Lifelong Learning

CONNECTING PEOPLE FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY

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A Letter from Mary

Mary Routhieaux
Episcopal Homes’ Chief Advancement Office and Foundation Executive Director

As kids head back to school this fall, our newsletter features stories of residents, volunteers, and staff of Episcopal Homes who demonstrate that learning is a lifelong endeavor. These individuals’ pursuit of knowledge has impacted their personal growth and social connectedness, while enriching our broader community.

Read about Terrace resident, June, who learns and grows as a member of our Grief Support Group – a setting that enables June to share her journey among peers as she adapts with grace to life after the loss of her 60-year best friend and beloved husband, Jack.

Read about Pam, who was searching for new sources of meaning after retiring from a 28-year career and found that meaning as an Episcopal Homes volunteer, learning new curriculum and teaching technology navigation courses to elders throughout our campus.

Read about Chika, who began her career as an LPN with Episcopal Church Home before continuing her education, recently graduating with her RN license, and being promoted to serve as Iris Park Common’s newest RN supervisor.

June, Pam and Chika’s stories are all shaped through the generosity of our Foundation donors whose contributions help fund Spiritual Life Services, like our support groups; learning offerings, like technology navigation courses; and employee scholarships, which enabled Chika to continue her education.

Finally, read about one of our longest standing contributors of time, talent and treasure, Mairs & Power, Inc. - Minnesota’s oldest privately owned investment firm. Most recently, Mairs & Power signed on as our first Vision Partner, a new program that engages our business partners in helping care for our caregivers - recognizing that staff are our most cherished asset.

At the core of all of these stories is the importance of relationship and connection. We extend our deepest gratitude to the many community members who demonstrate and support lifelong learning as we continue to innovate to enrich life to meet the dynamic and evolving needs of our community.
Mind, Body, Spirit Wellbeing

At Episcopal Homes, Active Living, Creative Ventures and Spiritual Life teams engage community partners, volunteers, and elders in program offerings that cultivate wellbeing in body, mind and spirit. These programs are vital connectors and help build community among elders.

Grief support groups are very important program offerings for community wellbeing. One support group, open to all members, meets once a month. Another for individuals who are caring for spouses meets twice monthly. Fundraising is a critical source of support to staff these groups.

June’s Story

Jack and June’s love story began in 1951, and although Jack passed away January 2022, June’s love for Jack still shines bright. “We were married 68 years. People tell me what a great accomplishment that was. It wasn’t an accomplishment, it was a blessing.”

During the Pandemic, Jack lived in The Gardens nursing home and June lived in The Terrace senior apartments. June was so incredibly thankful for being so close. June walked those halls to see him twice a day. Jack wouldn’t eat breakfast without June, and she never missed. “He would hold my hand with both hands. We were each other’s hobby,” June told us. Whenever June would go to see Jack, upon entering the elevator, she would recite a poem that she had written. Her love for poetry still exists today. “Everybody loved Jack. Staff was good to him, and good to everyone. They treated him like he was a person, not a number. I know people who had such a hard time seeing their loved ones during their Pandemic, and I was so thankful to be in the same building. We had each other.”

After Jack’s passing, June joined the Grief Support Group where she has developed some wonderful relationships and connections. “I’ve even reached out to the others to see if they want to meet more often.”

Time to smile
and do my happy dance
No, it’s not Broadway
It’s a nursing room play
Starring my sweetie and me
Day after day
After day, after day

PS. Until we didn’t

June Nash

Episcopal Homes’ mind, body, spirit wellbeing programs are funded through donor contributions to Episcopal Homes Foundation. Are you inspired to make a gift to support resident wellbeing programs? There are many ways you can make a gift, and we can work with you to find the way that best fits your situation.
Caring for Caregivers

Chika’s Story
Chika joined Episcopal Church Home (ECH) August of 2013 as an on-call Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Within a month Chika took a block schedule because she felt love from the community and loved coming to work.

After five years, Chika enrolled in school to further her degree in nursing and was accepted. Chika applied for support from our Episcopal Homes Foundation’s Scholarship Program, which was established to promote pathways to greater financial stability for our remarkable staff members - 70 percent of whom are people of color. “I was going off faith because I knew it would be a difficult situation. Navigating work, paying off school, and being a single mom at the time,” Chika told us.

Being a scholarship recipient helped Chika to finish her degree without the use of loans and without the need to increase her work schedule. This allowed her to focus on her schoolwork and spend time with her son, Zion. Her schooling helped her advance from an LPN to get her RN license, which comes with a pay raise and opportunities for advancement and greater wage stability for her family.

