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ON THE COVER

Bishop Batten Serves Sussex Seniors



Bishop Grace R. Batten has given over 25 years of service to CHEER, Inc. During that time she has seen the construction of four new activity centers and a community center. She admits her life is dedicated to helping others. For more about how the Milton native has helped the senior citizens of Sussex County, see page 12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHEER, INC., VISIT CHEERDE.COM OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.

Table of Contents

| CEO Perspective | . 4 |
|---|------------------------------|
| State of Seniors | . 6 |
| Division of Aging | . 8 |
| Milk | . 10 |
| Testimonials | . 11 |
| Bishop Batten | . 12 |
| PASA Honors | . 14 |
| | |
| Cooking for Seniors | .16 |
| Cooking for Seniors | |
| | . 18 |
| March for Meals | . 18 . 20 |
| March for Meals Volunteers Honored | . 18 . 20 . 21 |
| March for Meals Volunteers Honored Volunteer Spotlight / Gift . | . 18 . 20 . 21 . 23 |

GHEERful Living

This magazine is published quarterly by the Delaware State News in partnership with CHEER.

To support healthy and active lifestyles for seniors in Sussex County.

Available for free throughout Sussex County.

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The CEO's Perspective...



By Kenneth Bock, CEO

It's time to open the doors! The warmer weather is here, COVID vaccinations are now available for all who want them, and people need to start having more opportunities to interact in person in a safe and responsible manner.

Back on March 13th of last year, we were all told to close our doors, mask up, and in 90 days we would "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 virus that was infecting our state and our country. The effects of this new virus were particularly lethal for the senior citizen population and those with other health-related problems. During that 90-day period, I began countless letters, e-mails, and new policies with the buzz words of that time, "out of an abundance of caution." Here at CHEER, we embraced the warnings and willingly took responsible course of action to help keep our members, customers, clients, volunteers, and staff safe from the effects of this largely unknown None of us had ever experienced anything like this in our lifetimes and my prayer is that none of us ever will again.

Out of an abundance of caution, we did all the things we were supposed to do as a service provider, an employer and a good corporate/community We did all neighbor. within our power to keep our people safe. We shuttered the doors of our senior centers. We modified the centers by blocking off portions of bathrooms, installing Plexiglas shields and social distancing markers. bought sanitizing guns and many gallons of sanitizing solutions. We purchased, prepared, and delivered tens of thousands of frozen and shelf stable meals for our customers who were isolated in their homes. We bought cases of masks, gloves, and gowns. We modified trained staff.

duties, purchased job electronic tablets. and established a greatly enhanced on-line presence. Our staff and volunteers continued to make sure every senior had meals and food in their households. Our direct care workers continued to provide in-home personal care to those who depended on such services. Employees from every division in CHEER regularly took their turns on the phone making sure each of our members and customers knew that CHEER was continuing to serve and make sure that the senior citizens we served were able to remain safe and cared for in their own homes throughout this entire pandemic.

Ninety days came and went, and by the summer of 2020, COVID-related illnesses and mortality rates continued to climb and we were told another 90 days would be needed to flatten the curve. CHEER continued to serve daily in communities throughout Sussex County; and for number increasing of people, CHEER was only means many had of getting food and

Continued on Page 5 >>

CHEER, Inc. STAFF

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Chief Operating Officer

Deborah Crum.

Finance Director

Lasandra Baynard,

Support Services Director

Ken Moore,

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Carolyn O'Neal,

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Elizabeth Walls.

Volunteer Program Director

Katie Leister.

Venue & Promotions Director

John Argo,

Facilities Manager

Kevin Mutch,

Information Tech Manager

Genny Hines,

Transportation Director

MISSION STATEMENT

CHEER's mission is
"to promote and maintain
the highest quality of life
and independence by
developing and providing
services that meet the
continuing needs of senior
citizens 50 and over."

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CEO PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Page 4 other household staples. Throughout the worst of pandemic, **CHEER** the continued to maintain its commitment of care and service to the citizens of Sussex County. Each day, CHEER employees came into their worksites and made sure that people continued to receive the food and supplies they needed to continue living in their own homes.

By the fall of 2020, promise the of new vaccines to help combat the deadly disease were on the horizon. As these vaccines became available, public and private sector health officials marshalled all available resources in what became the largest mass inoculation program in our State's history. Hundreds of thousands of doses were administered and before the end of

April 2021, any Delaware resident who wanted a vaccination had COVID As the vaccines access. went into people's arms, reported illnesses, including hospitalizations and deaths, declined. Public facilities began re-opening under COVID social distancing and masking guidelines. CHEER senior centers re-opened under new limited occupancy guidelines and the numbers of reported COVID cases continued to trend downward.

be sure. anv COVID-related death or illness is one too many, but as we are all responsibly managing our way out of this pandemic, there comes of diminishing a time a time when returns; treatment the perhaps becomes worse than the disease. Closing facilities and programs for a period of time most certainly helped to save lives, but now with our increased experience and knowledge of the disease, with the wide spread availability vaccines, enhanced sanitation equipment and techniques, and personal protective equipment, it is now time that we reduce the burden and cost of isolating of seniors from their friends and services many depend on at their local senior centers. is a well-recognized fact that the social isolation many people, especially seniors, have experienced through this pandemic has resulted in both physical cognitive decline. and That decline accelerates as government- mandated capacity restrictions continue limit to number of people who can attend senior centers. It is time to allow senior centers to reopen to full capacity to serve the people we are here to serve.

