

the . Caring Connection

sage eldercare

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SPOTLIGHT

Spend -A-Day Centenarian



Cele Lilling turns 102.
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convalescent fund The Convalescent Fund Committee of Summit Lives on through SAGE



Left to Right: Audrey Byrne, Katherine Simpson, and Diane Swett of the Convalescent Fund Committee together with SAGE Eldercare Executive Director Saul M. Spivack

The Convalescent Fund Committee of Summit has a rich, 120 year history of providing relief and restoration to Summit and surrounding communities. Over the years the Fund has supported very important and innovative safety net programs for SAGE Eldercare and Summit residents. The Fund has been an integral part of the philanthropic effort of Summit. Due to changing government programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare as well as other social welfare programs, the unmet needs of Summit residents changed as a result. Consequently, the Convalescent Fund expanded their scope of support to keep up with these changes and, since 1958, have helped fund SAGE's Spend-A-Day and HomeCare programs for clients who could not afford to pay for these services. During the past several years, the Fund determined that its philanthropic mission could be best continued on by other Summit benevolent organizations and, therefore, decided to transfer its endowment to two organizations: SAGE Eldercare and Summit Area Public Foundation.

This endowment, now to be known as the Convalescent Fund Care Grant Fund, will be set aside to help secure the future of those without means who need the services of SAGE Eldercare. "This is truly a very generous gift which emphasizes the respect the Convalescent Fund has for SAGE and our mission" states Dr. Saul Spivack, Executive Director of SAGE, "It [the donation] will ensure that the spirit of the Convalescent Fund lives on." Interest from the Convalescent Fund's endowment will be earmarked for SAGE Eldercare Care Grants. Care Grants were established in April 2006 to serve as a subsidy to those clients who cannot afford the fees associated with the care they need through SAGE's programs and services.

In 1888 the Summit Convalescent Home was established by charter under the laws of New Jersey and became the first of its kind in the United States. For the first ten years of its

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Saul M. Spivack PhD.

Eldercare services are essential but can be very challenging financially. Insurance does not cover the non-medical services seniors and families need. Typically, families must finance these services from savings.

SAGE Eldercare is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization – it must survive on its own. There is no other “parent” organization to provide funding or assistance. We depend on donations from our community and grants from foundations. We must survive by balancing income from fee-paying services (such as HomeCare, Spend-A-Day Adult Health Center and Geriatric Case Management)

to provide others at no charge or a very low fee (such as Meals On Wheels, Shopping, InfoCare, Social Workers, In-Home Assessments, Educational Programs, Health Screenings, Chores and Counseling).

One of the most difficult situations we face is serving people without the means to pay for services. Almost daily we are confronted with the dilemma – people who need and deserve our services but cannot afford them. Our decisions are difficult ones. Some examples:

- Can we accept this woman who does not quite qualify for government programs because she is poor but *not* impoverished?
- Can we keep this couple whose government funding has run out with the home care they need?
- Can we help the daughter who takes care of her Mother so she can work Monday through Friday – her Mom needs Spend-A-Day plus HomeCare in the morning?

SAGE does not have significant financial resources; we must bring in enough revenue each year to cover our operations. In the past we funded this care for people who cannot afford our fees directly from our operations budget. However, we could not sustain SAGE for the future if we continued.

We created the Care Grant Fund in 2006 with these people in mind. The Fund was initiated with generous contributions from the our first “Supper at SAGE.” We are already applying some of these funds to clients!

All funds raised by our 2nd annual Supper at SAGE will support the Care Grant Fund. Following our tradition, we will honor a member of our community whose involvement with SAGE as well as the giving of their time, talents and treasures, have made a significant impact on our organization and those we serve.

So mark your calendars for September 28th! Join us for the 2nd annual Supper at SAGE. We hope you will plan to join us as well as inviting your friends to become supporters of independence and well-being of our community’s seniors and families.

Saul Spivack, PhD
Executive Director

SAGE Homecare Wins Accreditation For the 8th Year

The Board of Directors of the Commission on Accreditation for HomeCare in New Jersey has reaccredited SAGE Eldercare for its homemaker and home health aide services. This is the eighth year in a row in which the eldercare agency has passed its home care inspection – without deficiencies in the survey process. SAGE Eldercare’s HomeCare program is the only agency in Union County with such a record. The Commission currently accredits 170 home care providers in New Jersey.

The Commission on Accreditation for HomeCare was established in 1985 to promote and enforce the quality assurance standards for home care in New Jersey. The Commission works on behalf of the public, not only to provide a rigorous accreditation process for agencies, but also to increase public awareness on the importance of using only accredited agencies.

