

The Window

Presidents Council—John R. Dickson, IV, President & CEO

My Dear Friends of Redstone,

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer for Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare (RPSC) for the past twenty-three (23) plus years. I began my career, and love, in aging services in 1982 and have never regretted this decision. I was provided with the opportunity to be on the forefront of developing and managing many affordable housing units for frail seniors in ten (10) states. As a result, this experience helped me to better understand the mission importance of non-profit faith affiliated organizations. My success in the field of aging services is attributed to past leaders who opened many doors to opportunity for me. I have been forever thankful for such kindness. I am extremely proud RPSC offers such educational growth opportunities and offers assistance for employees who fall into difficult times. Upon my arrival at Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare in 2001, it was very evident to me the mission objectives set forth by the board of directors were strongly dedicated to quality. All business decisions at RPSC are supported by the tenets of quality. I was recently asked what I was most proud of during my tenure as President & CEO at Redstone. For me, it has always been the culture and core values that were created. These initiatives helped us build a positive, growth-oriented work environment to assist in attracting and retaining top-tier employees. As a result, RPSC enjoys long-term tenured leaders to formulate and guide strong strategic programs. Upon my retirement on July 31, 2025, I can assure you the mission of RPSC and strategic initiatives will faithfully continue to build upon our pillars of quality and serving the community. I depart knowing there's a very capable and dedicated team of qualified leaders behind me. Again, it has been a great and true honor to serve as Redstones President & CEO.

Many Blessings,



John R. Dickson, IV



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 by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPSDove.



SCAN ME

Celebrating 25 Years of Service at Redstone—Pat Acita, Gift Shop Coordinator

The Redstone gift shops certainly meet a need for residents, visitors and staff. But it's the shop patrons, volunteers and co-workers, not the merchandise, that are the true gifts to Pat Acita who is marking 25 years as shop coordinator. Pat's association with Redstone began years ago when she brought Sunday School classes from Community United Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria to visit and interact with the residents of the Greensburg Presbyterian Home which would eventually become Redstone. Later she would join the Volunteer Network and serve as shop coordinator, traveling to gift shows to select "unique and affordable" items to sell. Having operated an in-home daycare for 23 years, Pat had the business acumen and people skills that would make her the perfect choice to manage the shop as the operations model evolved into what it is today. Pat likes that each shop has its own personality. That's manifested in the preferences for snacks and sundries. Not just one cola will do when there are both Pepsi and Coke drinkers. And don't forget to stock plenty of Turner's Iced Tea or three ice cream flavors, not just two. While religious items might be purchased more frequently on one campus, homemade jams and jellies or hand-crafted tea towels prove more popular elsewhere. And wreaths for a resident's front door, or a decorative knickknack are always desired. "While inventory can be a bit of trial and error, there's also a rhythm to it, especially around the holidays or season changes," Pat explained. "And price, of course, is very important. As is convenience, which is why greeting cards and postage stamps are always available." But what's Pat's best seller? "Friendship! The people who frequent the shops aren't just customers; they have become my friends. The residents are so interesting and they've had such amazing experiences as I learn more about their lives. I tell students who volunteer here that if they listen they will learn so much. Being here is such a blessing to me."



Friendship Bracelets

Send a friendship bracelet to someone you love! From **now through July 28**, you can receive a friendship bracelet in exchange of a \$3 donation and we will send it to someone you love in the Redstone community. Proceeds benefit the employee **HOPE Program**, providing assistance to Redstone team members who have a sudden or unexpected financial emergency due to a catastrophic event or emergency hardship. Fill out the order form and return to the front desk with your donation. Please make checks payable to "Redstone". For questions or to place your order, contact Mission Support at (724) 832-8401 X 3307. Charitable proceeds benefit Redstone's HOPE Program.

Volunteer Spotlight—Nicole MacPherson



Welcome Nicole MacPherson, Redstone volunteer since April 2025! Nicole assists our Lifestyles team with events like Happy Hour, Mother’s Day, and other special events. Nicole says it was her grandmother, once a Redstone resident, who became her inspiration to volunteer. “I thought this would be a great way to give back and also honor [her] memory,” she says. With this being Nicole’s first official volunteer opportunity, she notes how much she has learned. Of the most valuable lessons, she states the key is to make the residents feel wanted, important, and useful! “You get to keep resident company who don’t otherwise have company and get to socialize with them. Its just a great way to help them out!” says Nicole. Aside from volunteering, she enjoys being active in church with her husband, reading fiction and mystery books, and spending a lot of time with her mom and mother-in-law. Nicole says to others, “If you’re looking for a great way to help others, becoming a volunteer is the best way to go!”

