

Happenings

March 2021

Leave a Legacy Using Your Bethesda Entrance Fee

What does it mean to leave a legacy? Our legacy allows us to keep improving the lives of future generations long after we pass away, which make our community and world a better place for others.



Bethesda offers our residents an opportunity to leave a legacy and impact future generations

of their fellow seniors without writing a check or even using a credit card. Through our *Lasting Heritage* program, residents can use their refundable entrance fee or deposit to make meaningful

contributions to the Foundation annually. These gifts may honor or memorialize loved ones or be earmarked for a Bethesda community, service, or fund. *Lasting Heritage* offers Bethesda seniors a convenient way to use an asset that is often overlooked.

“I wanted to help seniors in need, and *Lasting Heritage* made it convenient for me to do this. What a wonderful way to leave a legacy and makes a difference in the lives of Bethesda seniors!” says Martha Sivier, a resident at Bethesda Gardens.

For information about the *Lasting Heritage* program, contact the BHG Foundation at 314-800-1981 or pedempski@BethesdaHealth.org.

Hospice Care and Telehealth Receive Grants

The Bethesda Hospice Care program has received a gift of \$10,000 from the **Sam and Justina Halley Charitable Foundation**, which will go a long way to help our professional team manage unique end of life care needs of local seniors and veterans.

Additionally, two foundations have been gracious enough to fund initiatives to increase the use of telehealth services for Bethesda residents. The Sam and Justina Halley Charitable Foundation made an additional gift of \$4,000, which will be earmarked for the purchase of I-pads for our caregivers. **The Charless Foundation** also distributed a \$10,000 grant to Bethesda recently for telehealth technology

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Bethesda Preparing for Give STL Day

Bethesda is excited to be a part of the 8th annual **Give STL Day**, St. Louis’ 24-hour day of online giving, which is taking place on **May 6**. The St. Louis Community Foundation sponsors Give STL Day as part of an initiative to expand charitable giving in our community, and strengthen the presence of charitable organizations.

“Bethesda has been a part of the St. Louis community for 132 years, and like many organizations, has faced exceptional challenges due to COVID-19. I began investing in Bethesda more than eight years ago, when I moved to Barclay House. I am happy to renew my support so Bethesda continues helping St. Louis seniors.” says



Kathy Lupo, a resident of Bethesda Barclay House.

Early giving for the Give STL

Day campaign begins April 5. You can go to GiveSTLDay.org to make your gift to Bethesda, so we may continue helping area seniors.

Coronavirus Stimulus 2.0

The **Consolidated Appropriations Act**, a.k.a. **Coronavirus Stimulus 2.0**, was signed into law in December 2020. This Act expanded on the CARES Act, which was created to help people, businesses, and nonprofit organizations facing economic hardship during the coronavirus pandemic.

Some of tax changes featured in **Coronavirus Stimulus 2.0** may affect you.

- Payments of \$600 were made to all eligible individuals, \$1,200 to married individuals, and \$600 for each qualifying child. However, payments gradually phase out for those with incomes above \$75,000

(single taxpayers), \$112,500 (taxpayers filing as head of household), and \$150,000 (married couples filing jointly).

- Continues the CARES Act provision to allow full tax deductibility for all cash gifts up to \$300, regardless of whether you itemize or not, and expands it to \$600 for married couples filing jointly in 2021. For individuals who itemize, cash gifts will be tax deductible up to 100% of your adjusted gross income (up from 60% in previous years).

Consult your tax advisor for more information about how the Coronavirus Stimulus 2.0 could potentially impact you.

Good People Doing Good Things, Diane Masawi

Bethesda continues to keep our commitment to health and safety as we administer COVID-19 vaccinations to our staff and residents. Many of our team members are going “above and beyond” to assure this adherence to health and safety.



One shining example is **Diane Masawi, LPN at Bethesda Meadow**, who several times on her days off chose either lend an extra hand with the COVID-19 swab testing or help with the COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

“Diane is a fabulous mentor and trainer, and an ideal example for our new staff,” says Shelly Ketsenburg, Staff Development Coordinator at Bethesda Meadow. “She

makes them feel welcome and displays all of the characteristics of professionalism. No matter the circumstance, Diane genuinely displays optimism to her co-workers. The fact that she came in several times on her days off to help with the COVID-19 testing and vaccine administration is not a surprise to any of us who know her and work with her.”

Diane has worked with Bethesda residents for more than 20 years. She is pictured above with Betty Garner, a resident of Bethesda Meadow. Thank you, Diane, for being a wonderful role model for Bethesda!

Hospice Care and Telehealth Receive Grants

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enhancements for the delivery of care to seniors in their own homes.

Particularly during the pandemic, the use of telehealth has become even more important as Bethesda continues to deliver quality healthcare. A heartfelt thank you to both the Sam and Justina Halley Charitable Foundation and the Charless Foundation for your continued support!

Senior SPOTLIGHT

Jane Wilhelms



Jane Wilhelms, who has lived at Bethesda Gardens for nearly six years, serves on their Resident Council. A special “shout out” to Jane for organizing a multitude of activities for our residents so they may get to know their neighbors better. Jane has even tried to continue this effort during the pandemic, when groups were not allowed to gather.

One effort which has proven to be especially successful is what Jane calls “Get to Know Your Neighbor,” where residents display their hobbies such as quilting and collections. The quilting event last year displayed more than 80 quilts throughout Bethesda Gardens, and attracted several members of quilting clubs and the community (pre-pandemic).

Thank you, Jane, for your hard work and commitment to making Bethesda Gardens a great place to live!