

## Donor Spotlight Cynthia Capen, Bruyere Gardens

There are many ways to donate to the D'Youville Foundation, one is to set up a charitable bequest made as part of a will or trust. We thank former resident of Bruyere Gardens, Cynthia Capen, who left the D'Youville Foundation a gift upon her passing. Cynthia was a resident at Bruyere Gardens. She was quiet and kept to herself, but she was so grateful to call the D'Youville campus her home. She was proud to let us know that she would be able to contribute to the campus that gave her a home. Her gift helped fund our Community Enrichment Fund that helps improve the lives of seniors on our campus. We thank her for her generosity and may she rest in peace.

## Resident Spotlight Mary Dempsey, The Saab Residence

When Mary Dempsey moved to her new home, the Saab Residence in 2020, she knew was exactly where she should be, a place that was both familiar and comforting. She'd lost her beloved husband to pancreatic cancer and had been living with her daughter and her family in Tyngsboro and she felt that she needed her own independence.

As the retired Director of nursing at D'Youville Senior care, while searching for area assisted living facilities, she chose to live on the D'Youville Campus. Her intimate knowledge about the excellent care and services that D'Youville offers, and the continuity of care that we offer our residents, should their needs change, helped her make her decision. If needed, our residents can seamlessly move through different stages from assisted living, to nursing care, memory care and even short-term rehabilitation.

Mary has become a beloved resident at the Saab Residence and is very happy in her new home. She enjoys visiting with family and friends, loves to shop and formerly loved to golf and ski. The one thing she misses the most about living with her daughter and her family was her son in law's cooking – he's an Italian Chef!



## Event Spotlight Summer Concert Series

Thanks to the generosity of both the D'Youville Ladies Guild and the D'Youville Men's Guild, we are pleased to announce our 2024 Summer Concert schedule. The Summer Concerts are a wonderful treat for our residents to spend an hour outside, in the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa Park, while listening to music and enjoying time with each other and their families. Mark your calendars! July 10th Ed Dorazio & Peter Previte, Two for The Show"; July 17th Wendee Glick & Friends; July 31st "Chorus with A Barber Shop Quartet" with the Merrimack Valley A Cappella Group; and August 14th "Dan & Mary Clark: The Singing Trooper. All concerts will take place on Wednesday evenings in the park for an hour from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. In the case of inclement weather, we will move the concert indoors to our Chapel.

### SAVE THE DATE

Lasting Impressions Gala | Thursday, November 7th, 2024  
Four Oaks Country Club, Dracut, MA

## Campus News BIG Changes for Belvidere!

Visitors to our campus will begin seeing some BIG changes beginning in July. Thanks to a grant received by D'Youville Senior Care, we are excited to announce that we will begin a large renovation project on our Belvidere unit. Currently residents of Belvidere have a day room in their living area that we use as an activities space and a separate dining room in a centrally located portion of D'Youville Senior Care. The project will allow us to increase the day room greatly in size to create a multi-purpose room for our residents that will become a large, airy space for dining, activities and best of all this grand new space will be located much closer to their living area. We anticipate the project will run until the end of 2024.

Once completed, we will then begin the renovation of the D'Youville Senior Care lobby area to provide a welcoming first impression to all visitors and a bright, cheerful area for our residents to participate in activities, enjoy entertainment and visit with their loved ones and each other. Stay tuned for updates on both projects.

# Caring Connection

## Message from Mike

SUMMER 2024

Dear Friends,

As I close out my first year as CEO of D'Youville Life and Wellness Community, I am overwhelmed by all the support I have received from so many individuals and organizations. Every day, I'm inspired by how much the mission at D'Youville is valued by the community.

Many exciting things have transpired in the last year. We have been fortunate to make some significant capital improvements to our buildings that enhance the quality of life for our residents. These included a renovation of one of the day rooms on our Dementia Special Care Unit, beautiful new flooring in every resident's room, and a new HVAC system on one of our long-term care neighborhoods. Even more exciting is that our biggest projects are yet to come!

This summer, we will be starting a million-dollar renovation of our Belvidere Lane Neighborhood that will create an expansive multifunction room. The residents will enjoy a grand and modern space for dining, activities, and gathering. We will also be renovating our lobby area with a focus on comfort and hospitality. We hope you stop by for some coffee in the café!

