



Saint Elizabeth Community Awarded \$1.4M to Expand SASH® Program



Saint Elizabeth Community has been awarded \$1,441,000 from the RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services (OHHS) for the expansion of the SASH® (Support and Services at Home) model of supportive housing. The grant comes from the “Money Follows the Person” federal Medicaid funds, and will fuel the expansion of the SASH® Program to five additional sites, bringing the total number of sites to six.

“We are thrilled with the grant award to expand the SASH® program,” says Matthew R. Trimble, President & CEO of Saint Elizabeth Community. “This program has made great impacts, reducing hospitalizations, and supporting seniors as they continue to live independently as they age.”

Currently the program serves 85 residents in Providence at Saint Elizabeth Apartments for Seniors and Mobility Impaired (formerly known as Saint Elizabeth Place). SASH® participants receive on-site services. Health and wellness programs

teach prevention and management of common chronic conditions and classes are in both English and Spanish.

“A wide spectrum of topics support residents living with a variety of medical conditions,” says SASH® Director Barbara Gavin.

This program was introduced by Saint Elizabeth Community in RI in 2017 and is based on a very successful statewide SASH® program in Vermont introduced in that state in 2011.

The SASH® model has demonstrated decreased rates of ER visits, hospitalizations and nursing facility placement. Saint Elizabeth Community’s Executive VP of Strategic Initiatives, Roberta Merkle, was instrumental in working with the State of RI to extend the reach of the SASH® program and concludes, “We look forward to expanding SASH®, a FREE program that offers coordinated supportive services helping participants live safely and healthfully at home.”



Roberta B. Merkle, Matthew R. Trimble, and Barbara Gavin

Among the dozens of SASH programs offered are:

- Fall Risk Assessments - Cyber-Seniors & Tech Day - Understanding Drug Tolerance - Discussions on Anxiety & Depression
- Walking Group - Diabetes Self-Management - Blood Pressure Clinic - Chair Yoga, Meditation - Sleep Disturbance/Insomnia
- Chronic Pain Workshop - Combating Loneliness with EASE - Food & Nutrition - How to Talk with Your Doctor
- Stroke Prevention - Annual Health & Wellness Fair

Message from the President & CEO

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year!

What a year it has been! COVID-19 is still in the forefront of our minds, but I remain hopeful for better days ahead. This year we celebrate a milestone anniversary of our organization's founding in 1882. Saint Elizabeth Community is proud to have continuously served Rhode Islanders for the past 140 years. Our longevity combined with our commitment to excellence have made our organization a trusted provider of care.

As a mission-driven organization we strive to provide exceptional, compassionate care in an array of settings, while valuing:

• **The Person** • **Relationships** • **Leadership and Innovation** • **Education and Learning**



Our dedicated staff bring our mission to life and we owe them a debt of gratitude for facing challenges each and every day. As you will see in the Starfish Award story ahead, our employees are making a difference.

Saint Elizabeth Community moved forward to meet the needs of RI elders by opening a new adult day center in South Kingstown in 2021. Our four adult day centers have supported hundreds of families. When considering options for seniors and adults with disabilities, please keep adult day care in mind.

Our year ended with excellent news from the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, as Saint Elizabeth Community was awarded a 1.4 million dollar grant to expand the SASH® program. We are grateful for the trust placed in Saint Elizabeth Community by our state.

In Rhode Island, and across our nation, there is a great need for nurses and certified nursing assistants. This is also true for our organization. We are hiring! Many of our best staff members come to us from friends who know and trust our organization. All our positions are listed on our website at: www.stelizabethcommunity.org/SECOpenPositions. If you know a good candidate please send them our way!

As we begin 2022, I continue to be grateful to our staff, recognizing their incredible resiliency as they demonstrate great commitment and compassion to those in our care, and to each other. Our long history continues thanks to our staff, our donors, and to our community who choose Saint Elizabeth Community for trusted care and services.

