Community Connection

MARCH 2024

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Whistle Blower/ Corporate Compliance

It is everyone's responsibility to report compliance issues. Issues may be reported to any member of the Management Team or anonymously by calling our 24-hour hotline: (608) 662-8880 For more information, see section 5 of the Employee Handbook.

Attic Angel Community Middleton WI www.AtticAngel.org

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Women's Leadership Has Been Integral to Attic Angel Success

By Kelly Cheramy, Outreach Coordinator

The leadership of women throughout time was not well documented for history's sake and perhaps even overlooked. But not so at Attic Angel! After all, our organization was founded by two sisters and run by them and other women for the past 135 years ... and counting! Our history-changing roots date back to 1889 – well before women even had the right to vote! Their tireless work was never about publicity or historical honor, and it was never exclusively about women; it was simply about doing the right thing.





The two sisters who founded Attic Angel.
Elva (above) and Mary (below) Bryant



KIM BLUM, Director, Resident Services



Teamwork makes the dream work, as the saying goes, and Kim loves leading the team. She enjoys getting to know all of the staff in all departments, forming personal relationships, developing trust, and trying to learn how everyone's roles fit together to make the organization work. "I have worked in senior living for over 20 years," she says. "I have been blessed to have

Continued from page 1

wonderful supervisors who have encouraged career growth, work/life balance, advocated for me, and offered me positive feedback. This encourages me to continue to do a good job, and I try to do the same for my team."

Kim, who is a registered nurse, understands that a good team who feels valued will produce great results because she has seen it firsthand: At a previous job, she oversaw two Community-Based Residential Facilities (CBRFs) that were deficiency-free in state surveys for 10 years straight.

MICHELE JOSLYN, Immediate Past Chair, Attic Angel Association Board, Angel Class of 2017

With professional experience in Human Resources, Michele immersed herself in numerous aspects of Attic Angel's volunteering opportunities and committee work before serving as Board chair in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Forever open-minded, she always accepted invitations to lead, "being inspired by the incredible Angel leaders who preceded me and knowing I would have support from other leaders in the organization."

Much of her year as chair focused on fostering relationships between Angels and an entire new Association staff to achieve solid footing for Attic Angel's future. In so doing, she exhibited the qualities of leaders she has admired in the past: "Leaders who are curious, good listeners, empowering, encouraging and who lead by example."



MICHELLE GODFREY, President & CEO, Attic Angel Association

After her first foray into senior living as an activity director, Michelle's foresight to pursue broad experiences, graduate work, professional development, and networking qualified her to become



the president and CEO of Attic Angel. During her career, she saw the for-profit side of nursing homes and the not-for-profit, having served in many roles, from housing director to nursing home administrator to vice president for operations—"always leading to a new experience and wider depth of understanding of wanting to be a leader, and not just a manager," she says.

Michelle says it is both an honor and duty to keep organizations like Attic Angel sustainable and moving forward. She leans on the wisdom of the Angels and her network of peers in the industry to support and challenge her, and she is ever cognizant of being a role model for her children in both leadership and in caring for seniors. "My commitment to others who want to grow in the field is so strong."

TARA BAUER, Director, Quality Assurance & Risk Management

Personal life and career both play a role in Tara's ladder to leadership. She was a direct caregiver in various settings going back to age 10! Among her many roles was CNA coordinator for Attic Angel a decade ago, and she returned to Attic Angel in 2022 because she recognized the quality of care here rises to the top. "I know how long-term care was, how it is now, and where healthcare should be, so I have high expectations," she explains, adding that her director role aligns with her passions of quality, safety, and compliance.



Experience and education continue to enhance her leadership skills. She recently earned a graduate certificate for Healthcare Compliance through UW-Milwaukee and is considering additional graduate work in quality assurance and risk management. "I think being a leader also means being open to learning and making positive changes in all areas of your life."



TERRY MOUCHAYLEH, Vice Chair, Attic Angel Association Board, Angel Class of 2019

Even though leadership may seem like a natural endeavor for a college professor – after all, they have specific expertise and know how to lead a class – Terry explains that her leadership roles were ushered in through doors opened by others and communication that centers on others. Her servant's heart accepted the encouragement to step into many leadership positions within her career field, both in Texas and Wisconsin and within Attic Angel. Next up: She will serve as Board chair starting April 1, 2024.

