

# Every Gift You Make Brings a Little Bit of Home

You may remember Sister Marilyn Logan, SSJ and her Inspirational Moment from *Bethany's Got Talent*.

After decades of service and a rewarding ministry, Sister Marilyn came to Bethany where she stayed until her passing in April. In gratitude for the exceptional care she received, her family wanted to make a special gift for the Bethany community.

Recalling Sister Marilyn's love for the outdoors, they decided to enhance Bethany's patio with four comfortable rocking chairs, two side tables, and a new bird feeder.

A heartfelt thank you to the Logan Family. *At Bethany, every gift brings a little bit of home.*



## Introducing the Barbara Shea Legacy Circle



*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. – Pericles*

No one knows this truism better than Barbara Shea, dear friend to Bethany Health Care Center. When you speak with her, she'll tell you about growing up

the youngest in a family of 10. She'll tell you, too, about her sisters, Gerry and Mary, both Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, and both former residents at Bethany. Barbara often visited them, spending time on the second floor with her sister Mary.

**These experiences left a lasting impression on Barbara. They showed her how much care and love Bethany Health Care Center provided for her sisters.**

Over the years, after seeing the care her sisters received at Bethany, Barbara has supported the center personally and through her family's foundation, which was started by her brother, Bill.

One of the most remarkable things about Barbara is her generosity of spirit and her desire to support Bethany. *Even after she's gone.*

Barbara has included Bethany Health Care Center in her estate plan, meaning that she will leave money to Bethany after her passing.

***"I felt it was important to continue supporting Bethany even after I'm gone. I wanted to make sure Bethany could continue to provide that level of care to others."** – Barbara Shea*

**To honor our wonderful friend who has helped secure Bethany's future, we created the *Barbara Shea Legacy Circle*. This circle recognizes those who include Bethany Health Care Center in their estate plans.**

Barbara's kindness and generosity are sure to make a difference for many years to come.

**It's a very special, and deeply personal gift she's given. We couldn't be more grateful.**

*To learn more or to join the Barbara Shea Legacy Circle contact Jodi-Joy O'Keefe at 508-479-6867.*

# The *Bethany Beacon*

FALL 2024



*Sr. Bernadette Haviland, RGS, and Sister Francis Marilyn DeCoste, CSJ*

## How Our Foundation Funders are Making a Difference Every Day

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*The joy of a birthday celebration...complete with cake!*

*The difference between depression and well-being...made possible through the power of music!*

*Strength, balance, heart health, and better sleep. Activities personalized to every resident mean better mobility.*

Bethany Health Care Center's Activities Program is more than entertainment and recreation.

**It's at the heart of keeping our residents sharp, engaged, active, and fulfilled in the autumn of their lives.**

*A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston*

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## COVER STORY *continued*

You met Maureen O'Callaghan, a good friend of Bethany, in our summer newsletter. What we didn't share then is quite special. You see, when Maureen talks about what *her* gifts are doing, she attracts new supporters!

Among them is the Dinneen family with whom Maureen has been friends for 50 years. They manage the Eluned and Edward Russell Charitable Foundation Trust in Florida. The foundation's focus lies in funding smaller charities with significant fundraising needs.

### **Recently, the Trust made a generous grant in support of Bethany's Activities Program.**

Previously, they supported the completion of the Welcome Center.

We are grateful to the Eluned and Edward Russell Charitable Foundation Trust and the Dineen Family.

**Their generosity and support of our mission mean so much. Thank you!**

## Passing the Torch

After more than 40 years of dedicated service, Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy has retired from her role as CEO of Bethany Health Care Center. *We miss her!*

Sister Jacquelyn left a legacy of compassionate care when she passed the torch to Terry Hodge, Bethany's new CEO and Administrator. *Like Sister Jacquelyn, Terry is committed to maintaining Bethany's 5-star reputation.*

**She's honored to follow in Sister Jacquelyn's footsteps. "It's all of us together, each doing our part, that makes Bethany a home."**

Even in retirement, Sister Jacquelyn's connection to Bethany remains strong. That's why she's taken on a new role as chair of the Philanthropy

## Your Generosity in Action

**These past few months, our residents' world was brighter, *because you cared.***

Through your support of Bethany Health Care Center's Activities Program...

- Residents ventured out on a "coffee run" in the Bethany Bus.
- We honored the *Season of Creation*, with prayer and observances of nature.
- The Sisters celebrated Founder's Month and the Sisters of St. Joseph's legacy, and residents celebrating their Jubilee years enjoyed a festive luncheon.
- Weekly themed Happy Hours featuring delectable treats and live entertainment provided hours of enjoyment.

**Safe, loved, and happy. That's what your gifts bring. Thank you.**

Committee, and why you'll still be hearing from her regularly.

**Nothing gives Sister Jacquelyn more joy than to continue to foster relationships with kind donors like you.**

*Your generosity has been critical to Bethany's success.*

Together, with Terry's leadership and Sister Jacquelyn's love for our donors, Bethany is poised to continue its tradition of excellence for years to come.

**Just like family, we are stronger together. With you at our side, we will work tirelessly to meet the needs of the women who call Bethany home.**



From left: Sister Joan; Sister Teresa

## A Diamond Jubilee Shines Bright

Special congratulations are in order for two Bethany Health Care Center residents. In September, Teresa Vesey, CSJ and Joan Bellenoit, SSJ celebrated their Diamond Jubilees, recognizing 75 years of service!

**Sister Teresa Vesey** grew up in Dorchester, Massachusetts, raised by Irish immigrant parents from County Mayo. Despite their modest means, she recalls, “We had everything we needed.” Inspired by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston who taught her, even in the first grade Teresa knew she wanted to be just like them. At 17, she joined the Congregation, eager to serve God and others. And, at only 19, she herself began teaching first grade, embracing every challenge with faith and love.

Sister Teresa’s ministry spanned teaching, administration, and reading specialization. She even earned a Master’s degree while working full-time. Sister Teresa has loved every mission she was given.

**“Wherever they sent me, it was God’s will, and I’ve loved every mission.” - Sister Teresa Vesey**

Now, at Bethany Health Care Center, Sister Teresa enjoys daily Mass and experiencing the great outdoors on the beautiful Bethany campus.

**Sister Joan Bellenoit’s** journey began in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. After her parents separated, she moved to Massachusetts to live with her Godmother. Later attending a school run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and inspired by their kindness, she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield at 15 years old. Sister Joan spent many years teaching young children and helping those who had never been to school before. She also worked in leadership and even started a housing program for those in need.

Sister Joan now lives at Bethany Health Care Center. She enjoys activities like Happy Hour and the monthly birthday parties.

*Most importantly, Sister Joan is grateful for the love and support of donors like you.*

**“We wouldn’t have such a beautiful facility and all the activity programs if it weren’t for our donors.” - Sister Joan Bellenoit**

**As these two remarkable Sisters celebrate decades of faith and service, we thank you. Your kindness and compassion will continue to shine a light of love on the residents of Bethany Health Care Center.**