

# The Window

## Presidents Council—Lisa Dormire, VP for Mission Support

We are looking forward to an exciting summer as we celebrate the retirement of our President and CEO, John R. Dickson, IV and welcome Vicki Loucks into this position. A number of special opportunities have been planned, and we hope that you will participate as you are able. In July, Redstone’s Dove Team will host a gathering on each campus for residents and employees to wish John well. Also in July, a big retirement celebration will be held in the ballroom of the Live Casino (attached to Westmoreland Mall) on Friday, July 11th. Anyone who is interested may purchase a ticket and attend this event, but we are limited to 300 tickets. The evening will include a dinner, cash bar, roasts and toasts from some of the people who know John the best, and even some music for dancing. If you are unable to attend this event but want to participate in thanking John for his service and wish him well, you are encouraged to make a gift to the Retirement Gift/Scholarship Establishment campaign that is also included in the invitation for the party. A portion of funds raised will be used to provide John wish a meaningful retirement gift, and the majority will be used to establish a scholarship at Redstone in his honor. The scholarship will be awarded annual to an employee or employee’s child who is studying healthcare administration. To purchase tickets for the event, or make a gift in John’s honor, please visit <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/RPSC71125> or scan the QR code. For the past 24 years John’s vision and leadership have helped to make Redstone the special place that it is today. We look forward to celebrating him and thanking him for his service.



## 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.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Rudy Horwatt

Rudy Horwatt has dedicated his entire life to serving others. He’s been a GED instructor, working with juveniles and incarcerated adults and a housing counselor helping families move from poverty to home ownership. When his position with Westmoreland Community Action was eliminated nearly three years ago, Rudy took that as a sign to begin volunteering. His time on the job turned into service time – more than 2,100 hours accumulated since 2023 – which resulted in Rudy being named Redstone’s 2025 Volunteer of the Year. “I’ve been working since I was 14, and I couldn’t see myself being retired,” acknowledged Rudy. “I just needed a new outlet for my energy and enthusiasm.” Rudy comes by his love of seniorcare naturally. His mother’s best friend had been a nurse at Redstone in the past so he knew it was a special place to live, work and volunteer. During the five years his mother was a resident at Baldock Health Care Center, he also saw firsthand how much she and others benefited from friendly visitors and pleasant activities. When she passed in 2013, Rudy not only missed his daily visits with his mom but all the opportunities he had to brighten the day for other residents and staff. But added job responsibilities didn’t leave time for a volunteer commitment and the void continued to grow. He was finally able to close that hole in his heart when his work assignment ended. “It was a blessing in disguise,” admits Rudy. Rudy volunteers four days per week with an average of 5 hours each shift supporting the activities programming at Redstone North Huntingdon, although he can lose track of time easily if his jovial banter is resonating with those in the room. “There’s nothing as satisfying as the sound of laughter or the look of recognition when a memory is kindled,” he noted. Rudy’s holistic approach means residents can engage spiritually, emotionally, mentally and cognitively, as they are able. One day it’s arts and crafts, the next a karaoke singalong, the next time a simple game, or maybe just some conversation to help pass the time. And what about Rudy? “You have no idea how much I benefit on every level. It’s all intertwined. I get so much more than I give.” And Rudy has no plans to stop giving anytime soon.



## June Charity of Choice: Alzheimer’s Association Promise Garden

The Promise Garden is a mission-focused experience that signifies solidarity in the fight against Alzheimer’s. The colors of the Promise Garden Flowers represent reasons to end the disease! From now until June 16, you can sponsor a flower to place outside of your campus to show your support for the fight against Alzheimer’s (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST). You may choose to dedicate your flower in honor or in memory of a loved one. All names will be displayed on an honor board in the main lobby of the campus. Honor boards and flowers will be placed before June 20th to celebrate the Longest Day. Please return form and donation to the front desk. Checks can be made payable to the Alzheimer’s Association. Proceeds benefit the Alzheimer’s Association.





**Employee Spotlight: David Smith, Sous Chef, Forefront**



Could a future Food Network star be cooking in the Redstone kitchens? He just might be! Greensburg campus sous chef David Smith just placed in the top three of the Favorite Chef competition, a nationwide event that unites renowned chefs, passionate home cooks and creative food artists in a showdown of skill and flavor in support of the James Beard Foundation which advocates for racial and gender equity, sustainability and industry culture and practices. While he didn’t win the \$25,000 grand prize, David gained national exposure for doing what he loves – and he is sure to enter again next year. He credits his high placement in the contest to the widespread support from the Redstone family and his Forefront colleagues who cast votes online to elevate his entry. But it’s his mom’s home cooking that inspired David to pursue a food service career, and should he claim a top prize in a future competition he will use the funds to start his own catering business in her memory.