"I have always taught my students to understand who you are talking to," she says, including what the person needs, desires or may suffer from. She also puts great emphasis on assuring that they will be treated fairly as she seeks to understand where some behaviors come from. "Celebrate the goodness in those you support, but also help them become their best self." Among her favorite successes was achieving a large pay increase for faculty and staff. "They worked hard no matter what they were paid, and they deserved that acknowledgment of their value."

Garden Gab

By Grace Huddleston, Lead Horticulturist, Attic Angel Grounds Team

March is a wonderful month full of surprises. In Wisconsin, the weather is still highly variable. We might experience a blizzard one week and the next we might see the spring bulbs make their way out from their winter slumber. The Grounds team will continue to forge ahead with spring duties such as pruning and general cleanup. Fun tidbit from the *Farmer's Almanac*: You may have heard the weather proverb, "If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb," which means that if the month starts off stormy, it will end with mild weather. There is, however, a different interpretation: The constellation Leo, the lion, rises in the east at the beginning of March. Thus, the month "comes in like a lion," while Aries, the ram, sets in the west at the end of the month, and hence, the month "will go out like a lamb."

Dementia Training Recap

By Colleen Knudson, Director of Life Enrichment and Allyce Fahrney, AL Life Enrichment Supervisor

Virtual Dementia Training

During the last two weeks in January, the Life Enrichment Team led in-person Virtual Dementia Training (VDT) Sessions in the Private Dining Room. These sessions were part of the overall Angel Education Series for 2024 and were also open to Attic Angel employees to bring awareness, empathy, and compassion to the experiences of people living with dementia. During this



Allyce pictured with Angel Volunteer Michele Joslyn

training, participants put on glasses, gloves, and headphones to simulate the different experiences of those with dementia, and then completed a series of everyday tasks to have a stronger awareness of the challenges that many of our residents face. The completion of these tasks was followed up with a debriefing from a member of our Life Enrichment team. All of the training sessions offered were filled, with many others still interested in taking part in the training. The Life Enrichment team will plan to host more VDT sessions throughout the next couple of months. Stay tuned for information regarding sign-ups!

Dementia Training with Dementia Care Solutions

As part of a grant received from LeadingAge, we were fortunate to have Sheri Fairman and her assistant Audrey from Dementia Care Solutions facilitate dementia training sessions for our Attic Angel Employees. On Tuesday, February 6th, Sheri and Audrey conducted two, two-hour training sessions in the Community Room, catering to employees from multiple departments. In between sessions, Sheri provided onsite assistance and guidance in the Haven, where staff members had the opportunity to put their newly acquired skills into practice. It is worth noting that Sheri is a Teepa Snow certified instructor. A total of 26 staff members attended these valuable lectures and participated in hands-on skills practice. Thanks to the LeadingAge grant, we are privileged to have two more training sessions with Dementia Care Solutions. Keep an eye out for further updates on upcoming dementia training opportunities!

Colleen's office is on 1st floor of Attic Angel Place, next to Reception. She can be reached at 608-662-8823 or Colleen. Knudson@atticangel.org. Allyce's office is also on 1st floor of Attic Angel Place, near the Salon. She can be reached at 608-662-8969 or Allyce.Fahrney@atticangel.org

March, the Month of Possibilities

By Kim Devore, Community Chaplain

This year, March offers several days to gather with loved ones to celebrate holidays that we find near and dear to us. We kick off the list of holidays with Ramadan on March 10th and then St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. We then recognize the holidays of Palm Sunday on the 24th and Easter on the 31st. Also, let's remember the first day of Spring on the 19th. March is proving to be a festive month this year. In addition to the celebratory dates marked on this third month, March is also reserved as Spiritual Wellness Month. The definition of spiritual wellness is different and unique to each individual,

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but spiritual wellness ultimately acknowledges one's search for inner peace. Many people view spirituality as being religious, but spirituality is capable of standing apart from religion. Spirituality includes the sense of being connected to something bigger than ourselves and is a universal human experience.

