

Southington Care Center  
45 Meriden Avenue  
Southington, CT 06489  
860.621.9559  
www.southingtoncare.org

**Golf** from page 1 the lives of residents and staff. The 2016 event funded a free-flowing waterfall and landscaping in the Center's Healing Garden. This year, the donation was earmarked for Tranquill Passages, a philosophy and program that provides holistic care embracing mind, body and spirit in the last stages of life. The second recipient was The First Tee of Connecticut, a youth development golf program that focuses on building character, instilling life values and making healthy choices.

"Steve and I had been supporters of Southington Care Center for many years previous to my mother being a resident there. We had always believed that the residents received great care from a dedicated staff but when it's your Mom, you truly appreciate firsthand the remarkable care the Care Center provides to the residents and their families," Donna McCarty said. "It is our family's honor and now tradition, to name Southington Care Center as the recipient of the proceeds of tournament in Steve's memory."

Donna McCarty presented the \$17,000 ceremonial check to Southington Care Center Executive Director William Kowalewski at the reception following the golf play.

"The McCarty Family has remained steadfast in the commitment to the Care Center over the years. Donna and her two sons are amazing benefactors and have become a significant part of the Care Center's core philosophy of Resident Centered Care," Kowalewski said.

### Dementia Support Group

Southington Care Center offers a free Alzheimer's and Dementia support group on the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Anna Fanelli Room. Upcoming dates are Sept. 13, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8. To learn more, call Patty O'Brian, Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging dementia specialist, at 860.276.5399, ext. 4403.



# Southington Care Center News

A newsletter for Southington Care Center residents and family members.

September/October 2017

Vol. 3 Issue 4

## McCarty family continues commitment to Southington Care Center

The McCarty family confirmed its ongoing commitment to the community by presenting generous contributions following the Steve McCarty Memorial Golf Tournament. The event, held on June 12 at Hawks Landing Country Club, attracted more than 100 golfers who turned out to support Southington Care Center's Tranquill Passages end-of-life program and The First Tee of Connecticut.

This was the second year for the tournament that was founded in memory of Steven J. McCarty, a well-loved Southington personality, who unexpectedly passed away in 2015. The McCarty family has a long-standing relationship with the Care Center and has provided support for programs that enhance

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Photo by Ron Kochman, A Photographic Sensation  
Southington Care Center Executive Director Bill Kowalewski, center, receives a ceremonial check from Donna McCarty at the Steve McCarty Memorial Golf Tournament held June 12. A donation was also presented to The First Tee Connecticut.

## Restaurateur's generosity impacts many, including the Care Center

Plantsville resident Chris Conlon thinks big. His barbecue restaurant, Smokin' with Chris, has grown by leaps and bounds since it opened in 2006. It's not uncommon for him to each week burn a cord of wood to smoke upwards of a ton of meat on a smoker situated in the back of his business located at 59 W. Center St.



From left, Sharon Robinson, RN, BSN, MHA, Regional Director of Skilled Nursing Facilities Operations, Chris Conlon and Southington Care Center Executive Director Bill Kowalewski.

However he has set even bigger sights: helping his community in a different way than when he was a career firefighter. Often he supports fundraisers by bringing the Smokin' with Chris 25-foot smoker and food to events such as the Calvanese Foundation's Wine and Beer Fest. Other times he hosts the fundraisers in his restaurant, benefiting causes such as the YMCA's Camp Sloper scholarships, through which he has funded 62 campers.

For four years, Southington Care Center has also been the recipient of Conlon's donations. The contributions have supported the nail salon, the resident dining room and this year, a planned patio

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## Join us for our Family Meeting, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m., Anna Fanelli Room

### Southington Care Center Medical Staff hold Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Southington Care Center Medical Staff was held on June 28 at the Center. Attending was SCC's Medical Director Joseph Babiarz, MD, medical and professional staffs, and members of Administration and Nursing Department leadership.



Patient satisfaction scores were also discussed. Additional topics included strategic planning, medical staff by-laws and state regulations, and menu choices for residents.

The professional and medical staff of Southington Care Center meet quarterly, with the June meeting being designated as the Annual Meeting. All professional and medical staff members are required to have their appointment to SCC as a staff member updated and validated every two years – reviewing their credentials – and granting permission to practice medicine and/or their specialty.