SAGE Eldercare’s roots began with the HomeCare program, with eight Home

Health Aides working out of Overlook Hospital in 1954. Since then, the number of SAGE Eldercare Home Health Aides has expanded to 65, who serve approximately 350 people a year. SAGE HomeCare services include nursing assessments, homemaking, bathing, assistance with medical appointments, family respite and more. For more information call 908-273-8400.

Betsey Robson's Philanthropy Lives On Through Meals on Wheels

Betsey Robson has many titles: community activist, collector, photographer, world traveler, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, but her role as the developer of the Meals on Wheels program in 1966 should be considered one of the most exceptional.

As a member of the Summit College Club in 1964, Ms. Robson was first approached with the idea of supplying meals to older individuals unable to leave their homes. She took it upon herself to research and develop the community initiative by visiting geriatric physicians and various organizations in search of funding and housing. After two years of research and planning, SAGE Eldercare, originally named the Summit Association for Gerontological Endeavors, was identified by the Summit College Club as a logical parent agency for the Meals on Wheels pilot program to serve the elderly in Summit. On October 10, 1966, Meals on Wheels, in collaboration with SAGE, served its first meal.

Originally established with a committee of six women, Meals on Wheels quickly grew thanks to the fortitude of Ms. Robson coupled with the support of the community. Initially, 148 volunteers were recruited from various organizations such as the Summit College Club, Council of Church Women, P.E.O., Summit Red Cross, Women Pioneers of Bell Laboratories and the Junior Fortnightly Club to serve an average of ten meals a day to the Summit area. After forty years, Meals on Wheels has expanded its service area to provide meals to those in surrounding Union, Morris, and Essex counties utilizing the help of over 300 volunteers.

Ms. Robson is extremely proud of the program's remarkable growth. "In my wildest dreams I never thought it would be what it is today," remarked Ms. Robson. However, in keeping with her truly persistent spirit she added "I'm sure we can do more." She receives the most satisfaction in knowing that the clients have not only received nutritious meals, but have also been able to form enduring relationships with the volunteers that visit them daily. "It's so wonderful that relationships



Betsey Robson poses with Lawton C. Johnson Middle School students in support of Dabawalla and Meals On Wheels.

form," asserted Mrs. Robson, "because, often, the volunteers are the only people that the clients interact with all day."

Ms. Robson has accomplished a great deal in her life. She has been an influential member for many community organizations, was appointed to the National Women's Federation, and, in 1969, named one of the Most Outstanding Women in America. However, "SAGE and Meals on Wheels has been the most memorable, important, and fulfilling achievement I have had," professed Ms. Robson. Ms. Robson has been extremely selfless in her pursuit and commitment to serve the community, but also a great innovator and leader who has given SAGE an everlasting legacy – Meals on Wheels.

Ms. Robson has truly set an example as an exceptional community pioneer. As a supporter of continuing education for younger students Ms. Robson agreed to participate with SMART, a mentoring program for Summit public school students, to help students in cultural education. The SMART program, coordinated by Celine Benet, had students visit Robson at SAGE to perform a presentation about *Dabbawalla*, an old traditional lunch delivery service in India. The SMART

program, with the help of local Indian restaurant, Dabawalla, promoted the food delivery service in town, visiting nearby businesses such as SAGE. It seemed fitting that Ms. Robson be the recipient of the meal since Dabawalla has a similar mission to that of Meals on Wheels: to cater to the needs of their customers.

Dabbawalla, the Hindi word for lunchbox man, is a meal delivery tradition that has existed in India for the last 125 years. Originating when India was under British rule, Dabawalla was established due to the demands of the British people who came to the colony but had little tolerance for the local food. Therefore, a service was set up to bring lunch to these people in their workplace straight from their home. Approximately, 5,000 men work as Dabawallas, most of whom can't read or write, but can identify three to four symbols that are painted on their lunchboxes. These symbols allow them to identify where to deliver the lunches. Each day, Dabawallas deliver 200,000 home made lunches from suburban homes to downtown offices in the city of Mumbai within a span of three hours. Remarkably, 65 million lunches are delivered yearly with almost no mistakes. Though the profession seems to be simple, it is actually

Getting to know SAGE Eldercare's Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has a few new faces joining the SAGE family. Here are three people who have a well-known history in volunteer work and skills to boost SAGE to its potential. Getting to know who we are as an organization is a way of getting to know how SAGE works in our mission: caring for our seniors.



Lauren Irvin

Lauren Irvin, new SAGE Board member, is no stranger to community volunteer work. Graduating from Williams College in Massachusetts in 1984 with a Bachelors degree in Political Economy, Ms. Irvin relocated to Chicago, Illinois to study painting and drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago while working full time as a Manager of Product Development and Licensing for the Institute. Following her four year tenure at the Art Institute, Ms. Irvin co-founded, Corporate Presence Inc., a company specializing in art-related marketing for Fortune 500 companies in 1988. After two years in Chicago, Ms. Irvin founded the New Jersey division of Corporate Presence Inc. in 1990.

