



# Attic Angel Community Connection

## MAY 2024

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**Attic Angel Community  
Middleton WI  
[www.AtticAngel.org](http://www.AtticAngel.org)**

### 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.

## Building Community by Building a Home

By Kelly Cheramy, Outreach Coordinator

"The House That Angels Built" is an appropriate description for a new Habitat for Humanity home that was framed up on April 24.

Nearly 100 volunteers over three shifts rolled up their sleeves to frame an entire home at the headquarters of Madison's historic Attic Angel Association, which is long known for its care for community. The parking lot transformed into a Habitat for Humanity of Dane County construction site, populated by Angels, staff members, and residents of the senior community that the Angels founded.



Attic Angel volunteers built all of the interior and exterior walls for the Habitat home, which will eventually be located in Oregon, Wisconsin. The home will be part of a 1.3-acre development that will serve eight families in that community.

"The frame-up allows our entire Attic Angel community to come together with a common goal of building a home for a family,"

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says President & CEO Michelle Godfrey. “The effort aligns with our community-minded mission as well as this year’s specific annual focus on collaborative efforts to prevent housing insecurity for families with children. We are excited and privileged to have the opportunity to support the larger Dane County community.”

After the morning-long frame-up, all of the walls were positioned to mimic the complete structure to be built at the permanent location in Oregon. Attic Angel’s efforts will support one of the 14 new partner families that joined Habitat’s homeownership program this spring.



Since 1987 Habitat for Humanity of Dane County has been building in partnership with low-to-moderate-income families in 18 communities throughout Dane County. Currently, Habitat is building in Madison, Sun Prairie, Stoughton, and Oregon.

The April event allowed Attic Angel to combine its many constituencies (Angels, residents, and staff) in a visible demonstration of the good work the Association has done for 135 years and counting.





# DESTINATION: BADGER ROOM

By Claudia Brown, Association Angel

The Badger room in the Haven is complete! We invite you to stop by and take a peek at it. There is a new 84-inch TV with theater-style seating,



Badger décor to boost your spirit, and a table with chairs. Angel Pat McClimon (and a friend) donated their time and skill to make a beautiful curtain topper in Wisconsin-themed fabric to finish off the room and make it feel like home!

The creation of this room, along with other “destination” spaces in the Haven, is made

possible by the generosity of Sara and Steve Kelley and David Whitwam, family of former Haven resident Dianne Bullis. This terrific offering allows space for families to spend time with their loved ones, creating new memories, and recalling games gone by for the Wisconsin Badgers.



## Meet Our Newest Wellness Specialist



Trevor Little, a Madison native, has had an unwavering passion for health and wellness since childhood. He was an active runner in high school, competing in track and cross country, and has also participated in many long-distance running events. Trevor holds a B.S. in Exercise and Sports Science from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, where he gained theoretical and practical experience in various health-related topics. He also completed an internship with the UW Health Sports Performance Center. With expertise in nutrition, strength training, conditioning, and overall physical fitness, Trevor has worked with all ages and fitness levels. He

strongly believes that wellness is crucial because it affects almost every aspect of daily life. Trevor uses a personalized approach to collaborate with people to create an individualized fitness plan that encompasses endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. In the words of Steve Prefontaine, Trevor believes that “to give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.” When he isn’t working, Trevor enjoys spending time with his friends and family, including traveling to visit his twin brother who lives in Seattle, Washington. We are delighted to have Trevor as part of our Wellness team!

*If you are interested in Wellness classes or signing up for a one-on-one, stop by reception or reach out to Nicole Faust at 608-662-8866 or [Nicole.Faust@atticangel.org](mailto:Nicole.Faust@atticangel.org)*

## Work Champs

Attic Angel has been named one of Senior Care’s 2024 Best Places to Work! Senior Care’s Best certification uses the industry’s most robust third-party survey data to objectively certify and rank the top senior care providers across the U.S. and Canada. Attic Angel Community was named as one of Senior Care’s Best Places to Work under a new program from WeCare Connect – the industry leader in senior care surveys. Attic Angel has met the rigorous benchmarks that signal excellence in care. Congratulations to our employees for bringing high standards and friendliness, and congratulations to all who choose to live here and accept the help of our exceptional employees!



# Let's Talk Tea

By Kim Devore, Community Chaplain

Have you ever felt that everything was going wrong, cautiously waiting for the next thing to go bad or not work in your favor? You may have asked yourself, "What's next?" with a pretty heavy sigh afterward.

