**Smiles Abound on Special Care Unit**

Ninety-year-old Saint Antoine resident, Lucille Couture, is referred to by her husband of 60 years, as “Grandma Moses.” “Grandma Moses” earned notoriety in the 1960’s as a person who began painting at a late age and was acclaimed for the quality of her folk-like art.

So it is with Lucille Couture, who began painting in earnest five years ago at age 85 when she participated in the PACE RI program in Providence. “PACE had all the art materials on hand, and I just ‘took off’”, exclaimed Lucille. And, she’s been painting, non-stop, ever since.

When we visited her in her room at Saint Antoine, she was repairing a set of rosary beads for a friend. She had all the pliers and tweezers necessary for the job at hand. She makes her own rosary beads for Saint Antoine's Chaplain, Fr. Dennis Kieton, who gives them to other Saint Antoine residents. Her room is a treasure trove of her various art pieces --- a small canvas painting of an outdoor scene, and painted bottles, one which lights up when plugged in. “I've always had the “bug” to create, to make art,” says Lucille, who spent the better part of her life as a teacher in Canada.

This combination of teacher and artist has found its way to Saint Antoine. Recently, Lucille has been helping residents on Saint Antoine’s special care unit with their art projects. “I love helping people. It is so gratifying to me to see a smile on someone’s face that I have helped to create something,” says Lucille.

Lucille, also, has found better ways to help special care residents to paint. For instance, using corks instead of brushes to “paint”. Corks, especially those from wine bottles, are long, light, and easy to grasp, to turn, or to dab and they open up a whole new world of opportunities to paint. This day, the art class was making leaves on a tree, grapes on a vine, flower petals, and all sorts of other pictures that could be made with “dabs” and “strokes.” And, their eyes lit up and smiles were on their faces, amazed at what they had achieved.

Smiles abound in the art class on the special care unit --- not only on the faces of the residents as they create new and wonderful pieces of art but also on Lucille’s face for doing good and being able to share her talents with others. A modest person, Lucille says, “I think that I get more out of it than they do,” referring to her experiences on the special care unit. Whatever the case may be, keep the smiles coming, Lucille. It’s good for the soul and for everyone’s well being, too. Thank you, Lucille, for your heartfelt service to others.
Executive Director’s Message of Thanksgiving

Dear Friends,

No you are not wrong. While actually just around the corner, it is a bit early to speak about the Thanksgiving Holiday.

By definition, Thanksgiving is the act of giving thanks, especially to God. And to God I am most thankful.

Catherine Pulsifer, a motivational author wrote, “If you made a list of the things you could be thankful for, the list would be undoubtedly longer than your misfortunes.”

Recently challenged with a diagnosis of endometrial cancer and facing surgery, I allowed my thoughts momentarily to go to negative places. Despite being somewhat afraid, I quickly saw many incredible blessings around me. Incredibly my gratitude and thanksgiving overrode my fears and anxieties.

Among these blessings was unwavering faith, the love of friends and family, prayers and Masses offered for my healing, mentoring and support by friends who have previously dealt with cancer, a husband who rose to the occasion to become nurse and caregiver post surgery, an abundance of cards, flowers, fruit arrangements and prepared meals which lovingly appeared on Ron’s and my doorstep.

Incredibly and always, the most challenging of times are also the most beautiful of times. Please know that I am well now post surgery, and am so very thankful for all of the blessings that were bestowed upon me. I was given a gift, wrapped with a beautiful bow…the gift of thanksgiving.

Now here’s the amazing thing. The gift is contagious! I challenge each and every one to see it, remembering as quoted above that the list we should be thankful for is so much longer than the list of our misfortunes.

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Elena Marchand

New Project Director
Health Care Training Collaborative

Elena Marchand has been on the job for five months now as Saint Antoine’s Health Care Training Collaborative’s Project Director.

Elena Marchand

Elena served as Operations Coordinator for the Health Care Training Collaborative two years ago and since then has been Contracts Manager for Woonsocket’s Community Care Alliance (CCA). She also has worked at Community Care Alliance’s forerunner, Family Resources Community Action, for a number of years in various other managerial positions.

