



“TO SERVE IS OUR MISSION, TO LOVE IS OUR TRADITION”

Saint Antoine Notes

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAINT ANTOINE COMMUNITY

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Saint Antoine Community
A CARELINK PARTNER

Saint Antoine Residence EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AND REHABILITATIVE CARE

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Saint Antoine Residence Celebrates Centennial Year

*** 100 Years ***
of Excellence in Nursing Care 1913 - 2013

(Editor's Note: The following is a news release that was distributed to various news media in mid-January. Feature articles appeared in both the Valley Breeze and Woonsocket Call newspapers.)

Saint Antoine Residence --- Rhode Island's largest long term care facility --- will celebrate its centennial year in 2013 with a variety of events and communications. The anniversary announcement was made on January 16th by Wendy Fagnoli, Saint Antoine's executive director, at a special ceremony held on the Saint Antoine Community campus in North Smithfield. Also speaking were Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts and North Smithfield Town Administrator Paulette Hamilton.

Saint Antoine was founded in 1913 by Monsignor Charles Dauray as "L'Hospice Saint Antoine du Woonsocket". The Sisters of Charity (the "Grey" nuns) from St. Hyacinthe Canada were invited to help carry on this ministry by The Most Reverend Matthew Harkins, Bishop of Providence, at the time.

The original facility was located on Hamlet Avenue in Woonsocket as a "home for the aged poor." In 1941, because of cramped quarters, a new facility was constructed on Mendon Road in North Smithfield. In 1987, in recognition of the changing mission and direction of L'Hospice, the name of the corporation was changed to "Saint Antoine Residence," and its purpose was amended



Centenarian Residents, 1st Row (L-R): Sr. Helen Klumpp; Christine Sears; Yvonne LaRoche; Jeanette Meunier. 2nd Row standing: Board Chair Msgr. George Frappier; CareLink CEO Joan Kwiatkowski; Former SAR Administrator Mary Ann Altrui; Executive Director Wendy Fagnoli; Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts; North Smithfield Town Administrator Paulette Hamilton.

to "establishing and maintaining a home for the elderly, the sick, or impaired." Later, in 1994, because of the heightened nursing care that the residents required, a state-of-the-art facility was erected, replacing the 1941 building. Then, in 2000, a 76-apartment, assisted living facility, the Villa at Saint Antoine, was added to the continuum of services provided by the Saint Antoine Community.

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Saint Antoine Residence Celebrates Centennial Year

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What started as a small rest home for the elderly in 1913 is currently a 260-bed skilled nursing facility, providing long term care, short term rehabilitation Alzheimer's/dementia care, and a Hospice Suite for end-of-life care. Saint Antoine employs more than 400 people, making it one of the largest employers in Northern Rhode Island, and engages over 100 volunteers. On its campus is a 76-apartment assisted living community, the VILLA at Saint Antoine. Saint Antoine is a founding member of CareLink, and an agency of the Diocese of Providence

Simply stated, Saint Antoine's mission is "to meet the physical, social, emotional and religious needs of older adults and their families by providing excellent care by compassionate professionals."

John Barry, Secretary for Catholic Charities and Social Ministry for the Diocese of Providence said, "For any nonprofit organization to have been around for 100 years is truly amazing. What with the ups and downs of the economy, added government regulations, and the changing elder care landscape, reaching this milestone speaks to Saint Antoine's solid mission and strong leadership over the last 100 years."

During this time, Saint Antoine has been at the forefront of developing new and better ways to deliver services to the elderly. Among these is being the first in Rhode Island to begin primary care, whereby the same caregiver is matched with the same resident. It developed the first Hospice Suite in a nursing home setting, in conjunction with Visiting Nurses of Rhode Island. It was one of the first nursing homes in Rhode Island to have a special Alzheimer's/dementia care unit. More recently, it has operated a certified nursing assistant training and career laddering program --- recognized as a national model -- that is helping numerous under skilled and under employed people to enter and advance in the health care profession.

"Of all the many 'firsts' that we have had over the last 100 years, I think the one that we are most proud of is having been granted the first-ever nursing home license --- License No. # 00001 --- given to a long term facility by the Rhode Island Department of Health," concluded Executive Director Wendy Fagnoli.