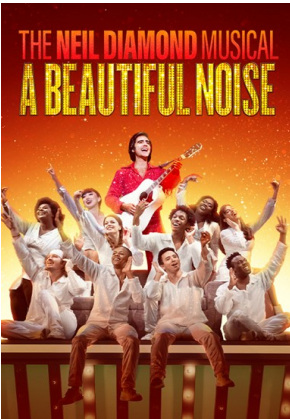
Employee Spotlight— Kaitlyn Kelsesky, SLP Student, & Bailey Booth, CCC-SLP, Powerback Rehabilitation

Who doesn’t appreciate a loyal and faithful assistant who readily responds to spoken requests or offers helpful verbal reminders? Speech-language therapists at Powerback, Redstone’s partner for rehabilitation services, are introducing residents to Alexa and similar smart technology to help them retain independence and control over their day-to-day lives as part of an overall strategy that puts the individual at the center of ongoing care. The results can be life-changing for people with mobility challenges or memory loss. Recently, a cross-discipline referral led to innovative support for a resident who was already receiving physical and occupational therapy. When team members noticed signs of cognitive and safety decline, speech -language pathologist Bailey Booth, CCC-SLP, and her student-extern Kaitlyn Kelsesky stepped in to evaluate. And, they made a real impact. Now actively engaged in speech therapy, the resident uses an Alexa device programmed with personalized voice reminders for meals and favorite social activities like blackjack and keno. The resident is also using adaptive phones with pre-programmed contacts to call loved ones without needing to remember numbers. Up next: enabling Alexa to make and receive calls, so they can stay connected from anywhere in their room. “Technology can be a game changer,” say the therapists as they think about all the ways a person can benefit from virtual assistance. Programmable thermostats help conserve energy or regulate temperatures. Doorbell cameras discourage vandalism. Voice activated television remotes make it simple to find a favorite show rather than scrolling through a channel guide. Smart watches can monitor vital health signs such as blood pressure or provide medication reminders. And spoken directions from the car’s GPS allow the therapists to navigate to an unfamiliar destination safely. “In 10 to 15 years, what we are suggesting won’t seem novel,” added Bailey. “As more and more people have experience using computers and smart phones, these tools will be a way of life.” Automated or touch lighting is a case in point and a necessity for someone who lacks the grip strength to turn a traditional lamp switch or pull a cord. Air tags help keep track of keys or purses or a cane, which can be especially comforting to loved ones who live at a distance from their Redstone relatives and are concerned about the likelihood they will be misplaced or forgotten. All of Redstone’s independent living facilities are equipped with Alexa devices. Of course, not everyone is ready or able to embrace its benefits, and for those residents, the therapy tools may be more visual or tactile such as brightly colored cue cards or memory books but for those who do, the reward is obvious. “It was so gratifying to arrive for a therapy session and hear the music playing in the resident’s room,” said Kaitlyn. “They might not have been able to move around with ease, but could ask Alexa to play their favorite songs. That’s freedom.” Bailey graduated from Penn-West California University, as will Kaitlyn this December. Her experience at Redstone is sure to prompt others to seek out senior living as a career option. “Redstone is unique in its receptivity to innovation. There is nothing like real-world experience to showcase possibilities.”



Meet the Window’s Contributing Writer, Robin Jennings

Everybody has a story. Robin Jennings relishes assuring those stories will be told, first as a career and now as a volunteer with Redstone’s Mission Support team. A communicator by profession, Robin holds a degree in Journalism from IUP, and has honed her craft across two 20-plus year careers, first as a newspaper reporter and editor, and then as a healthcare public relations professional, delighting in learning people’s stories and sharing them with others. As she prepared for retirement last year, Robin’s to-do list included greater involvement with Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare. A longtime friend of Redstone through her financial support and service as a pianist for the monthly chapel service provided by her church, First Presbyterian-Greensburg, Robin wanted to use her writing skills to widen Redstone’s circle of influence. “I love Redstone,” she says unabashedly. “From its founding to today, this community embodies what I hold dear: Dignity, faith, integrity, benevolence, and belonging. Redmont Village offered a beautiful alternative to my late mother-in-law when she needed to downsize, but didn’t require daily medical attention. Many friends living or long departed have made Redstone their home or chose to donate their time and talents as board members. Their experiences added to my appreciation of the Redstone story.” When she’s not gathering information for an article for The Window, Robin is providing a voice for children who have been abused or neglected in the juvenile justice system and child protective services as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Westmoreland County, a 30-plus year member of her church, Robin has been ordained as a Deacon and Elder, and currently serves as chair of the Worship Committee. She chairs the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for the Presbytery of Redstone, has served as liaison to candidates under care as they pursued Ordination, and most recently attended the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City as a Redstone commissioner. A vocal and instrumental musician, Robin is a member of her church’s Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers and assists with the children’s music ministry and Vacation Bible School. She is also a 35-year member of the Westmoreland Choral Society, and more recently the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra Chorus. And that, as noted radio personality Paul Harvey would say, is the rest of her story!



***NEW* Trip Added to 2025 Redstone Goes Trips & Tours**

On Tuesday, September 9, join us to the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh to see see the powerful Neil Diamond musical, A Beautiful Noise. This vibrant Broadway show tells the story of Neil Diamond’s life and legendary career through his iconic songs. Blending powerful storytelling with classic hits like “Sweet Caroline” and “Cracklin’ Rosie,” the show explores his journey from Brooklyn songwriter to global superstar, capturing the heart and soul behind the music. Price of \$225 per person includes bus, dinner, orchestra seat show ticket, and gratuities. Only 30 tickets are available, so call Justin at (724) 832-8401 X 3378 to learn more or to hold your spot!