These challenges may have brought up the old adage, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade?" Even though lemonade is a known thirst-quenching summer beverage, I'm not too fond of lemonade myself. Honestly, I'm a Southern girl, and it is expected to hear of sweet tea running through my veins, although we do not hear people say, "If life hands you tea leaves, make sweet tea." Do we?



However, for some of us, making sweet tea from tea leaves would be a valid assessment of the trials we have experienced in life. If we look at the art of turning tea leaves into delightful sweet tea, we will find that quite a bit of work goes into preparing the leaves to produce that flavor, which may even be a small piece of wisdom for each of us. Not to say lemonade doesn't take work, but there are a few more steps to making sweet tea.

Within this tea-making process, tea leaves are harvested and then air-blown to cause them to wither. Next, the wilted leaves are heavily rolled by hand or by a machine, breaking them up into smaller pieces. After the leaves are broken down, they are oxidized through humidity and warm temperatures. This oxidation process determines the color of the tea (green, black, etc.). The leaves are thoroughly dried and packaged, awaiting their final destination. Once in a consumer's home, the tea leaves are then placed in boiling or simmering water. That scorching water causes the tea to disperse its beautiful aroma and flavor. Lastly, the hot tea is poured over sweet cane sugar, creating a sweet and satisfying drink served over ice. This unyielding process, then, yields a refreshing beverage.

How many of you can relate to that process of being withered, crushed, feeling the heat, dried out, or being placed in a situation that is scorching your spirit? Well, I can be the first to raise my hand because I have seen some of that tea process in my life, but I hope to offer some peace and hope that through this difficult process, there is a sweet, satisfying, and soul-quenching peace that comes after the intense process. As I provide the example of tea, you may struggle to agree with enjoying a cup of hot or iced sweet tea; but think of the process of making coffee, wine, or craft beers. Those, too, experience a process of breaking down harsh elements to produce an enjoyable beverage.

Ultimately, my message is this: We all live in a wild world with crazy agendas, and we all can find ourselves empty and withered during difficult times, but rest assured that a sweet outcome awaits you. Additionally, through the rigorous and stressful process, you will see the person you have become and the growth within you after weathering the storms of life. Lastly, as you endure being refined, pay attention to those around you. There may be someone near you who wants to walk with you in your struggles and love you, so accept their devotion and love for you. They are not looking to walk in front or behind you; instead, they are there to walk with you during those dark moments. Eventually, you will walk out together, with the sunlight shining on your face, warming your soul with peace, fulfillment, and wisdom. And even through the most challenging moments, you will find that there is still beauty and pure sweetness to come.

*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](mailto:Kimberly.Devore@atticangel.org)*



# Attic Angel Continues Long History of Giving Wings to Other Organizations

By Kelly Cheramy, Outreach Coordinator

No guts, no glory is a phrase that applies to the visionary work of Attic Angel Association, but the glory is often redirected to the nonprofit organization that our Angels help.

And that's just fine with them, for the most part, because that's how the Association accomplishes its mission to serve children, families, and seniors in the Madison area.

The Angels rest in the satisfaction of a job well done, for the right reasons, and in the right way. The truth about their efforts will always be recorded within the Association's archives. For example, did you know:



- The Attic Angels were creative fundraisers who helped to build Madison's first hospital (now UnityPoint Meriter) in 1903.
- The Angels envisioned and paid for the city's first full-time nurse in 1908 to visit families in their homes before organized health care was in place. Attic Angel's Visiting Nurse Service is now called SSM Health at Home.
- In 1922, Attic Angel was among the founders of the Community Union (now United Way of Dane County).
- Recognizing the need for quality child care for South Madison families in 1969, the Angels built, maintained, and later gave a building that would become the first home of today's greatly expanded One City Schools.

Each year, the Association identifies a pressing community need and offers money to those who can meet the need. The Grants Committee vets each application and carefully awards funds to other nonprofits that can further the Association's mission.

The latest behind-the-scenes success is rooted in the Association's 130<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 2019. During that anniversary year – themed *Life is a Playground!* to emphasize the fun of youth and retirement alike – the Angels took on a special fundraiser to benefit an organization in need of a playground. From the applicants, they chose The Playing Field, an innovative early education and care center for children of all socio-economic backgrounds, including those experiencing homelessness and other trauma.



The fundraiser netted nearly \$75,000, and a custom playground with sensory stations was built at the Mineral Point Road location in Madison, allowing The Playing Field to deepen its expertise in providing trauma-informed care. (Take a virtual tour of the playground here: <https://playingfieldmadison.org/sensory-play-path/>) The ride on Attic Angel's coattails also helped with visibility for the fledgling organization.