Ms. Irvin has taken an active role in the community in which she lives with her husband and three daughters. Ms. Irvin served on the Board of the Central Presbyterian Church Weekly Nursery School and Kindergarten from 2001-2003 where she helped to hire a new director and revamp the school's scholarship program. Additionally, she served as a committee member of the Women at Williams task force and volunteered her

time for various other extensive school and community projects. When she is not volunteering her time around the community, Ms. Irvin enjoys running and playing tennis. However, she spends the better part of each day driving her children to and from their various extracurricular activities.

SAGE is also pleased to welcome our most recent Board member, **Rhoda J. Harris** who served as the President of the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills (2002-04) where she helped raise over \$230,000 for community projects in nine different towns in New Jersey and increased active membership by 80%. Thereafter, she served on the New Jersey State Public Affairs Committee advocating on behalf of women's and children's issues, specifically sex trafficking. In 2004, she was honored as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Urban Youth Development Corporation in East Orange, NJ.

She presently serves as a trustee of Cross Counter Inc., a subsidiary of the Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey which specializes in resident programs for at-risk children in Newark, is a trustee for the Cora Hartshorn Arboretum & Bird Sanctuary, and is a Cub Scout Leader. She has served on the Alumni Board of Sweet Briar College in Virginia and is a past president of the SBC Alumni Club of New Jersey. In 2005, Rhoda founded the "Little Roses Daycare Center" in Grenada, West Indies.



Rhoda J. Harris

She is a former Vice President of Marketing at PaineWebber Inc. in New York City, and spent thirteen years in the venture capital, real estate and retirement planning divisions. Currently she resides in Short Hills with her husband, James M. Irwin (Managing Director, Moon Capital Inc., NYC) and has three elementary school-aged boys.



Rob Barber

SAGE is also glad to welcome **Rob Barber**, Managing Director at Merrill Lynch where he is currently responsible for Capital Market Origination in the Public Finance Department. He earned his Bachelors degree in Economics from Washington and Lee University. In addition to SAGE, Rob is a member of the New Jersey Advisory Committee for The All Stars Project based in Newark. He is a past Deacon and Elder at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit and is a current member of the Church's Finance Committee. In addition, he has been a coach for the Summit Soccer Club for the past eleven years.

Rob and his wife Bridget have lived in Summit since 1990. His wife, Bridget, has devoted most of the last 20 years to the raising of their three children and is now a part-time employee at the Knitting Lab in Bernardsville. Their son, Zach, has completed his freshman year at Loyola College in Baltimore, while daughter's Martha is a junior at the Taft School in Watertown Ct. and Bea is a 7th grader at Summit Middle School.

The Convalescent Fund Committee of Summit Lives on through SAGE

(continued from front page)

existence, the Home, located on Mountain Avenue across 35 acres, received all ages and both sexes. Ultimately, financial pressure dictated limitation of convalescents to those between the ages of three and fifteen years old. Thanks to referral sources, such as hospitals, physicians, and various social agencies, the home received a steady stream of patients seeking care. However, due to limited funding and increasing operating costs, the Home was forced to close down and its property was sold in 1913. The proceeds of the sale, together with some donations, were used to establish the Convalescent Fund Committee of Summit, NJ, Inc.

Although the Home no longer exists, the Convalescent Fund Committee was formed and functioned to help with the convalescent activities of men, women, and children of Summit and surrounding communities. According to its Constitution, members of the Committee were limited to residents of Summit, or individuals affiliated with Summit, and could be no less than nine or more than thirteen members at any time. Committee members were suggested by the Nominating Committee and voted upon by the membership for three year terms.

From its inception, the Committee has aided various social agencies of Summit, including the Public Welfare Department, Overlook Hospital Department of Social Service, Child Care Center, SAGE, and

the Herald Camp Fund, in their provision of convalescent care to their clients by financial contributions. The Committee selected these agencies after considering the merits of each case and its relevance to the concept of convalescence. When it was time to discuss the final distribution of their earned funds, the Convalescent Committee instantly thought of one organization that has given back to the community and share similar ideals in convalescents, SAGE. According to Audrey Byrne, a member and former president of the Convalescent Fund Committee, "SAGE is where the need is for Meals on Wheels and Spend-A-Day because of the growing number in the aging population." The Summit Convalescent Fund recognized SAGE as an ideal candidate for receiving the majority of funds because of the rapid growth of the aging population in both the community and society as a whole.

The United States is on the brink of a longevity revolution in which the population of older Americans will have more than doubled to 70 million within the next twenty five years. In this century, the rate of growth of the elderly population, persons 65 years old and over, has greatly exceeded the growth rate of the population of the country as a whole as a result of improvements in health care, education, nutrition, and general living standards. Interestingly, those aged 85 and over, referred to as the "oldest old," make up the fastest growing segment of the

U.S. population. Within the next twenty five years the elderly population is slated to account for one-fifth of the entire U.S. population.

