

## Greeting the New Year...Counting Blessings and Looking Forward

By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo

In 2006 my family started a new tradition in honor of my husband's grandmother Libby: during holiday dinners we each count our blessings out loud. At eighty-six after suffering a mild heart attack, Grandma Libby faced quadruple bypass surgery. Recovery was difficult but her good health and great attitude weighed heavily in her favor. Additionally, to encourage her to get out of the House we started a tradition of family Sunday breakfasts. Today, Grandma Libby still handles the books for the family's printing company, goes to the office daily and cooks her special sweet potatoes for holiday dinners. She'll celebrate her ninety-fifth birthday in 2015. Through this experience we learned to appreciate our time together and be grateful for everyday.

At the Center we have many things to be grateful for as we look back on 2014 and warmly greet 2015:

- ♥ Generous donors who continue to believe in our mission
- ♥ Major benefactors who helped expand our social service programs
- ♥ Our Board whose work behind the scenes ensures a bright future for the Center
- ♥ The Senior Advisory Board who support our every effort, run the Silver Threads, and now a gift shop with hand-made items so generously crafted for our Center
- ♥ Our hospitality volunteers who warmly greet our Members and guests with a smile and a kind word
- ♥ Our Friendly Visitors and Callers who reassure our homebound Members
- ♥ Our nurses who carefully check blood-pressures and never let a worry go unattended
- ♥ Our instructors who make classes fun, are incredibly helpful, and make Members feel like they count!
- ♥ Our kitchen staff and volunteers who put hours of effort into making every meal delicious and nutritious
- ♥ Our lunch helpers for carrying trays and cleaning up
- ♥ Our volunteers who bring music to our day
- ♥ Our staff who bring their best smiles to the Center everyday to bring cheer to you all

And most of all ... we are grateful for each of you for the small and large gestures of appreciation, a hug or big smile that cheers us up even on our worst day, the guidance and thoughtful words of wisdom you share with us daily, and just for letting us serve you. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

As 2015 begins we remember those we've lost and smile that we were fortunate enough to have had them in our lives. We thank you all for teaching us how to appreciate every day. And we face 2015 with you by our side and with arms wide open. Let's get ready for the year's surprises and look forward to more good days.

*Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director*