

*Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends***Organizational Updates****Changes at the Top
Rising Stars & Some Tears**

This month, German Centre experienced several changes within our leadership team, with a few promotions and two sad good-byes.

On the bright side, Sean O'Grady was recently licensed as a nursing home administrator and promoted to Executive Director/Administrator of German Centre Home, after much study and completion of the state's Administrator-in-Training program, under Babacar Diop's supervision.

Kayla Houseknecht has stepped into Sean's previous role as Director of Rehabilitation. She is well prepared, having received months of coaching from Sean while working as an occupational therapist in the department.

Carol Kelly, our dynamic Director of Life Enrichment, announced her retirement after nearly four decades. We will honor Carol's remarkable career and her unique contributions to German Centre at a farewell party on October 24, 2025 (details to follow separately).

Daffney Guey was promoted from Assistant Director to Director of Life Enrichment after Carol announced her retirement. Daffney has been a key player on Carol's team and will do an excellent job in her new role, having practiced it already for months under Carol's mentorship.

Sadly, CEO Babacar Diop announced his resignation this month. In his short tenure, Babacar made a huge impact on the success of German Centre and on all members of the German Centre community. Some tears were shed as we celebrated him with a good-bye breakfast and a campus-wide farewell party. We cannot thank Babacar enough for his leadership and maintaining German Centre's vision and standard of excellence and our culture of compassion. We wish him all the best.

Casino Day at Edelweiss Village

Our Life Enrichment team ran a very exciting Casino Day in our Garden Room at Edelweiss Village.

**Employee of the Month**

We are excited to celebrate **James (Jimmy) Montville** this month. Jimmy is the glue that keeps German Centre together and running smooth. He puts his heart into his work and it shows. We thank Jimmy for all he does. He arrives at work before most of us are even awake. He frequently comes to work on his days off, weekends and even when he is on vacation. He has master craftsman-level skills in so many areas, some that we see daily are: gardening; carpentry; building; art; repairing; painting; and fixing almost anything. Not to mention Jimmy's awesome creativity and sewing skills, as seen in the many hockey jerseys Jimmy creates and wears. Jimmy has been dedicated to German Centre for over eighteen years.

Autumn Art Projects

Edelweiss Village memory care residents enjoyed creating beautiful fall art, with Marie Bobillier leading them through the design and process.



*Connecting Staff, Residents, Families, and Friends***Deutsches Altenheim Foundation****Celebrating Two Meaningful Gifts
to German Centre**

German Centre is honored to recognize two generous gifts that strengthen vital programs for older adults in our community.

The **Katherine C. Pierce Trust** awarded \$10,000 in general support for *Senior Place Adult Day Health*. Senior Place is a lifeline for families caring for aging loved ones, offering a safe, engaging environment where participants enjoy social connection, therapeutic activities, and compassionate nursing support each day. For caregivers, Senior Place provides peace of mind and the gift of respite, knowing their loved one is active and well cared for.

We are also grateful to **The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation** for a \$5,000 grant supporting our *Music Therapy Program*. Music Therapy has been transformative for residents living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. With rhythm and familiar melodies, participants reconnect with treasured memories, reduce anxiety, and find comfort and joy. This grant will help us expand access to instruments, materials, and sessions that create meaningful moments for residents and daily participants.

Together, these gifts demonstrate the power of philanthropy to enrich lives, providing stability for essential day health services and sustaining innovative, person-centered programs like music therapy.

To the trustees and leadership of the Katherine C. Pierce Trust and The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your partnership ensures German Centre can continue delivering care that is safe, dignified, and filled with connection.

Ways to Give

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



Thank You for Your Support!

Resident Spotlight**A Good Life, Good Pasta and Good Children
Celebrating Toni Tartaglini**

Antonietta (Toni) and her husband Aldo immigrated to the United States in 1950, from Italy, as a young married couple and proud survivors of World War II. They made a good life for themselves and their three children (Donna, Aldo and Sandra). Toni had to abandon school in the fourth grade due to the war, but that did not impact her terrific common sense, her wisdom, and her smart approach to everything. Toni was raised by Italian parents who instilled terrific values in their children and passed along great gardening and cooking skills (especially home-made pasta), just like Toni and Aldo did for their children.

Aldo graduated from Northeastern University and was a Civil Engineer. Toni worked for Keystone Camera in Dorchester, MA, then as a self-employed seamstress (with dedicated customers), and before retiring, became a chef and baker as a job and a hobby. Toni has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, who all display those same generational qualities as great human beings.

Toni started coming to Senior Place Adult Day Health in early 2025. She loves coming to German Centre four days a week and looks forward to seeing staff and her friends here. She brings her own lunch but, does not eat it, instead she enjoys sharing it with her Senior Place friends. She loves the food we serve, so she does eat lunch every day. Toni loves the companionship from her Senior Place friends and staff. She wakes up very early to get ready for her days here at German Centre. She washes, dresses and applies her own makeup every day.

Our Adult Day Health program provides structure to Toni's days and gives her an outlet that is her own, outside of all her family activity. The family loves that Toni comes here for plenty of companionship and are thankful for all the friends she has made. Toni loves participating in all the activities our staff at Senior Place host but, gardening is her favorite.

**In Loving Memory**

Marie (Ruby) Caruso, *Senior Place*
Nathanelle McNeil, *Anna Bauer*
Mary Prendergast, *Anna Bauer*
James (Jim) Stillman, *Senior Place*
Francis Thompson, *TCU*

The German Centre family extends deepest condolences to the families and friends of these wonderful people.