO

Modernizing CNA Training



There's a new member of the team in our Workforce Development Center made possible by a grant from the Governor's Workforce Board. Our life-sized CNA training manikin reflects the nursing care challenges that healthcare professionals face in eldercare on a daily basis.

Nicknamed Diva, this new training tool presents a wide range of situations allowing students to practice before interacting with real patients. The manikin can simulate airway management, blood pressure, defibrillation, full body CPR, and IV management, making it ideal for training at every level.

"The students really appreciate practicing on our Diva," explained Amy Nield, clinical nursing instructor. "They get to perfect their skills and gain the confidence it takes to provide quality care to the elders in our community."

Adult Day Programs Offer Specialized Care

Programs address needs of older adults affected by Alzheimer's & Parkinson's diseases

As our Adult Day Centers continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the people we serve, we have added specialized care focusing on older adults affected by Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and other related conditions.

"Research shows that early intervention can help slow the progression of both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," explained Jessica Gosselin, director of adult day programs. "By participating in adult day programs, seniors are engaged physically, mentally and socially in ways that combat the development of these disorders."

Actively engaging seniors in fulfilling activities can help slow the onset and progression of both conditions. That's the goal of day programs designed to help older adults both before their diagnosis and once they're in the early stages of either disease.



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Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Centers
*Apponaug, Bristol,
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Statewide

*Our community
of caring...*



*Top left: Radiant rays of creativity!
Anna Scialla, a resident at Saint Elizabeth Home, proudly displays her stunning handmade suncatcher crafted during an activities session.*

Top right: Building bridges and creating memories across generations! Raylene Cole, resident at Saint Elizabeth Assisted Living, is partnered with Darius Lenus, a student from Paul Cuffee High School for a fun-filled afternoon of gingerbread house making.

Mid right: Nancy Burns and David Harvey play a game of Giant Jenga in The GREEN HOUSE® Homes!

Bottom: Gathering for a cardio drumming class, participants at the Apponaug Adult Day Center come together for a vibrant session of rhythmic exercise.

Top: Putting the pieces together, one connection at a time! Eda Marandola and Sandy Shadeck, participants at Saint Elizabeth Memory Care Center, collaborate joyfully as they complete a puzzle together.

Bottom: Gerry D'Alessio and St. E's team member Maria Tiernan, browse through interesting books together during an activity at Saint Elizabeth Memory Care Center.



Our Mission...

*to provide exceptional, compassionate care
in an array of settings. We embrace the needs of each individual
in an environment where those we care for, and work with, are treated just like family.*



Golf Classic

Monday, June 17, 2024

Quidnessett Country Club
North Kingstown, RI

Join us for
the Annual Golf Classic

Sponsorship Opportunities & Foursomes Available

Register by Wednesday, May 15



"We are very excited about the Saint Elizabeth Community Golf Classic coming up on Monday, June, 17th. For the first time, we will be hosting the tournament at beautiful Quidnessett Country Club, located on Narragansett Bay. We've had early momentum with sponsorships and anticipate another sell-out this year. I look forward to seeing you there!"

- Chad Bjorklund, Executive Vice President, The Hilb Group, Golf Classic Chair

For more information contact the Philanthropy Department at 401-773-7419 or visit our website by scanning the QR code



SAVE
THE DATE

Thursday,
September 5, 2024

Crowne Plaza Warwick
5:30 pm

INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT LATE JUNE.

Join us for Rose Bids Auction and Gala

The Rose Bids committee is already busy planning end-of-summer fun for our 2024 Rose Bids Auction & Gala on Thursday, September 5th at the Crowne Plaza Pavilion Warwick.

"Labor Day has always been known as the unofficial end of summer. Not this year! We are planning to keep the summer going with plenty of food, friends and fun," explains Rose Bids Co-Chair, Claire Flaherty. "I'm excited for this event because we are making some exciting changes," adds Marcie Maffeo, Rose Bids Co-Chair. "We want guests to really enjoy their time with friends and colleagues. We want everyone under the tent to have a magical evening!"

This year's Rose Bids Auction & Gala will include a cocktail reception, reception-style dinner featuring tasting stations, silent auction, a limited speaking program, and other exciting elements!



To learn more about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, contact the Philanthropy Department at 401-773-7421 or scan the QR code at left.

Gertrude G. Campanella Scholarship Celebrates 10 Year Milestone

“The most special gifts to Saint Elizabeth Community are those we receive in memory of our elders or in honor of our staff, but the most memorable gifts are the ones that do both.” begins Chief Philanthropy Officer, Erica Bryson, CFRE.

The Gertrude G. Campanella Scholarship Fund was established in December 2013 by an anonymous donation to Saint Elizabeth Manor, formerly a member of Saint Elizabeth Community. The gift was made in honor of Gertrude, a long-time resident who passed away in 2014 shortly after the first scholarships were awarded.

“The donors explained that Gertrude always encouraged the people around her to ‘better themselves’ through education,” explains Bryson. “As part of our endowment, the fund will provide a scholarship every year for generations to come.”

Beth Russell, Administrator at Saint Elizabeth Home, with this year's scholarship winner Melissa Padilla, CNA.



March 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the Gertrude G. Campanella Scholarship. Saint Elizabeth Home Care employee, Melissa Padilla, CNA was chosen to receive the annual scholarship award of \$1,000.

“Working with my clients in Home Care is what inspires me to move upwards. I want to make sure my clients are safe and healthy,” explains Padilla. “I feel that taking the Certified Medication Technician course is a step in the right direction.”
Congratulations, Melissa!

Gertrude Campanella with Beth Russell in 2014.

“The most special gifts to Saint Elizabeth Community are those we receive in memory of our elders or in honor of our staff, but the most memorable gifts are the ones that do both.”

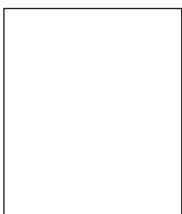
SEC Welcomes New Senior Philanthropy Officer

Saint Elizabeth Community is pleased to welcome Debra Konicki as our new Senior Philanthropy Officer. Debra has extensive fundraising experience and we are delighted she has chosen to join our team. She is already out and about touring the Community and looks forward to meeting with our valued constituents.



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2364 Post Road, Suite 100
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IN THIS EDITION



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- Modernizing CNA Training
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- Introducing Our Campanella Scholarship Winner

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