



The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

Volunteers Make New Programs Work: A Rewarding Experience for All

By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

I am happy to report we have successfully launched new programs and projects with the help of volunteers. These programs have resulted in learning more about the needs of seniors, enhanced activities, increased revenue and the opportunity to enrich the lives of the individual volunteers at the same time.

Homebound Programs: Volunteers play a critical role in the success of our Telephone Assurance and the Friendly Visitor Homebound Programs. Calls and visits offer an opportunity for the Member who is otherwise isolated to socialize on a regular basis and to express a concern or problem. These interactions often result in a visit by the Social Services Coordinator to ensure that the Member's needs are addressed. One volunteer's experience demonstrates the value added to these programs. ***"I never realized how much my weekly volunteering for the Center would mean to me. Knowing how important my contact has become to my new 'elderly senior' friends has had an impact in my life as well as theirs. Hearing how the individuals perk up each week when they hear my voice is a wonderful feeling. They are so appreciative of the little attention I deliver them it fills my heart to know I'm making a difference. As a Member of the Life Enrichment Center I am grateful for the opportunity to help...if only by chatting for a few minutes a week"***.

Nursing and Residential Facility Visits: The original Friendly Visitor volunteers continue to visit residents in assisted living and nursing facilities twice monthly to offer a musical presentation and conversation. Center Members residing in these facilities are being added to our Telephone Assurance and Visiting Program lists to maintain their connection to the Center. Please note: The Friendly Visitors group are desperately seeking an accompanist for their program and new volunteer singers are welcome.

Daily Activities: Recently volunteers have helped enhance our daily activities. Sy Attie, a resident of Oyster Bay, shares his extensive movie and entertainment library with us for "Sy's Silver Screen" presentation twice monthly. Members from the "Happy Hookers" and the new "Women of The Ages" chat group encouraged the purchase of table tennis equipment to launch a "Name Your Game" Day for the activity calendar. Members interested in running a game on "Name Your Game" Day, or if you have an idea for an activity you can help add to the activity calendar, please give me call.

New Projects: The ***Labor of Love Gift Shop*** will reopen thanks to the commitment of donated items by the Center's Happy Hookers and Arts and Craft team. Under the leadership of Member Lena Maringelli, the shop will also showcase hand-crafted items made by local artisans previously available at the Long Island First Shop at Buckingham's General Store. Volunteer crafters can help fill our shelves for the holiday season.

We thank all new volunteers and Members who share their time and talent with us and make it possible for us to provide the very best services, interesting and fun programs, and new fundraising initiatives to the Center. We appreciate your help and truly enjoy your company!!!

Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

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