More and more we are hearing reports of senior center members who are now gathering in private homes to play cards, socialize, and live life. If those same people had the opportunity to be back in their local senior centers, they would be in an environment that adheres to the health screening and sanitation guidelines prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and they would be served by staff and volunteers trained to help keep everyone safe.

There is a cost to be paid for isolation. For too many of our seniors, that cost is very steep. After 14 months, it's time to fully re-open your local senior centers. There are plenty of examples where public facilities and services have safely re-opened. For our senior citizens and their community senior centers they depend on, that time



The State of Sussex Seniors - 2021

By Kenneth S. Bock, CEO

Every year, except for the pandemic year 2020, CHEER has hosted an annual State of Sussex Seniors information and advocacy breakfast for our elected officials from federal, state and county governments. It provides us with a forum to keep our government leaders informed of the status and needs of the fastest growing segment of our population here in Sussex County. It is an important opportunity for us to help make our voices heard on behalf of the people we serve. The following are just a few highlights from this year's presentation:

- After years of growth in the demand for services from an ever-expanding and aging senior citizen population in Sussex, the COVID pandemic year of 2020 represented the first significant decline in levels of service and numbers of people served throughout CHEER's 50-year history. Numbers of individual served declined people about 23% while demand for services declined about We are seeking 17%. both of these numbers to rebound this year as we are able to re-open senior centers, our Adult Day Care program, and restore limited transportation services.
- Nationwide, nearly two-thirds of all senior citizens receiving Meals on Wheels service report having some difficulty maintaining their independence while living in their own homes. That same percentage of individuals report that their

- daily home-delivered meal represents more than half of the total food they will eat daily. CHEER's nutrition programs are essential for the health and wellbeing of many Sussex County senior citizens. Almost 45,000 Delaware senior citizens are considered to be food insecure; meaning that they may not have access to adequate supplies of food on a daily basis.
- While only one-fourth Delaware's total population lives in Sussex County, our County accounts for one-third of all Delaware senior citizens. The annual population growth rate for that segment of the population aged 60 years or more is almost 14 times the growth rate of the younger population. For those older seniors aged 85 years or more, the growth rate is even higher. The peak growth period for older Delawareans will be between 2030 and

- 2032 as the baby boomer generation continues to age through their senior citizen years. Today, the average life expectancy in Delaware is 79 years and more and more of us are reaching and exceeding the number in Sussex.
- Delaware's State Plan on Aging, updated last Fall, notes that as our population grows and ages, there will be an increased demand for what they term "critical services" core which include personal care, respite programs, adult day services, and congregate and home delivered meals programs. The challenge will be to fund and maintain those critical core services at expanded levels.

CHEER's public policy priorities for this year are as follows:

 Relaxing the capacity restrictions so senior centers can re-open to increased

- numbers of people while maintaining a COVID safe environment.
- Increase state contract unit prices and total funding so non-profit community service organizations can continue to serve in the era of increasing demand and rising costs.
- Increase state grant-in-aid funding for senior centers that have continued to serve throughout the pandemic period and which are still serving in a variety of ways in local communities throughout the state.
- Ensure that increased Federal funding to states through the CARES Act and other COVID-related relief efforts are made available to support the direct provision of services for seniors and related infrastructure.



Listening to the State of Sussex Seniors presentation at the CHEER Legislative Breakfast were, left to right: State Auditor Kathleen McGuiness, and State Senators Brian Pettyjohn, Ernie Lopez, and Dave Wilson.

STATE OF SENIORS

Continued from Page 6

We, at CHEER, are grateful for the continuing and often longstanding support we receive from so many of our Federal, State and County officials. Many regularly show up at CHEER events and they regularly show up for our seniors in Legislative chambers and committee members. Remember, they are your representatives and your voice in our government at all levels. When opportunities present themselves, please be sure to let them know what is important to you, and please be sure to thank them for what they do. We are all fortunate to have so many supporters for our senior population.

State Division of Aging Completes 4-Year Plan

By Carolyn O'Neal Community Relations

The Delaware Division Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) is required by the Older Americans Act to develop a State Plan on Aging every two to four years. The goals and objectives detailed in the plan support DSAAPD's overall mission and vision, which is to improve the quality of life for Delaware's citizens by promoting health well-being, and fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable The Plan populations. received input from an Oversight Committee consisting of a variety of aging and disabilities advocates, caregivers, and DSAAPD staff.

CHEER's Chief Executive Officer Ken Bock was a member of the Oversight Committee. According to him, the Plan is broad and comprehensive in its approach to serving a rapidly expanding and aging Delaware senior population.