For this reason, the Convalescent Committee recognized the importance of SAGE's mission to assist older adults in remaining independent in their homes in order to ensure a continued high quality of life. "There is a need now and in years to come to support older adults," remarked Ms. Byrne, "and SAGE will best serve the Committee's Constitution." Ms. Byrne continued in commenting that "SAGE is most worthy of the endowment and they are to administer the funds as needed."

The Committee, moved by the strong motivation of those who brought convalescent care to Summit over a century ago, did its work with scrupulous adherence to the spirit of those who started the Home. SAGE, will undoubtedly, continue to adhere to the mission and passion of this Committee by keeping with the convalescent spirit of providing the best possible care to the people of the town of Summit and its surrounding communities.

The Convalescent Fund Committee will be convening for their final meeting this March. They will surely be missed, but fortunately for Summit and surrounding communities, their spirit and mission will live on in SAGE.

SPEND-A-DAY DEFICIENCY FREE

On December 12, 2006 Jessica Cantor, Director of Spend-A-Day, received great news! SAGE's Spend-A-Day facility was declared DEFICIENCY FREE for 2006. That means that when the New Jersey Department of Health came for their yearly *unannounced* inspection, no violations were found. In fact, SAGE has continued to receive excellent ratings for the past 6 years.

Jessica gives much of the credit to her staff's teamwork and dedication to the program. "We couldn't have done it without our staff joining together and working as a team!"

Health care facilities in New Jersey are licensed and regulated by the State. These regulations and procedures promulgated by the Department are intended to promote the health, safety

and welfare of patients/residents in New Jersey health care facilities.

A deficiency is determined by the Department when a health care facility has violated one or more of the specific state licensure standards. Deficiencies may be cited as a result of an on-site inspection or the evaluation of previous written reports or documentation.

Supper at SAGE September 2007

Get your best dress attires ready because this September SAGE Eldercare is getting ready to present our second annual Supper at SAGE. We are still hearing rave reviews on last year's supper success when SAGE honored Judy Shipley, one of SAGE's closest and longtime friends, for her dedication and loyalty in assisting with guiding SAGE in its early days and developing the organization that serves seniors today. This year's Supper at SAGE will be held at the Short Hills Hilton on Friday, September 28, 2007.

Supper at SAGE is a major fundraising dinner where all proceeds benefit SAGE Eldercare's Care Grant Fund. This designated fund was created in April 2006 when Saul Spivack PhD, Executive Director at SAGE Eldercare, and his wife Maureen donated \$10,000 to kick off the start of the grant. What is the purpose of the Care Grant Fund? It's to financially assist seniors who want to become enrolled in the programs offered at SAGE Eldercare but don't have the financial means to do so. Only seniors with low income are eligible to be considered for this grant.

We here at SAGE understand the economic hardships that come with getting older. With costly medications, doctor's visits, unfortunate accidents, and other countless hurdles that many seniors face, it is comforting to know that SAGE Eldercare is and has always been focused on the care and providing for seniors. Now this is a chance for us to be able to support our seniors financially. Supporting the Care Grant Fund is important because without your donations and our fundraising efforts many seniors would be unable to benefit from the support our programs have to offer them.

Last year's Supper at SAGE dinner raised nearly \$28,000 in one night! Our ticket sales, donations from those who could not attend, as well as proceeds from the soon to be famous silent auction, were the highlights of our fundraising. Our auctioning list consisted of many valuables from antiques to overnight spa packages. SAGE's very own Workshop participated in the auction as well by entering one of their very own repaired products, a Vintage Victor Victrola X dating back between

1910 and 1920. When the Workshop was given this player as a donation, the volunteers decided to fix it up and enter it in the silent auction raising over \$1,000 for the Care Grant Fund.

After the event, donations still continued to arrive and now the Care Grant Fund is up to \$60,000 total! That's sixty grand going towards financially disabled seniors who want to become involved with our senior care services and still have the opportunity to live life independently. We thank Julie Smith, President of SAGE Board of Trustees, and the Annual Dinner Committee for their help in organizing last year's event.

This year we plan to raise even more for our seniors when we hold our 2nd annual Supper at SAGE in the Short Hills Hilton. Honoree is yet to be announced so look out for more updates in our next issue or, for immediate updates, visit us at www.sageeldercare.org.

Everything Old is New Again First Annual Resale Shop Open House Fashion Show

"Everything Old is New Again" is the theme for SAGE Eldercare's first annual Resale Shop Open House Fashion Show set for Sunday, April 22, 2007 from 1 to 4 PM. This glitzy and fun event will take place at SAGE's Resale Shop located at 478 Morris Avenue in Summit. The event will include a silent auction of unique merchandise and services. Light food and beverages will be served.