With gratitude,

Handwritten signature of Matthew R. Trimble

Matthew R. Trimble, NHA
President & CEO

*“Our longevity combined with our commitment
to excellence have made our organization a trusted provider of care.”*

CNA Students Earn While They Learn



Certified Nursing Assistants are the foundation of patient care. With the current workforce crisis, finding qualified CNAs has been a challenge; so much so that in 2021 nearly 1,000 CNA positions were unfilled in Rhode Island. In order to ensure a strong workforce, Saint Elizabeth Community has made a significant investment in its CNA Training Program.

“Though the staff-led program has always been free of charge, most have found it hard to commit to the 175-hour program without also having other employment,” begins Beth Russell, Director of Operations. “In 2021, we started hiring accepted students and paying an hourly

wage at the start of their training. By making this change, we are providing opportunity for those who otherwise would not be able to participate. We are also now guaranteeing a position to students once they pass the exam.”

“It is clear to us that recruiting, training, and retaining CNA staff is critical,” continues Beth. “We cannot do it alone. We are very fortunate to have community partners who understand the need and have provided essential grant support including: Centreville Bank, Emma Harris Foundation, The Rhode Island Foundation, and Department of Labor and Training.”



“I volunteered at the GREEN HOUSE® Homes for four years and I loved seeing the CNAs work. I want to become a nurse so this program was a great starting point for me. It was great that we jumped right in and how during clinicals I was able to meet the residents I’d actually be working with. I really enjoyed the classes and it made all the difference knowing I had a job waiting for me.” - Tina Decoteau, CNA, seen above with Beth Russell,

Director of Operations, Saint Elizabeth Community

For information about our CNA Program
visit stelizabethcommunity.org/careers

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Saint Elizabeth Community

Saint Elizabeth Home

Trusted Care Since 1882

Saint Elizabeth GREEN HOUSE® Homes

Innovative model of nursing home care

Saint Elizabeth Assisted Living

Formerly Saint Elizabeth Court

Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Centers

Formerly Cornerstone Adult Services

Saint Elizabeth Home Care

Formerly Cathleen Naughton Associates

Saint Elizabeth Apartments for Seniors and Mobility-Impaired

Formerly Saint Elizabeth Place

Saint Elizabeth Apartments for Seniors

Formerly Saint Elizabeth Terrace

*Embracing the needs of
each individual...*



(top to bottom) Stephanie Huling, RN, brings a smile to Gertrude “Dolly” Vanvliet during a routine visit to her apartment. At the age of 99, Dolly is living as independently as possible thanks to the support from her Saint Elizabeth Home Care team.

Knitting, sipping tea and chatting! What a nice way to spend a winter afternoon at Saint Elizabeth Apartments for Seniors in Warwick agree Doreen Monroe, Resident Service Coordinator(l) and resident Cathy Catucci (r). The group recently donated hand-made knitted mittens, hats, and scarves to local community members in need.

Gerri Myrick enjoys creating a rhythm on the drums during a music therapy program at Saint Elizabeth Assisted Living. Residents keep engaged choosing from various programs to enrich their lives that include music, art, exercise, spiritual care and more.

Doris O’Connell, Saint Elizabeth GREEN HOUSE® Home resident, stirs the batter to make delicious pumpkin pies. At the age of 101, Doris enjoys helping out in the kitchen with her fellow residents and caregivers.

Natalie Vecchio’s passion in life is art! She achieved a degree in art from the University of Rhode Island at the age of 77 (over 20 years ago!). As a resident on “The Bay” neighborhood at Saint Elizabeth Home, Natalie has a cozy space where she can set up her paints and create!

(photo right) Harold Geller, a participant at the Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Center in South Kingstown, has a routine blood pressure check from Registered Nurse Allie Cichon. A nurse is on site at all four adult day centers to manage participants’ care.



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.



