

# The *Bethany Beacon*

SPRING 2026



*Sister Peggy plays the piano for Special Care Unit residents*

## Your Generosity in Action

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When we reached out to you in December, you answered with open hearts.

Your response was truly overwhelming. Thank you.

**Because of your compassion, February was filled with moments that matter.**

Picture this: a Wednesday afternoon in the Activities Center. The room fills with laughter as residents gather for Happy Hour. Lively piano music drifts through the halls. Nearby, a resident sits at the puzzle table, piecing together a colorful landscape with friends.

**This is what your kindness made possible.**

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

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## COVER STORY *continued*

There was a Super Bowl watch party. A Valentine's Day happy hour with sweet treats. Ash Wednesday Mass in our serene Chapel.

Each day brought opportunities for connection — drumming and singing, expressive art sessions, Broadway show tunes that stirred memories, and those cherished one-on-one conversations during mail delivery. Simple moments that mean everything.

Your support also made possible yoga classes, afternoon activities, and birthday celebrations complete with cake.

One resident recently shared, "There's always something to do. I have a lot of friends here."

**That's the Bethany Way in action. After a lifetime of service, the women of Bethany deserve to be cherished — *and because of you, they are.***

## Russell Foundation Grant Brings One-on-One Care

Not everyone finds comfort in large group activities. Some Sisters and residents benefit most from care that is quieter, gentler, and more personal.

Thanks to a generous \$15,000 grant from The Eluned and Edward Russell Foundation, Bethany Health Care Center is expanding a program designed to meet those residents exactly where they are.

This year, an Enrichment and Activities professional is spending dedicated time each week with residents who benefit most from one-on-one and small-group engagement. These moments are calming and meaningful and thoughtfully tailored to individual needs.

This support brings more connection. More comfort. More moments of joy woven into daily life.

## A Gift of Music Brings Joy

Many an afternoon, music fills the halls of Bethany's Special Care Unit during informal sing-along sessions.

Our longtime piano had served us well but was beyond repair. Residents had hoped and prayed for a new one, never imagining that a generous donor would learn of this need and choose to make it happen. The surprise brought smiles, delight, and music back into our residents' daily life.

The piano was a gift from a generous donor in honor of Margaret Rooney, CSJ, and in memory of Mary I. Shea, CSJ, Geraldine Shea, CSJ, and Mary E. Shea, CSJ. It is a gift that has brought music, comfort, and joy back into everyday moments.



### You Make This Work Possible

The support of The Eluned and Edward Russell Foundation reflects something we hold deeply at Bethany: **every gift matters.**

**Whether your gift is \$25 or \$25,000, you help us care for the women of Bethany with dignity, compassion, and creativity.**

Thank you for standing with us and for making it all possible.

**We could not do this sacred work without you.**

# Resident Spotlight *Sr. Barbara Hallisey, CSJ*

When you meet Sr. Barbara Hallisey, the first thing you notice is her smile.

*Warm and vibrant. Full of life.*

That's because, even after 70 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, she still finds joy in the everyday moments. And thanks to you, she has a place to call home where that joy can flourish.

## A Life of Service

Barbara grew up in Quincy, Massachusetts. Her father built warships at the Fore River shipyard. And, her brother Joe served in Vietnam and earned a Silver Star for his bravery.

But Barbara chose a different kind of service. On September 9, 1955, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

For decades, Sister Barbara taught students across Boston — at schools in Roslindale, Roxbury, and beyond. She loved every minute of it.

## A Sense of Humor

Ask Sister Barbara about her early days as a Sister and she'll share this story with one of her ever-present smiles.

One morning, she asked her superior for a new bed sheet. The one she had was getting worn in the middle.

Her superior looked at her. Then she took Sister Barbara's old sheet, cut out the worn center section, and sewed the good outer edges back together.

"There's your new sheet!" she said.

*That was convent life. Frugal. Resourceful. Waste nothing.*



*Sr. Barbara Hallisey, CSJ*

## Thriving at Bethany

Today at Bethany, Sister Barbara is happy, content, and engaged in activities important to her – sewing, water colors, reading historical novels. Freedom of choice and the ability to be self-directed in her pursuits means everything to her.

### Your support makes it possible.

Because of you, Sister Barbara doesn't just receive care — she receives community. She gets to share her stories, her laughter, and her many years of wisdom with others who appreciate her.

### When Sister Barbara smiles, you're seeing your generosity in action.

You've given her a place where she can continue to live fully. Where she's cherished for exactly who she is.

*Thank you for caring about the Sisters who have devoted their lives to serving others.*

# Thank You for Making Bethany's Christmas Unforgettable

Your generosity filled Bethany Health Care Center with the familiar warmth and joy of the holiday season.

Because of you, and as a result of a gift from the Fleming family the residents were able to enjoy some extra special celebratory activities during the holiday season.

Your kindness also brought Santa and gifts, and helped create a full schedule of celebrations, from Christmas through the New Year.

The smiles. The laughter. The quiet moments of connection.

That's what your support makes possible.

**Thank you for making Christmas truly unforgettable for the women who call Bethany home.**



## Donor Profile *A Gift That Never Stops Giving*



Evelyn Cotter never knew her great-grandfather. *But his generosity shaped her life in ways she could never have imagined.*

More than a century ago, Thomas B. Fitzpatrick made a transformative act of charity that ultimately helped create Bethany Health Care Center. Years later, that same generosity came full circle. When Evelyn's mother needed care, Bethany was there.

*"What my great-grandfather did made it possible for my mother to live peacefully at Bethany for eight wonderful years," Evelyn says.*

A gift given long ago was still at work, creating daily moments of comfort and grace.

### Your Gift Can Do This Too

Evelyn gives monthly through the Fitzpatrick Society, named after her family.

*"Monthly giving feels like a natural extension of his generosity," she explains. "Steady. Reliable. Rooted in care for the residents."*

Your monthly gift creates loving care that doesn't stop.

*"In a small but consistent way, I'm helping carry that legacy forward."*

You can too.

Evelyn wants you to know:

*"The Fitzpatrick Society allows anyone — not just my family — to help keep this wonderful care going."*

**Your monthly gift ensures dignity. Compassion. Respect.**

**Join Evelyn. Start your monthly gift at [www.bethanyhealthcare.org/fitzpatrick](http://www.bethanyhealthcare.org/fitzpatrick).**