



WESLEY WOODS
FOUNDATION

WINTER 2020

THE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM WESLEY WOODS



PARTNERSHIP / part·ner·ship

NOUN to work together in a project or activity; a word for an action

Partnerships with individuals, foundations, corporations and churches are what make it possible for Wesley Woods to provide communities where older adults are celebrated for the lives they live, the wisdom they share and everything they have yet to teach us...older adults like *Elaine Slaughter*.

At 104, Elaine is the oldest resident living in a Wesley Woods community. Her husband, Russell, passed away in 1974, but not before leaving a wonderful legacy in their four children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, nine great-great grandchildren and three great-great-great grandchildren. Throughout her 29 years living at Wesley Woods of Augusta, she has volunteered on the religious life committee, served as a floor representative, is a member of the Centenarians Club and enjoys word search puzzles and singing, and you can count on her to pray for anyone who needs it! Elaine is quick to praise God for her longevity, and she is also grateful for the caring staff and robust programming at Wesley Woods that empower her to live well.

Pastoral care, financial assistance for housing and meals and wellness programs are made possible by generous donors and enable Wesley Woods to create communities of connection, well-being and promise for residents like Elaine—no matter one’s age! **Fulfilling our mission is possible only with your support.** Come, partner with us.

Gratefully,

Diane Vaughan
President, Foundation of Wesley Woods

To make a gift to Wesley Woods to fund vital programming, visit wesleywoods.org/donate.



PASTORAL CARE

On-site chaplains provide ministry through hospital visits, counseling, Bible study, grief support and worship.



WELLNESS

Fitness classes and on-site nurses enhance the well-being of residents.



CHARITABLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is provided for housing, personal care and meals.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY!

My wife Kathleen and I have the Foundation of Wesley Woods in our wills for two very important reasons.

GRATITUDE. My late mother lived at Wesley Woods and volunteered by reading humorous books to visually impaired residents up until two weeks before her death. Additionally, Wesley Woods provided me with opportunities for a great career and for serving friends and family. We spent 28 years of our lives as part of Wesley Woods and express gratitude to the organization.

INSPIRATION. I visited hundreds of senior living communities like Wesley Woods during my career in Washington, DC. In every visit, I met staff, residents, board members and volunteers that exuded commitment, compassion and an entrepreneurial spirit. I especially found this inspiration each time I visited a Wesley Woods community. The need for affordable housing for older adults is growing and creates a greater demand for charity in the most noble sense of the word. Kathleen and I feel called to support causes that set standards, do the right things for people for the right reasons and stand the test of time. That is Wesley Woods for our family. **Through WILLS—yours and ours—there will always be a way.**

—Kathleen and Larry Minnix



The Torchbearer's Society recognizes individuals who have included Wesley Woods in their will or other long-range estate plans. The needs of our residents could not adequately be met without the foresight and generosity of others. For more information, contact Ty Tippett at 404-728-6290 or Ty.Tippett@wesleywoods.org.

IN 2019,
WESLEY WOODS
CHAPLAINS
PROVIDED:

984
WORSHIP SERVICES

572
BIBLE STUDIES

156
PRAYER GROUPS

8,400
PASTORAL VISITS

A TRUSTED VOICE



While at one of our Wesley Woods HUD-subsidized communities I had the opportunity to visit with a resident. She wore a red crocheted hat and came in on her walker. In an effort to get to know her, I asked if she had any favorite Scripture passages. She paused a moment and then began to recite, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me (*John 14:1*)."

Her voice was lilting, and with her eyes closed, she remembered the words she had first learned as a child. She confessed that she had not spent much time reading the Bible lately as her eyesight had deteriorated making it hard to read. I talked about meditating on the words we already knew by heart. She expressed that she was afraid God would not forgive her for things in her past. I assured her that God's grace was sufficient for anything we had or had not done. We spent nearly an hour sharing, reading Scripture and praying. As we finished, her eyes were wet with tears of joy and I asked her if she would like a hug. She responded with a full body bear hug, holding tightly and saying, "Thank you Jesus." Some days, you get as much as you give and then some.

—Rev. Karen Kagiya – O. Wayne Rollins Director of Pastoral Care,
Wesley Woods Senior Living

WELLNESS PROGRAM *IN ACTION*

Prior to moving to Wesley Woods of Athens, Julia caught pneumonia which progressed quickly, making her unable to be very active. She had a heart valve replacement, was suffering from diabetes, shortness of breath, poor muscle tone and irregular blood pressure.

When Julia moved into Wesley Woods she took advantage of the wellness program offered. She underwent three months of rehab for her heart valve replacement and began attending various exercise classes, including: Yoga, Balance Bikes, stretching and working with weights. Now, Julia's diabetes is under control, she has lost weight, is able to exercise regularly without shortness of breath, and her new valve is working beautifully. She has even been able to discontinue some of her medications!

Julia's doctors say she is now doing remarkably well because of her participation in the Wesley Woods wellness program.



"The wellness program was one of the first ways for me to make friends. I have also grown stronger and improved my balance. I am happy to be alive and well and hope to be here for a very long time!"

-Julia Knight, Wesley Woods resident

Special thanks to the following supporters of the Wesley Woods Wellness Program:

DeKalb County Human Services

Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust

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Rock Spring Presbyterian Church

The Evelyn and Frank Gordy Foundation

The John and Mary Franklin Foundation



WESLEY WOODS EMPLOYEES GIVE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

You hear a lot about workforce—the challenges, the shortages, the turnover—particularly within the long-term care industry. Though Wesley Woods is not exempt from these challenges, our culture, built upon our mission and ministry, make us an employer of choice. Our ability to attract great talent is recognized by receiving the *Great Place To Work Award*. Our employees believe that our society is strong to the extent older adults are valued, and they give in more ways than one. They give of themselves to provide exceptional care to residents living in each Wesley Woods community and also give of their financial resources. During the first-ever employee giving campaign, 74% of Wesley Woods employees went "All In!" **Join us in this mission by making a gift today at wesleywoods.org/donate.**

-Terry Barcroft - CEO, Wesley Woods Senior Living





WESLEY WOODS
FOUNDATION

1817 Clifton Road NE
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JOIN US AT
HEROES,
SAINTS &
LEGENDS!

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Flourish

3143 Maple Drive | Atlanta

5:30 PM

To purchase tickets or
make a donation, visit
herogift.org.



(L to R): Lillian Budd Darden, David and Cecelia Ratcliffe, Dr. Carolyn and Coach Bill Curry

Wesley Woods will honor **Dr. Carolyn and Coach Bill Curry** and **Cecelia and David Ratcliffe** at the March 19th Heroes, Saints & Legends gala. **Lillian Budd Darden** will chair the event that recognizes a lifetime of leadership, service and philanthropy of the honorees.

Your Heroes, Saints & Legends sponsorship or donation will directly fund pastoral care, wellness programming and charitable financial assistance for housing and meals for the residents who call Wesley Woods home.