

# The *Bethany Beacon*

SPRING 2024



*Sister Ann Conway, CSJ and Sister Eunice Quealy, CSJ*

## Your Generosity in Action

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*A Sponsored Ministry of the  
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One of the meaningful ways your donations enrich the daily lives of the women who call Bethany home is by supporting the robust **Activities Program**. The March calendar at Bethany is brimming with engaging activities: from spirited rounds of **trivia** and **Jeopardy** to friendly games of **volleyball** and **bowling**. You make a diverse range of experiences catered to the varied interests of our residents possible.

The residents' social calendar is also packed with special events promising laughter and camaraderie. From the recent **St. Patrick's Day Party** to the **Welcome Spring Tea Social**, each gathering offers residents an opportunity to connect and foster a feeling of community.

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## COVER STORY *continued*

Music holds a special place in the hearts of our residents, and your support ensures they enjoy regular **performances by talented musicians**. The **Monthly Birthday Party** is always a highlight, bringing everyone together for an afternoon of joy and celebration.

You have enabled enriching spiritual programs like **“Mindfulness, Practicing Presence”** where residents explore traditional and contemporary mindfulness practices and embark on virtual **“Awe Outings”** that spark wonder and curiosity.

Your generosity also creates a vibrant community of joy and connection, enriching the lives of the residents who live on Bethany’s Special Care Unit in countless ways. From **personalized Valentine’s Day boxes** to heartfelt

notes exchanged with our dedicated staff, warmth and compassion are evident in every interaction.

Creative endeavors like **crafting crystals for window mobiles** ignite inspiration and foster a sense of belonging. With spring on the horizon, residents will soon experience the delightful aroma of Irish Soda Bread and the whimsy of **green rice Krispie treats** shaped like shamrocks, all made possible by your kindness.

As we eagerly plan for our upcoming **Spring Art Show**, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support. ***Thank you for making all of this, and more, possible.***

## Nurturing Souls: Your Impact at Bethany



At Bethany Health Care Center, your gifts play a vital role in providing spiritual support for the elderly residents, nurturing their souls with compassion. In February, residents united in prayer against human trafficking, a testament to the power of communal prayer sustained by your support.

Rooted in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston’s charism, Bethany’s healing ministry prioritizes

care for the “dear neighbor.” Prayer, environmental stewardship, and social justice resonate with the values of our founders, enriching the holistic care provided.

As Easter approaches, the Holy Spirit Chapel adjusts to the spirit of the season, with changes in decor during Lent and Holy Week facilitating prayer. While Lenten decor is minimal, a vase of pussy willows symbolizes hope.

Our anticipation builds for the Easter Vigil Mass, the culmination of our Easter celebration. Your donations ensure these sacred traditions continue, enriching the spiritual journey of our residents.

Empowered by your support, a community is fostered where residents find solace and strength in prayer, pastoral visits, and meaningful rituals. Thank you for being the guiding light in our residents’ spiritual journey and for enriching lives at Bethany.





*Sister Bernadette Kenney, CSJ; Sister Alice Kirby, CSJ; and Sister Gail Ripley, CSJ*

## Resident Spotlight: Sister Alice Kirby, CSJ

Sister Alice Kirby, CSJ, epitomizes the spirit of service and devotion among the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. Born in 1927 in Brookline, Massachusetts, she grew up in a loving Irish-Catholic family, the middle child among five siblings. Educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary of the Assumption High School, Sister Alice's journey to becoming a Sister of St. Joseph was deeply influenced by her mother and 5th-grade teacher, Sister Roderick, CSJ. Despite challenges due to her mother's health, Sister Alice entered the congregation on September 8, 1946, starting her 78-year journey of religious life.

After earning her A.B degree in French and Spanish at Regis College, Sister Alice began her mission at the Boston School for the Deaf. To prepare for her work with the deaf, she pursued a Master's in Special Education and later a CAGS in Speech and Language Pathology. She is a member of ASHA (American Speech and Hearing Association) and holds both state and national certifications.

Her dedication led her to Washington University in St. Louis in 1958 to become certified in teaching aphasic children. When the Boston School for the Deaf opened classes for aphasic children in 1959, Sister Alice became the

director, overseeing its expansion until 1962. Over the next 30 years, she directed the Aphasic department and served as superintendent of the school and director of the diagnostic clinic.

In 1984, she transitioned to teaching in Bridgewater State University's special education department. From 1990 to 2000, she served on the Congregation's leadership team. In retirement, Sister Alice remained involved in various missions, serving as a grant writer for CSJ projects, supporting the Bakita Safe House for trafficked women, and volunteering at Bethany Health Care Center.

In October 2023, Sister Alice, along with Sisters Gail Ripley and Bernadette Kenney, moved to Bethany Health Care Center, where she finds solace and spiritual nourishment. She expresses gratitude to Bethany's donors, whose generosity transformed it into a haven of comfort. Sister Alice recognizes that every improvement at Bethany stems from the donors' generosity, creating a vibrant and supportive community for residents.

Her unwavering spirit and appreciation for the donors' generosity serve as a testament to the transformative power of your kindness and support.

# Honoring Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy's Legacy

This winter, over **160 donors honored the legacy of Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy, CSJ, RN**, and her remarkable 40 years of service to Bethany Health Care Center.

*Your donations were put to work immediately*, to support Bethany's mission in meaningful ways. From bolstering the **Music Therapy** program for residents on the Special Care unit to maintaining the beloved **400-gallon saltwater fish tank** in Bethany's Welcome Center, every aspect of our community benefits from your generosity.

Your support provides **essential online training for employees**, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide the highest levels of care in a safe environment. Your contributions also allow Bethany to

prioritize resident comfort by **replacing old and worn-out recliners**, providing a relaxing and supportive environment in their bedrooms.

You have made **special durable medical equipment, including walkers and high-back wheelchairs**, available, enhancing mobility and independence for the women who call Bethany home.

Through your compassion and commitment, we uphold the values of care, dignity, and respect that define Bethany Health Care Center. Your generosity touches the lives of each resident, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being.

**We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support, which makes all this possible.**

## Foundation Grants Revitalize Bethany's Kitchen

We are thrilled to share some exciting news: **Bethany Health Care Center has been awarded generous grants from the Flatley Foundation and the Yawkey Foundation!** These grants will be instrumental in enhancing the lives of our elderly residents and improving our operational efficiency.

At Bethany, we understand the importance of providing a comfortable and nurturing environment for our residents. **With the support of the Flatley Foundation and the Yawkey Foundation, Bethany will be able to upgrade the kitchen facilities by replacing several of the outdated appliances with modern, high-efficiency equipment.**

The current kitchen appliances have served the Bethany community well for over 20 years, but they are now in need of frequent repairs and consume excessive energy. By investing in energy-efficient equipment, we not only **reduce the facility's environmental footprint** but also

**lower operational costs**, allowing us to **allocate more resources to resident care.**

Mealtimes are central to the daily lives of our residents. **Enjoying nutritious meals in a pleasant dining environment** contributes to their **overall well-being and happiness.** With the new appliances, our dedicated food service staff will be able to prepare **over 200,000 meals annually** with improved safety and efficiency.

Beyond the practical benefits, these upgrades signify Bethany Health Care Center's **commitment to providing the highest quality of care to our residents.** We are deeply grateful to the Flatley Foundation and the Yawkey Foundation for their generosity and support of our mission.

We look forward to the positive impact these improvements will have on our residents, staff, and visitors alike.