Chika graduated March of 2019 and has gone on to get her BSN. She has ambitions of one day getting her MSN. “I am forever grateful to the Foundation Scholarship for the money. It was on-time and a stress reliever. Thank you. Hopefully I am able to pay it forward to help change someone else’s life.”

Congratulations Chika, you are changing lives every day.

The Foundation is excited to announce nine new scholarship recipients to receive a total of $85,000 in educational funding. Twice a year, the application process is open to qualified staff seeking to achieve their dreams. After careful consideration and review of applicants, the prospective students chosen will continue educational pursuits in nursing, dietary certification, beauty school, pharmacy, radiography, and pharmacy tech. Congratulations to our outstanding staff members!

Our Caring for Caregivers suite of programs, which include both scholarship and emergency assistance programs, is designed to ensure our staff are supported now and in the future. Our staff embody our mission of caring service. The Foundation, through donations from individuals and businesses, provides financial support to staff through these programs.

Our workforce is what makes Episcopal Homes a place that so many call home. In good times and in challenging times, our staff are here to provide care and service. Caring for Caregivers programs help enrich staff wellbeing in the same way that staff work so hard to enrich the wellbeing of residents.

Call the foundation to design a scholarship as your legacy!
Special Projects - NeighborCare

An Interview with Gail Jackson
NeighborCare Logistics Manager

When you think of the journey you have been on during NeighborCare’s startup process, what is a story that comes to mind?
I can recall when NeighborCare (NC) lost its first hospice client. We received a huge thank you card from the spouse. In this card, the wife spoke about how big of a difference NC staff made in the life of the deceased and the spouse’s daily life. It was at this point that I knew NC has a great potential for success.

Tell me about some of the challenges? How has your team tackled those challenges?
NeighborCare has faced many challenges in the last two years. The biggest of all being COVID. The NC team is truly amazing, each and every one of them. NC faces each and every challenge the same as a team; thinking outside the box and brainstorming. The cohesiveness between them all are rare. Each staff adds their own special touch but ultimately has the same goal in mind - Help seniors remain in their own home with support from NC.

Tell me about your background?
I started to be a CNA in 1997. I ran because at that time I felt it wasn’t for me. I worked in customer service for over 10 years, loan specialist 3 years, you name it I tried it. In 2019 I found my home at Episcopal and my calling with NeighborCare.

Tell me about the importance of NeighborCare from your perspective.
The relationships that are built between our clients and staff are what stand out. NeighborCare thrives on enriching the lives of each individual client while helping to remain in their own homes.

What is important for the survival of NeighborCare and for it to grow?
Getting the word out about this amazing program and gaining support from our donors so we can continue to employ a strong, educated and driven staff and continue our work with amazing seniors.

“NeighborCare is a first of its kind innovation recognizing that the current model of caring for seniors isn’t giving families what they want and need to live well at home safely and affordably,” says Mary Routhieaux, Episcopal Homes’ Chief Advancement Officer and Foundation Executive Director. The Foundation has provided more than one million in seed funds needed to develop NeighborCare and to explore new ways to carry out our mission for the seniors and families of St. Paul.

NeighborCare dedicates a caregiver team to serve a neighborhood or apartment community. This service model helps to maintain consistent caregiver service and keeps costs low. Mary added, “Our caregivers can make multiple short visits to your home throughout the day and help with only what is needed. This approach preserves your budget, as well as your independence and privacy.”

Your contribution to Episcopal Homes Foundation can directly support this amazing program.

Contact us 651-632-8857 | foundation@episcopalhomes.org
Vision Partners

Launched in spring 2021, Vision Partners unites Episcopal Homes and our business partners who share our commitment to providing equitable access to opportunity and stability for our community’s vital front-line caregiver workforce.

Front-line staff - those who care for elders - are essential to Episcopal Homes and the mission to enrich life and build community. We employ 450 front-line caregivers, 70% who are people of color.

Vision Partner members’ contributions support the Caring for Caregivers programs of the Foundation - our scholarship and emergency assistance awards - that support the wellbeing of our vital workforce.

Your support as a Vision Partner will:

Provide emergency grants to staff experiencing temporary financial hardships that are impacting their ability to be fully present—physically and emotionally - to carry out our mission.

Provide scholarships for staff seeking to advance in their careers and bring greater financial stability to their families.

Help grow the Caring for Caregivers programs and promote the wellbeing of our devoted employees.

The relationship between Mairs & Power and Episcopal Homes dates back over 15 years with multiple family connections linking the organizations. Mairs & Power really believes in the mission of the Vision Partners program, as strong staff are fundamental to helping people thrive in their older age and in building community. “Not everyone has a family and it’s important for them to have a place where they feel like they are cared for,” said Melissa Gilbertson, COO of Mairs & Power, Inc. and Vice Chair for Episcopal Homes’ Board of Trustees.