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Fast forward five years and The Playing Field is expanding, thanks in part to Attic Angel's visionary help. A new school on Madison's East Side will serve 100 more children and families, while also providing access to job training and affordable housing in partnership with the Plumbers Union Local 75 and The Road Home Dane County. Angels **Barbara Berven** and **Katie Sekelsky**, along with their husbands, have been integral donors and volunteers in advancing The Playing Field to this point. The school is being constructed inside a former Menards building and is expected to open in January 2025. Congratulations on this new fingerprint left by Madison's amazing Attic Angels!

## AAA Board Highlights – May

By Christina Barley, AAA Board Secretary

It has been said that “May is the month of rebirth and renewal,” and so it is with Attic Angel Community as we end our 2023-24 year and begin the 2024-25 year.

The AAA board held an old board/new board meeting where we welcomed our new AAA board director nominees Susan Arthur, Joy Cardin, and Linda Harvey as observers at the meeting. We gathered afterward in the AAP Garden Room for a luncheon where we honored and thanked retiring Association board chair Patty Schultz, past chair Michele Joslyn, and board directors Claudia Brown, Meredith Degen, and Cindy Zellers. Incoming board chair Terry Mouchayleh also introduced the new board nominees to the attendees. Our chicken salad meal, prepared by the AAP kitchen from a recipe in one of the Attic Angel cookbooks, was served by the Dining Room staff, assisted by Terry's 2019 Angel classmates.



*Patty Schultz (left) is our current 2023-24 AAA Board Chair, and Terry Mouchayleh (right) will be the AAA Board Chair for the 2024-25 year.*

Chair Schultz has challenged Association members to volunteer 135 hours in the 2024-25 year in honor of our 135th anniversary. Those who meet the challenge will be recognized. The Nominating Committee's work will be complete when the last two roles are filled: 2025 Attic Sale chairs and a Social Activities assistant chair. The board moved to approve some updated policies recommended by the Policy Committee as they relate to standing committees.

The Attic Angel Place board and their new nominees joined us for the last part of the meeting. John Kaage, director of Dining Services, gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation regarding the new Terrace Pub concept, as well as the plans for changes to the usage of the existing Arbor Café. Along with input from the employees, forums regarding these projects have been attended by Angels and residents, and the response was very positive. The board voted to approve moving forward with the Terrace Dining project and continuing to work on the role/usage of the Café.

## Sign-Up for Summer Vegetable Share!

Are you looking to incorporate more vegetables in your meals? Do you love fresh, flavorful and long lasting produce? Well you're in luck because we are a Pick-Up Site for Crossroads Community Farm vegetable shares! You can pick up your customized vegetable share box on Wednesdays, 4-6pm starting on June 5<sup>th</sup> right here at our Association Office. Visit the links below for more information on veggie shares or to sign-up!

**For more information:** <https://crossroadscommunityfarm.com/>

**To sign-up:** <https://csa.farmigo.com/join/crossroadscommunityfarm/2024summer>





# Heads Up & Reminders



## Something Big is Brewing with our Brand!

At 135 years strong, Attic Angel’s brand is about to enter a new season. A “brand refresh” is in the works to update our logo, website, and other marketing materials to better align with consumer expectations in today’s marketplace. Attic Angel engaged the services of a marketing consulting agency – with deep input from angels, residents, and staff – to hone in on Attic Angel’s historic brand reputation and continuing promise. Stay tuned for this fresh look in the mirror slated for around June 1.

## Listening Sessions

Please join us in the Community Room for listening sessions to learn about the new branding/marketing initiatives for Attic Angel! The sessions are scheduled for the following dates and times:

**Staff:** Wednesday, May 8th at 2pm

**Angels:** Tuesday, May 14th at 10am

**Residents (AAP & AAPP):** Friday, May 17th at 10am

## Prairie Point Semi-Annual Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Prairie Point Resident Council will be held on May 15th (Wednesday) beginning at 1:00 PM in the Community Room at Attic Angel Place. Refreshments will be offered at 1:00 PM with the meeting to begin at 1:30 PM. The agenda will include the election of officers, committee reports, introduction of new neighbors since our last meeting in October, and staff presentations. The adjournment will occur at approximately 3:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you at this important meeting.