The Aging Plan states that the nation's older population continues increase in number, and current Delaware's and projected demographics align with this national trend. Currently, close to one in four Delawareans is age 60 and older. By the year 2040, the number of Delawareans who are age 60 and older will make up nearly 34 percent of the state's population. It is projected that by the year 2040, the population consisting of the "oldest old" (age 85 and older), will have grown by 171.6 percent.

In Sussex County, the fastest growing county in terms of older persons, it is projected that from the year 2015 to 2040 the population of this over-age-85 segment will have grown by 266.1 percent. (See

accompanying chart.) Bock noted that as the numbers of senior citizens increase, particularly in the older age groups, it will be increasingly important community-based for non-profit organizations like CHEER to have the resources necessary to help these seniors remain safely in their own homes. The alternatives would be much more expensive and much less attractive.

2020-2024 The State Plan on Aging focuses on four important areas: Older Americans Act core programs, Administration for Community Living discretionary grants, participant-directed/ person-centered planning, and elder justice. The plan includes seven goals that reflect DSAAPD's priorities going into the next four vears:

Goal 1: Promote excellence in the delivery of core Older Americans Act Programs.

Goal 2: Empower older adults, persons

Continued on Page 9 >>



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Population Projections for Persons Aged 60 and Older **Sussex County**

| | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Age Breakdown | s | | | | | |
| Age 60 - 64 | 16,225 | 18,576 | 19,140 | 17,212 | 15,809 | 15,677 |
| Age 65 - 69 | 16,843 | 17,433 | 19,160 | 19,718 | 17,710 | 16,299 |
| Age 70 - 74 | 13,635 | 16,805 | 16,936 | 18,613 | 19,141 | 17,191 |
| Age 75 - 79 | 9,495 | 12,718 | 15,440 | 15,531 | 17,076 | 17,557 |
| Age 80 - 84 | 6,326 | 8,282 | 10,923 | 13,255 | 13,313 | 14,649 |
| Age 85 + | 5,831 | 7,955 | 10,431 | 13,710 | 17,199 | 19,021 |
| Age Totals | | | | | | |
| Total Age 60+ | 68,355 | 81,769 | 92,030 | 98,039 | 100,248 | 100,394 |
| Total Age 65+ | 52,130 | 63,193 | 72,890 | 80,827 | 84,439 | 84,717 |
| Total Age 75+ | 21,652 | 28,955 | 36,794 | 42,496 | 47,588 | 51,227 |
| Total Age 85+ | 5,831 | 7,955 | 10,431 | 13,710 | 17,199 | 19,021 |
| Percent Change | | | | | | |
| Age 60+ | NA | 19.6% | 34.6% | 43.4% | 46.7% | 46.9% |
| Age 65+ | NA | 21.2% | 39.8% | 55.0% | 62.0% | 62.5% |
| Age 75+ | NA | 33.7% | 69.9% | 96.3% | 119.8% | 136.6% |
| Age 85+ | NA | 36.4% | 78.9% | 135.1% | 195.0% | 226.2% |

Prepared by Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical

Source: Delaware Population Consortium Annual Population Projections, October 31, 2019, Version

DIVISION OF AGING

Continued from Page 8

with disabilities and their caregivers to be active, engaged supported and in their homes and/or communities of their choice.

3: Goal Increase the development and implementation business-related strategies that promote innovation, collaboration, and sustainability of aging and disability network partners.

Goal 4: Expand and leverage alignments with strategic partners to support sustainable integration of discretionary grant programs into Older Americans Act programs.

Goal 5: Promote person-centered planning and participant direction in community-based and long-term service care options.

Goal 6: Promote access to and efficiencies of home community-based and which services enable participants to direct their own care.

Goal 7: Prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of home and community-based services which enable participants to direct their own care.

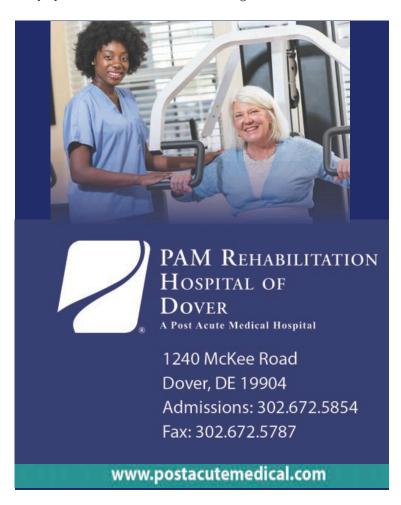
Specific objectives and strategies are described for each of these goals. Performance measures are also provided so that progress can be evaluated, and continual improvement can be made in reaching these goals.

It is also estimated that 19,000 Delawareans 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease or some

form of dementia. Over the next four years DSAAPD will lead the effort to become a dementia-friendly state. ensuring that communities throughout Delaware are equipped to support persons living with dementia and their caregivers. This will foster the ability of persons living with dementia to not only age in place but thrive in their communities.

