Spring 2019

Invites you to Join us for a

BENEFIT LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019
11:30AM-1PM
Ivy Tech Community College
Shreve Hall
200 Daniels Way, Bloomington

Help us advance the vital role
Area 10 plays in serving elders,
the homebound, and individuals
living with disabilities.

R.S.V.P.
www.area10agency.org or contact
Chris at cmyers@area10agency.org

Come hear highlights of our great work this past year.

R.S.V.P by April 26th to reserve your seat

We look forward to seeing you there!
Area 10 – Sing for Joy! By Pat Stackhouse

Pat visited Sing for Joy on February 13, 2019 at 3:45pm. Following the performance, she spoke with the choir director, Sandra Freund.

The choir performed at Gentry Senior Living Community. The enthusiasm was evident, and the choir members clearly were having fun. They sang for about 35 to 40 minutes.

The ages of the choir members were 28 to 94. Some members are residents in retirement communities, but all community members are welcome. The choir is designed to be inclusive and especially friendly to persons living with dementia and their care partners. There are four men in the choir and the rest are women. There are no auditions for the choir. Various levels of ability are welcome. The most important thing is to come and Sing for Joy! The choir is open and welcome to all walk-ins.

The choir members rehearse for three weeks and then sing on the fourth week. They gave four performances at Gentry Senior Living Community and then will move on to Redbud Hills Senior Living.

The songs they sing are a mix from Broadway musicals to jazz as well as some popular songs. Choir members are asked to choose songs from their childhood to teens to adults, based on their interests and abilities of senior citizens. They sing Indiana songs like Back Home Again in Indiana to the I.U. fight song. When we watched them sing, they sang such songs as My Funny Valentine and others.

Those leading the choir are mostly volunteers, Freund said, “I love this choir. Even if you can’t sing no one gives you a hard time.”

Volunteers can help with the logistics, help members get music for folders, help setting up chairs, help with the technology, help people with dementia turn pages and guide them along.

They are currently looking for more men to join the choir. For current schedule, visit the web page http://www.area10agency.org/sing-for-joy/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

April 26: O’Bannon Day of Service project location ~ 9:30 am to 1 pm
April 27: Stuff-a-Bus food drive at four Kroger locations 8 am to 2 pm
May 8: Bloomington 50+ Expo
May 15: Benefit Luncheon 11:30 – 1 at Ivy Tech’s Shreve Hall
May 16: (3-4pm) IU Health “Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors”
June 17: (9-10:30am) IU Health “Positive Physical Approach”
October 12: Safe at Home annual half-day volunteer blitz—SAVE THE DATE!
Debbie Gillette has been a Nutrition Program volunteer since November 2018. She literally hit the ground running and has contributed her spare time delivering groceries and hot meals to our home-bound clients all over Monroe and Owen Counties, packing groceries, making reminder calls to clients, and filling in when other drivers are sick or out of town. She is a great pleasure to work with, never hesitates to taking on a new project, and truly enjoys visiting with our clients.

Thank you Debbie!
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THANK YOU!

For the last seven years, Saundra and Doug Tracy have served as the coordinators of First Presbyterian Church's group of volunteers that meet monthly to support our Mobile Food Pantry by bagging and delivering groceries for our home bound neighbors. We thank you both for your dedicated service, and are happy you two are sticking around as substitute drivers! Saundra and Doug are "passing the torch" on to Gail Dunning and Allan Edmonds (not pictured) in this photo taken which was captured at our Bloomington pantry site.

Spring 2019
Area 10 Welcomes Our New Staff Aboard and Existing Staff to New Positions!

**Taylor Isom**

Care Manager 2/18/19

Our Care Management team and Area 10 Agency welcome Taylor Isom. She started as a New Care Manager on 2/18/2019. She has a background in program management, working for one of the companies that Area Agencies on Aging contract with to provide in-home services to the elderly and disabled. She has experience working with individuals to set up formal and informal supports based on person-centered planning. We are so glad you are here Taylor!

**Na’Kia Jones**

Endright Center Activities and Program Manager 4/26/2019

Na’Kia has been with Area 10 since 2018 as our Nutrition Outreach Coordinator. We are very happy to announce that Na’Kia will be our new Endwright Center Activities and Programing Manager! Na’Kia came to us with a degree in Heath and Human Studies and a Minor in Gerontology, Na’Kia brings a community minded perspective and will be a wonderful Program Manager for the Endwright Center! No stranger to Center members from her teaching balance classes. Congratulations Na’Kia!

**Patricia Lopes**

Nutrition Outreach Coordinator 4/1/2019

Patricia was the Linkage to Care Coordinator for IU Health. She recently completed her Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Family Health, where she was also a teaching assistant in two gerontology courses. She is a Crew Leader for Habitat for Humanity, and had extensive experience working with the aging population. Welcome Patricia!
~ Rebecca Ball ~
Endwright Center Director

Rebecca will be retiring at the end of April 2019. Rebecca has been with us since June of 2013. Starting as Food Pantry Coordinator, she embraced the opportunity to transform our Endwright Center. Her background in parks and recreation combined with her vivacious personality and natural ability to connect interests with programs have truly livened the Center. She has been an amazing member of the Area10 team over the last 6 years.... And we are so happy that she is going to get to enjoy the next phase of life as a Retiree!

YOU WILL BE MISSED!
Susan Chambers, Area 10 Agency Housing Director/Office Manager, sits across the desk from an 80 year-old woman seeking an apartment. She wants to help in any way she can but ultimately she knows the outcome of the conversation will be to tell the women her options are limited not only with the apartments managed by Area 10 but the other senior communities in the area. “We need a lot more affordable housing in Monroe and Owen County. This is an extremely needed resource that we lack in this community. I wish we had twenty more Edgewood Village Apartment complexes. I would love to see all the seniors on our wait lists in affordable housing.”

