

The Window

Presidents Council—Lisa Dormire, VP Mission Support

Most of us have never heard of a “derecho” until the past few days. Meteorologists tell us that a derecho is a widespread, long-lived windstorm associated with a band of rapidly moving thunderstorms. These storms can produce winds as strong as those in hurricanes or even tornadoes, but unlike hurricanes and tornadoes, the winds typically follow a straight path. While the final verdict of whether or not the storm on April 29th was an official derecho, we certainly saw a lot of impact on our campuses. The Murrysville campus in particular experienced the perfect storm of a loss of power, combined with an elevator that was already out of service and scheduled for hydraulic pump repair. Unfortunately, this was also the elevator in the Independent Living wing that is connected to generator power. A storm that is being called unprecedented set off an unprecedented series of events on this campus. Since the storm, we have had residents tell us stories of incredible care and support received by Redstone’s team members during that long night. At the time that the storm blew through, many residents were in the ground floor dining room, and some required significant assistance to return to their apartments. While all clinical, maintenance, and dietary employees sprang in to action, we have received special shout outs to VP Geoff Gehring, Forefront Dining Manager Jerry Mullen, Maintenance team members Joe Hajas, Dale Noel, and Josh Cavalieri who were tireless in their efforts to assist residents. While the power remained off through the night and into the next day, thankfully it was restored by mid-morning. Meanwhile, as all of this frenzy of activity in the IL apartments was taking place, the Personal Care team took action without hesitation to ensure that Courtyard and Terrace residents were safe and comfortable throughout the night. As the region continues to recover from this storm, the impact will be long remembered. As will this night where Team Redstone shined in a moment of adversity. Thank you to all who stepped up during this emergency.

Help Us Grow Our Garden of Love!

Nurture and care are important, especially in this season. We are also grateful for those who have cared for and nurtured us—our cherished seniors. This spring, we invite you to join us in supporting our mission of providing compassionate care and services to seniors in our Redstone communities. Whether it’s providing benevolent care support for those who have depleted their financial resources, providing special activities or programs, compassionate hospice care, or simply providing a beautiful and safe place to live, your contribution will have a profound impact on the lives of the seniors we serve. In addition to serving our residents through our annual spring campaign, some donors choose to make gifts of support to nurture our workforce. Gifts to the HOPE Program provide financial assistance to employees who find themselves in crisis situations, and provide opportunities for employees to blossom here at Redstone, too. Your gifts become visible signs of hope in our communities as we fill a “Garden of Love Tree” on each of our campuses. A white tree is placed in a central location and soon is full of spring symbols. Each symbol represents a gift of love. All gifts given from now until July 1, 2025 will be recognized on these trees. Gifts will also be acknowledged on a signboard in the adjacent area. Gifts may be made in honor or memory of someone special and we will be happy to notify someone of your gift if you wish. We invite you to use the enclosed response card to let us know exactly how you want your gift to be used. You may also choose to make an online gift by scanning the QR code. When you provide us with contact information, we are happy to send a note to someone you have chosen to honor with your gift.



DOVE Employee Recognition Program at Redstone

The DOVE Recognition Program seeks to recognize the many wonderful things that employees in the Redstone Family do each and every day while serving our community. Have you witnessed an employee going "above and beyond" while serving our residents, their families, or fellow staff members? Submit their name for DOVE Recognition. You can recognize employees by completing a card located at the DOVE cases at any campus, by scanning the QR code, or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPSDove.



Employee Spotlight: Char Schelich



What do a football play book, a college textbook and a Bible have in common? Each provides a roadmap to success on the field, in the classroom and in life. RN Char Schelich has the benefit of all three to guide him in his new role as Infection Control Prevention/Education Coordinator for Skilled Care at the Greensburg campus. He also brings plenty of practical experience to his promotion, including an Army tour of duty in Iraq, service to patients in a personal care home and hospital Emergency Room and pastoral leadership in his church. Born and homeschooled in Delaware, Char relocated to Pennsylvania and finished high school at Greater Latrobe where he played football for the Wildcats. Char says his strong work ethic and his eagerness to progress have been evident to teachers and supervisors over the years. While working as a technical partner in Latrobe Hospital’s ER, Char was encouraged to pursue a nursing degree at Westmoreland County Community College, where he also played soccer. His team-player mentality and willingness to float among units heightened his on-the-job training and only deepened his love of health care and his zest for life. Formerly a floor nurse with Redstone’s 5-Star Staffing, Char embraces opportunities to deepen his skills and is committed to not only advancing his degree, but applying best practices to patient care. “The pandemic taught us so much about how to keep people healthy and safe,” he noted. “Being able to apply what I learn in practical ways to benefit others is so gratifying.” While settling into his new responsibilities, the 30-year-old is also adjusting to married life, having tied the knot in September. The pair share a deep faith and call to service, which makes Redstone the ideal place for Char to put down roots.

Walk a Mile in HER Shoes 2025

Thank you to all of our walkers, supporters, family, friends, and residents, for participating in this years Walk a Mile in HER Shoes event. This year we had 19 walkers who managed to raise an incredible \$3,044.30 in proceeds for Blackburn with the help of supporters. John Dickson, President & CEO, was the winner of the 2025 Golden Heel Trophy. To celebrate John Dickson’s retirement, and his final Redstone Walks a Mile in HER Shoes event, our Greensburg walkers pledged all of their donations to John during the walk. John also made a pledge to match proceeds for Greensburg totaling \$1,032.15 after the walk. Be sure to check out the Golden Heel Trophy and the Red Shoe Award at Greensburg campus!