1941 L'Hospice Saint Antoine on Mendon Rd., N. Smithfield.

Our Catholic Roots Beginnings...

Monsignor Charles Dauray and the Sisters of Charity founded Saint Antoine Residence in 1913. Its guiding principle, rooted in Catholic tradition, has always been "to care for the elderly and the frail with love, charity and a cheerful heart."



Statue of Msgr. Charles Dauray stands in front of his beloved Woonsocket church, Precious Blood.

By 1900, Woonsocket had the largest French Canadian population of any town in the United States. The agri-food economy was in decline and Canadians emigrated south to find work --- first to Vermont and then, with the expansion of the railroad, further south to Woonsocket. They found plentiful work in the textile mills but there were no French speaking churches or schools, which was the center of their lives in Canada.

The Providence Diocese was very much aware and extremely concerned about this burgeoning situation. In years preceding the 1900s, a French Canadian priest, Fr. Charles Dauray, made several visits to Rhode Island. First, he came to Pawtucket to visit his brother and to recuperate from a serious illness brought on by overwork. On subsequent visits, Fr. Dauray began to involve himself with churches in the Providence Diocese, conducting Mass and getting to know the people and their spiritual needs.

As God would have it, Bishop Thomas Hendricken, Prelate of the Providence Diocese at the time, asked Fr. Dauray to represent the church in addressing the needs of the growing French Canadian population. And so began fifty years of unparalleled accomplishments by the Church for our French Canadian brothers and sisters.

Father Dauray founded Saint Antoine Residence ("L'Hospice Saint Antoine du Woonsocket") in 1913 with the help of the Sisters of Charity ("Grey" Nuns) from St. Hyacinth, Canada. He had also been directly involved or provided leadership in establishing many other French Canadian landmarks such as Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur (Central Falls, 1875); Church of the Precious Blood (Woonsocket, 1881); many other French churches (six in Woonsocket alone), a French high school (Mount St. Charles); convents; elementary schools; an orphanage; and several French-Canadian cultural organizations.



Original 1913 L'Hospice Saint Antoine on Hamlet Avenue in Woonsocket. Photo taken circa 1920.

In 1918, Bishop Matthew Harkins conferred on Father Dauray the title of "Monsignor" In recognition of his many accomplishments. Monsignor Dauray is buried at the base of his beloved Woonsocket church, Precious Blood. His funeral was celebrated by four bishops and witnessed by more than 300 priests and an overflow crowd that spilled into the local streets.

Bishop Hendricken's decision to "adopt" Father Dauray as a "messenger" of the Church paid-off handsomely for the Franco-American community in Rhode Island. God certainly does work in mysterious ways!

Executive Director's Speech

(Editor's Note: The following is a speech given by Wendy Fagnoli, Executive Director, at a special ceremony announcing Saint Antoine Community's 100th Anniversary year.)



Wendy Fagnoli

Thank you Bishop Gelineau for your warm blessings upon us.

Welcome guests, friends, staff and residents to the official opening of Saint Antoine Community's Centennial year. I would like to recognize and to thank several special guests for sharing in this most memorable day: Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Roberts; North Smithfield Town Administrator Paulette Hamilton;

Ray Rusin, Director of Facilities Regulation, RI Dpt. Of Health; our past Executive Director Mary Ann Altrui who served our Community from 1988-2007; Joan Kwiatkoski, CEO of CareLink and PACE RI; Jim Nyberg, CEO of Leading Age RI; esteemed members of our Advisory Board; and our resident centenarians --- Yvonne Laroche, Christine Sears, Sr. Helen Klump, and Jeanette Meunier.

Today marks an incredible milestone for our Community: One hundred years --- one hundred years of loving service.

From our humble beginnings on Hamlet Avenue in Woonsocket to two, state-of-the-art facilities in North Smithfield, the Saint Antoine Community has not only survived but has flourished. Founded in 1913 by Msgr. Charles Dauray, the then L'Hospice Saint Antoine first opened its doors as a charitable home for elders. Msgr. Dauray was an amazing visionary who also possessed the fortitude and wisdom to accomplish amazing things and, to him, we are forever indebted. After purchasing the original building on Hamlet Avenue, previously an orphanage, Msgr. Dauray appealed to the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, Canada, ("Grey" Nuns), that he needed their expertise to care for the aged and infirmed. This began a long relationship between Saint Antoine Residence and the Sisters of Charity who provided loving care and service to our residents for over 80 years.

