

Happenings

September 2019



Innovative Home Health Program Receives Second Major Grant

Bethesda has received \$30,000 from East Missouri Foundation for its innovative Home Health Gap Assistance Program, a new Bethesda offering to help seniors who fall into the weakening safety net for social services.

“We are happy to be a part of supporting Bethesda Health Group and such a worthwhile organization in our community,” says East Missouri Foundation President Joseph A. Frimel. Led by Deni O’Malley, Director of St. Andrews & Bethesda Home Health department, the program also recently received \$45,000 from the Marillac Mission Fund.

Bethesda is grateful to East Missouri Foundation for their confidence in us to administer these critical funds. This is the second year for Bethesda to receive funding from East Missouri Foundation, which is dedicated to continuing and broadening the mission of Gambrill Gardens founder Merrydell Gambrill May in supporting seniors in the Greater St. Louis area.

\$5,000 Grant Provides Respite to Bethesda Families Affected by Alzheimer’s

Bethesda has received funding for the third year in a row from Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) to provide respite to families caring for those living with Alzheimer’s. Bethesda is the only AFA grant recipient in both the Greater St. Louis area and Missouri.

“AFA’s Phyllis and Milton Berg Family Respite Care Grant program helps Bethesda reach St. Louis area families who are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease and related illnesses,” says Pamela E. Dempski, Corporate Vice President & Director of Fund Development. “We are proud to help them with much-needed respite as they take on such a critical caregiving role.”

Bethesda was one of 15 organizations in nine states to receive grants that will benefit both individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers. Respite care allows families to take a break from their caregiving



responsibilities for a few days while their loved ones are engaged in physically and cognitively stimulating activities.

“The Bethesda Health Group Foundation is a grassroots organization which provide a valuable service in the local community. They play a vital role in improving the quality of life for individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and their families,” says Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA President and CEO.

“As the incidence of Alzheimer’s disease continues to grow, we need to remember that it has a tremendous impact not only on those living with the disease, but the caregivers as well,” says AFA

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Mary June King Scholarship Recipients Announced

Two employees, Marlena Fountain and Julie Strassman, recently received Mary June King Scholarships from Bethesda. Established in memory of June King (a former Dilworth resident) by her daughter, Mary Brown, the scholarship is for college-level study in areas that benefit Bethesda and the employee.

Fountain, an Admissions Counselor at Barnes Jewish Extended Care, is pursuing a Master of Social Work. Strassman, Volunteer Coordinator & Bereavement Assistant for Hospice, is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry.

Bethesda awards one or two scholarships each year. The Mary June King Scholarship has been available for six years now.

\$5,000 Grant

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Board Treasurer, Barry Berg. “It is a tremendous responsibility for caregivers. It is important for them to be able to take time for themselves, maintain their own health, and recharge so that they can provide the best quality care to their loved ones.”

The grants are named in honor of Berg’s deceased parents; his mother, Phyllis, lived with Alzheimer’s disease and his father, Milton, was her primary caregiver. Funding is awarded twice a year to organizations that share AFA’s mission.

For more information on respite care and how to apply for a scholarship, contact Bethesda’s Care Management Team at 314-800-1911 or caremanagment@bethesdahealth.org.

Chris Crouch, Good People Doing Good Things

After nearly 16 years, Chris Crouch, Vice President and Senior Administrator at Bethesda Southgate and Charless Village, retired in August. Chris is a tremendous influence on her staff and the entire Bethesda community. Her endless supply of energy and commitment to seniors has benefitted many residents and families.

“Chris is more than an administrator; she ‘walks the walk’ in providing top-notch care to Bethesda residents. If a nursing shift is short-staffed, Chris quickly puts on her ‘RN hat’ to administer

meds and deliver quality care to residents, while juggling her administrative duties,” says Kyle Peregrin, Senior Vice President of Long-term Care. “Chris has a passion for seniors and a heart of gold; she supports our mission by donating her vacation time to the Foundation,” says Pam Dempksi, Corporate Vice President and Director of Fund Development.

Chris held many volunteer and leadership roles throughout her career, including serving as President of Leading Age Missouri, where she recently received the distinguished E.



Willis Piehl Award of Honor; Missouri League of Nursing; American College of Healthcare Executives; Advisory Board of the Jefferson College School of Nursing, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Bethesda family will miss Chris!