Founded in 1931 with deep roots in Saint Paul, Mairs & Power has a long-term focus on helping people build peace of mind so that they can live independently. As an innovation-oriented company, they see Episcopal Homes as an innovator with programs including NeighborCare and Episcopal Home’s development of HUD-subsidized affordable housing for seniors.

The team at Episcopal Homes is thankful and grateful to have Mairs & Power as a founding sponsor of the Vision Partners program, helping make our Caring for Caregivers programs possible.

Mairs & Power is Minnesota’s oldest privately owned investment firm. Visit their website at mairsandpower.com for relevant information and disclosures.

If you are interested in becoming a Vision Partner, supporting staff through educational scholarships and financial assistance, call us today at 651-632-8857
Pam
After working at a desk for 28 years for Nestle, Pam Peterson spent time helping an elder family friend. “I had so much fun,” she told us. When her family friend passed, she sought out ways to get involved. “Episcopal welcomed me with open arms.” In 2022, an opportunity became available with Episcopal’s partnership with Senior Planet from AARP. “When this opportunity came available I was excited to learn.”

Senior Planet from AARP technology navigation courses are provided at Episcopal Homes’ throughout our Episcopal Homes campus, and include finance, wellness, fitness, computers, and technology classes for older adults. Pam jumped right in and invested over forty hours into training. She has committed a lot of time and energy into the program. To date, she has taught over five different topics. “I love doing lectures the most. And one of my favorite classes to teach was a Safety Online class.” Pam loves the conversations that happen in the classes as well as the feedback.

“Pam cares so much that residents receive the best information that she can provide,” Stacy, Volunteer Director with Episcopal Homes said. “She is often emailing extra information to include in the class handouts, researching questions asked during class, and following up with students after class who have had questions. Before one class, she individually visited residents to make sure that everyone signed up for a gmail account so that we didn’t have to take class time to do it. We are so thankful for Pam. She is outstanding.”

Pam, you make a difference. Volunteers like you help enrich life and build community among our residents and staff!

Interested in Volunteering?
To apply to be a volunteer, please visit episcopalhomesfoundation.org or call Stacy for more information at 651-288-3688.

Some ways volunteers have helped us include:
• Organizing and distributing flower arrangements
• Leading fitness classes
• Playing piano with and for residents
• Working in our gift shop
• Pedaling residents on our Trishaw bike
• Leading classes

Our volunteers help residents practice their faith by:
• Delivering Eucharist to those with mobility constraints
• Accompanying residents to service
• Making mini prayer shawls

Episcopal’s first Senior Planet from AARP technology navigation graduating class at Carty Heights

Our residents on campus live a more connected, joyful, engaged life because of our volunteers!

Contact us 651-632-8857 | foundation@episcopalhomes.org
Honoring by Giving

Thank you to all who honored family, friends and loved ones through a recent memorial or tribute gift. The listing below reflects gifts given from February - July 2022

Gifts Given in Honor Of:

Amelia Averbeck
Susan Welsh
Carla Thomsen
Ann E. Burkholder
Barbara Hiebert
Susan M Roberts
John G Santanen
Betty Janecky
Cynthia M. Foster
Charles and Elizabeth Woehrle
Betsy Kelly
Daisy Jones
Denise Jones-Goodar
Dennis Buckley
Peter Eiswirth
Therese Buckley
Donna Mae Foster
Ann Viitala
Debora Kesteloot
Edward Malon
Anita Engel Malon
Francine Colling
Carrie Colling
Katie Matzke
Gary Mahre
Jean E. Doane
Alvin C. Kvaal
Ann E. Burkholder
Georgia Howie
Christopher Howie
Helen Compon
Janice Tigges
Jackie Hudson
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James W Parker
James S Parker
Lee Snook
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Lloyd and Alice Burkholder
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Margaret Moos
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Nancy Nylin
Ruth Stryker Gordon
Dusty Mairs
Sharon Rae Thompson Odders
Lisa Nilles
Tom Sangillo
Kristin Rigg
United Health Group

Gifts Given in Memory Of:

Alice Johnson
Dennis Cummings
Dan Newton
Dusty Mairs
Linda Oakes
Lisa Nilles
Genevieve Wanner
Marilyn Wanner

We strive for accuracy when preparing these lists and apologize for any errors. We invite you to notify the Foundation office at 651-632-8854 or via an email to foundation@episcopalhomes.org to bring corrections to our attention.