

SAGE Eldercare is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Engage SAGE is a publication for SAGE's friends and supporters.

## Delivering on Our Mission in 2021

SAGE IS A MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCE FOR SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Dear Friends,

Like you, I am hopeful that we are returning to normalcy. The last two years have been challenging for all of us, especially for our seniors isolated from the community and experiencing depression as a result.

The impact of the pandemic has been felt at SAGE as it has at every healthcare organization. Due to New Jersey and Federal mandates, we were required to close our Adult Medical Day Care program for successive months in 2021, but reopened in June. While a slow return of clients due to new variants hampered our progress, we are approaching capacity this spring. Our program revenues have declined below pre-pandemic levels and—while we are seeing growth again—your financial support allows us to provide services that the elderly cannot easily afford on their own. Here are some highlights of the year thus far:

- Galina Muller was promoted to Director of Finance and Administration and is now the Executive in charge at SAGE. Fidel Garcia, who recently joined us, is now Director of Communications and Development.
- We made the important move to consolidate our two clinical care programs, HomeCare and Spend-A-Day, to improve quality of care. We continue to face home health aide staffing shortages at a time when **attendance at Spend-A-Day jumped 300% from July 2021** due to increased demand. In fact, we can barely keep up with the demand in both these businesses.
- We made the difficult decision to close the Resale Shop due to online marketplace competition and increasing sourcing costs.
- Our Restoration Workshop completed 335 jobs—a **20% increase over 2020**—with 19 volunteer experts in caning. Bring your furniture to us for a quote today!

### SAGE made an impact last year:



**37,606** hours to  
66 participants



**9,513** hours for  
44 participants

**981** hours for telehealth  
**1,422** client days



**53,200** meals to  
202 neighbors



**7,562** hours on  
335 projects



**587** calls to New Jersey  
Medicare beneficiaries

- We delivered 53,200 Meals on Wheels—a **5% increase over 2020**—to 202 participants. We'd like to expand this program even more.
- We hired Katie Kovar, LSW to provide information and assistance to clients and to liaison with local community leaders and eldercare practitioners. Welcome aboard, Katie!

We stand committed to helping older adults remain living in their own homes. This is increasingly important to support our aging population. According to NJ.com, in a state of nearly 9 million residents, people 65 and older make up 16.6% of the population and that figure is growing.

SAGE's work goes beyond our building on Broad Street and extends into the communities we serve. We are truly in this together. As a much-needed resource for seniors in our community, I ask that you please help us with as generous a donation as you can make. With your help, we can continue to deliver on our vision of promoting independence, improving quality of life and meeting the changing needs of older adults and families. Just as we have for the last 68 years.

Thank you very much,

  
Adam Psichos

SAGE Eldercare Board President

# Make a Senior Smile

## AN INTERVIEW WITH SUTTON CARPENTER

During the COVID-19 pandemic last year, Rowan Carpenter of Summit launched the Make a Senior Smile campaign to address the isolation felt by so many elders. He enlisted his brother, Sutton, this year to join the effort—gathering items for special care packages delivered to local seniors through SAGE's Meals on Wheels (MOW) program. Read on for an interview with Sutton:

### Q: How much time do you spend on Make a Senior Smile?

**Sutton:** Rowan started Make a Senior Smile during the pandemic when he read how isolated seniors were during lockdown. He came up with the idea of dropping off care packages to brighten their day. Since Rowan will be going to college in the fall, I took over as we'd like for this project to continue. I designed the flyer, our Dad posts it for us and our mom helps us organize the items. Every few days after school we package them up to make them look nice. We also take photos of some of the packages and post them before they go to SAGE so that people can see their donations wrapped. Overall, we have collectively given 85 hours of our time to the project.



### Q: What reactions have you received?

**Sutton:** It's been great to see how the seniors react when they get their care packages. They really do smile! We've gotten to drop off a few packages in person and Amy [Stuart, Volunteer Manager/MOW] always shares photos of the seniors getting their gifts, which is really nice.

### Q: How has this brought the community closer?

**Sutton:** I think we all wanted to do something to help out during the pandemic so this project has been a great way for our family to contribute. It's also been nice to see people from all over Summit pitching in to help out. It's great to see what you can do when people work together.

### Q: Where do all the donations come from?

**Sutton:** We get donations from friends and neighbors but also from lots of different people here in Summit. It's a real community effort. Some have been really nice about donating every time, like the Lee and Doherty families. The Summit Lions Club also helped us out a lot last fall when they donated several large bags of candy. We're really grateful for everything we receive.



