

The *Bethany Beacon*

SPRING 2025



Sr. Pauline Curley, CSJ and Sr. Maryanne Guertin, SSJ

Your Generosity in Action

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

Because of you and your heartfelt compassion, Bethany's 2024 year-end appeal raised over \$62,000 in individual donations. Thank you!

Bethany's Special Care Unit is only one of the many things your generosity and kindness support.

Memory care is a lifelong passion for our Activities Director—and Certified Dementia Practitioner—Catherine Sabatini. (Meet Catherine in this issue).

Catherine knows that residents with memory loss are especially vulnerable. They require unique personal connections — and interaction on a very human level.

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Meet Catherine!



Catherine Sabatini radiates the kind of warmth and heart you simply can't resist! And, because of your generous support, we are blessed to have Catherine as Bethany's Activities Director. Catherine's mission is straightforward.

Every day she and her dedicated staff of activity professionals work to keep Bethany Health Care Center residents sharp, engaged, active and spiritually fulfilled.

This simple mission couldn't be more important. Thank you for making it happen!

"Meaningful moments are so much more than just healthcare with a personal touch. I'm so grateful that our donors see the value in supporting the activity programs that bring countless meaningful moments to our residents every day. Thanks to their gifts, we've been able to enjoy more offsite trips, we can host relaxing evening music sessions, and even offer small piano groups!" - Catherine

Donor Spotlight *Ann Marie Giovino*



Ann Marie Giovino's commitment to Bethany Health Care Center spans decades. And it all began thanks to a friendship with Sr. Lois Conners, CSJ, who introduced Ann Marie to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In the early 2000s, following a career in community health, Ann Marie found herself drawn to Bethany's mission-driven care. Seeing the exceptional dedication of Bethany's caregivers and staff, she joined us as a Health Care Coordinator, a role she held for 15 years.

Ann Marie's bond with Bethany further deepened after her own mother was welcomed into our community. The compassion and commitment of Bethany staff—and her mom's

friendship with Sr. Ann Marie Masone, CSJ, who personally looked after her—reinforced Ann Marie's belief in Bethany's extraordinary care.

Understanding the financial challenges Bethany Health Care Center faces, Ann Marie recently became a monthly donor as a member of the *Fitzpatrick Society*. She encourages others to give, emphasizing that contributions not only maintain high-quality care for residents—but also acknowledge Bethany's dedicated caregivers and staff. She remains deeply grateful for the role it played in both her professional life and her family's well-being.

"I had been donating to Bethany here and there, but I realized how important it was for them to have reliable, predictable funding. That's why I set up a monthly donation. It's also my way of giving back. I've always so admired Bethany, and I know how much harder things have become in the past few years. I feel a responsibility to do what I can to support the place that has given so much to the women of Bethany."

Thank you, Ann Marie, for your unwavering dedication. We'd be lost without you!

Resident Spotlight *Sr. Peggy Rooney, CSJ*

The first thing you'll notice about Sr. Peggy Rooney, CSJ is her smile. It reaches all the way up to her eyes, and her entire being seems to be lit by a glow from within.

“My life growing up was defined by education, faith, and music.” - Sister Peggy

After high school, Peggy entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, drawn to their dedication and community presence. After earning degrees from Regis College, Salem State University, and Boston University, Sister Peggy taught in schools across Boston, the North Shore and South Shore. She often found that her students were her greatest teachers, revealing profound struggles like loss, hunger, and trauma.

Sister Peggy's compassion for the vulnerable led her to work with aphasic students, those living with HIV/AIDS, survivors of human trafficking, and prisoners at Nashua Street

Jail. Summers in Appalachia, Kentucky, deepened her commitment to alleviating suffering, where she helped organize activities and provided food for volunteers.

Sister Peggy's experiences also took her to the University of California, Berkeley, where she explored new perspectives on life. Her journey continued with women at the Pine Street Inn overcoming substance abuse, as well as teaching English to immigrants at Casserly House and the Dudley Street Library.

Sister Peggy's entire life has been an adventure filled with diversity, compassion, and love.

Later, she rediscovered her passion for music. Now as a Bethany resident, Sister Peggy is often found leading joyful sing-along sessions at the piano—sometimes with another resident choosing to sit beside her for special duets!

Throughout her life, Sister Peggy has lived with an open



Sr. Peggy

heart, always looking to give back and bring light to those in need. As she enters her twilight years, her ongoing commitment to compassion and service remains unwavering. She reflects, “Each time I went to work somewhere different, I felt more whole, more aware of who God is!”

Sister Peggy's life continues to be an adventure of love, care, and deep faith. Now, as a part of our Bethany community, she deserves the best care and support in return for a lifetime of service and sacrifice.

Thank you for making that care possible — for Sister Peggy and for all the women of Bethany.

Join the Fitzpatrick Society...and be there for Bethany residents all year long!

Your monthly gifts provide a vital resource in overcoming the continued challenges of quality healthcare—and to maintain the security and dignity of the women who call Bethany home.

Please consider becoming a member of this special group of devoted supporters who make up the Fitzpatrick Society—with just a small monthly gift (*if you already make a recurring gift, we thank you!*) Thank you for caring so very much.

COVER STORY *continued*

Your support means that Bethany's Memory Care program is one of the region's most comprehensive. Residents enjoy music therapy, exercise, games, cooking, and crafts. And they're all offered by dedicated professionals in a variety of formats to meet each resident's individual needs.

Thanks to your support, Bethany residents with dementia challenges live in a compassionate neighborhood setting.

On this page you'll meet, Sr. Dionetta McCarthy, CSJ. Following a lifetime of service, Sister Dionetta joined our Bethany community in

2019. Now a resident in our Special Care Unit, Sister Dionetta still loves cooking, participating in exercise classes, and attending daily Mass.

"Our Memory Care program allows Sister Dionetta to remain a leader in her community and feel purposeful. She especially enjoys Montessori activities that provide her with a sense of accomplishment."

- Catherine Sabatini, Activities Director

Love is the only memory you never lose. Thank you for your continued support of Bethany Health Care Center.

Your Kindness Supports a Lifetime of Memories



Sr. Dionetta McCarthy, CSJ, joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1956, taking her first vows in 1958 and final vows in 1961.

After dedicating herself for over 20 years as an X-ray technician at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, she took on a new role as a patient transporter until her retirement in 2006.

The Special Care Unit Activities Program has played a crucial role in Sister Dionetta's life at Bethany.

"Entering the convent was the best thing that ever happened to me. I've had a good life, and I'm proud of it. Now, I'm so happy being here with my friends at Bethany."

- Sr. Dionetta McCarthy, CSJ

You make Bethany's beloved Activities Program—including individualized activities designed to create meaningful moments for our residents with advancing dementia—possible.

Our Activities Program has been generously supported by the Eluned and Edward Russell Foundation, the Flatley Foundation, and donors like you.

And in 2019, Sister Dionetta joined our Bethany Health Care Center family. Initially hesitant, she came to embrace the joys of life at Bethany. Now as a member of the Memory Care community, she's one of our most cherished residents.