Indeed, some may find that their spiritual life is connected to a church, temple, mosque, or synagogue. At the same time, others may connect spiritually through nature, art, people, music, etc. One's spirituality is the driving force



to finding one's purpose in life and meaning. But spiritual wellness is caring for the soul. Studies have shown a connection to a higher quality of life and well-being with active spiritual practices, proving spiritual wellness is vital in healthy living. Not only do we care for our bodies through healthy eating, exercise, and regular doctor appointments, as well as our minds being cared for through sleep, learning, and therapy, but we also need to tend to our souls. Our mind, body, and soul are all connected and must be cared for to remain healthy and be our best selves. No single exercise or regimen brings spiritual health to its highest level. Instead, it's a journey, as spiritual wellness is unique to each individual. Therefore, finding what activities and healing modalities provide you with that connection of a greater purpose in life and inner peace is essential to spiritual wellness. The following are some examples to begin your journey:

- Meditation- A practice that trains an individual to focus on a particular element, like breathing, to create mental clarity and a calm state. "Brain researcher Richard Davidson's research shows that meditation increases the brain's gray matter density, which can reduce sensitivity to pain, enhance your immune system, help you regulate difficult emotions, and relieve stress."
- **Prayer** Rooted in the belief in a higher power, this practice elicits feelings of hope, compassion, and gratitude.
- **Yoga** An old-age practice of lowering stress and building strength through various physical postures and breath work.
- Journaling- A practice that causes one to reflect on one's life and inner self. This form of self-care invites individuals to be more connected to their experience and the world around them. Studies have shown that "writing during difficult times may help find meaning in life's challenges and become more resilient in the face of obstacles."
- **Self-Care** A practice of exercising, eating healthy, getting enough sleep, and pampering yourself. Anything that provides positive energy and rest.
- **Be in Nature** Whether it's the mountains, beach, or local park, spending time outside breathing in the fresh air and listening to the sounds of the natural elements and living things on the earth helps rejuvenate one's soul.
- **Volunteer** By helping others, you can gain a sense of purpose and gratitude.
- **Gratitude** Practicing gratitude can provide inner peace and joy when you bring your attention to what is around you and what you feel grateful for. You will then discover more grateful moments happening naturally as you practice gratitude.

Happy Spiritual Wellness Month!

Chaplain Kim's office is located in Gorham Glen next to the Rehabilitation Center. She can be reached at 608-662-8865 or Kimberly.Devore@atticangel.org

Continuing Education Recap: Minimizing Falls

By Tara Bauer, Director of Quality Assurance & Risk Management

Our Continuing Education group here at Attic Angel Community put on a great and important session in February that focused on, "Minimizing Falls and Making the Home More Safe to Reduce the Risk of Falls" and the presenter was Tina Heikens. Many residents, family members, and other employees are already familiar with Tina since she has been working with Aegis and is a common face at Attic Angel Place. Tina's presentation started with sharing data about how Wisconsin leads the nation with injuries and deaths from falls. One in four Americans 65 years old and older has reported having experienced a fall and of those falls reported one in five can lead to serious injury. Falls also account for nearly one-quarter of all workers' compensation claims every year. Tina's presentation was geared more towards our community's residents but the takeaway information from her session is valuable for everyone to be aware of the risk factors for prevention in any setting.

Physical and environmental risk factors contribute to falls, and whether it is removing a rug that keeps rolling up, wearing proper foot attire, cleaning up a spill, turning on a light, or walking like a penguin on ice- it is all something we can work on together as a community. Regardless of your role here at Attic Angel Community, falls happen to everyone and this continued education session provided great information and reminders. The Therapy Department and Wellness Department are great onsite resources for fall prevention and are always available for more information. An offsite resource discussed at the continuing education session was the AgeBetter Safe at Home program. They work with Dane County older adults to prevent in-home falls and accidents by offering free home and medication safety assessments, recommendations, and connections to resources. To apply for the Safe at Home program call 608-230-4445 or email ann@agebettertoday.org to learn more.

Continuing Education is available to anyone at Attic Angel Community (staff included) that have an interest and the time to learn more. Continuing Education sessions run from September through May and the session topics, dates, and times are listed in the Community Connection Newsletter.