Karen Perzentka, Resident Council President

## Continuing Education

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

**May 6 - Bareback Riders and Educated Elephants:**  
*Wisconsin’s Amazing Circus Heritage*  
Pete Shrake, Archivist, Circus World

**May 13 - Sports, Sports, Sports!**  
Mike “Jocko” Jacques, Sports Director, NBC15

**May 20 - Future of the Electoral College**  
Ken Mayer, author and professor of Political Science, UW-Madison

**May 27 - No Program - Memorial Day**

## Attic Sale

The Attic Sale will be held Friday, May 31st, and Saturday, June 1st at Keva Sports Center. You will find furniture, jewelry, art, and much more! Stop by the Association or AAP reception desk to purchase a ticket for early-bird entrance. Otherwise, admission is free! Proceeds benefit older adults and children in Dane County.

## Prairie Point Ladies Luncheon

This month’s luncheon will be held on May 21st at 11:30 am at Vintage Brewing Company, 674 S. Whitney Way, Madison. The cost is \$20/person, paid at the door, which includes tax and tip. Beverages, except for water, are extra and can be paid for in cash. The food choices are:

1. The Cluck Norris – grilled chicken breast, white cheddar cheese, pesto, pickled shallots, tomatoes & tomatillo aioli on a brioche bun and served with Tater Tots
2. Cheddar Cheese Burger – 7 oz. beef patty with lettuce, tomato & onion on a brioche bun with French fries
3. House salad with grilled chicken, mixed greens, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, shredded cheese, parmesan focaccia croutons and ranch dressing
4. Vintage Dip with shaved beef, roasted mushrooms, caramelized onions, & swiss cheese on a French hoagie served with coleslaw.

**Gluten-Free:** Salad can be GF without the croutons and cheese. GF buns are available on the Cluck Norris and Cheddar Burger and coleslaw can be substituted for the fries/tater tots.

Please call either Ann Munthe (608) 301-7581 or Lois O’Rourke (608) 827-0922 for reservations and food choices **before May 7, 2024.**

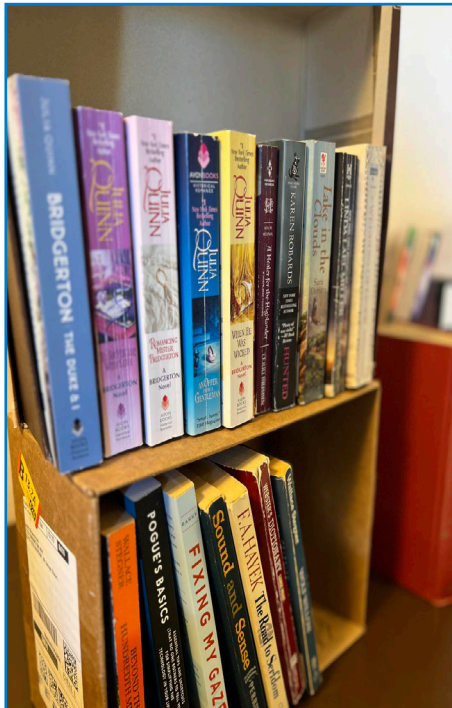
## Upcoming Survey

Shortly, all Attic Angel Community staff will have the opportunity to participate in a survey. This survey will ask questions relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. We kindly ask that you take the time to complete the survey, as we will use it to help us grow our DEI programming for the whole community.

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



# Attic Angel Community Happenings



Everything deserves a second chance! Our Second Chance Shop took place March 19th-21st, and there were plenty of great treasures for people to take home. There were even chances for people to put their names down to win exciting drawing items.



Art Studio Coordinator Kaitie Sauer (above left) and Life Enrichment Coordinator Hannah Dosch (above right) recently displayed their beautiful artwork in an exhibit at Attic Angel Place. We are fortunate to have them share their talents with us!



# Attic Angel Community Happenings



Residents, staff, and Angels stepped outside to take a look at the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8th. We were able to witness history together as a community!



Pump it Up! Attic Angel Community participated in a Pump It for Parkinson's event to raise awareness for Parkinson's Disease. We surpassed our initial goal of 30,000 steps by getting 159,750!



# Attic Angel Community Happenings



The Retro Swing Band & Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers had us tapping our feet along with their outstanding performances in our Community Room!

Furry friends visited staff as part of National Stress Awareness Month in April.

We had Angel volunteer Darsee bring her dog Sirius (below), and Angel volunteer Jeanne bring her dog April (right).



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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's publication. Submit notices, news, and interesting stories electronically to

**[NewsletterSubmissions@atticangel.org](mailto:NewsletterSubmissions@atticangel.org)**

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