Area 10’s three apartment complexes serve residents who are 55 or older. Susan is joined in the Housing Department by Greg Boruff, who has worked at Area 10 since 2005 and became Fleet and Facilities Manager in 2010. Wes Sciscoe, Maintenance & Facility Assistant, joined the staff in 2017.

Susan notes the housing situation has changed dramatically in the last few years. She was previously the Area 10 housing manager in 2012-13 and returned to that position in July of 2018. She observes that in her first tenure as housing manager she actually posted “For Rent” signs at some of the Area 10 complexes. Currently the wait list for Edgewood Village Apartments has 90 people; Dodds-Wylie Apartments has a wait list of two years; and, Cunot in Owen County has a list of 17. “We have very little turn over especially in the Dodds-Wylie complex,” remarks Susan. “People who move into our apartments tend to stay until they cannot live independently. Helping people to live independently is an important function of Area 10, Endwright Center and Rural Transit and I feel the affordable housing offered by Area 10 completes the circle.”
All three of the staff find their positions to be very rewarding. Susan explains being able to offer an apartment to someone who has been on the wait list for a long time of course is the highest. “I enjoy talking with and helping people. I love it when people are happy and they give me a hug. We are very nice to our tenants. We try to work with them when they are struggling. Sometimes when new tenants move in there are a lot of unexpected expenses and we work with them to find a happy medium.” Area 10 personnel as well as the other tenants share a close relationship and watch out for each other. “I never know what my day will bring,” states Susan. “I might go to a complex to get a lease signed and end up putting in hearing aid batteries or spending time talking with a tenant who is having a lonely moment.” Wes also notes that many times he is asked for some assistance that is not exactly a maintenance request like helping with a task that a tenant cannot do alone but he comments, “I want to help the tenants in any way I can. I might be there one day and need help.”

“I get and give a lot of hugs to our residents.” ~ Greg Boruff, Fleet & Facilities Manager

“I care about the people and I care about what I do,” comments Greg. “I like seeing the finished work, the people, their appreciation and our boss complimenting us on the work we do. Some of the tenants are so sweet. I get and give a lot of hugs to our residents. Mainly I just like knowing the folks are being taken care of. The hardest part of the job is when we lose a tenant.” “There is never a day that I don’t want to come to work,” states Wes who drives from Linton to work at Area 10.
“I like helping people. I try to take care of everybody. The residents of all three complexes always treat me very well. They are very understanding when they make maintenance requests.” Even more important to Wes than the baked goodies that some of the residents share are the compliments they give him about his hard work and getting things done. He also notes he appreciates the support and positive feedback he receives from his bosses. Greg is equally complimentary of Wes. “Thank God I have Wes!”

Susan is also proud of the assistance she is able to give people seeking apartments. “There is a social work aspect to my job.” Prospective tenants often have trouble with the paperwork. She also stays up to date on programs such as Energy Assistance and relays that information to new tenants to help them with their financial situation. When Susan has to tell someone that she doesn’t have an apartment, she offers them information about other complexes in the area. “I try to stay in contact with the other apartment managers about their availability so that I can offer their information to those seeking housing.” Often times, Susan is told she is the only apartment manager that has called a prospective tenant back with information.

Each of the housing staff also faces some challenges. For Susan, there is a lot of paperwork that involves reporting to regulating agencies. Leases and certifications must be monitored. Apartments have to be maintained and apartments must be updated as tenants move out. She also notes that she has to be a mediator on occasion. “There are a lot of different personalities residing in close proximity.” For many tenants this is their first time dwelling in an apartment and adjusting to living in a small place. Susan observes that to one tenant a flower garden “might look like beautiful plants while to another tenant it resembles a weed patch.” In those instances it is up to Susan to find the happy solution. “Everyone has the right to enjoy their living space,” comments Susan.
For Greg the challenges often occur at 2 a.m. in the morning as he is the on-call person. His calls usually involve a fire alarm or water leak but sometimes tenants lock themselves out of the building. Greg also recalls getting an emergency call from one of his own staff a few years ago. The man was repairing a dishwasher and had inadvertently forgotten to turn off the shut off valve and was being beaten by the hose while trying to stop the water. “You have to try to keep a sense of humor in this position,” Greg remarks. During the day, Greg’s duties include responding to the daily needs of the tenants, various inspections, grounds keeping, dealing with contractors and looking after the safety of the tenants. He is also the Fleet Manager for Rural Transit and responsible for maintenance on the buses. When asked about his longevity with Area 10 he quickly responded, “I love it here. I love meeting the people and tenants and all their various personalities.”

Challenges for Wes are the ever changing nature of his job. No one knows when a maintenance issue might arise. However Wes comments, “The constant changes make the job interesting. I know that every day something different is going to be happening.” This was proven during the 15 minute interview time for this article with Wes who had three requests for maintenance issues come up in that time frame. Sometimes there are long periods of time when no apartments are empty and suddenly several open up at the same time which often require painting, installation of new appliances and general upkeep to make the apartment comfortable for the next tenant.

Susan, Greg and Wes are accomplishing their goals of providing the best service they can for the residents in the apartments as was supported by one of the residents who happened to stop by Area 10 as this article was being prepared. When asked what her opinion was of her living experience in Edgewood Village Apartments she emphatically responded, “I love it! It seems more like a home than other apartments. I wouldn’t move for anything! There are so many people at Area 10 in various departments that have been so helpful.”
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