The shop, specializing in vintage and non-vintage high-end clothing and accessories, features items including a jacket and skirt by Chanel, a Louis Vuitton handbag, outfits by Dior, BCBG, Anne Klein, Vera Wang, Valentino, and many more. Top off the perfect outfit with a vintage hat from the 30's and 40's. And, of course, no outfit will be complete without shoes by Coach and Ferragamo. "All clothing will be for sale the day of the event," comments Rose Rittweger, Resale Shop Manager, "silent auction items will include a large handmade Venetian tapestry and the infamous 'Pink Flamingo' you won't want to miss it!" Catch a glimpse of the perfect outfit as volunteers circulate the floor modeling the vintage clothing. It just might be what you are looking to wear to that special night out.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Rose Rittweger at 908-273-5564. The resale shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Betsey Robson's Philanthropy Lives On Through Meals on Wheels *(continued from page 3)*

a highly specialized trade that is over a century old and has become integral to Mumbai's culture.

The event, held on Tuesday, February 6th, called upon local Summit businesses and schools to take part in the longstanding Dabawalla tradition of meal service. Students from the Lawton C. Johnson Middle School in Summit took on the role of Dabawallas as they delivered a lunchbox into the hands of Ms. Robson at the SAGE Eldercare building. An entirely different group of students then retrieved the lunchbox and returned it to the restaurant completing the delivery cycle.

The restaurant is a tribute to the remarkable spirit and dedication of the people of India. Similarly, the legacy of Meals on Wheels is a tribute to the fortitude and passion of Ms. Robson. Ms. Robson and Meals on Wheels, akin to the Dabawallas in India, have enabled individuals to receive the comforts of home cooked meals and companionship that they so profoundly deserve and undoubtedly cherish.

SPOTLIGHT

Spend-a-Day Client Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Spend-A-Day member Cele Lilling of Morris Plains turned 102 on January 9th. Ms. Lilling is a member of what demographers say is the fastest growing segment of society – centenarians, or people 100 years old and above. She and her cohorts are increasing in number because more Americans are living longer than previous generations.

Speaking with Ms. Lilling, one would never know that she is 102. Like many aging individuals, she has trouble hearing and limited vision, but she is mentally clear and retains good physical dexterity. When recounting stories from the past and all of the various accomplishments of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Ms. Lilling's eyes show excitement and pride. She becomes increasingly enthusiastic when speaking of the past, even though she is adamant that her life has been fairly normal.

Shortly after being born on January 9, 1905 in Minsk, Russia, Ms. Lilling immigrated to the United States with her mother and siblings – two sisters and four brothers. Her father preceded them in coming to the U.S. to find work and a residence for the family. They settled in an apartment in the Lower East Side of Manhattan where she went to school until she was nine years old before moving to Brooklyn. In school, Ms. Lilling excelled in all subjects, but had a real passion for spelling and studying the planets. Outside of school, she enjoyed activities such as playing ball, jumping rope, playing with jacks, and playing with neighborhood friends in the street or schoolyard.

In November 1924, at the age of nineteen, Ms. Lilling was married at her home on Lincoln Place in Brooklyn. In telling the



Cele enjoys birthday wishes and cake with friends.

story, she recounts the decorated pipes and big white bell supplied by her family. Until she and her husband were able to find a place of their own, they remained in the house with her mother and father.

As a young girl Ms. Lilling aspired to be a teacher. However, as the youngest of seven children, her father couldn't afford college tuition and instead went to business school and became a bookkeeper. She had a prominent job in bookkeeping and held a very respectable position for twenty two years.

With her husband, Ms. Lilling had two children, a son and a daughter. Some of her fondest memories with her children include summers traveling to a farm in Fitchville, CT where they spent the day swimming and enjoying the sun. When asked about her children, she lights up and recounts all of their accomplishments through their college and professional

lives. She dotes on all six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren – all of whom she keeps in touch with and tries to see as much as geographically possible.

Although she has only been coming to SAGE for a year, Ms. Lilling has made many friends and enjoys her time spending the beginning of the week with these individuals. Other than attending SAGE Eldercare's Spend-A-Day program, Ms. Lilling enjoys staying at home in Morris Plains where she spends time with her daughter. She enjoys listening to books on tape, and knitting and crocheting sweaters and blankets.

“Cele is a joy to have in SAGE Eldercare's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center,” remarked Jessica Cantor, MPH, Director of Spend-A-Day. “Spend-A-Day members and staff alike truly enjoy Cele's company. SAGE Eldercare's mission is to provide programs and services that allow the elderly in our community to live independently at home. There is a positive side to aging, and there are many people of very advanced age, like Cele, who are interested in remaining a part of the world around them and who want to remain active and engaged in life to the greatest extent possible. By honoring and highlighting Cele's accomplishments – who is at the pinnacle of old age – I hope to persuade others to think about the very eldest members of society in a more kindly light and recognize their rightful place in society.”