Board Highlights

On February 8, the AAPP Board meeting started with an education session presented by AAC Horticulturist, Grace Huddleston. She explained what a lead horticulturist does, presented the grounds team mission, and discussed the team's priorities. An update on the Solar Project reported that five solar installations have been completed and two additional units are scheduled for installation in the first quarter of 2024. The board also approved the AAPP operating and capital budgets for the next year.

The AAA Board met on February 19. In addition to approving the AAA budgets, the Board discussed updates to the AAA Bylaws which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in April. The Board also approved a retirement gift for Director of Plan Operations, Larry Long, who is retiring after nine years of service to Attic Angel Community.

The summary of the January AAP Listening Session was shared with the AAP Board at their February 22 meeting. There was a discussion of the WCCEAL resident survey. Surveys need to be postmarked by April 15, or residents can turn their surveys into the front desk before then. Results won't be available until May. The AAP Board also reviewed and approved the AAP capital and operating budgets for 2024-25.

The next meeting for all the boards will be on April 23 after the AAA Annual meeting where they will welcome new board members and elect a slate of officers for their board.

Everything Deserves a Second Chance

By Kathleen Roseboom, Executive Assistant

Each month, Attic Angel Place holds a Second Chance Drop-Off, where residents and staff can drop off gently used items they no longer need, which happens from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every third Thursday in the parlor across from the library. Volunteers, led by Angel Lynne Buckingham, collect

and sort the items. Then, three times a year, the items are put up for "sale" at the Second Chance Shop.

This idea was first conceived by Hallie Lou Blum, a former apartment resident, back in 1989 when Attic Angel Community was on Segoe Road. She single-handedly managed the effort for more than ten years. Residents and Angels became more involved in 2000, after the move to the current Attic Angel Place. A year after the move, Sandy Spengler, an Angel and current resident, started to help Hallie Lou and by 2008, Sandy was managing the effort herself. At first, the sale was held in the first-level classroom at Attic Angel Place but moved to the Bryant Room in 2009 where it is still held today.



Bernie Works, Sandy Spengler, Gladys Blanchar, and Hallie Lou Blum at the 2008 Second Chance Shop.

No money is involved in the shop and residents or staff don't have to donate any items to be able to come and shop. Each day that the shop is open, AAC residents, staff, and private aids can select up to six items a day free of charge. For more popular and new items, there is a lottery. Interested parties put their name on a list for a chance to win the item. Items not taken by the end of the sale are donated to local agencies like St. Vincent de Paul and Porchlight.

Bri Webster, who works at the front desk at the Association building and someone who has frequented the Second Chance Shop before states, "I loved shopping at the Second Chance Shop. The volunteers were so helpful when I was shopping for clothes and let me model things for them. Not only did I find some amazing, unique, vintage pieces to add to my closet, but I got to do it in a sustainable way and for free!"

The Second Chance Shop is an honored tradition at Attic Angel Community, and one we hope flourishes for years to come. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **next Second Chance shop on March 19-21 in the Bryant Room**. Residents and staff are welcome to come check out the recycled treasures and say hi to fellow Attic Angel Community members.

Attic Angel Frame-Up Day

On April 24, Attic Angel will have a lasting impact on our community by helping to build a brand new home for a hardworking family. Working with Habitat for Humanity, residents, employees, and Angels will help to frame the walls of a Habitat home working alongside a future Habitat homeowner who will call the house you're working on home. Work will be done at our Attic Angel campus and there will be on-site training from experienced Habitat staff. No construction experience required! Stay tuned - more information about the event will be coming.

Save the Date



Touchtown Update and Save the Date

By Janelle Taylor, Attic Angel Community Housing Manager

We are on track to launch Touchtown, our new resident engagement platform, on Monday, April 1st. To support a successful transition for all members we will be hosting a variety of open house training sessions. Please see the dates and times listed to the right. You can attend one or all of these sessions. It is based on individual comfort levels. Staff and resident ambassadors will be present to assist you with navigating the various features within Touchtown Community Apps. You will need to bring a smartphone, laptop, or tablet with you to these events. If you do not have a mobile device, please contact TechAtHome to coordinate in-home training. Call reception at (608)662-8842 or email techathome@parasolalliance. com to submit a ticket request.

