

The Window

Presidents Council— Lisa Dormire, VP of Mission Support



Lifelong Learning has long been one of Redstone's core values. We believe that our employees and residents live more meaningful lives if we continue to learn and grow. For our employees, scholarship support is one way that we commit to this core value. We are so grateful to the donors who help to make these scholarships possible. In April, we will be accepting applications for two new scholarships that have been established at Redstone. One, the Kerry M. Anthony Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to an employee or an employee's child majoring in a healthcare field, or secondarily, the field of finance in higher education. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded for the 2026-2027 academic year. Likewise, the John R. Dickson, IV Scholarship will be awarded to an employee or an employee's child majoring in healthcare administration at the higher education level. This scholarship will also provide \$5,000 in support for the 2026-2027 academic year. To increase the level of endowment that will support the Dickson scholarship, Redstone's Board is hosting a golf outing at Latrobe Country Club on Monday, May 4th. This is a great opportunity to golf on this historic course while also supporting a great cause. Read more about the golf outing here: <https://redstone.org/giving>. Employees will be receiving an email with a link to the scholarship application portal in early April. We look forward to providing this generous support to the scholarship recipients, thanks to the generosity of those who have started these funds.

A Vision for Generosity: Honoring Dr. Herbert Kramer

No one would ever say optometrist Herbert Kramer, OD, was shortsighted. Throughout his 38-year eyecare career and decades of community service, Dr. Kramer always took the long view of how he could be of help to others. A War World II veteran of the Army Air Force, he served with the 452nd Bomb Group in England. After the war, he continued his education at Penn State College of Optometry before opening his practice in Greensburg. He helped to establish the first Nordic ski patrol first aid station atop Laurel Mountain and held life memberships in Masonic Lodge 231, ELKS 2313 and was a member of the McKenna Senior Center. The City of Greensburg also recognized his commitment to community service. His generosity both of time and resources would also benefit Redstone during the latter part of his 100-year life. A resident of the Greensburg campus for 16 years prior to his passing in 2024, Dr. Kramer served as President of Redstone's resident board and was also honored with a Chairman's Appreciation Award in 2017. And now a \$100,000 estate gift from Dr. Kramer and his late wife Phyllis will enable Redstone to further its vision. In late March, a newly renovated and upgraded education space on the Ground Floor of the Greensburg campus will be dedicated in memory of the Kramers. This classroom has been outfitted with clinical teaching tools including patient beds and medical manikins for ongoing in-house nurse aide training and certification in partnership with Health Ventures Alliance or staff refresher classes. New smart boards and computer workstations also will be utilized during employee orientation and annual mandatory education. And a portion of the gift will be reserved for regular updates to the technology. Lisa Dormire, Vice President of Mission Support, was always impressed by Dr. Kramer's stamina, recalling that he was driving well into his 90s, and playing golf on a daily basis. She also admired his benevolence, recalling that he was a regular contributor to the fund that ensures ongoing care for others when their own resources are depleted, including requesting memorial contributions to that fund at his wife's passing in 2014. "This final act of generosity came as a surprise, and the timing couldn't have been better to help us meet this need," she acknowledged.



Stitching Faith into Every Thread: Gerrie Sorokacs' Artistic Devotion



St. Augustine once said "he who sings prays twice." If he had met Gerrie Sorokacs, Augustine might say she also found a spiritual discipline in her hobbies. Skills learned in childhood continue to offer Gerrie meaning and purpose as her needlecrafts delight neighbors at Redstone North Huntingdon and beyond. The 83-year-old learned to sew from her seamstress mother, and to embroider with hoops from a neighbor. Later she turned to latch-hook, counted cross-stitch and crochet. Now she's focused on stamped cross-stitch, not allowing her essential tremors to deter her from some aspect of a pastime that brings her joy. Visitors to the campus chapel will see Gerrie's handiwork on display as Easter approaches in one of four banners that change seasonally. These works of art blend quilting with cross-stitch. There are table runners and hallway decorations that showcase her talents. And her apartment contains a variety of her masterpieces, with the rooster that hangs above her kitchen table her personal favorite. "People who see it say it looks like a watercolor, not needlework." Because threading a needle can be problematic for a trembling hand, Gerrie has other pastimes, too. For the last three years, she's been completing sticker books and donating the finished products to Redstone staff as well a women's group at New Hope Presbyterian Church and a Montessori school. The themes vary from animals to flowers to vintage designs as well as proverbs and prayers. "When I finished the first one, it was so beautiful I didn't want to discard it and thought it might help someone else," Gerrie explained. "Maybe those in memory care can relate to the scenes of yesteryear, or enjoy the imagery of the pictures." It may be the educator talking or perhaps the nun who's speaking, because Gerrie has been both. For a dozen years she was part of the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden. When she left the order, she continued to share her faith as a parochial school teacher. Now a member of St. Agnes parish in Irwin, she remains attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in her life. Gerrie looks at every project as a way to benefit others. Just like her tiny stitches, "there is nothing so small that God doesn't notice it. It always counts in God's eyes."

