Bishop Louis E. Gelineau “stopped in” at February’s Advisory Board meeting just to say ‘hello’ and to tell the board how happy he was to be back home, again. You see, the Bishop had been in the hospital and had “recovered” at Saint Antoine Residence, having taken advantage of the new Rehab Center with Easy Street.

The board was meeting at the Villa at Saint Antoine --- Bishop’s new home of several months.

He praised the board for the time that each gives to the Saint Antoine Community, saying that he feels very loved – part of the ‘family,’ if you will --- at the Villa.

The Bishop’s journey to the Villa has taken many twists and turns. He served as Chaplain at Saint Antoine Residence for ten years (after his “retirement” as Bishop of the Diocese of Providence). Upon retirement as Saint Antoine’s Chaplain, he stayed at the rectory at Precious Blood Church in Woonsocket --- giving space, as he put it, for Saint Antoine’s new, incoming Chaplain, Fr. Dennis Kieton.

But, he missed his ‘family’ at Saint Antoine, and finally returned to live at the Villa.

As he talked to the advisory board, he said that he feels as though he is “reaping what he sowed.” For many years, he, too, served on the Advisory Board as well as being in other endeavors to advance the work of Saint Antoine. His most recent assignment was as honorary chair of Saint Antoine's Second Century Campaign, to fund the expansion of its rehabilitation and transitional care services.

So, in a very real sense, he is reaping what he has sown. God bless you Bishop! And, welcome home!
Executive Director’s Letter

Dear Friends,

Transitional Care Resident Rooms……
“Accommodations befitting a King and Queen”

There were three components to our Rehabilitation and Transitional Care Expansion project: a state-of-the-art therapy equipment room including a real life simulation “Easy Street” environment; a separate parking area and entrance for ease of access; and refurbished resident rooms for the comfort of our transitional care patients.

Our new Rehabilitation Center with “Easy Street” was dedicated last April and is being used “nonstop” both by our short term rehabilitative patients preparing them to return back home and our long term care residents in need of conditioning and strengthening. Easy Street has been an amazing success and as most rehabilitative patients say, “It has made rehabbing both practical and fun”. Separate parking for our transitional care unit visitors has been completed but awaiting the installation of pole lights. A dedicated entranceway and reception area will soon be underway.

The last but not least piece of our project, near to completion, is the refurbishment of our Transitional Care Unit (TCU) patient bedrooms. It was our belief that the patient bedroom should be both the ultimate in comfort and style. Beautiful wallpaper, the “Cadillac” model of beds and mattresses, and stunning appointments will send a message of warmth and welcome to all patients that come to Saint Antoine for short term rehabilitation. As we finish our transitional care rooms, we are seeking sponsors for these lovely rooms. For a donation of $5,000.00, a plaque with your name will be prominently displayed, in perpetuity, to the entrance of the room which can read, as an example:

The O’Donnell Family Room
Given In Memory of Phyllis O’Donnell

If you are interested in being a part of Saint Antoine’s Rehabilitation Expansion Project, please fill out the application form below or contact me at the information below. I would be happy to meet with you and to tour you.

Please help if you can! Thank you!

Wendy Fargnoli
Executive Director

Robotic Cats Are Loveable Companions

Robotic cats are popular among seniors, nationwide, and now they’re at Saint Antoine.

Hasbro Toys, whose headquarters are in Rhode Island, has developed a line of “Companion Pets” which they call “Joy for All,” for ages 5 – 105. Having “conquered” the kids market, Hasbro is now looking at the senior population. And, what a great job they have done.

The real-like cats can purr, roll over on their backs to have their bellies rubbed, and will even close their eyes and seem to moe the more you pet them.

The good thing about the simulated pet is that you don’t have to spend a fortune on cat food or clean a dirty and smelly cat box; it doesn’t eat, poop, or gag and throw up fur balls. But it’s lovable as all get out and responds favorably to cuddling and petting.

Ginny Ponte, a Saint Antoine Resident couldn’t believe it. “Cuddly” as Saint Antoine’s “pet” cat has been named, fell asleep in Ginny’s lap. Its eyes closed and it purred heavily, seemingly awash in the moment.

Frances Bigos, another Saint Antoine Resident, rubbed “Cuddly’s” cheek and “Cuddly” moved her head toward Frances’ hand. It was amazing and so real, as though “Cuddly” was a living and breathing feline.

Hasbro has really struck on to something. What a wonderful idea for a friend in need to become a friend indeed; those furry pets can’t help but to be loved!