Elena was also Administrative Support Coordinator for Family Continuity in Hyannis, MA and Executive Administrative Assistant for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators’ Association in Franklin, MA. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services Administration (Summa Cum Laude) from Springfield College (MA) and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Leadership from New England College Hendriner, NH.

Elena says, “I am happy to be part of a program that has helped so many people lift themselves up to become caring professionals as well as financially self-sufficient.”

Wendy Fargnoli, Saint Antoine’s Executive Director, noted that, “Elena has taken right over in the last several months, and has been able to manage a very complex program while meeting the intent of our funding partners.”

Saint Antoine’s Health Care Training Collaborative operates out of two sites --- one in Northern Rhode Island and the other in Providence. The program is funded, primarily, by a grant from Real Jobs RI with secondary funding from Real Jobs Rhode Island’s PITCH program.

Elena Marchand

Executive Director

401-767-3500 ext.101 or email wfmarchand@stantoine.net

Wendy Fargnoli, Executive Director

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Wendy Fargnoli

Saint Antoine’s Executive Director

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Robert Christensen, Saint Antoine’s Director of Development and Communications for the past 11 years, has announced his retirement for late December.

In announcing Christensen’s retirement, Saint Antoine’s Executive Director, Wendy Fargnoli, noted, “Bob has taken us into many ‘uncharted waters,’ places where we would have never dreamed of going before he got here — our highly successful CNA Training and Career Ladder Program, Health Care Training Collaborative; an exploration of wind power to handle our electric needs; and our Second Century Campaign that has expanded Saint Antoine’s rehabilitation and transitional care services.”

Ms. Fargnoli continued by saying, “As our first full-time Development Director, Bob has certainly paved the way for both his successor and the future success of our development efforts. For this, our healthcare community is most grateful.”

Prior to Saint Antoine, Mr. Christensen served as Director of Development and Communications at Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School and at the multicultural Henry Lee Willis Center, both in Worcester (MA), and at Pierce Memorial Home in Brooklyn CT. He spent the earlier part of his career as an arts administrator, being executive director of music and arts centers in Chicago, St. Louis, and New York City. He received his Masters Degree in Music from the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester (NY).

“My earlier career was spent in music but somehow I got away from that and have raised money for the past 25 years. I want to get back to music in retirement,” says Bob. Mr. Christensen is a published and often-performed contemporary/classical composer and has served as choir director and organist at a number of churches during his career.

His ‘hobby’ has been carpentry, throughout his life. “I love it and have built many things. Carpentry is much like composing music. I get so involved in the task at hand, I simply lose track of time. And, when it’s done, I can stand back and marvel at my work.”

So music and carpentry are what Bob is looking forward to in retirement but he also says, “I think I’ll be spending more time with my family, too.” Bob’s family and that of his wife’s of thirty years (Shelley), includes four sons and one daughter as well as eight grandchildren. Their son, Mackenzie, is chief audio engineer for a new recording studio in Norwich CT, “Rose City Sound,” but also maintains a recording studio in Bob and Shelley’s home.

“It gets pretty raucous around here sometimes with three guitars, drums, and a vocalist recording a piece of music. At those times, I will miss the quietude of my office at Saint Antoine. All kidding aside, though, I will miss my colleagues as well as the opportunity to further the good work that is being done at Saint Antoine,” concluded Bob.
Saint Antoine Notes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“To serve is our mission,
to love is our tradition”

Close to 1000 people --- residents, family, friends, community --- attended this summer’s Villa Courtyard Concert Series. Performing groups included: Illusions, Jeff Gamache and Runaway Train, Avenue A, Vivi Ames & Sh-bop. The French-style courtyard at the Villa serves as a perfect setting for these concerts each year.

17th Annual Saint Antoine Community Golf Tournament
A picture - perfect day with billowing clouds and mild temperatures made for a splendid Golf Tournament --- our 17th Annual held at Kirkbrae Country Club on August 15th. Close to 30 foursomes participated, sponsored by the companies that they work for. Proceeds from the tournament provide scholarships to nursing students.

Editorial Information
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