

President’s Council: VP for Human Resources, Kathie Brean

During the second week in May, you will probably see some employees moving about the campuses in strange attire. This is part of our week of fun and fellowship for Employee Appreciation from May 6 – 12. Our appreciation week coincides with the national Nursing Appreciation Week. While we do have some very special activities and prizes planned just for our nurses, we have expanded the week to include celebration and appreciation for ALL of our employees. Teamwork is one of our core values here at Redstone, and none of us could be successful without the support of our entire employee community. We’ve got special treats in the break room, an employee pancake breakfast, and lots of fun prizes planned. When you see our employees wearing their tourist outfits, vintage attire, or superhero apparel, pause for a moment to join in the celebration and thank them for what they do.



COVID Corner

There is good news and bad news to report in Covid corner. The bad news is that Covid cases are on the rise here in Westmoreland County and around the world. The good news is that the vast majority of those who are fully vaccinated and boosted will have very mild illness, or no symptoms at all despite testing positive. We can’t stress enough how important it is to receive your boosters when it is time. Residents and employees can plan to participate in an upcoming booster clinic at Redstone. And as always, wash your hands frequently, wear your masks on our clinical units, and consider wearing your mask when you go out in crowded public spaces.

Fundraising Event: MAY, Guardian Angel Service Dogs



Our Charity of Choice for May is Guardian Angel Service Dogs, a Rocky Bleier Foundation providing service dogs to Veterans in need. Purchase a \$5 American flag to honor a hero who has served or is currently serving our country. The flags will be displayed out front of the campus beginning Thursday, May 26th and the honoree names will be displayed in the main lobby during Memorial Day weekend. The deadline to order is Wednesday, May 25th. Please make checks payable to “Guardian Angel Service Dogs”. Return order form and money to the Front Desk. Flags stand two feet tall by one foot wide. For questions or to place your order contact Kim at Ext. 3378.

Fundraising Event: April Walk A Mile In Her Shoes Re-Cap

April celebrated the Blackburn Center of Westmoreland County for our Charity of Choice. On Thursday, April 21st, we held our annual *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* on all campuses—although we did more dancing than walking! The men of Redstone sported red high heels down the catwalk in support of Blackburn’s mission. Greensburg walkers were Connor Black, Matthew Urchick, Cole Wilcox, David Smith, Ed Rudin, and John Miller. North Huntingdon walkers were Paul D’Angelo, Ron Sekerka, and Mark Palmieri. Murrysville walkers were Geoff Gehring, John Dickson, and Dan Keeley. Mission Support also sold themed shoe cookies in the gift shops. In total, we raised **over \$1,000** in proceeds directly benefitting the Blackburn Center. Thank you to all who participated in this fun event to support another charity.



Alzheimer’s & Dementia Family and Friends Support Group



Join our support group specifically for loved ones and caregivers of those facing Alzheimer’s or Dementia. Although the group initially will be meeting at Redstone Murrysville, loved ones across Redstone are most welcome and invited to attend. Meetings will be held every fourth Thursday of the month from 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Our Murrysville chaplain, Rev. Becca Siddle, who is a certified Dementia practitioner and trained by the Alzheimer’s Association, will be the group facilitator. Participants must register in advance by calling Becca at 724-733-9494 ext. 5513 (or via email at rsiddle@redstone.org), so please be sure to do so before the *May 26th* meeting!

Eagle Scout Project

National Volunteer Month is celebrated in April every year. Our Greensburg campus was gifted with some of the most spectacular volunteerism we have seen yet. Paul Mills, member of the Boy Scouts of America, donated his Eagle Scout project to our Redstone community. Paul crafted two large wooden flower boxes, low enough to allow wheelchair access for all residents to enjoy for seasons to come. In addition to these boxes being a masterpiece of craftsmanship, Paul added a plate to each dedicating them in memorial to his Grandfather, Peter A. Regal and to “all grandparents everywhere.” We can not thank Paul enough for this special project and for allowing us to be the recipients of it. Stay tuned for pictures of their use!



John Dickson, Lifetime Achievement Award



On Tuesday, April 5th, President & CEO John Dickson was surprised by Board Members, Staff, & LeadingAge PA with the Paul P. Haas Lifetime Achievement Award. We managed to keep this a secret from him, only to decorate the Chapel Hill Board Room and welcome him with cheers and applause. Our community is proud to have a leader of John’s caliber at the helm and grateful that he has been recognized in this way. This award will be officially bestowed upon him during the LeadingAge PA conference in June of 2022. We couldn't help but to celebrate such an amazing accolade. Congratulations, John!