The State Aging Plan confirms that as Delaware's older population rapidly the need grows, for funding additional and staffing to support the growing need for services represents a significant challenge for DSAAPD. As the population of the "oldest old" segment continues to grow, it is expected that the need for more costly services and staff resources will greatly increase. However, Delaware is committed to rebalancing resources to reduce its reliance on facility-based care.

A complete draft of the Delaware State Plan on Aging for the time period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2024 can be obtained by contacting the Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-800-223-9074 or email delawareadrc@delaware. DSAAPD's Sussex gov. County office location is at 26351 Patriots Way, Georgetown.



Milk and Milk Substitutes: What's the Difference?

By Lauren Schroeder Registered Dietitian When you think about milk, you typically think about cow's milk. But, there are many alternatives to cow's milk for those who either do not like the taste, have a sensitivity, or a diet preference. In this comparison, we will focus on calories, total fat content, grams of sugar, grams of protein, and the percentage of daily value (%DV)* of Calcium and Vitamin D per a one cup serving. All varieties of milk discussed are plain or unflavored.

| Nutrient content per 1 cup | Whole fat cow's milk | 2% fat cow's milk | 1 % fat cow's milk | Fat free cow's milk | Soy milk | Almond milk | Oat milk | Cashew milk | Coconut milk |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Calories | 150 | 130 | 110 | 90 | 110 | 30 | 130 | 25 | 45 |
| Total Fat | 8g | 5g | 2.5g | 0g | 4.5 | 2.5g | 7g | 2g | 4g |
| Sugar | 12g | 12g | 12g | 12g | 6g | 0g | 4g | 0g | 0g |
| Protein | 8g | 8g | 8g | 8g | 8g | 1g | 2g | <1g | 0g |
| % DV of Calcium | 25% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 15% | 30% | 10% |
| % DV of Vitamin D | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 0% | 10% | 10% |

Let's Discuss...

The major difference between all the varieties of cow's milk is the fat and calorie content. Decreasing the fat in cow's milk reduces the fat and calories per serving but does not affect the sugar, protein, Vitamin D or calcium content. Lactose free milk is cow's milk that contains an added enzyme called lactase. Adding lactase to milk breaks down lactose, naturally found in milk, to ease digestion for those who are lactose intolerant. Adding lactase does not affect the nutritional value of the milk meaning, lactose free whole milk would have the same nutrient content as regular whole milk.

Here are a few "take-a-ways" – Cow's milk, particularly fat free, provides the most well rounded nutritional value per serving. Soy milk is

the closest alternative in nutritional value to cow's milk. Almond milk is higher in calcium than all other alternatives but provides very little protein. Soy milk and oat milk contain added sugars whereas all other alternatives contain natural sugar or no sugar at all. What's the bottom line? Choose a milk that best suits your lifestyle and nutrition goals!

Continued on Page 11 >>



Contact: Tim Gary
Marketing Consultant
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Testimonials

Dear CHEER,

I want to express my feelings concerning Rachel and what all of you did to help me in my time of sorrow and heartbreak. There is not enough in this world that I can put in words on what it meant to me when Christy (Shirey) helped me with Rachel and all others who helped. I don't know your names, but I do know in my heart you cared.

As I put Rachel in the ground, my tears fell on her along with my broken heart. Thank you CHEER and all who contributed in helping me. Christy and Biffy (Walls), you are stars along with the CHEER program.

I hope you can make sense of this as I can't see what I write. Remember this, we love you all.

Dawn and Rach

Per a telephone call from a daughter of a client –

"My parents have been receiving meals for about a week. I want to let you know that CHEER 'is amazing.' My parents were reluctant to receive meals in the beginning and now they eat them just as soon as they're delivered. Not only are my parents enjoying the meals, but the meals are 'a game changer and major comfort' to the family."

D. Haffer

(Editor's Note: The above is from CHEER member Dawn Visconti of Laurel upon the passing of her cat, Rachel. Dawn and her cat family were featured in the Spring 2021 issue of CHEERful Living magazine.)

MILK

Continued from Page 10

* The percentage of daily value (DV) is the percentage out of 100 that a food contributes a particular nutrient. Daily values are based off an average 2,000 calorie diet. For example, if a daily value on a nutrition facts label is 15%, then that serving size provides 15% of the daily estimated needs of that nutrient.





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Bishop Batten Has Served CHEER Board and Sussex Seniors For Over 25 Years

By Carolyn O'Neal

Community Relations

Bishop Grace R. Batten of Milton knows she was born to serve people. "If I can help somebody, my living will not be in vain," said the 78-year-old woman.

Very community-oriented, Bishop Batten has served on the Milton Town Council as well as on the Boards of several service organizations, including sitting on CHEER's Board of Directors. She joined the CHEER Board in May 1994 and took the reins of its presidency in January 2003. Last fall, she announced her retirement.

During her more than 25 years of service to CHEER,

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Bishop Batten has been involved in several major construction projects for the non-profit agency that serves needs of senior citizens in Sussex County. She been involved with the the building activity centers in



Bishop Batten enjoyed volunteering her time to do Bible study lessons at CHEER activity centers.