“The way people reacted after eating my mom’s food aways amazed me. It was not about being fancy but making you feel good and coming back for more! I miss being able to see my mom touch people through her cooking. I want to be able to do the same thing.” This self-trained cook has been doing just that at Redstone for the past 12 years, including monthly cooking demonstrations. “I love making people happy by doing what I love. Those smiles just melt my heart.” A California transplant, David says there’s a lot of food experimentation in the home he shares with his wife and son, but it’s a much beloved comfort food that gives him great pleasure to prepare for others. “I love to make baked mac ‘n cheese. It’s a blend of creaminess with the pull of the gooey cheese, and well-seasoned noodles to bring out the flavor.” Jerk chicken and good barbecue are other favorites. And one other dish that David is desperate to replicate – chicken and waffles...“I finally found the recipe in a Pennsylvania Dutch cookbook that mirrors what I ate growing up...that delicious creamy chicken in savory gravy. Now that’s a taste of home!”

**Happy Retirement: Rita Perotti, Administrative Assistant for Corporate Services**

After nearly a decade at Redstone, Rita Perotti, Administrative Assistant for Corporate Services, is celebrating a happy retirement! Rita says her employment at Redstone has been happily fulfilled with friendly co-workers, delectable eats at employee appreciation events (like Millie’s Homemade Ice Cream and Travelin’ Tom’s Coffee Truck), and her exceptional boss, Jerry May. After seeing an employment opportunity available in our Redstone community some years ago, Rita notes that she couldn’t pass it up. She says, “It is only .6 miles from my garage to work,” she laughs, “It takes me longer to walk into the building!” Although Rita will miss working with staff and residents, being the liaison with setting up phones at Redstone, and being the unofficial and honorary “boss” of maintenance, she looks straight forward to her plans of retirement. Instantaneously, unplanned travel is on Rita’s retirement bucket list, but that’s not all! She also looks forward to having the time to try new recipes by cooking at home, sleeping in if the weather is rainy or snowy, expanding her dedicated volunteerism to the American Red Cross, and also not having to put a book down just when it starts to get good....She can stay up reading late into the night not having to hear her alarm clock buzzing bright and early! Our community wishes Rita a happy and deserved retirement full of blessings, adventure, and delicious recipes.



**2025 Chairman’s Appreciation Luncheon**



It’s never too late to say Thank You! Gratitude abounded during the 2025 Chairman’s Appreciation Luncheon May 13, the first such event since the COVID-19 pandemic put a pause on this important gathering that recognizes the incredible gifts of time, talent and treasure selflessly offered for the betterment of Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare. This year, three individuals were feted, bringing the list of awardees to 30 since the program began more than 20 years ago. A puzzle-piece theme and decorative pins helped to demonstrate visually the importance of every individual to completing the Redstone picture. The seed packet favors symbolized the growth that is only possible through the efforts of many: Generous donors identified in Circles of Giving who provide financial support year after year, as well as those members of the Toman Legacy Society who remember Redstone through estate planning gifts; Dedicated volunteers who contribute countless hours of time to assist the residents and staff; And committed leadership who live the mission and share the vision that motivates others to become involved in this life-changing enterprise. As Board Chair, Michael Passalinqua affirmed, everyone associated with Redstone is that essential piece of the puzzle that makes a difference. Lisa Dormire, Vice President of Mission Support, welcomed luncheon guests. Autumn Beal, Volunteer Coordinator and Recruiter, noted the importance of a robust roster of enthusiastic volunteers. The pandemic had taken its toll on volunteerism and Redstone is actively working to expand the pool across all three campuses. Recognized as the 2025 Volunteer of the Year was Rudy Horwatt who is featured in this month’s spotlight. Not surprisingly, one of two Chairman’s Awards was presented to Redstone senior executive John R. Dickson IV, who will retire August 1. John has been at the helm of Redstone for 23 years and an impetus for significant growth and transformation in senior living services not only locally but across the industry -- from overseeing construction in Murrysville and North Huntingdon and expansion through management and acquisition within Redmont Village to cost reduction and operational restructuring to the launch of Redstone@Home for home care, home health and hospice service and 5 Star Staffing, Redstone’s own agency model of employment. Recognized for his advocacy and vision, John has been honored by LeadingAge PA for his exemplary service. He will be roasted and toasted at a retirement celebration July 11, but appreciation for his influence will never end. It was a particular privilege for Mike to convey a Chairman’s Award to his predecessor Charles E. West who joined the Redstone board in 2011. A member of the Finance and Strategy Committees, Chuck was board chair from 2015-2021 and served as Mike’s mentor. “Beyond his financial support, Chuck has that keen analytical mind that is always thinking about tomorrow,” Mike noted. Chuck’s roots run deep in Westmoreland County. A native of Lower Burrell, he spent nearly his entire professional career working for ALCOA as a civil engineer, promoting industry safety locally and around the world. Retired after 32 years of service, he continued to consult for or another 10 years. His 50-plus year connection to Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell and Redstone Presbytery is how he met Redstone CEO John Dickson, who serves as presbytery treasurer. It’s because of John that Chuck agreed to join the Redstone Board of Directors and he continues to appreciate the relationships with other board members and how the board and leadership work together strategically to shape the future. While this year’s event is over, gratitude knows no season and will only continue to grow.