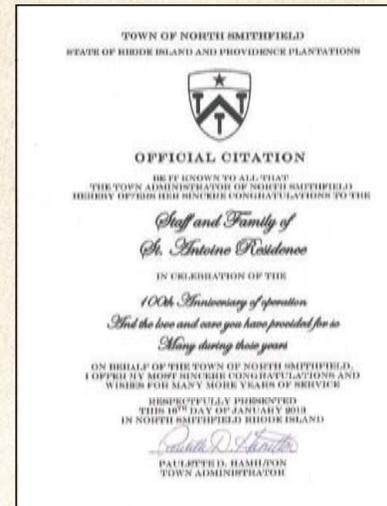
After caring for hundreds of poor, sick and infirmed elders, and due to fully occupied quarters, the sisters saw a need for an improved site to continue their mission. So, in 1937, six years after the death of Msgr. Dauray, L'Hospice Saint Antoine purchased 20

acres of land in North Smithfield. In 1941, the new L'Hospice Saint Antoine opened its doors on the site where our Villa now stands, offering larger capacity and a modern atmosphere.

In 1988, the first lay administration was hired when Mary Ann as Administrator and I as Assistant Administrator took over the reins from the Sisters of Charity who then had no younger sisters to continue in these roles. Full occupancy, a lengthy waiting list, and an again-antiquated 50 year- old building, demanded a response for modernization and state-of-the-art, campus development. In the purposeful tradition of our founders, Mary Ann forged ahead with the opening of a new, 260- bed, Saint Antoine Residence, skilled nursing facility in 1994 and our 76-apartment Assisted Living Facility, the Villa at Saint Antoine, in year 2000. The Sisters of Charity bid their farewell in 1994, returning to Canada. This fostered the development of a new and lasting relationship with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary from Fruit Hill who still provide loving service to this day and whose example fosters a meaningful religious presence for our residents.

The long and short of the tale is one of perseverance and purpose. Saint Antoine has always heeded the call, listened to the needs of seniors, and has developed programs in response. When all is said and done, it is not that we hold Department of Health nursing facility license 0001 in the State of Rhode Island, nor the buildings new or old that have alone contributed to the success of Saint Antoine. It is the people --- and it is the mission --- that has carried us gently and safely into the beginning of a next century ("To serve is our mission, to love is our tradition"). The results of this tradition are seen on the faces of every resident and family that tours here for the first time. It is seen on the faces of our residents who are cared for by the loving hands of our nurses and CNAs and by all of our staff. Our staff are the success story as they have committed themselves not to a job but to a ministry of service. Our commitment to quality and excellence has assured us a continued waiting list of people who want to live or rehabilitate here --- to taste and see the Saint Antoine way.

When celebrating his first Mass at L'Hospice Saint Antoine, did Msgr. Dauray dream of this centennial celebration? Do Bishop Tobin and Bishop Gelineau dream of a bicentennial celebration for us 100 years from now? Rest assured! The Saint Antoine Community has much left to do. And it will --- with a smile --- meet the challenges of the future. But for now, we will simply breathe in and enjoy this very special accomplishment --- our Centennial year!



The Saint Antoine Community

An Organization of Many Firsts



Saint Antoine Resident Germaine Kotlarski with Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Estela Amaral. Estela graduated TEAMhealth's CNA training program and went on to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, Level II. She continues to provide residents with loving care at Saint Antoine Residence.

In the 1960s, when nursing homes had to be licensed showing that they were in compliance with certain Federal and State regulations, Saint Antoine Residence received the very first license --- license #0001 --- ever given to a nursing home in Rhode Island. "Needless to say, we are very proud of that accomplishment. It set a benchmark for us in the way we carry out our delivery of services. We have always tried to be among the first to address the ever-changing eldercare landscape," said Wendy Fagnoli, Executive Director.