There is no question that Ms. Lilling has led a truly exceptional life. Therefore, it is only fitting that when asked what she believes to be most important for living a good life, she responded “*give the world the best you can and the best will come back to you.*”

A New Design for SAGE Website

The Internet has grown to become one of the most popular communication and research tools of the 21st century. There is no doubt that the Internet has changed the way that we and future generations to come live amongst one another.

We at SAGE know the importance of how this technology can be essential in reaching out to seniors, caregivers and their adult children. Statistics show Internet usage amongst seniors, ages 60-69 years-old, has grown to 54 percent in 2006. With the baby boomer generation entering their senior years, the number of seniors who turn to the Internet for information should rise more significantly. Even if the majority of seniors are not personally familiar with using the Internet their family or caregivers are already comfortable with the process.

Having this information in mind it is important to concentrate on how we inform our services to our seniors. That is why we are brainstorming a plan for a total redesign layout for SAGE Eldercare's website this year. By providing a senior friendly website that is informative for both seniors and caregivers, we want to be able to communicate immediately to the people we care about the most.

Bruce Johnson, head of the Technology Committee at SAGE Eldercare, believes having a website for SAGE can be useful



for a wide range of possibilities: current news, recruiting volunteers, announce career openings, upcoming events, public bulletin board for seniors or caregivers to communicate with others, and so much more. It's all the information you need to know about SAGE at just the click of a button.

The new SAGE website will replace all the functions of the current site, plus add new functions for locating information pertinent to seniors. The site will not be limited to services offered by SAGE. We hope to incorporate much of the information now contained in our hard copy *Caregivers Guide* and to provide links to local, regional and national organizations who supply services or advice for seniors. We want the new site to be a "virtual" senior's center, the first place one will go to locate a class or service, find references on senior issues, learn about upcoming legislation affecting seniors, pose a question, etc.

"Proposals for development have already been received and selection of the firm to assist with the project will take place within

the next couple of weeks," said Johnson. Once a firm is chosen, funding plans will be the next step in re-launching the website.

SAGE Eldercare knows it is the programs we offer that make us important to our seniors. With all our efforts in fundraising, it is the programs that need to be considered first in order to support our clients. But we do want a way to interact closely with our seniors and caregivers too. It is also important to spread the message across that we are here to help and we want to be giving you the chance to get to know our organization. We want to let seniors and caregivers know what we can do to help.

To fulfill cost to develop the new site will be \$15,000 to \$20,000. If you or your organization wishes to contribute to the funding of this project or if you have any information on grants that can fund this project, please contact Dawn Knill, SAGE Eldercare's Director of Development & Public Relations, at dknill@sageeldercare.org.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S DOMICILE

SAGE Eldercare Welcomes New Director of Development

Dawn Knill joined SAGE Eldercare in September of 2006 as the new Director of Development and Public Relations. She brings to SAGE nearly 20 years experience in the non-profit sector with skills in administration, program development, finance and budgeting, customer/member services and an array of fundraising experience.

As a board member of the New Jersey Chapter's Association of Fundraising Professionals, Dawn was the chairperson for the 2006 Conference on Philanthropy which attracts over 300 professionals from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania each year.

On a personal note, Dawn lives in Basking Ridge with her husband, Chuck, and three children ages 8, 13, and 15. In her spare time she loves to cook, garden and an array of crafts. Dawn also serves on the Vestry of her church and was instrumental in helping raise \$2M for their capital campaign.

Dawn joined SAGE's staff team ready to jump right into the thick of it and reports, "I have a passion for seniors and look forward to utilizing my personal and professional talents helping to make SAGE's mission of keeping the elderly at home and independent part of my day to day activities.

I take my job very seriously and personally. There are many seniors depending on me and the other staff here at SAGE and we cannot let them down."

If you have any questions, comments or a personal SAGE experience you would like to share, feel free to contact Dawn at any time, 908-598-5503 or dknill@sageeldercare.org.

Look for a new addition to the Caring Connection newsletter, Development Domicile – the place to be for SAGE fundraising.

Thanks To the Generosity of SAGE Supporters: The 2006 Annual Fund Exceeds Goal!

As a non-profit organization working with the seniors who may be living on limited resources, near or at poverty level, we know all too well what it takes to get by.

When a passer-by sees the SAGE building one might think funds are unlimited at 290 Broad Street. The truth of the matter is that our wonderful building was made possible by the generosity of a few: a group of close friends of SAGE who believed in our mission. They knew that if we were to continue our work in growing our programs and services then our physical space needed to grow as well.