Andrew Ford: A Torchbearer's Story

While the world was focused on Milan-Cortina where this year's Winter Olympic games just concluded, Andrew Ford was remembering another Olympic season 30 years ago and his role in advancing the Olympic Spirit. It was the Summer of 1996, the year of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. Headquartered in the host city, Coca-Cola was the presenting sponsor of the Olympic Torch relay and asked for 2,500 runners to promote community connection and align their brand with the Olympic spirit. Then a high school senior, Andrew was one of four students from Westfield Academy near Buffalo, NY, invited to join the relay. No stranger to competitive sports, Andrew had participated in golf and track and field events so he was a natural. While the distance he traveled was short – just a quarter-mile – Andrew became part of history and has the memorabilia to show for it. Beyond his torch, one of 17,000 made in Erie, PA, by American Metal Company for the 15,000-mile cross-country Share the Spirit trek that began in California and ended with heavyweight boxer Muhammad Ali lighting the cauldron, Andrew has the requisite shorts and T-shirt, commemorative programs, newspaper clippings and more, which he shared with the residents at Redstone North Huntingdon, where he is a cook with Forefront Dining Services. As luck would have it, Andrew's father had planned a family trip to the games before Andrew was chosen for the relay, so the teen and his sister, a basketball enthusiast, would experience the thrill of Olympic victory and the agony of defeat up close. Highlights of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad included the introduction of beach volleyball and mountain biking, and medal winning performances by swimmer Michael Johnson who set a world record in the 200-meter event. The games were also marred by a bombing in Centennial Park. For his part, Andrew remembers walking through the Olympic village and absorbing all the excitement that an international event holds. "It can feel glamorous when watching events on television and hearing the hype surrounding individual athletes," he acknowledged. "But it's a lot of hard work year-round for a few short days of competition. You really have to love your sport and maintain the determination to keep at it despite the obstacles or setbacks that come." Andrew could say the same thing about his chosen career and the joy he gets from serving others. Having left behind a position as chef de cuisine at a casino in Washington, PA, he much prefers the family aspect of Redstone, knowing he's making a difference and he's able to work close to home. He's also excited that the Olympics are once again coming stateside, with the 2028 games in Los Angeles and the 2034 games in Salt Lake City. And although he won't be part of the torch relay, he's open to wherever life takes him as he still carries that Olympic spirit.



Furry, Friendly, and Fun: Animal Visits at Redstone

It's a scene straight out of Green Acres when Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor get upstaged by Arnold Ziffle – a pig who is as human as any member of the 1960s CBS sit-com cast. But unlike the genteel New Yorkers who gave up a Park Avenue penthouse for farm life, the residents of Redstone-Greensburg don't need to say so-long city life to spend quality time with some of the barnyard's most personable animals. A team from STAT® at the Ligonier Therapeutic Center made its first visit to the campus Feb. 27, as a program suggestion from a resident who had visited the trauma informed organization and participated in one of its equine programs that focus on wellness for body, mind and spirit. A pair of miniature Mediterranean donkeys named Bambi and Thumper made their debut amid a curious crowd who had circled up in the chapel with questions about their upkeep and a longing to pet their coats or nuzzle their ears. Delighted by the turnout, Catherine Markosky, the program's founder, had plenty of low-sugar cookie treats so folks could experience the feel of a donkey's warm breath, lips and tongue on their hand, and she's hopeful this is the first of many Redstone encounters as STAT regularly visits area assisted living facilities and veterans centers. "Sensory experiences are so valuable," she said. "They spark conversation and can awaken memories that are believed long gone." Not to be upstaged, Tree Family Party Piggies will be back at Redstone March 18 for one of their quarterly encore performances with Willow, Perry or Cedar the stars of the visit. These three little pigs are house-broken, family-friendly pets who love hamming it up for pictures wherever they go. Mercedes Raab, campus Lifestyle Coordinator, can't decide if the animal visits are entertainment or therapy. But then again, it really doesn't matter because the miniature pigs and donkeys bring joy anywhere they visit. And anything that brings joy is life-affirming, says Mercedes who is a master's student at Seton Hill University where she's studying art therapy and counseling as part of her career development in behavioral health. Having worked in hospitals and other assisted living centers, Mercedes knows first-hand of the need for social connection and looks for engagement opportunities that are out of the ordinary. The squeals of delight might be coming from a piggie dressed to impress right after finishing a piano solo, But more likely, it's peals of laughter or applause from an audience that grows larger each time an animal visits. While Independent Living residents may have cats, dogs or other personal pets in their care, these party animals or other four-footed guests require well-trained handlers and perhaps a pooper-scooper should the excitement be too much for everyone. It's hard to say what's next in this variety show but does anyone know Mister Ed!



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.



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