

Provider Ensures Nursing Care Residents Get Their Rebates

Bon Secours New York Health System, Riverdale, N.Y.

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Paulette Sansone knows how to entice people to volunteer, even on their days off. Sansone is vice president of research and education for Bon Secours New York's Schervier Center for Research in Geriatric Care. In July, she spearheaded an effort to help Schervier Nursing Care Center residents and others apply

Ayuda Para Personas de Edad, volunteered to assist the center's Spanish-speaking residents during tax rebate day. That program, about to complete its second year, is funded by the Bon Secours Mission Fund to provide assistance, information and referrals to help seniors and others learn about entitlements and community resources for which they are eligible. Throughout the year, the Buena Ayuda storefront has provided a well-attended series of bilingual seminars on health care, nutrition, entitlements, wellness, management of chronic health conditions, long-term care options and other topics.

Bridal Show and Shower Benefit Rescue Mission Milwaukee Catholic Home, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Contact: Bridget McNair, director of recreational therapy, bmcnair@milwaukeeecatholichome.org or (414) 220-8468, ext. 128.

Milwaukee Catholic Home residents enjoyed a wedding fashion show this spring, but with a philanthropic twist. In conjunction with the wedding show, staged in the courtyard of the Health and Rehabilitation Center, residents of The Residence hosted a wedding shower to support a local rescue mission.

Each resident who attended the shower brought a gift for donation to the Joy House of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. They sampled cheesecake and assorted desserts and sipped champagne punch while sharing memories of their own weddings. Harp music set the tone in the Solarium, which was decorated with photos from residents' long-ago weddings.

Residents, their families and Catholic Home employees provided wedding gowns for the show, which was organized and narrated by Bridget McNair, director of recreational therapy. Volunteers, family members and staff served as models, groomsmen and bridesmaids. The gowns spanned more than a century, from 1897 to the present. A string quartet provided lovely background music throughout the program. The event ended, appropriately, with wedding cake and punch.

New Programs Aim to Recruit More Minorities for Board Service

Contact: Council on Foundations, Arlington, Va., www.cof.org or (800) 673-9036

In-demand minority leaders find that, once they become visible on nonprofit boards, they often are inundated with invitations to join other boards intent on becoming more diverse. As a result, minority professionals in a few major cities have organized to recruit more minorities to serve on boards and bring the recruits to the attention of local nonprofits.

In Cleveland, a group of African American professionals stretched to the limit with board invitations created the Minority Board Member Pipeline Initiative to enlarge the talent pool of potential board members from diverse backgrounds. Similar efforts are underway in other cities: Trustees of Color in Wilmington, Del., and the African American Nonprofit Network in Washington, D.C. The Council on Foundations is also planning a program to attract and prepare a new generation of diverse leaders and match them with foundations' trustee and executive opportunities. That program is expected to start in 2009.



Bon Secours New York Health System

Grace Bova (left), project director of the Interfaith Caregiver Volunteer Program, helps Schervier Nursing Care Center resident Patricia Carton with her tax rebate form.

for the \$300 stimulus checks to which most were entitled. Most residents met the conditions of a yearly income of at least \$3,000, which included their Social Security benefits, and needed only to file an abbreviated tax form to receive the rebate.

Appealing to staff to volunteer on a Saturday designated as "Bon Secours New York Tax Rebate Day," Sansone said. "We know for most of you it's your day off, but think of how much those two hours you volunteer will mean to the residents ... perhaps the purchase of some clothing they've needed, special treats in the café, or maybe even a gift for a grandchild."

That's all it took. A vast group of volunteers helped transport residents to the Community Hall, where they were assisted with the necessary tax forms and served refreshments. Others were seen on the floors where they live. Anyone who was missed that Saturday received a visit from their social worker the following week.

"The residents were very excited to learn that they [would] be receiving the money—they couldn't believe it," a statement from Bon Secours noted afterward. Altogether, tax forms for about 100 residents were completed for stimulus rebates totaling \$30,000.

"Good Help for Older Persons": Community Senior Advocate Harry Hernandez, a Bronx social worker who manages Buena

Senior Community Is “Kitchen Stadium” for These Jr. Iron Chefs

Oak Center Towers, Oakland, Calif.

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Each week since January, eager fourth- and fifth-graders from Lafayette Elementary School have entered the kitchen at Oak Center Towers carrying big bowls of green salad, drinks and the evening’s main course, which they have prepared. Tuesday night has quickly become a highlight for Oak Center Towers residents, who benefit not only from nutritious meals but also from new friendships with the student chefs.

It’s all part of a community-based organization called Jr. Iron Chefs, which teaches children culinary arts while building character and encouraging teamwork.

“A Jr. Iron Chef accepts a challenge, learns accountability and serves with dignity in the kitchen and the community,” says the program’s director, Reggie Mack.

The Oak Center Towers kitchen has been renovated, so now food for the residents is prepared on-site.

A popular camp for both Jr. and Sr. Iron Chefs ran for six weeks in the summer, providing the residents with delicious barbecues and many opportunities to socialize. With the start of school this fall, residents are again enjoying the meals prepared by the children, and they take pride in the young chefs’ accomplishments.

“See, these children are an example of good things that are going on in this city,” says resident and retired teacher John Garth.

This article is adapted with permission from an Episcopal Senior Communities/Oak Center Towers’ publication.

Memories Fade ... Love Inspires Art Exhibit Earns Accolades

Hope Alzheimer’s Center, Cranston, R.I.

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An exhibition at the Bellini Ruggeri Gallery in Providence, R.I., in February featured more than 30 watercolor paintings, vases and bowls created by Hope Alzheimer’s Center participants as part of the adult day center’s therapeutic art program.

The exhibit garnered significant local and state interest in the gallery and the Hope Center’s work. *Medicine & Health Rhode Island*, the journal of the Rhode Island Medical Society, subsequently chose one of the watercolors, “Red Blooms



Hope Alzheimer’s Center

in Spring” by Theresa Aiello, 91, for the cover of its May issue.

For a news broadcast about the Memories Fade ... Love Inspires exhibit, a Channel 12 News reporter interviewed Conant-Arp along with a 97-year-old participant in the art program and her daughter. When asked why she enjoys the art class, the older woman answered with a wide smile that she “loves color!”

“We are delighted to see our artists receiving this kind of recognition,” says Cynthia Conant-Arp, Hope’s executive director. “Art therapy has been a centerpiece of our program for more than a decade. We have seen over and over again how working creatively expands our participants’ worlds, brings them joy and helps them rediscover memories and feelings that once seemed lost.”

The center’s *Illuminations* newsletter noted many visitors to the exhibition were for the first time viewing artwork created by adults with Alzheimer’s and other forms of memory loss.

“The paintings are so beautiful,” commented Carole Horsman, a visitor from Dighton, Mass. “When verbal expressions can sometimes be fragmented, this exhibit presented a most positive, meaningful form of expression and communication.”

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