Employee Spotlight! Karen Stock’s 42 Years of Service

It was 1979 and a new retirement community was just being built in Greensburg, Pennsylvania to be named Greensburg Home of the Redstone Presbytery. It was also the same year, in December, Karen Stock was interviewing for Activity Director of this new retirement community. Karen was eventually hired as employee #5, kicking off her 42 years with what is now Redstone Highlands. How do you even sum up 42 years in a short paragraph? Karen tells of all the smiles, the laughter, the crafts, and love shared in a truly unique community spread across the many years of being part of it. Karen was here from the very first pioneering days of “Let’s make this place special” to the now three-campus-wide motto of “Where every person matters”. As she tries to put four decades into a sentence, she says, “I am blessed with the opportunity to know, share and love so many residents. And, also, the privilege of working with so many special, caring coworkers. My heart is filled with so many memories.” These memories will always live in the halls of Redstone and the staff who had the pleasure of working with Karen during her wonderful career. Karen’s mark at Redstone will always remind us why our community is so valuable and special. “I thank all the residents, their families and staff for making my life so rich and rewarding,” she says. Karen, for your 42 years with us, we want to thank you and take a moment to recognize your place that will always be in our community. Good luck on your new adventure!

Volunteer Spotlight! Michelle Dixon

Michelle has been volunteering at Redstone for three years, both helping in the gift shop and grocery shopping for residents during the Pandemic. She describes goodwill and helping others as the root of volunteerism. Although Michelle is now a volunteer, she also previously worked at Redstone in Dining Services for 22 years before retiring. She decided on gift shop because it was one of her favorite places to visit when she worked here. Michelle loves getting to see the residents she knew during her time at Redstone—it reminds her of the lasting friendships she has made over the years! Besides crafting uniquely designed kitchen hand towels for the gift shop, Michelle also likes to garden, crochet, and go for walks. Her volunteer work is shared at the Jeannette American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, the Westmorland County Food Bank, and the Sunshine Ladies at her church. “It’s always good to help others,” she says. Pat Acita, Gift Shop Coordinator tells us, “She takes her young granddaughter to buy craft supplies. I am sure she will have grandchildren who are as kind and thoughtful as she is.” Pat describes Michelle as so kind and helpful to all of the residents and customers. If you see Michelle in the gift shop, say hello!

Resident Spotlight! Eleanor (Ellie) Bernacchi

Ellie Bernacchi has an incredible story of breaking the glass ceiling for women of her time. Ellie attended Purdue University for Chemical Engineering, a seemingly male-dominated field of study. She was one of only four women who graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1947. Although she, along with her fellow *female* classmates, were met with contempt as girls attending engineering classes...they didn’t let it stop them from following their passion. Most women went into Home Economics after high school, but not Ellie. She says, “Why would I go into Home Economics when I already had 18 years of it. I could teach their class!” Instead, she went on to pursue an education aligning with her interest in mathematics, problem-solving, and challenging her memory and thoughts. Her late father and brother both were accomplished engineers as well, giving Ellie the drive to be something extraordinary. Of her greatest achievements, Ellie says that bringing up three strong children is at the very top of her list. She raised her youngest daughter, who was mentally challenged, to be the most resilient person they know, a true glowing light. Ellie worked diligently to teach her math and how to read and write. She gave her daughter so much support and encouragement, she far surpassed anyone’s expectations. In addition, Ellie also published three Financial Planning books alongside her late husband, Ben Bernacchi. Ellie said it wasn't her intention to publish books, but she wrote down everything she knew and it came together organically. That was, of course, after she and Ben went back to school to become Certified Financial Planners—wow! Aside from engineering, Ellie had a true passion for traveling. She remembers so many trips with her father, eventually having been to 48 States. She and Ben also took many trips to Europe, visiting her German heritage and his Italian heritage. Ellie is so full of family stories about her grandfather “Fizzie” and her mother baking dozens of German cookies for the holidays—she could really write another book!

RedstoneGoes: NEW Trips & Tours

On Tuesday, April 26th, the RedstoneGoes crew headed to Lancaster to see the DAVID at Sight & Sound Theater. We had a blast taking this trip. Our next venture is to Cape May, New Jersey planned for May 23-25! We invite friends and family to join us as well—everyone is welcome! If you are interested in our Trips & Tours, our 2022-2023 travel brochure is ready. For more information, to reserve your spots, or to request a travel brochure, call (724) 832-8402 ext. 3370. You can also visit our website at www.redstone.org/redstonegoes to see our Trips & Tours forms and our RedstoneGoes policies. We offer day trips and overnight stays. Adventure awaits!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game Day & Raffle

Are you ready for some baseball? The Pirates are back and ready for a successful season. To celebrate the return of baseball, we’re hosting a *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* Day on Friday, May 20th. During campus gift shop hours, anyone can come down and get a hot dog, chips, a drink, and a raffle ticket all for \$5! What’s the prize for the raffle? It is a signed limited edition Bill Mazeroski print, rendered by Pittsburgh artist Burton Morris. The print is numbered 47/250, so it sure is a unique piece of art! Raffle tickets will also be sold starting May 1st in the gift shops, 5 tickets for \$5. You can visit our RallyUp page at <https://redstonehighlands.rallyup.com/mazeroski> to purchase tickets online or learn more about this unique piece of art. All proceeds go to Benevolent Care. Winner will be drawn on Tuesday, May 24th to be announced on Facebook and Stall Notes.

