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## SAGE Celebrates Black History Month



As we celebrate Black History Month, we wish to honor those who make the commitment and sacrifice to care for the elderly. Compared to other minority groups, African Americans are the most likely unit to extend in-home care rather than relying on nursing homes or paid live-in care. In the inter-generational home – as quite a few African American homes are – the grandparents play a critical role

in looking after children while the mothers work.

As a result, it is expected that the contribution of grandparents will be reciprocated later in their life – with their children caring for them. It's not uncommon for grandparents to move into the homes of adult family members, especially their children. Therefore, the inter-generational ties of caregivers and the elderly in African American households have long been cemented.

During Super Soul Sunday, Oprah Winfrey talked about the role of caregivers (both family and paid in-home supports) and getting through the process by getting help through understanding the emotions the person cared for must go through. Winfrey asked if caregivers would consider learning more from the joyful times the person may have had rather than focus on the needs being cared for and to remember that the person has/had a full life of laughter, love, hope and joy.

This Black History Month, we are reminded of the wonderful stories of care giving we hear daily from clients, their families and staff alike. Our work is to repay them with respect and dignity in their later years that they earned through commitment to their family over the years.

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## MAKE A SENIOR SMILE is Happening Again - But This Time It's A Family Affair!

Rowan Carpenter of Summit launched the MAKE A SENIOR SMILE campaign during the COVID pandemic last year to address the isolation felt by so many elders. This year he enlisted his brother Sutton to join the effort. MAKE A SENIOR SMILE gathers items for special care packages to be delivered to local seniors through SAGE Eldercare's Meals on Wheels program. Over the past year, this hometown student-run service project has donated hundreds of care packages to our Summit-area seniors—all thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbors like you!



To learn more about MAKE A SENIOR SMILE, please visit them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MakeaSeniorSmileSummitNJ>). You can also email [makeaseniorsmile@gmail.com](mailto:makeaseniorsmile@gmail.com).

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## Community Comes Out to Support SAGE Resale Shop

# Liquidation Sale

On a cold and rainy Friday morning, there was a line forming at the Sage Resale Shop awaiting its opening. Many expressed their sadness to see the longstanding community shop closing, like Evelyn from Warren who said "It's been a wonderful shop and the volunteers were great, being informative, fun and welcoming."



While Mim from New Providence reminisced "I love coming because it gives me something to do! I live in senior housing and can get decorations for the lounge including tablecloths. The people here are lovely." The liquidation sale continues Friday 2/11 and Saturday 2/12 from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



(L): Mim from New Providence



(R): Joanne from Helping Hands

## THANK YOU to Summit Luminary Fund!



**The Summit Luminary Fund** donated \$9,500 to SAGE in support of Spend-A-Day. This is their 10<sup>th</sup> annual donation. The Summit Luminary Fund raises funds for various charitable organizations serving Summit, New Jersey and the surrounding communities. This annual tradition was started in 1981 by Barbara Romano who continues to serve as the organization's president. Each year, the board selects several local organizations to be recipients of money raised through the sale of luminary candles. Anyone can help this great project by volunteering to be a block Captain or purchasing luminary candles to be placed outside your home on Christmas Eve. For more information, please contact Barbara Romano at (908) 522-9575.



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