Ocean View, Lewes, Milton and Greenwood as well as the CHEER apartments and community center in Georgetown.

The former Board president remembers having to go back and forth to Wilmington many times for meetings with lending agencies and having to sign mounds of paperwork. On one occasion, she remembers that the meeting went so late in the evening that she was afraid the parking garage would be closed before she could get her car out.

"We were in downtown Wilmington, and I was walking the street alone (after dark). It was pretty scary." But, fortunately, Bishop Batten was able to reach the garage just before they locked the doors. Today, she admits she never goes anywhere alone anymore. "The world is in too much chaos now," she said.

Building the new Milton Activity Center was the project dearest to Bishop Batten's heart. She so wanted a CHEER center in her community that she let the agency temporarily use the multi-purpose room of her church, Mount Zion, after CHEER left the Slaughter Neck area.

DIVISION OF AGING

Continued from Page 12

"The town needed it," said Bishop Batten. "The older people had nowhere else to go." The pastor was extremely proud when an overflow crowd showed up for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Milton center.

Bishop Batten remembers that building the Ocean View center had the most challenges because of all the town permits and requirements. She credits the late Rose Snyder and the late Pat Rust, both former CHEER Board members, for helping her navigate the legalities necessary to accomplish the project.

In fact, Bishop Batten applauds every member of the CHEER Board for their professionalism and willingness to help each other. "I never had a run-in with any other Board member. Everyone always did their best to do whatever was needed," she said.

Former CHEER Executive Director Arlene Littleton says Bishop Batten's leadership is what made the Board so effective.

"Her integrity is unmatched by anyone I've ever known," said Mrs. Littleton. "She is the most effective mentor I have ever had. The way she handles



Bishop Batten offers an opening prayer at the ground breaking ceremonies for the new Greenwood CHEER Center.

adversity is to be admired."

Mrs. Littleton met Bishop Batten years before their work together at CHEER. They were both students at Delaware Technical Community College in the 1970s. They took one class together before Bishop Batten graduated a couple years prior to Mrs. Littleton. Today, both occupy spots on the college's Walk of Success.

Mrs. Littleton remembers attending Bishop Batten's 60th birthday party given by her church at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. She said she and her husband had no idea what to expect and were astonished when over 500 people coming from all over the country attended the all-day affair.

"It is an inspirational tribute to her life when so many people paid to attend an affair to honor her," said Mrs. Littleton.

Bishop Batten's life began on March 22, 1943 in Harbeson, Del. She was the 13th child out of 13 and was delivered by a mid-wife at home. Only three of the siblings remain and they all live within walking distance of each other. She sold insurance and worked at the old NCR (National Cash Register) plant in Millsboro before going into the ministry. She received her Bachelor of Theology from Burke Bible College. Her first and only assignment was to Mt. Zion Holy Church in Milton, as well as to Mt. Olive Pentecostal Church in Smyrna. At one time, she gave two sermons a Sunday, one in the morning and one in the evening, rotating times each Sunday between the two churches.

"There was a lot of driving done on Sunday," the Bishop laughed.

After Del Tech, Bishop Batten attended the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in St. David's, Pennsylvania, that is now known as Palmer's Seminary, obtain her Master of Art Theological Studies. She holds a Doctorate of Sacred Theology from the International Christian University. She also earned her master's degree in Management Supervision from Wilmington University. In 1994, the Milton native was consecrated as Bishop. She is responsible for the Delaware/Maryland and DC Diocese of the MidAtlantic District.

Through it all, Bishop Batten can always be seen wearing her trademark hat.

Continued on Page 14 >>



Bishop Batten (center with hat) proudly cuts the ribbon for the opening of the new Milton CHEER Center. At her immediate left is former CHEER Executive Director Arlene Littleton and on her immediate right is former CHEER Board Member Bud Clark.

DIVISION OF AGING

Continued from Page 13

She said it is something she started when very young and feels undressed without one on. She estimates that she has approximately 100 hats in her bedroom and attic. She related a time when her hat blew off.

"I was teaching a Groves adult ed class at Sussex Tech," remembers the Bishop. "There was a terrible storm and my hat blew off. Several people said they didn't know who I was without my hat. I'm just lost without one." (Editor's note: Bishop Batten sat in her living room for this interview wearing a hat.)

With the expanding senior population coming to Sussex County, Bishop Batten knows CHEER has a lot of work left to do.

"Seniors need to be involved and have somewhere to go without being a place of confinement," Bishop Batten explained. "CHEER will help keep their minds alert, make friends, and have something to do."

Although Bishop Batten has enjoyed the years of helping senior citizens. she said all the meetings. conventions and traveling have caught up with her and she is getting tired. She likes people to come visit her, especially her son, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She said she misses social gatherings and watching people enjoy using the basketball and volleyball courts in her back yard. She plans to not completely withdraw from public service, but it is time to dial it back a bit; and perhaps do an occasional sermon.

According to Arlene Littleton, "You haven't heard anything until you have heard Bishop Batten preach."