Many of the projects and programming we have are made possible by D'Youville's Foundation and the generous gifts we receive from the community. Please know that your giving has a profound impact on the lives of our residents. We can't thank you enough!

Finally, D'Youville hired a new Administrator, Aseda Aborgah, last November to fill my previous role. Aseda is a Registered Nurse by background and comes to us with over a decade of experience in Long Term Care. Aseda has been a wonderful addition to our mission and ministry, and I hope you have the chance to meet him if you haven't already!

Many thanks for all you have done to help D'Youville flourish!

Warm wishes,

Mike Ferrick CEO



D'Youville Foundation

[www.dyouville.org](http://www.dyouville.org)

 @DYouvilleLowell

## 2024 Employee Awards

**Congratulations to our 2024 winners of "The Mary Ann Tirabassi Memorial Employee Award" and "The Cochran Family Employee Award."**

Five Tirabassi Awards and one Cochran Award of \$1000 are made each year. One of the most prestigious awards on our campus, to be chosen, individuals are nominated by a co-worker or family member. We are proud to announce our 2024 winners: Kate Donovan, Jenna Savard, Krubo Verdier, Steve Cullen, Pat Neal and Marjorie McFarland.

"The Mary Ann Tirabassi Memorial Employee Award" was established by the Tirabassi family to support on-going annual financial awards for deserving employees, who either provide direct care in the SCU, or support that direct care with the work that they do. "The Cochran Family Employee Award" established by Kathy Cochran, the daughter of Beverly Lagonikos, and her husband Mark is based on the same criteria as the Tirabassi Award. Congratulations to our six very deserving winners and a huge thank you to the Tirabassi and Cochran families for making this possible!

### Congratulations to our 2024 Mission Leaf Winners!

Congratulations to Savanna Coutu, Karen Koenig, Cindy Lazowsky, Maribeth Lebron, Nicole Walsh, and Pally Yun who were chosen as our 2024 Mission Leaf honorees! The Mission Leaf Award honors members of our staff who make a difference by living our mission on a daily basis and whose life reflects the core values of Sr. Elisabeth Bruyere which include Generosity of Spirit, Courage, Simplicity, Respect, Passion and Audacity.





## Event Spotlight 2024 Golf Events

The weather couldn't have been better for our 9th Ladies Golf Tournament at Four Oaks Country Club, Dracut, MA. On a sunny, breezy, perfect day, over 100 women came together to honor D'Youville campus hairdresser Pauline Ruggiero, who has kept our residents beautiful for over 25 years! Her grace and gratitude has touched almost every family that has come through our door!

The fun ladies-only day included 9-holes of golf and "Beauty in the Ballroom" featuring services from Mo Beauty - Aesthetics and Wellness Medical Spa; Boss Blow Dry Bar offering blow outs, golf up-do twists and mini facials; Serenity Spa Mini Massages with Kirsta Adie; and Chair Massage Sessions courtesy of Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union.

Following the morning of activities and our luncheon, surprise guests Helen Callahan, a resident at our Assisted Living facility, The Saab Residence, spoke about the impact that Pauline has on the entire campus, making our residents feel taken care of and beautiful and how she looks forward to her hair appointment every week! Emma Fried, a resident at D'Youville Senior Care shared two hilarious limericks she wrote about Pauline. The first captured how hard it was when she was not able to come to campus during COVID and the second exuded the happiness and relief felt by all when everyone's favorite hairdresser was allowed back on campus to keep everyone feeling and looking their best. CEO Mike Ferrick introduced our guest of honor who spoke about her time at D'Youville and the impact the residents have on her! It was a wonderful day for all! Congratulations Pauline!



Players were treated to hot dogs and burgers courtesy of HPC Foods and Calise Bakery, and gifted golf umbrellas courtesy of Alloy Group and balls and tees courtesy of Dracut House of Pizza. The day was topped with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres where our player winners and raffle winners were announced.

A HUGE thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers and to our amazing Ladies Golf Committee: Jill Adie, Joan Capadanno, Tara Dhar, Betty Dick, Stephanie Gilchrist, Alison Hughes, Cathy McClutchy and Gail Murphy and to our D'Youville Special Events Committee: Jill Adie, Tara Dhar, Betty Dick, Alison Hughs, Elias Manolis, Cathy McClutchy and Bruce Robinson. Thank you to photographer Frank Ruggiero for capturing moments from both events and to everyone who joined us!