Community-Wide Open House Training Sessions

Monday March 25th 1-3PM Community Room

Tuesday March 26th 3-5PM Community Room

Friday March 29th 10AM-12PM Community Room

Wednesday April 3rd 1-3PM Community Room

Tuesday April 9th 10AM-12PM Community Room

If you have a smartphone or tablet, you can download Community Apps right to your device for ease of use. We recommend downloading the application prior to the event. Simply follow the instructions below. If you cannot complete the download prior to the event, staff will assist you during the open house training sessions.

- 1. To get started, visit your device's app store. If you have an Apple device, look for the App Store icon. If you have an Android device, look for the Google Play Store icon.
- 2. Next, you'll need to search for Touchtown Community Apps. Look for the Touchtown icon shown on the right.
- 3. Download the app to get started. Individual login information will be shared at a later time.



Janelle's office is located on the 1st floor of Attic Angel Place near Reception. She can be reached at 608-662-8906 or Janelle. Taylor@atticangel.org

New TV Ad Airs



"Life is a Bowl of Cherries" is the theme of a new Attic Angel ad airing on WISC TV3 and numerous streaming channels. You can check out the latest production – and many others – on the videos page of the Attic Angel website: www. atticangel.org/videos

Attic Angel Marks 135 Years!

By Kelly Cheramy, Outreach Coordinator

Readers of *In Business* magazine will find that Attic Angel Community is celebrated on page 57 of the February issue as one of Madison's oldest organizations. It's been 135 years since the two Bryant sisters set out in 1889 to care for young families, and their father dubbed them his "attic angels" when they descended from the attic with armloads of goods to share.

The article's visuals include some of our current Angels as well as residents Pell and Theresa Johnson enjoying the pond and gardens. The story breezes through the Association's history and growth, highlighting its deep hometown roots and its moniker as The House That Angels Built. It can be found online at IBmadison.com (scroll down to find the Digital Edition on the right-hand side).



Resident Gallery Wall

By Kaitie Sauer, Art Studio Coordinator

Interactive galleries have been pretty prominent in communities making a great impact in many ways. I have always loved the idea of creating things together as a community and making a personal touch on something or someone. February is known mostly for Valentine's Day but I wanted this gallery to be more than that. I wanted this month's gallery to feature more about love for yourself, positivity, and happiness. More interactive galleries to come!







This art gallery is located in the hallway near the Wellness Room and Conservatory. Kaitie's office is located in the Art Studio. She can be reached at 608-662-8859 or Kaitie.Sauer@atticangel.org



Heads Up: Reminders



International Women's Day Celebration

Join us in the Community Room on March 8th, 2024 from 1-2:30pm to hear from guest speakers from Attic Angel Community to celebrate International Women's Day!

Book Discussion

There will be a book discussion event hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* on March 28th at 1:00PM in the Community



Room. All community members including residents, staff, and angels are invited to join us for the discussion. Copies of the book are available for checkout. Contact Janelle Taylor at 608-662-8906 or janelle.taylor@atticangel.org to checkout a copy of the book.

Continuing Education

Attic Angel Place - Community Room Coffee: 10:00 a.m. Program: 10:30 a.m.

March 4 - A Sand County Almanac at 75: Stories Behind the Essays Stanley Temple, Professor of Conservation, Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Studies.

UW-Madison

March 11 - The Efforts to Save Wisconsin's Endangered Bumblebees and What You Can Do to Help

Judy Cardin, citizen scientist and bee website owner, working with DNR and Arboretum

March 18 - When Day Turns to Night: How to Experience the Upcoming Total Eclipse of the Sun

James Lattis, Director, UW Space Place

March 25 - Wisconsin's Role in the 2024 Presidential Election

Charles Franklin, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Director of Marquette Law School Poll

Employee Appreciation Events

Breakfast: Staff can enjoy a made-to-order breakfast from the leadership team on 3/1!

March Madness: Starts on 3/17. Come to the front reception desk for a bracket to fill out.