PASA Honors Direct Care Workers

The CHEER Personal Assistance Services Agency (PASA) held its first in-service training in April for Direct Care Workers since the pandemic began. After the training, several Direct Care Workers were honored for their dedication to their clients and for multiple years of service to CHEER.



Darlene Seay

Darlene Seay of Millsboro was in the spotlight for 25 years of service to CHEER. Joining her were: 15 years – Megan Jordan of Georgetown, Yvonne Cannon of Millsboro and Latoya Satchell of Laurel; 10 years – Susan Condron of Milford; and 5 years – Janet Hackett of Seaford, Paula Herber of Ellendale, Cherlyn Taylor of Seaford, Carolyn Reed of Selbyville, and Marie VonGries of Lincoln.

Being named Aides of the Quarter were:



Jamie Kowalski

Winter 2019 – Jamie Kowalski of Georgetown has been with CHEER for a little over three-and-a-half years. She can best be described as easy-going, very friendly, a hard worker, and loved by all her clients. One of her customers described her as "a saint." Jamie is always willing to help with fill-ins whenever she is asked.



Jean Elliott

Spring 2020 - Jean Elliott of Seaford came to CHEER to be a Direct Care Worker in the Personal

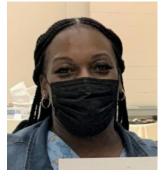
Continued on Page 15 >>

PASA HONORS

Continued from Page 14

Assistance Services Agency just a few months before the pandemic hit America and everything started to shut down. She has been a huge help during the pandemic. She volunteers to take extra hours when the agency is short-handed and her extreme caring and helpful attitude makes her stand out above others. Jean will voluntarily call the office to make sure her customers are serviced when she is off; and if not covered, she will volunteer on her day off to make sure they receive services.

Summer 2020 - Peggy McCann of Millsboro has only been with CHEER's Personal Assistance Services (PASA) Agency for year-and-a-half, but she has made a tremendous impact with PASA. She is known as the agency's "Overnight Oueen." When there is a request for overnight assistance by a Direct Care Worker, Peggy is right there with her hand raised to work. In addition, she also puts in many hours during the daytime. In fact, during fiscal year 2020, Peggy provided 3,576 hours of faithful service to CHEER. She has been a tremendous help in continuing services to customers who would probably have not received assistance during the pandemic.



Delesha Thompson

_ Fall 2020 Delesha Thompson of Bridgeville has been with CHEER less than a year. However, during that time, her willingness to help out whenever and wherever she can has made her a great asset to the Personal Assistance Services Agency. Delesha joined CHEER's PASA team in April 2020 as a part-time Direct Care Worker. Her supervising coordinators care whenever they put out an alert bulletin needing a Direct Care Worker for fill-in coverage for a client, Delesha is always one of the first to respond. As one coordinator said, "Delesha has stepped up to the plate many times to help us during this COVID pandemic. She will rearrange her schedule to help our seniors." Delesha demonstrates the type of dedication and compassion CHEER's seniors receive from its Direct Care Workers.

Winter 2020 – Brenda Schafer of Millsboro is finishing her ninth year with CHEER. She is a hard worker, energetic cleaner, and loves to cook for her customers. She fills in often no matter

where the location and has taken many extra hours during the pandemic. She is well loved by her customers and many times after substituting during a fill-in, the customer will request to have her permanently. Brenda is constantly recruiting new clients and spreading the word about CHEER.



Carolyn Reed



Paula Herber and Janet Hackett



Megan Jordan



Yvonne Cannon



Marie VanGries



Susan Condron



Latoya Satchell

COOKING FOR SUSSEX SENIORS

CHEER's Central Kitchen to Serve Now and for Generations to Come

By Kenneth S. Bock, CEO

It always seems to me that when we start to get near the finish line and look back at the beginning, there are always those make-or-break moments when things can go either way. You start out with great optimism, plan meticulously, work hard, deal with the stuff that happens, and if all goes just right, you end up with exactly what you had hoped to get. As I write this, I am looking back on our *Cooking for Sussex Seniors* kitchen project and that is exactly how I feel. We're not at the finish line just yet, but we're getting close and this much-needed kitchen is no longer a much-distance dream. A new central kitchen capable of producing thousands of daily meals for Sussex

County senior citizens for generations to come is literally taking shape. The bricks and reality mortar has risen up from the ground and the commercial refrigerators, freezers. ovens and stoves will be installed shortly,



Congregate Program Director Robin Greene proudly shows off the space that will be her new office at the CHEER kitchen.

(hopefully, by the time you get to read this story).

Not only did we plan to build a kitchen to serve the expanding and aging baby boomer generation of Sussex County, but our goal was also to fully fund the construction and equipping of this kitchen through fundraising without leaving any debt to burden our senior nutrition program. When we established this

Continued on Page 17 >>



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Thank You For All The Support No Matter How Big or How Small!

COOKING

Continued from Page 16

goal, no one had even heard of COVID19 and there was no pandemic. We pressed on with our goal in large part because we had to. There was no other choice. If we were going to continue our 50-year tradition of serving locally prepared nutritious meals to senior citizens throughout Sussex County, we needed a new and larger kitchen.

