

*Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends***Happy 111th Anniversary to German Centre!**

On May 10, 1914, Deutsches Altenheim, now known as German Centre, officially opened its doors in West Roxbury with music from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, poems read aloud, and a deep sense of community pride. This May, we joyfully mark 111 years of compassionate care, a milestone built on a foundation of service, resilience, and vision.

But our story begins even earlier. In 1886, a group of German immigrant women led by Mrs. Wilhelmina Schrafft founded the German Ladies Aid Society of Boston to support fellow community members in need. Through grassroots fundraising efforts—bazaars, picnics, and membership drives—the group grew in influence, ultimately sparking the creation of a permanent home for aging German Americans.

By 1912, land was purchased on Centre Street, and two years later, German Centre opened as a haven of dignity and warmth for seniors. With furnishings donated by the community and architecture designed to feel like home, it offered older adults a sense of belonging and comfort that remains central to our mission today.

Over the past 111 years, German Centre has continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of Greater Boston's aging population. From the addition of skilled nursing care in the 1970s, to the opening of our memory care pavilion in 1999, and the launch of our assisted living community, Edelweiss Village, in 2006, our campus has grown thoughtfully and purposefully. Today, German Centre Home, Edelweiss Village, and Senior Place serve over 230 residents and families from all walks of life.

We have modernized our facilities, introduced innovative therapies like music and art, and welcomed families, partners, and supporters into every step of our journey. In 2024, we proudly opened a newly renovated memory care neighborhood at Edelweiss Village, expanding our ability to care for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related conditions.

As we celebrate this extraordinary anniversary, we are reminded that German Centre exists because people cared—then and now. From the earliest days of the German Ladies Aid Society to today's dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors, our community has always come together to ensure seniors receive the dignity, compassion, and connection they deserve.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to the next 111 years!

**Staff Member Highlight**

We are thrilled to recognize **Pauline Kerr** as our Employee of the Month!

Pauline is the heartbeat of Schrafft Pavilion. Her dedication, professionalism, and unwavering support uplift everyone around her. Families and residents adore her, and colleagues deeply appreciate her kindness, reliability, and positive energy.

Even on the busiest days, Pauline goes above and beyond to offer comfort, care, and encouragement to those who need it. She has been known to miss meals and breaks to ensure residents and families receive the attention they deserve. Pauline's compassion, faith, and inspiring presence make a meaningful impact on our entire community.

Congratulations, Pauline, and thank you for all you do!

Welcome to German Centre!

Marie Judith Julien

PCA, Edelweiss Village

James Sullivan

CNA, German Centre Home

*Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends***Deutsches Altenheim Foundation****The Power of Matching Gifts:
Stepping Up Together**

Matching gifts have a remarkable way of turning generosity into action, and action into extraordinary impact. That power was clear this spring when the ninth-grade boys of Roxbury Latin School launched their “Stepping Up for Seniors” walkathon in support of German Centre’s Music Therapy Program.

Their goal was to raise \$5,000. But what inspired them to go above and beyond was the promise of a match: once the students reached their goal, a generous donor would unlock an additional \$1,000. Even more inspiring, every dollar raised beyond that \$5,000 would be matched dollar for dollar, up to an additional \$2,500. That challenge lit a fire.

By the end of April, the students had raised over \$9,000 through their own outreach, with another \$700 contributed by members of the German Centre community. Fueled by the matching gift—and an additional \$1,000 contributed by the matching donor’s family—the total impact grew to more than \$14,000.

This is the power of matching gifts. They motivate donors to stretch their giving, create a shared sense of investment, and often become the spark that helps a campaign soar past its original goal.

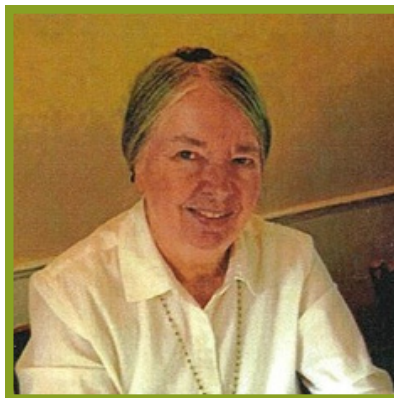
Inspired by this success? Matching gifts are one of the most effective ways to multiply your impact. If you or your company are interested in sponsoring a match—or making your gift go further—visit dafboston.org/donate or contact our Philanthropy Office to learn more. Together, we can amplify generosity and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Ways to Give

- **Online:** dafboston.org/donate
- **Mobile:** Scan the QR Code
- **Phone:** Call us at 617-390-3217



Thank You for Your Support!

Family Spotlight**Remembering Evelyn Louise John:
A Legacy of Generosity and Connection**

Evelyn Louise John had a deep and abiding connection to German Centre, one rooted in both personal history and heartfelt appreciation. While she spent time here recuperating from surgery and was in our care during her final night—January 14, 2023, her beloved uncle Carl’s birthday—her family’s ties to our community span decades.

Evelyn’s mother, Delia John, and uncle, Carl Frederick John, were both residents here, and Evelyn herself had courted German Centre for long-term care for months, even as her health declined.

Born in Germany on December 15, 1934, Evelyn came to the United States as a young girl and went on to lead an accomplished professional life. She worked for 41 years at Bank of America, rising to high-ranking roles through intelligence, independence, and grit. Evelyn was deeply loyal and quietly generous—traits reflected in her lifelong friendships and in her bequest of \$100,000 to German Centre.

She adored musicals, especially *The Sound of Music*, and found peace in the Vermont mountains, especially the Von Trapp Lodge. A devout member of Saint Brendan’s Church, Evelyn lived a life of strong values and quiet benevolence. When her dear friend Mary Malloy’s grave marker was damaged, Evelyn paid for a new (and much larger) one—just one example of her private compassion.

Evelyn’s gift to German Centre was made in honor of her family and in recognition of the care they received. Her family shared that she hoped the funds might support musical programming and provide dignity for those without means. In gratitude, we will install a plaque in Evelyn’s memory, one her family looks forward to visiting, as they continue to honor the legacy of a remarkable woman who never stopped caring for others.

In Loving Memory

Peter Bertschmann, Schrafft Pavilion
Jane Chandler, TCU
Eunice Hannon, Anna Bauer
Lousian Maraka, TCU

Mary McField, Schrafft Pavilion
Karen Muldoon, Edelweiss Village
Philip Smedile, Schrafft Pavilion
Yvonne Spencer, Senior Place