Leprechaun Hunt/Wear Green Day: Staff will be able to "find a leprechaun" throughout the facility March 13th-15th for a chance to win some awesome prizes! Then, wear green on March 18th to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Let's Get Fit with Kelly & Nicole

Attention Staff: Join Fit Circuit classes every Tuesday & Thursday from 4:30-5:15pm! Classes are held in the Wellness Room. It is \$10 for drop-in or \$50 for the month. Space is limited and you can sign up at the front deskall fitness levels are welcome! Questions? Ask Nicole Faust at 608-662-8866 or email Nicole. Faust@atticangel.org

WCCEAL Survey

In the February edition of the Community Connection, it stated that the WCCEAL (Wisconsin Coalition for the Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living) survey for Segoe Heights, Bryant Ridge, Gorham Glen, and Haven was due by the end of February. Please note that survey responses must be post marked by **April 15th, 2024**.

Prairie Point March Ladies Luncheon

Tuesday, March 19th at Quivey's Grove Stable. Cost will be \$20 with a choice of four items. Hosted by Audrey Braucher, Lila Jean Stahnke, and Graciela Aubey. Invitations to follow.

To stay up to date on community events, residents may check activity calendars or reach out to their Life Enrichment Coordinator. Staff may check their email or the monitor by the employee entrance.



We have recently had some friends visit our community! The owl (left) was spotted up at Prairie Point, and the hawk (right) was spotted at Attic Angel Place. We can't blame them for wanting to take in the beauty of Attic Angel!







Our Dining Services team is the best! To show them our appreciation, residents were able to write thank you notes on hearts to be displayed for Dining Services staff to see.

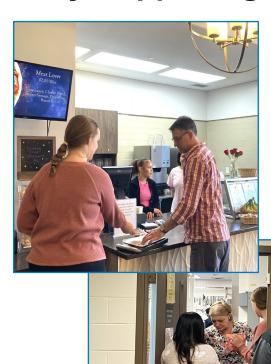


We welcomed artist Dee Relyea to our Studio to discuss her artwork (pictured here with Studio Coordinator Kaitie Sauer)! She even brought some pieces which are displayed in the hallway near the Quiet Room at Attic Angel Place.



Spring is in the air...or so we hope! A member of our Maintenance Team recently found these flowers "springing" up in the Gorham Glen courtyard.









Valentine's Day AND Ash Wednesday?! There was lots of activity at Attic Angel on Wednesday, February 14th. Staff were given Valentine's to celebrate the day, while residents were able to enjoy a Valentine's Dinner in our Terrace Dining Room. Not only that, we had Ash Wednesday Service & Mass available throughout the day as well.

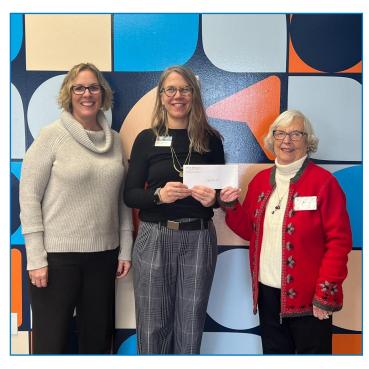
Attic Angel Association awards community grants to nonprofit community organizations each year as part of its mission to assist seniors and children. These grants are a direct result of the Angel's Signature Sales and Events throughout the year. A compelling community need is identified each year by the Association board as the focus for the grants. For 2023-24, the annual focus was "for collaborative efforts helping families with school-age children to address housing insecurity". These organizations were also highlighted in the January edition of the Community Connection. (continued on next page)



Goodman Community Center



RISE Wisconsin, Inc.



WayForward Resources



Habitat For Humanity of Dane County



United Way of Dane County



Briarpatch Youth Services



On Friday,
February 2nd,
staff and residents
wore red in honor
of National Wear
Red Day to bring
awareness to
Heart Disease.
February was also
American Heart
Month!



Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center



Community Connection is a monthly newsletter for Attic Angel Community residents, family/friends, and staff. Published at the start of each month, it is posted on the resident portals and distributed by email to staff. Submissions are due by the 15th of each month for the following month's publication. Submit notices, news, and interesting stories electronically to

NewsletterSubmissions@atticangel.org

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