Along the way, we met and made many new friends; and along with long time CHEER supporters, we successfully raised the \$1.8 million needed to build and equip this new kitchen. Designs were completed and during the height of the pandemic, we broke ground for CHEER's new central kitchen. Now the goal is in sight. A modern new kitchen capable of feeding current and future generations of Sussex seniors should be open and operable in June

of this year. None of this would have possible been without the help support of and very many public and private sector organizations and individuals. Federal, State and County government, foundations and individuals. volunteers. and



CHEER staff all helped to make this possible. are grateful for each and every contribution of time, treasure, and talent that is making the dream of a new modern energy-efficient kitchen a reality for the senior citizens of Sussex County. In June, many of us will stand together on the site of this new kitchen as we launch the next chapter in CHEER's 50-year history of nutrition services for the seniors of Sussex County.



A huge storage freezer will sit on this concrete slab at the back of the new CHEER kitchen.

CHEER CEO Ken Bock (far left) gives a tour of the new central kitchen to State Senator Brian Petty-john, State Auditor Kathleen McGuiness and State Senator Dave Wilson.

Workers are busy installing the electrical system in the new CHEER kitchen. At upper right can be seen the fans that go over the stoves.



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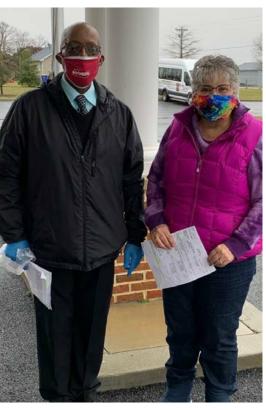


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Dignitaries Volunteer to Deliver Homebound Meals...

CHEER, Inc. celebrated its annual March for Meals on March 18. Several state and local officials volunteered their time to deliver MOW to homebound seniors. On March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older – Meals on Wheels. Thank you to all who volunteered to be part of this collaboration to ensure that our seniors live more healthy, happy and independent lives at home, where they want to be.





AT MILTON, CHEER Board member Diaz Bonville and Volunteer Julia Bock are ready to deliver meals to area seniors.



AT MILTON, County Councilman Mark Schaeffer is ready to pack meals for homebound seniors under the watchful eye of Center Director Sheila Roell.



ROXANA, Doug AT County Councilman Hudis ready to deliver meals along with Out-Worker Opra Hudson, and Meals on Volunteers Chris and Mike Thompson. Wheels



AT OCEAN VIEW, Mayor John Reddington and Town Manager Carol Houck have their meals loaded in their vehicle and are ready to start delivering to homebound seniors in their area.



AT GEORGETOWN, going over delivery instructions are, left to right — Outreach Worker Debbie Reeve, Kitchen Manager Linda Roberts, Register of Wills Representative Patty Bodenweiser, and Grace Church Representative Ron Howard.



AT GEORGETOWN, State Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navaro (left) helps load meals into the vehicle of volunteer Rocky Cain.



AT GREENWOOD, helping deliver meals were, left to right – bus driver Patsy Newnom, Sussex County Councilperson Cynthia Green, U.S. Senator Chris Coons Representative Marcus Wright, and CHEER Center Director Fran Smith.



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Volunteers Are Honored

Thank You For Your Service ... This dynamic couple, Ron Stitley and Fran Hathaway, both of Georgetown, have been delivering meals in the Georgetown area every Monday since September 2015. Unfortunately, on March 29 they decided it was time to retire from their Meals on Wheels route. CHEER presented them with tulips in appreciation for their many years of service to the seniors. Ron and Fran showed steadfast commitment to the MOW program and not only delivered meals, but also provided a safety check, much-needed conversation, and a big smile from them both for every senior on their route. They never hesitated to ask how they could make their client's day better. CHEER thanks them for their service and wishes them well in their future endeavors.



Volunteer Delaware 50+,

a statewide program of the State Office of Volunteerism, recently honored three of CHEER's volunteers for their many years of service to others. Bernard Kline has served 15 years as a homebound volunteer driver at Long Neck and Dorothy Keller has been a homebound volunteer driver at Long Neck for 20 years. Shirley Paulley was honored for 15 years of volunteering with the Nimble Fingers Crocheting and Knitting Club at Long Neck CHEER Center. Making the presentations was Chris Cordrey, CHEER center director.







15 Years from Shirley Paulley



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Volunteer > Spotlight

Rocky Cain

Congratulations Rocky Cain for being in this quarter's Volunteer Spotlight and thank you for your volunteer service to CHEER. Rocky volunteers on a weekly basis at the Georgetown Activity Center helping deliver meals to CHEER's homebound clients. He has been a volunteer with CHEER for the past four years. Rocky's favorite part about volunteering is the interaction he has with the clients and checking on their well-being.

Rocky was born and raised in West Virginia. Career opportunities brought Rocky to Sussex County. He is a retired teacher. In his spare time, Rocky enjoys landscaping, fishing, and going to the beach. He spends a lot of his leisure time enjoying all of the beach areas in Sussex County.