- Marjory Palladino,  
Director of Nursing, Southington Care Center

Reviewed were the Care Center's Safety, Quality and Clinical Outcomes for the past 12 months. Also reviewed were pharmacy and radiology reports as presented by representatives from these two vendor partners. My Innerview

### Introducing Alexis Chiucarello, Director of Therapeutic Recreation

Alexis Chiucarello is happy to have joined the Southington Care Center team on June 12.

Chiucarello began her recreation career and passion for working with elders, when she was a young child volunteering in the recreation department at a long-term nursing home, where her mother was a certified nursing assistant. In 1982 she became certified as a therapeutic recreation director through the state of Connecticut's Department of Health while working at a health care center in East Hartford.

Since 1982 she has worked as a TRD and then Director of Therapeutic Recreation at numerous nursing homes throughout Connecticut, including most recently at a health care center in Glastonbury where she worked for eight years. She holds a master's degree in education from the University of New Haven, a bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre from Central Connecticut State University and is a state-certified therapeutic recreation director. She is certified in habilitation therapy through the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut and has

been trained in Dementia Care through the Alzheimer's Resource Center.

Chiucarello also has certifications in Music & Memory and the Java Music Club. Besides being passionate about working with elders, she also has a strong zeal for the arts and building intergenerational creative arts programming. She is a strong believer in resident-centered care and a recreation department that works diligently to build community within the facility and maintaining residents ties to the community outside the facility. She is getting to know the residents at SCC and further developing the dynamic program that currently exists.

In her leisure time she enjoys gardening, creating up-cycled garden art and watching movies. She is a 22-year resident of Rocky Hill where she lives with her husband, Ed, and 18-year-old son, Arden.



### Celebrating our centenarians!

The Care Center will be hosting a family party on Sept. 24 to honor our four centenarians: Kveta Liczek, born April 24, 1916; Anna Petrillo, born July 27, 1916; Mary Raffonello, born March 29, 1915; and Kathryn Carey, born March 24, 1915. Happy birthday, ladies!

### Care Center expands dementia program, IN2L, thanks to grant

Southington Care Center and Mulberry Gardens of Southington are excited to announce the recent enhancement to their dementia programs with the purchase of two new "It's Never 2 Late" systems, in July 2017, with a grant received from the Main Street Community Foundation.

IN2L is a fully-customizable, touchscreen interface engagement system which empowers individuals at all levels and stages of dementia to connect, engage and enjoy life through today's technology. The computer system contains a content library to support core dimensions of wellness; social connection, intellectual stimulation, physical engagement, spiritual connection, emotional support and vocational interest programs.

Individual "My Pages" can be created to connect residents to their families via Skype, to play favorite games and music, for religious support, to view their house where they use to live, and to connect to the Internet to explore a life-long interest.

Molly Rau, the IN2L trainer, provided the recreation teams from both facilities with four hours of in-servicing, held on July 25, on the new systems and recent updates to the program.

- Alexis Chiucarello, Director of Therapeutic Recreation  
and Robin Segal, dementia specialist, TRD – Dementia Recreation



Southington Care Center residents practice a hand-eye coordination activity on the new IN2L computer system.

### Become a volunteer!

Southington Care Center is welcoming individuals to join the volunteer team, bringing a variety of services to our residents and short-term patients. For information, call Donna Malicki-Gornicz, MS, Director of Social Services, at 860.278.1253 or pick up an application at the front desk.

Book Cart – Volunteer to coordinate our weekly library on wheels.

Cheer Cart – Bring cart to residents on our short- and long-term neighborhoods to sell personal items such as stamps, cards etc.

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addition. "Chris's dedication towards Southington Care Center has been steadfast over the years. This relationship exemplifies a very close alignment between two well-established Southington community members,"

Spa Cart – Polish residents nails and give gentle hand massages.

Red Nose Visitors – Put on a hat and a red nose and spread some good humor along the way.

Music and Memory Technicians – Load i-pods and MP3 Players with personal playlists for residents.

Student Musicians - To play during meal times. All levels welcome.

Label clothing – Label residents' clothing.

Care for Gardens – Volunteers needed to weed flower gardens.

said Executive Director William Kowalewski.

For his community commitment, Conlon has received multiple awards from the United Way, Connecticut U.S. Attorney's Office, City of New Britain, and the list goes on. He credits others for doing more. "It's about giving back, not what I get," he said.

We'd love to read your review of Southington Care Center! Just go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), search "Southington Care Center" and click in the right box on "write a review." Thank you!