TRANSITIONAL CARE ROOM SPONSORSHIPS

If you would like to sponsor a renovated transitional care room within Saint Antoine’s Rehabilitation and Short Term Care Expansion Project.

| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| City: | State | Zip |
| Best Phone #: | Email |

How you would like the plaque to read:

Donated by: ____________________________

In ( ) Memory/ ( ) Honor of: ____________________________

Please enclose your tax deductible contribution of $5,000.00 to Saint Antoine Residence, 10 Rhodes Ave., N. Smithfield, RI 02986

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin greets resident Mary Dolan as Jennifer Staton, Activities Director, looks on during the Bishop’s Annual Christmas visit in early January. The Bishop celebrated Mass with senior priests at the Residence and then enjoyed lunch with residents and staff at the Villa.

Saint Antoine resident, Ginny Ponte, looks with amazement at “Cuddly,” who is purring with contentment.
St. James Students Do Good for Villa Residents

(Editor’s Note: The following is a reprint of an article which appeared in the Norwich (CT) Bulletin on February 11, 2016, written by John Penney)

A group of students from the St. James School in Danielson (CT) spent several days last week doing a good turn for some elderly residents in another state.

Eileen Eldridge’s fifth-grade class measured, cut and tied-off swatches of fabric to create 13 blankets destined to warm the laps of residents living at The Villa at St. Antoine elderly housing complex in North Smithfield, R.I., part of the school’s Catholic Week community service project.

“In the past, we’ve collected food and volunteered at the local food pantry and this year we wanted to do something different,” Eldridge said. “It really ties in to our goal of highlighting the idea of giving.”

Eldridge said parents donated money and materials and the class, with the help of some older students, set to work, using some of their recently learned math skills to construct the colorful blankets, which featured cartoon characters and bright patterns.

Putnam resident and St. James student Ty Summiel, 10, spends time at the Villa with his mother, Tammy, the complex’s administrator. He was set to collect the blankets on Thursday and pass them on to the residents.

“They love seeing the kids there,” she said. “And I think it’s awesome for the children, too. They help with games and activities and it’s a great chance for them to learn to appreciate their elders.”

Sophia Hendrick, 10, said she enjoyed the crafting portion of the project.

“And I’m happy these blankets will be making someone’s day better,” she said.

St. James Students (CT) 8th graders Devon Moultry, 10, of Woodstock, left and Ava Fabiano, 10, of Danielson, create a hand-made blanket during class Thursday afternoon. The blankets will be given to elderly residents at a care facility in North Smithfield, R.I.

Villa Administrator Tammy Summiel’s son, Ty, proudly displays a blanket with Villa resident Joan Brouillette.

Saint Antoine Residence Awarded a $155,000 Real Jobs Grant

Saint Antoine Residence has been awarded a $155,000 grant from Real Jobs RI, an initiative of Rhode Island’s Department of Labor and Training. The grant is to replicate Saint Antoine’s Certified Nursing Assistant Training and Career Laddering program called Health Care Training Collaborative, now operating in Northern Rhode Island, into the Providence area. The program’s primary partners are: CareLink at the Providence site, and Community Care Alliance at the Northern Rhode Island site.

The Providence program will include CNA training classes held at Tockwotten on the Waterfront with Genesis Center doing intakes, case management, and Job Readiness classes. Also, advancement opportunities will be offered for those already working as CNAs to become specialists in such areas as Alzheimer’s, Behavioral Health, Restorative Aides, and Lead Mentors. Students will be able to intern at a CareLink facility in the specialty area of their choosing and will be able to take certification courses at Rhode Island College as well. Additionally, the program will seek out those becoming Nurse Practitioners and Physical Therapists from the University of Rhode Island for internships at CareLink facilities in an effort to attract them to eldercare and to stay in Rhode Island upon graduation from college.

The Northern Rhode Island, Health Care Training Collaborative (HCTC) site has been operating for over eight years with funding from the United Way of Rhode Island, Governor’s Workforce Board, and Rhode Island Foundation. During that time, it has trained, licensed and placed into employment over 600 individuals as Certified Nursing Assistants with an additional 175 who are on or have graduated from the career ladder to become Certified Medication Technicians, Licensed Practical and Registered Nurses.
5% Giving Day

Whole Foods Market, long-known for its philanthropic work in the community, holds community giving days several times a year. Five percent of the day’s sales are donated back to a local non-profit.

Saint Antoine is most appreciative to have been chosen as the non-profit beneficiary of giving day on June 8th. Proceeds will be used to designate the market module in our rehab center’s “Easy Street” as the “Whole Foods Market.”

For those of you who are wondering how you can help --- just show up on June 8th and shop, save, stay healthy, and help Saint Antoine in the process. Thank you Whole Foods!

**When:**
Wednesday, June 8, 2016
8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

**Where:**
Whole Foods Market
255 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, MA 02019

17th Annual Saint Antoine Community Golf Tournament

Monday, August 15, 2016
at Kirkbrae Country Club

It’s not too late! For sponsorship or registration information, please contact Mario Macera at (401) 767-3500 ext. 110 or email mmacera@stantoine.net