Volunteer Spotlight—Katia Costa



Katia started volunteering in our community in April 2025. She enjoys assisting the Lifestyles team by providing entertainment to residents! “I have always enjoyed spending time with the elderly, listening to their life experiences and learning from them,” says Katia, “In Brazil, the country where I was born, I also did volunteer work in nursing homes and that’s why I decided to volunteer at Redstone.” Katia says volunteering with older adults leaves a positive impact and offers a feeling of fulfilment. Katia learns a lot during her volunteer work, but notes that listening more than talking and being patient and empathetic are at the top of her list. “I have no doubt that volunteer work always comes with blessings in my life. I developed a sense of gratitude and respect.” says Katia. She offers advice to future volunteers by saying, “When you are a volunteer, it’s important to learn by listening with your heart open.” Outside of Redstone, she also volunteers at St. Ambrose Church in Avonmore once a moth and the food pantry on the last Wednesday of every month. Katia also enjoys taking care of her family, house and dog. She also loves to read a good book! Katia adds that she has lived here for almost 8 years, moving to the United States because of her husband’s work. She notes how great of an experience it has been. Thank you for volunteering in our community, Katia!

Tovertafel Brings Magic to Murrysville

Purposeful play. That’s how the developers of the Tovertafel describe what happens when people gather around the “Magic Table” cognitive stimulation system. Redstone Lifestyle Director Jill Wolfe, BSBA, MPC, MEC, couldn’t be more excited about this innovative resource that is spurring physical activity, encouraging social interaction and improving cognition for Murrysville campus residents living with dementia and other behavioral challenges. Jill was like a kid in a toy store during a LeadingAge conference where the interactive projection system was demonstrated. “For the first time in my 20 years of activities programming, there is something new and effective in achieving engagement among residents, staff and families – and it’s easy to use, intuitive and just plain fun.” Of course, Jill wanted one, but she was concerned there might not be funds available. That’s when the Mission Support team created a special mini fundraising campaign called “Clear The Board,” which allowed donors to contribute toward the \$5,000 goal. “I’m hopeful we can bring systems to our other campuses sometime soon. The results speak for themselves,” she added. Easy to operate, the system is mounted on the ceiling and projects vibrant, lifelike images onto the table surface in the form of games that react to even the smallest hand and arm movements. This virtual reality is so responsive to the user, it seems magical, which delights young and old alike. What Jill appreciates about the system is the seamless integration into daily routines. “One of the games involved kneading bread to simulate baking, After the game we brought in real bowls, utensils and frosting and iced some cookies,” she explained. “At Easter residents gathered colored eggs projected on the table, followed by an egg hunt in the courtyard.” For families, the activities can be the creative spark that lets tech-savvy children interact with grandparents in a manner both generations can relate. For staff, a restless agitated resident can be redirected with an interactive task like leaf raking or sorting. And caregivers can take a break at the table with a virtual game of rummy. That customization meshes perfectly with Redstone’s commitment to person-centered care and can be a differentiator for a potential new hire who sees how the organization embraces the creative use of technology. “We are all looking for happiness and satisfaction in our lives,” Jill stressed. “Never underestimate the power of just a few moments of joy.”



Happy Retirement: Joe Hajas, Maintenance

Live to work or work to live? For Joe Hajas both are true, and although he’s retiring from Redstone May 2 with 26 ½ years of service, he’s not about to stop doing all the things that have made him such an asset in his role as Facility Support Manager at the Murrysville campus. The mechanical heart of any building is its heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Joe can thank Triangle Tech for his HVAC training, but he’s also beholden to his family for skills he learned on the farm and from his uncles who are contractors. “I’ve been around the building trades all my life. You might say, it’s in my blood,” explained Joe, who built his own home just off Donahoe Road in Unity Township. What he didn’t learn from family, he gleaned from stints at a factory, a foundry and UPS. “Coming from a construction background, Redstone had a lot of appeal to me,” Joe recalled, noting that before settling at Murrysville, he had served Greensburg and North Huntingdon campuses as well. “They were looking for an all-around facilities guy, and that sounded like me,” he added. “I liked that every day would be different and that I’d be able to do what I know and love. It’s been a great place to work, and the residents and staff are so appreciative.” As to the future, there will still be HVAC and plumbing projects to keep Joe busy as well as some quality time with the grandkids -- his youngest granddaughter will start school in the fall. “After that, who knows!” One thing’s for certain ... Joe will be a great mentor to anyone who has the privilege to learn from him.



Honor a Hero in MAY!

Sponsor an American flag* for \$5 to honor a hero who served or is serving our country. Flags will be displayed beginning Friday, May 23rd outside of each campus and will remain through the 4th of July. Names will be displayed on honor boards in the main lobbies beginning Memorial Day weekend. Please return order form and money to front desk by Monday, May 19th, 2025. Charitable proceeds from this fundraiser support special veterans projects at Redstone. *American flags are 12” x 18”



May Word Search

M	A	H	L	G	E	H	G	U	W	A
O	M	E	M	O	R	I	A	L	A	B
T	O	K	A	C	Q	K	R	M	R	Y
S	T	D	E	Z	U	G	D	E	M	F
P	H	A	M	A	Y	P	E	M	Y	L
Z	E	R	U	I	W	Q	N	O	G	A
Y	R	F	L	A	F	I	N	R	A	G
E	S	P	R	I	N	G	F	D	R	T
S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	W	A	S



May	Flag
Spring	Garden
Mother's (Day)	Warm
Memorial (Day)	Sunshine