Learn more at [www.facebook.com/MakeaSeniorSmileSummitNJ](https://www.facebook.com/MakeaSeniorSmileSummitNJ)

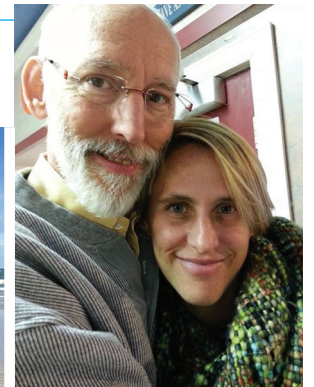
*Above: Sutton and Rowan packaging items at home. At left: Grace DiPiano with her care package and a delivery set to go to SAGE.*

## Trustee Spotlight

### REV. EMILIE BOGGIS

Rev. Emilie Boggis serves Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit as a co-minister and represents the Summit Interfaith Council on SAGE Eldercare's Board of Trustees. Born into a Kentucky family and growing up in Pennsylvania, Rev. Emilie considers herself both Southerner and Yankee. She then married a Brit, deepening the confusion, and is raising dual citizen teenage daughters—with constant disputes about how to say words like garage, aluminum and yogurt!

Both of Rev. Emilie's parents were diagnosed with different chronic illnesses in their sixties: leukemia and vascular dementia. Her father eventually died of COVID-19 in April 2020, surrounded by the heroic nursing home caregivers that became a part of her family. Journeying with them has profoundly deepened her theology of care for our elders.



*At left: Rev. Emilie with Alice, Lucy and Gordon. Above: Rev. Emilie with her father, David.*

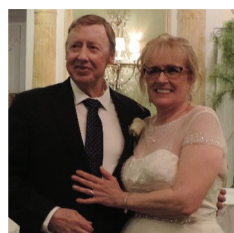
# Volunteer Spotlight

Our volunteers, like our donors, are often the lifeline to being able to deliver the necessary services to our senior participants. So when our Spend-A-Day kitchen coordinator was out indefinitely due to a sudden emergency, we rang the alarm for assistance. Four gracious volunteers—Kitty Hartman, Patty LoMacchio, Jan Martin and Laurie Monroe—came to the rescue and have been staffing the kitchen to ensure we provide meals each day for our participants.

All four volunteers have the Food Handlers Certificate, a state requirement for working in adult medical daycare kitchens. A common misconception is that we only plate pre-packaged meals. However, workers also arrange morning and afternoon snacks, coordinate various dietary preferences, communicate with the nurse to accommodate allergies and special dietary needs, complete reports and order food and supplies for the kitchen—time consuming tasks which all happen behind the scenes. “Kitty, Patty, Jan and Laurie truly have been our rock and are wonderful people to work with,” said Diana Lara, Spend-A-Day Activities Manager. “They dedicate so much of their time and what they do is hard work. We could not have continued such seamless program operations without these volunteers.”

**“I believe in SAGE's mission of helping the older adults in our community. Most of the people we serve find themselves in very different circumstances than they had expected. I am happy to help ease their lives a little bit.”**

**-Kitty Hartman**



*At left: Jan, Laurie and Patty in the kitchen; Kitty on a Meals on Wheels delivery; and Patty with her husband, John Carney.*

## Kitty Hartman

Kitty began volunteering for SAGE in the mid-70s when the Spend-A-Day program met at Hillview School in New Providence, making two gallons of soup once a month until they qualified for Meals on Wheels. Since 2000, she has been delivering meals one or two days a week. In 2008, she joined SAGE's Board of Trustees, serving for over ten years, and returned to volunteering in Spend-A-Day in 2018.

## Patty LoMacchio

Patty has been a volunteer since 2013 after her mother, a Spend-A-Day participant, passed. Patty helped on the floor and later in the kitchen. In 2016, she met John at SAGE and they got married in 2019. Patty said, “I made great lasting friendships through SAGE.”

## Jan Martin

Jan has been volunteering for almost eight years, beginning with support in Spend-A-Day and filling in for receptionist coverage. During the pandemic, Jan volunteered for our shopping service and when we needed help in the kitchen, she answered the call.

## Laurie Monroe

Laurie started volunteering for Meals on Wheels in 2007 before helping the shopping service, which led to becoming the shopping coordinator in Stirling. She eventually moved into the Spend-A-Day kitchen and helped out in the nurse's office. Laurie says, “I was lucky to work in all those departments. The relationships that I have made with our clients and my fellow coworkers is my gift.”

# 2021 Financial Overview

Our program revenues declined below pre-pandemic levels in 2021 due to New Jersey and Federal mandates. Your financial support allows us to provide services that the elderly cannot easily afford on their own.

