

The Window

President’s Council | Vicki Loucks, Vice President & COO

When we entered the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, we had no idea what was ahead of us. While the pandemic was challenging in many ways, it also taught us some valuable lessons. One of the most important lessons learned was how to respond to infectious diseases and how to mitigate risk to our residents and our team members during an outbreak of an infectious disease such as coronavirus or influenza. We’ve learned about isolation, personal protective equipment, air circulation, in addition to vaccine use and success. Because of that, we’re now in a better position to remove our vaccine mandates. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) did mandate that all healthcare workers receive the COVID-19 vaccine during the pandemic. They recently set a date for the formal removal of that mandate as August 5th, 2023. At Redstone, we feel that we’re able to remove that mandate, along with our influenza vaccine mandate because of all the lessons learned as noted above. Additionally, we’re facing a workforce crisis unlike any other. Removing the vaccine requirements will allow us to better recruit for open positions. We’re excited to enter this new chapter and look forward to moving forward together as we exit the active phase of the pandemic. Additional information will be provided to employees via email.



Save the Date: 2023 Highlands Fling Fall Ball & Bougie Bingo

Our 21st annual Highlands Fling Fall Ball is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st, 2023. This event will include Bougie Bingo and so much festive autumn fun! Support of this event makes it possible for Redstone to provide Benevolent Care for elders in need. This year, we are offering Early Bird ticket and table pricing! All ticket and table purchases made on or before September 1st will receive a discounted admission price. In addition to tickets and tables, you may choose to reserve select prize packs to participate in Fling events like Bougie Bingo, the \$1,000 prize game, and raffle baskets. We also have multiple sponsorships, business ads, and gifts of support options available. Additionally, we are accepting generous donations for auction and raffle items such as gift cards, vouchers for services, décor, collectibles and more to make this event a success! To learn more about this event, give a gift of support, donate an item, or reserve your tickets and tables, visit our Fling site at www.redstone.org/highlands-fling.



Resident Spotlight: Bunny Conte

Bunny Conte, Greensburg resident, has a long history of making her voice heard by voting in elections. In fact, her history runs so deep that in 2019, Bunny received special recognition for voting in every November election for 50+ consecutive years! The Voter Hall of Fame induction was held at Westmoreland County Courthouse. Bunny, along with 90 other Westmoreland County residents, were among the people inducted. This was such a special honor for Bunny and came as a total surprise to her! Being inducted wasn't the end of Bunny’s commitment, as she still participates in major and local elections. The first place Bunny ever voted was in Greensburg’s 5th Ward, back in the 1950s. She says, “I just thought that was the thing to do!” That sparked the next several decades of Bunny ensuring that her voice was heard loud and clear. “People have to speak their opinion on anything,” says Bunny. Every single election is important to her, but she stresses the personal importance of the November elections. “It makes a difference in what happens to our country and how things go.” Bunny encourages others to get out and exercise their right to vote!

Wishing Well Coin Drive Summary

Our Wishing Well Team held a coin drive, placing collection jars at each of the Redstone campuses to collect spare change, during the month of June. In total, our jars collected \$432.62 in donations...wow! Murrys ville came in first with \$163.02, followed by North Huntingdon with \$124.19, Greensburg with \$92.77, and Chapel Hill with \$52.64. All proceeds go to benefit the Wishing Well Program, helping to grant meaningful and memory-making experiences for residents. The Wishing Well Program has been a Redstone tradition since 2005 and we are thrilled to continue it with all of your support!



Cura Hospitality Brings BeWell Kitchen to Redstone

In early May, we happily welcomed Cura Hospitality, our new Dining Services partner, to all three of our Redstone campuses. Cura has worked to provide our residents with a new and exciting dining experience! Recently, our Greensburg campus experienced its first BeWell Kitchen, an interactive hands-on culinary workshop hosted by Cura. Residents prepared the featured recipe of Caprese Salad with Grilled Peaches during this workshop. Chef David and Missy Fry, Cura’s registered dietician who supports the Redstone community, led the BeWell Kitchen. Cura also provided portioned and fresh ingredients such as grilled peaches, mozzarella cheese, pecans, fresh basil, honey dressing, and more. Each participant received a placemat that doubled as a guide to the preparation of the meal and its ingredients. Cura Area Manager, MaryBeth Shearer, says, “Cura develops well-thought-out programs. The placemat is visually interesting, which replaces a traditional recipe card. You can take notes on the placemat and then take it home with you.” Residents were encouraged to try their creation during the workshop or take it home to enjoy later. This event was a major hit with all involved. “The BeWell Kitchen was an over-the-top experience. It was cool for the residents to participate and create their own dish. I know this was for residents, but I was so excited, that I brought administration and other staff to check it out. It was total excitement between management and residents. A great experience for all!” says Diana Colflesh, Greensburg Lifestyle Team Member. We are excited to bring this workshop to all three of our communities each month!