Focus on Philanthropy



A Tradition of Giving

It all began with a sack of potatoes donated in 1882. This simple act of kindness sparked a tradition of giving that has now spanned 140 years.

From the beginning, the women of Saint Elizabeth Guild realized that the success of their outreach would rely on the support of the community and began asking for donations. Within three years they received their first five-figure gift...pretty impressive for 1885...and by 1887, the board of managers paid off their existing debt. What a feat for the times!

With the \$4,000 remaining in the treasury, an endowment was established. Little did they know they had planted the seed for what is now Saint Elizabeth Community's most critical resource. These early acts of philanthropy served as the building blocks for the generations of giving that would follow.

"It's not an exaggeration to say that Saint Elizabeth Community has been built on the generosity of the community," begins Chief Philanthropy Officer, Erica Bryson, CFRE. "It is with their support that land has been purchased, buildings constructed, programs and services expanded, even entire service lines added... because people cared and came forward with gifts of all sizes."

From donation days (as seen above) and special events to grants and individual giving, the spirit of philanthropy has always been a strong tradition.

Generous Generations

When Judy Vigar was invited to be a member of the Board of Trustees, it was like coming home. Her mother, Dotty Wells, who passed in 2011, was a long-time board member and philanthropy volunteer. It was only natural that Judy became Philanthropy Team Chair in 2014.

"My family has been a part of Saint Elizabeth Community for three generations now. I remember visiting family friends at the original Saint Elizabeth Home in Providence as a little girl. It feels like I have always been a part of the Saint E's family," begins Judy.

"My mother believed strongly in giving back. I always admired the relationships she built at Saint Elizabeth. She loved the work and the people...they became a second family! Mom was so proud to be involved and I am proud to be carrying on her legacy for another generation."



We invite you to be a part of the tradition of giving. For more information please contact Erica Bryson, CFRE, at 401-773-7419 or visit stelizabethcommunity.org/giving.



Starfish Award Celebrates Excellence

Started with an anonymous donation in 2014, The Starfish Award recognizes employees whose care philosophy touches the hearts of those they serve in a way that is above and beyond any job description. Starfish Awards are presented each November.

“It was inspiring to attend the Starfish Award ceremonies and hear the wonderful stories and kind words shared by family members, elders and staff,” shares Matthew R. Trimble, President & CEO. “Our staff is the heart of our organization and it’s wonderful to know their hard work and dedication are felt throughout Saint Elizabeth Community.”

Congratulations Winners!

Bailey Kowal, Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Centers

“Bailey’s caring, compassionate and can-do attitude ignites joy and gratitude in our participants and family members. Recently a participant told me she didn’t want to go anywhere else because Bailey is so good to the participants. Bailey has made a difference.” - Eileen U.

Kelsie Way, Saint Elizabeth Home

“During Kelsie’s first week on the job she purchased balloons, flowers, treats and made a handwritten card for an elder who had just turned 102. How big a heart and great a spirit Kelsie must have to go so above and beyond for an elder that she hadn’t known for more than a couple of shifts.” - A Grateful Colleague

Carlos Moscadelo, Saint Elizabeth Assisted Living

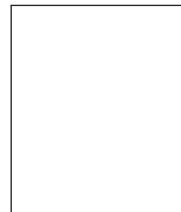
“Carlos creates positivity and enthusiasm within our community. He brings a smile to both staff and residents alike. He’s willing to go beyond his normal duties to make sure the residents enjoy themselves. Everyone loves Carlos!” - Anonymous

Lisa Bapties, Saint Elizabeth Home Care

My mother is 97 years old and suffers from dementia. She actually was not very nice to some of the initial aides I hired to help her. She LOVES Lisa. Lisa is very patient with my mother, and actually takes the time to talk to her. I will be forever grateful for the kindness and concern that Lisa has shown my Mother.” - Linda D, family member



*For more information on the
Starfish Award visit us at
stelizabethcommunity.org/starfishaward*



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