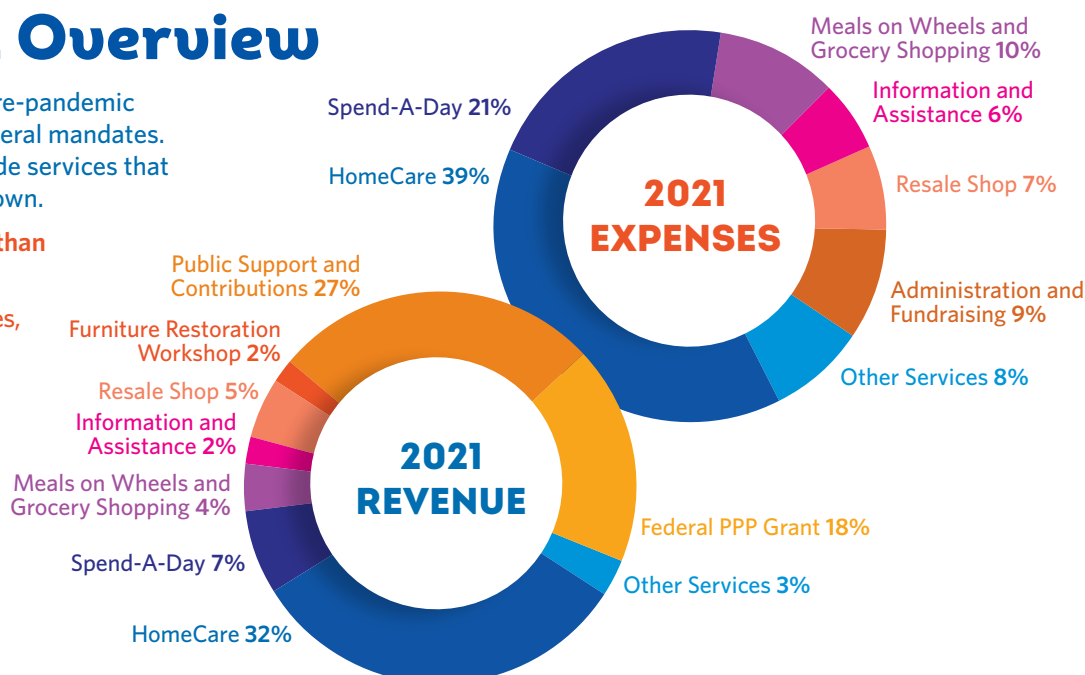
**The need for SAGE's services is greater than ever as the population continues to age.**

We offer a variety of donation opportunities, from monthly to quarterly or annually.

Please visit [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org) or call 908-598-5504 to learn more.



SCAN ME





290 Broad Street, Summit, NJ 07901

Did you know? Donations may also be made in the following forms:

- Qualified charitable donation from your IRA
- Grant from a Donor Advised Fund
- Gift of appreciated securities
- Legacy in your estate plan

Call 908-598-5504 to learn more!

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## Happenings in MAY



### Move in May

"We are excited to host Move in May this year," said Fidel Garcia, Director of Development and Communications. "Last year the event was supported by The Junior League and held virtually due to the pandemic. Our hope is that with the reduction in COVID-19 cases, more members of the community will come out to participate in group activities." Residents are invited for exercise, fun and philanthropy throughout the month of May. **Visit our website at [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org) to register.**

### Older Americans Month

Each year in May, we commemorate Older Americans Month to encourage and recognize the countless contributions that older adults make to our communities.

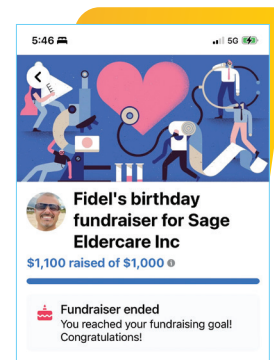


AGE MY WAY: MAY 2022

This year's theme focuses on how older adults can age in their communities, living independently for as long as possible and participating in ways they choose. **Visit [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org) or visit our Facebook page for a variety of events and resources throughout the month of May.**

## Fundraising for SAGE

SAGE's own Fidel Garcia celebrated his recent birthday with a fundraiser for SAGE. He decided to leverage Facebook and his network of friends to help support the work we do for seniors. **He was able to raise \$1,100 over the course of three weeks.** That goes a long way to help fund the gap between revenue and cost of services that gets bridged by donations.



**If you need assistance with your own fundraising campaign for SAGE—for your birthday, anniversary or other milestone—give us a call at 908-598-5532.**

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

We are grateful for the almost 80 new donations in the first quarter of 2022 which go directly to support the many programs of SAGE. To see the complete list, visit our website: [www.sageeldercare.org/donor-recognition](http://www.sageeldercare.org/donor-recognition).