"Saint Antoine Residence was one of the first to open a Special Care Unit, addressing the needs of those with serious dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

Saint Antoine Residence was the first nursing home in the state to have an inpatient Hospice Suite, first in conjunction with Visiting Nurses of Central Rhode Island and later with Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. We were the first to apply primary care to our delivery of services, whereby the same caregiver is assigned to the same resident; later this became a state-mandated practice. Saint Antoine Residence was one of the first to open a Special Care Unit, addressing the needs of those with serious dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The Villa at Saint Antoine, several years ago, followed suit by opening a memory loss unit (the "Mezzanine") for those with mild

to moderate dementia. "I am so thankful that my sister is so lovingly taken care of in the Mezzanine's memory support unit. I know that she is safe, secure, and treated with dignity and respect," says a Villa family member.

More recently, Saint Antoine was the first nursing home in Rhode Island to have all departments computerized. This includes an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system for all clinical and financial information, as well as electronic systems for food service/nutrition management, maintenance, and development. Karen Lamond, Director of Health Information Technology says, "Our EHR system has improved efficiency and documentation, and has reduced errors. We are able to track resident information more expeditiously and this helps us to make more-informed decisions about a resident's care."

A more recent first is Saint Antoine Residence's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training and Career Laddering program, TEAMhealth (Train, Employ, Advance, and Mentor). Primarily funded by the United Way of Rhode Island, this program seeks to train under-skilled and under-employed individuals to become licensed and fully-employed CNAs who then can advance in their careers as CNA IIs, Certified Medication Technicians (CMT), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and Registered Nurses (RN). Over the last six years, TEAMhealth has trained, licensed, and found employment for 339 CNAs with another 118 people who are on or who have graduated from the career ladder. TEAMhealth has become a model and replicable work-training program in the health sector and is an invited - member of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, an organization which highlights the best practices of various work force training programs in the United States.

"TEAMhealth has become a model and replicable work-training program."

Tammy Summiel, former TEAMhealth Project Director and now Administrator of the Villa at Saint Antoine said, "TEAMhealth is successful because we apply centrally-important components to the program such as strong assessments, career building skills, good case management, and solid employer relations. What we are doing must be right because we have 93% retention from those who start the training program to those that finish and 100% work placement."

The Future of the Saint Antoine Community

Centennial Year Events - During our 2013 Centennial Year, two major events are being planned. The first is a Mass of Thanksgiving at Precious Blood Church in Woonsocket on Sunday, June 9th at 1 PM. Precious Blood Church was founded by Msgr. Charles Dauray (founder of Saint Antoine Residence) and his remains lay in the foundation of the church. The second event will be held in early December; L'Hospice Saint Antoine (Saint Antoine Residence) actually opened in early December in 1913. Presently, plans are being made for some kind of Gala Event, the specifics of which are yet to be determined.

Manton Foundation Grant - Recently, we received a \$400,000 grant from the Manton Foundation to partially pay for the rehabilitation expansion. A fundraising campaign is presently being considered to raise further funds towards our rehabilitation expansion goals.

Long Range Planning - Every three years, Saint Antoine holds a day-long planning retreat to arrive at goals and objectives for the succeeding three years. These meetings of staff, board, and guests are intense, indeed. Nothing is left untouched as we look at the outcomes of our previous three-



“In the short term, we will be enhancing our rehabilitation and transitional care services.”

Rehabilitation Expansion - What does the future hold for Saint Antoine as an organization? In the short term, we will be enhancing our rehabilitation and transitional care services. The ever-increasing use of these services is seriously outpacing our capacity in terms of space, staff and resources. We seek to extend our current, small rehabilitation room out by about 30 feet to give us more space. The expansion also includes an Easy Street environment, simulating real life situations – curbs, different floor coverings, stores, apartment entrance, a car, bank teller machine --- which help people, assimilate back into their daily routines. We will also do upgrades to the newly-designated transitional care unit with a new entranceway and parking area for ease of access.

year long range plan, the validity of our mission, our strengths, weaknesses, community needs, competition, and our response to the ever-changing eldercare landscape. We mention this, simply to demonstrate that our strategies for the long term are well thought out. Any problems or opportunities that may arise in the future will be addressed by many minds and varying views in order to arrive at consensus regarding the best path to take.

“To care for the elderly and the frail with love, charity and a cheerful heart.”

The future looks bright, indeed, because we are ever-mindful of our founding principle: “to care for the elderly and the frail with love, charity and a cheerful heart.”