Along with this wonderful space comes the responsibility to maintain and sustain not only the physical space, but the programs and services for which we exist – Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, InfoCare, HomeCare, Meals on Wheels, Shopping and Bill Paying, Fall Prevention, Hispanic Outreach, SHIP, Educational and Prevention,

lecture series and support groups – and other programs still to be developed. Many people may not realize that a number of our programs are sustained on the generosity of individual donors, corporate support, and public and private foundation funding. These programs are free or at a nominal charge to those who are in need of them. Our other services are revenue generating, coming with a costly human resource expense which is needed to maintain our extraordinary standard of care.

The year 2006 ended on a positive for the fundraising arm of SAGE Eldercare. Due to the generosity of nearly 400 donors, we were able to raise close to \$200,000 of unrestricted donations to our Annual Fund. As great as this accomplishment is for SAGE it is important for us to strive greater in order to better run all our programs to their fullest potential. Although we may have met our goal for 2006 it is still not enough to cover everything we

have to offer at SAGE Eldercare. It's time to look forward and think about our goals for the new year. We hope to depend on your donations to continue our work to help raise \$280,000 for our Annual Fund by year end, 2007. The Annual Fund helps to support the operation of not just the day to day operations of the facility but the programs themselves. At SAGE we like to think of it as small business operations under one roof with a common purpose. Individually we are good but all together we are grand.

What does all this mean? It means we at SAGE need you – our clients need YOU! Please consider giving your donations to support SAGE and its mission which is critical of our operations. Make a difference in the life of a senior today!

For more information on donations to SAGE Eldercare, please contact the Development office at 908-598-5503.

Corporate and Private Foundations Support the Mission of SAGE

Thank you to the following Foundations and Corporations for their support in 2006. They have helped to make a difference in the lives of seniors in our community.

ANONYMOUS

\$50,000 / Case Management

AMBROSE & IDA FREDRICKSON FOUNDATION

\$5,000 / Meals on Wheels

BANCO POPULAR

\$10,000 / Meals on Wheels

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\$5,000 / Environmental Support
for Aging Adults

E. J. GRASSMANN TRUST

\$7,500 / Technology

F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION

\$30,000 / Transportation

HENRY H. KESSLER FOUNDATION

\$31,460 / Fall Prevention

IBM CORPORATION

\$1,000 / Meals on Wheels

JAMES N. JARVIE COMMONWEAL SERVICE

\$15,000 / Latino Outreach

JOSEPH & YETTA WEISBERGER FUND

\$1,000 / Programs

MANLEY-WINSER FOUNDATION

\$2,500 / Technology

OVERLOOK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

\$3,500 / InfoCare

PNC BANK

\$2,500 / Fall Prevention

RITE AIDE FOUNDATION

\$10,000 / InfoCare

SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION

\$10,000 / Latino Outreach

SHALLCROSS FOUNDATION

\$1,000 / Programs

THE HYDE & WATSON FOUNDATION

\$10,000 / Technology

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE ORANGES & SHORT HILLS

\$3,000 / Meals on Wheels

UNION FOUNDATION

\$5,000 / Technology

WILDWOOD FOUNDATION

\$15,000 / Case Management

Brunch a la SAGE Returns to SAGE Eldercare

Have you ever had someone go out of their way to do something nice for you? Do you know of a neighbor who has been going through some tough times lately? Is there someone on your client list who is always sending new business your way?

We have all experienced a time when we wanted to say a special thank you to someone but a card just doesn't do it, they are allergic to flowers or you just want to do something for them that no one has done before. Then *Brunch a la SAGE* is just what you are looking for.

Brunch a la SAGE has been created by SAGE Eldercare volunteers in celebration of our Meals on Wheels program. Participation is simple, complete the order form below, send it in with your payment and the results will be plentiful. A plentiful brunch basket for "two" will be delivered to the doorstep of the recipient on Sunday, May 6th between the hours of 8 and 8:30 AM. The basket will include Juice, Assorted Baked Goods, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Quiche, Fruit, Gourmet Coffee/Tea, Kitchen Towel and MORE. All for just \$55. Children's Brunch is also available for \$15 and will include Beverage, Cereal, Milk, Mini Bagel, Donut Holes, Fruit and a Toy. What a great way to say "I appreciate you".

All proceeds will benefit seniors in our community through SAGE Eldercare's mission to support the independence, well-being and quality of life of older adults, their families and caregivers, through the provision of client-centered health, social and support services.

Order Form (Orders due by April 23rd. / One form per address.)

ORDERED BY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Gourmet Basket: \$55*

_____ Kids Basket: \$15*

\$ _____ Grand Total

Check Enclosed Please charge my credit card

Visa Mastercard American Express

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

*a portion of your purchase is tax deductible

DELIVERED TO (if gift)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Message: _____

Orders may be phoned in using a credit card – Call 908-598-5504.