### Thank you to our Sponsors!

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors for their generous support of D'Youville. All net proceeds from our events benefit the D'Youville Community Enrichment Fund to enhance the lives of seniors on our campus!

### A special thank you to our 2024 overall event supporters!

**Titanium Level:** Demoulas Foundation, Eastern Salt, Inc., Enterprise Bank, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union and **Platinum Level:** Tufts Medicine Lowell General Hospital and HPC Foods.

### Thank you to our 2024 golf event supporters:

**Diamond Level:** Alloy Group, Lowell Five Bank and Washington Savings Bank. **Gold Level:** The Adie Family, The Durkin Company and Dr Mark & Stephanie Gilchrist. **Silver Level:** Behrakis Foundation, Campbell Family, Chris Milot Plumbing & Heating, Coca-Cola, Dracut House of Pizza, Geriatric Medical, Gervais Ford, MXD Mobile Xray Diagnostics, PrideStar Trinity EMS and The Sisters of Charity of Ottawa.

## Family Spotlight Doris Thomopoulos Family

Making the decision to send a family member to a care facility is not easy. After five falls in her home in a two-week period, Linda Zapelli and her husband knew that they needed to make a decision that they never thought they would need to do, to find a facility to care for her mother Doris, who was in her mid-90s at the time. With heavy heart they researched options. Years earlier her late father had a wonderful experience at the D'Youville Center for Advanced Therapy (DCAT), they remembered the level of care, which helped them make the decision to pick D'Youville Senior Care as a new home for her mom.

Doris lived for about 1.5 years on the Wannalancit Unit. At first, she had a hard time adjusting and needed a lot of coaxing to meet other residents and participate in activities. Linda said the staff went above and beyond to make her feel comfortable, helping her to fix her hair and apply her make-up so she would feel her best when meeting new friends. In a short time, she was enjoying activities such as Bingo, music and looked forward to dining with her new friends each day. Linda and her husband made a point to visit her Mom every other day. If there was a time that they were unable to make it for a visit, she would call her mom on the phone and was told "Stop worrying about me, I get such good care here, I will be just fine!" Linda remarked, "Our experience at D'Youville was very, very good."

"We were so happy with the level of care both of my parents received. The staff was so authentic in their care for my mom which was very comforting to our entire family. Anyone who is considering D'Youville for a family member this is a loving, kind, nurturing place for an elderly person to be!" Linda and her entire family would recommend D'Youville to anyone and also added "It's a great place to give a donation, our elderly deserve a great place to be cared for in the final years and this is the place."

Doris Thomopoulos passed away peacefully on May 25th, 2024, at the age of 97! She will be greatly missed by her family and by the staff on Wannalancit! She is remembered as a wonderful, resilient lady, who was working as a piano teacher well into her 90s! Her family greatly thanks D'Youville for their incredible care.



## Employee Spotlight Nicole Walsh, Dining Services

Nicole Walsh, Registered Dietitian for Long Term Care and Sweetland Rehabilitation has been full time at D'Youville since April 2021.

Nicole shared, "I strive to provide the best nutrition for all my residents with a focus on improving quality of life. I enjoy working in a clinical setting with a geriatric population. I have a strong passion for helping others and forming individualized nutrition care."

She added, "I want my residents to feel comfortable knowing that they're receiving the highest quality of nourishment." A co-worker remarked, "Nicole is the perfect example of what simplicity is, she never waits or asks anyone to get things done, she just does it and treats her patients as she would her own family!"



## Employee Spotlight Pauline Ruggiero

Pauline Ruggiero came to D'Youville in 1997 as our campus hairdresser. Now over 27 years later she's still here and has touched almost every resident and family that has called our campus their home!

When she first arrived, two years prior to the opening of the current D'Youville Senior Care, her only complaint was the lack of air conditioning at the time. Her favorite memory, "One year the residents voted what their favorite activities at D'Youville were and for a time, I was number one! At some point, they decided Bingo, and Happy Hour had slightly knocked me down the list, but at least I was in the top three!"

She continued, "My favorite part of the job is getting to know the residents and making them look great. I tell them, you look ten years younger! I so enjoy getting to know each resident, hearing about their families, grandchildren and seeing them smile and feel confident when their hair is looking great! Thank you, Pauline, for your contribution to our campus!"