**Staff Spotlight:
Kayla Williams & Dawn Mosesman**

We have an incredible staff here at Redstone. Recently, Kayla Williams and Dawn Mosesman were nominated for the Caregiver of the Year Award, recognized by the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA). This is an incredible distinction, with 150 direct care workers being nominated this year. For more than 15 years, PHA has recognized direct care workers across Pennsylvania who display outstanding service and exceptional care in their communities. This year, Kayla and Dawn represented Redstone@Home at the PHA Direct Care Worker Forum. Kayla, Hospice Aid who started at Redstone in 2022, says, “Your legacy is the effect you leave on people. We make such a difference in people’s lives.” Dawn, Hospice Aid who started at Redstone in 2008, says, “I love how good [caregiving] makes you feel, to know that you are helping people and making their day better. I look forward to meeting more wonderful patients and their families.” The nomination came as a true honor to be recognized for their efforts. Both Kayla and Dawn have been described as exceptional Hospice Aides who are loved by clients and their families and coworkers for the compassionate care they provide each day. Congratulations to Kayla and Dawn for this achievement in their career!

Parkinson’s Support Groups

Our groups are open to anyone in the Redstone community and to the general public who have been impacted by Parkinson’s Disease. We meet once a month in a safe space where people can speak their mind, compare notes with peers, and meet movement disorder experts who can help your quality of life while living with Parkinson’s. We hope you will join us for a sweet treat, fellowship, and support in your walk with Parkinson’s. If you have questions or would like more information on the groups, please contact Jessica Glesk at 412-874-6453 or visit our site at www.redstone.org/communities/parkinsons-programs.



Meet Our Volunteer: Connie Meyers

Connie Meyers, Murrysville resident, began her volunteer journey in January. Connie utilizes her volunteerism to assist in the Murrysville Gift Shop, mentor new residents, and help to transport those wanting to visit the Chapel on Sundays. How did Connie get to play such an active role in volunteering? Well, she was assisting with a few things prior. She knew the Gift Shop needed some help and that’s when she decided to make it official! Connie says it makes her feel good to help people. “It gives you purpose in life,” she says. Connie also actively volunteers for Meals on Wheels and has done so for over the past 30+ years. She says to aspiring volunteers, “Keeping busy and helping others makes life much easier and nicer.” Outside of her volunteering, Connie takes part in the Book Club, is the Secretary for Resident Council, runs bingo, and is also part of the Food Committee as well as the Spiritual Life Committee.

Westmoreland Chamber Champions

Each month, the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce recognizes a member to be named the Chamber Champion of the Month. Redstone is proud to hold the title and belt for July of 2023. Our team was excited to try it on!



Humane Society of Westmoreland County: August Charity of Choice

Our annual Redstone Pet Contest is this August! We will be having a pet photo contest to raise money for the Humane Society of Westmoreland County. Submit photos of your pets or even grand-pets for the contest. There is a \$5 donation per pet photo entry. Photos need to be submitted to the front desk of your campus from Tuesday, August 1st—Sunday, August 13th. Please include pet(s) name(s), their human’s name, campus, and contact phone number with your submission. Voting will take place Wednesday, August 16th—Sunday, August 27th in campus gift shops. Voting ballots are \$1 each and there is no limit to voting. All proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Westmoreland County in honor of the winning pet on each campus! Donations can be cash or check, with checks made payable to “HSWC.” For questions, please contact Alaina at AlFisher@redstone.org.



Bridge Apartments Will Expand to Murrysville Campus

First introduced on our North Huntingdon campus, Bridge Apartments are part of Redstone’s licensed Personal Care program offering three tiers of service: Med Care, Assist Care, and Complete Care, with each tailored to the individual’s needs. The Bridge Apartments are a combination of private and shared apartments that are appointed with fully equipped kitchens, living, and dining areas. We are excited to announce the expansion of the Bridge Apartment opportunity to our Murrysville campus. The Murrysville Bridge Apartments are expected to be completed this fall for those seeking to join the Redstone community! Visit www.redstone.org to learn more about our campuses.



LTSS Evolve Advocacy for Aging Services

LeadingAge PA launched LTSS Evolve in spring 2023 to “identify and address antiquated, redundant, and overly burdensome long-term services and supports (LTSS) rules, regulations, policies, and guidances by engaging policymakers at the state level.” There is a strong focus to keep care recipients at the core to shape the future of policies and to serve the best interests of Pennsylvania’s older adults and their caregivers. Board Chair, and Redstone’s own VP and COO, Vicki Loucks, stressed the importance of seeking change in policy that still uses outdated regulations. “We need to change some of what we’re doing to get a better outcome,” she says, “Everybody wants the same outcome. We just need to focus on how to get there and provide better care and services to the seniors.” LTSS Evolve will continue to ignite change and make a positive impact within the aging services arena.