2006 VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

JOHN MCDONNELL

SHIP-State Health Insurance Program

FEBRUARY

JOSEPH GOTTESMAN

Meals on Wheels

MARCH

PAUL FLEMMING

Shopping Service, Meals on Wheels

APRIL

MARGE AND ED REICHMAN

Meals on Wheels

MAY

DAN KALEM

SHIP-State Health Insurance Program

JUNE

ANDREA WEISBAND

Meals on Wheels

JULY

CAROL KENT

Meals on Wheels, Spend-A-Day, Workshop

AUGUST

KARL LAZAR

Meals on Wheels, Chore Services

SEPTEMBER

DONNA COLE

Shopping Service

OCTOBER

BEVERLY KACZMARSKI

Meals on Wheels

NOVEMBER

JOANN STEFAN

Resale Shop

DECEMBER

DAVE KEENEY

Shopping Service, Meals on Wheels

SAGE Calendar of Events

Third Wednesday of Each Month P.R.E.P. (People Responsible for Elderly Persons) Support Group for caregivers will meet at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad St., Summit from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Please call Ellen McNally at InfoCare, 908-598-5509 for additional information.

March 28, 2007
SAGE Eldercare's continuing Fall Prevention Forum presents a program entitled "Preventing Falls: The Key to Independent Living" from 9:15 – 11:30 am at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street, Summit. All persons over 65 are invited to this free seminar. Take part in our fall prevention screening including: balance assessments, bone density screening, nutrition screening, and participate in balance and strength exercises. Refreshments will be served. Please call Julie Reich at 908-598-5552 for additional information and to register.

April 12, 2007
AARP Free Tax Assistance Let our trained volunteers help you in filing those complicated tax forms. Join us

at 290 Broad Street, Summit and file your forms before deadline. Our volunteers are here from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. help assist you. Please call Ellen McNally, Director of InfoCare, at 908-598-5509 to schedule your appointment. Bring your real estate tax bill, W-2 forms, Social Security Statement SSA-1099, and all of your 1099 forms from banks, former employers, stock brokerages, other financial firms, etc. It's best if you bring last year's tax forms.

April 16, 2007
Organized to Vitalize Transitions Women's Group presents "Organized to Vitalize" with Pattie Friend from Very Organized Women. Tired of having too much clutter in your home? Ever wish you could find the time to organize what you need and don't need? Visit SAGE Eldercare for an educational program on de-cluttering and reorganizing your home. The program begins at 1:00 p.m. at 290 Broad Street, Summit. Join us for tips on how to clear that mess out of your home for good. Please call Suzanne Lyon, Director of Volunteers, at 908-598-5514.

April 20, 2007
SAGE Eldercare presents "Tired of Being Tired" at the Summit Recreation Center, located at 100 Morris Avenue in Summit, at 11:30am on Friday, April 20th. The presenter, Carol Birritteri, is a sleep tech and therapist at Trinitas Hospital, Sleep Disorder Center. Please call Suzanne Lyon at 908-598-5514 for additional information.

April 22, 2007
SAGE Eldercare's first annual Resale Shop Open House Fashion Show: "Everything Old is New Again" – featuring a silent auction of unique merchandise and services, will take place on Sunday, April 22nd from 1pm to 4pm at 478 Morris Avenue in Summit. Light food and beverages will be served. The resale shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. For more information or if you have questions contact Rose Rittweger at 908-273-5564.

Moving somewhere? Different e-mail address?

Update your contact information now to keep receiving SAGE Eldercare's Newsletter and be updated on what's going on at SAGE!

Names: Person 1 _____ Person 2 _____

Birthday (no year needed): Person 1 _____ Person 2 _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: Person 1 _____ Person 2 _____

Mail us or send us an E-MAIL!

SAGE Eldercare, Inc.
290 Broad Street
Summit, NJ 07901

jsoto@sageeldercare.org

Any inquiries please call 908-598-5540 and ask for Jobana Soto.



SAGE ELDERCARE DEPARTMENTS

Administration	908.598.5502
Bill Paying Service	908.598.5514
Business Development Office	908.598.5542
Chore Service	908.598.5501
Development Office	908.273.5942
Fall Prevention Office	908.598.5552
Finance Department	908.598.5508
Home Health Care	908.273.8400
InfoCare: Information and Referrals	908.598.5509
Latino Outreach Office	908.598.5548
Meals on Wheels & Grocery Shopping Service	908.273.5554
PREP Support Group	908.598.5509
Public Relations Office	908.273.5942
Resale Shop	908.273.5564
SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program)	908.273.6999
Shopping Service	908.273.5554
Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Services	908.598.5520
Volunteers	908.598.5514
Workshop	908.598.5531
Para información en español	908.598.5548



Let our family take care of you

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