Rocky is married, resides in Georgetown, and has two sons who are in the military. Both of his sons graduated from West Point Military Academy.

Thank you, Rocky, for all you do to help your senior neighbors! CHEER couldn't do what we do without your continued support.



VOLUNTEER MODELS GIFT

Ocean View's Meals on Wheels volunteer driver Health Davis models the rain poncho given to volunteers during National Volunteer Month to express CHEER's gratitude for their time and service.



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Can You Identify Any of These Photos?

Email carolyno@cheerde.com if you can identify any of these photos.







Seniors Gather Again at Annual CHEER Trap Pond Fall Festival

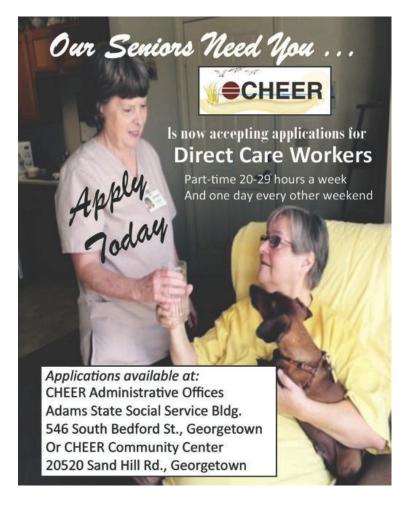
CHEER's Annual Trap Pond Fall Festival will once again be held at Trap Pond State Park, east of Laurel and south of Route 24, on Friday, Sept. 3. The day will feature good food, good entertainment, and activities. It will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and include the traditional fried chicken dinner with

all the trimmings served at 12 noon. Forced to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic, the event will adhere to all COVID restrictions, especially face masks and social distancing.

Entertainment will be provided by DJ Sky Brady and others. There will be vendors representing services for seniors, raffles, and door prizes. Pontoon boat rides are available for a fee, and advance registration is required at your local CHEER center. There will also be a guided nature walk through the park. Admission to the park will be free that day.

Tickets for the Trap Pond Fall Festival are \$6 for seniors and over and \$8 for under the age of 60. Tickets are available at all CHEER activity centers or at the festival entrance the day of the event. Proceeds from the event will benefit CHEER's programs to service seniors of Sussex County.

For more information, call either your local Senior Center or Robin Greene at 302-515-3063.





A lot of "dancing in the street" is a popular event at the annual Trap Pond Fall Festival.

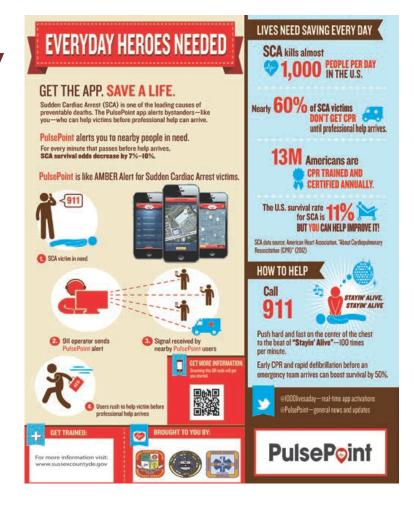


This 1929 Model A Ford Pickup was just one of the many vehicles on display at last year's CHEER Car-Truck-Bike Show. The 2021 event will be held on Saturday, August 7.

CHEER Car Show Celebrates 50 Years of Service to Seniors

CHEER's 11th Annual Car-Truck-Bike Show will be held on Saturday. August 7 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Warren L. and Charles C. Allen, Jr. CHEER Community Center, located at the corner of Sand Hill Road and County Seat Highway (Rt. 9), east of Georgetown. The event will celebrate CHEER's 50th anniversary of serving the needs of senior citizens in Sussex County. CHEER has partnered with the County Seat Cruisers to conduct the event.

Continued on Page 26 >>



CAR SHOW

Continued from Page 25

Special added attraction of the show will be a crafts and vendor fair inside the community center during the show. Because of social distancing guidelines only 25 vendors will be allowed to participate and admission will be monitored. There will also be a live auction conducted by auctioneer Dave Wilson, plus a 50-50 will be conducted. The show and all events are free to the public.

A delicious boxed barbecue lunch featuring chicken and ribs and the extras will be available for sale at the price of only \$15 each.

Over 100 vehicles are expected to participate in this year's show. Trophies will be awarded in multiple classes and dash plaques will be given to all participants. Advance registration recommended at the price of \$35 per vehicle which includes two free barbecue lunch tickets. Registration the day of the show is \$40 per vehicle with two barbecue tickets. All vehicles must be registered and positioned by 10 a.m. or will not be eligible for judging. An independent professional judging squad will select the winners. Trophies will be awarded at 1 p.m. For more information about registration, contact

either Joyce Infussi at 302-515-3040 or Walt Koopman at 302-745-5668.

The public is invited to enjoy the show and its activities. Admission is free. All monies raised from this event will benefit CHEER services for Sussex County senior citizens.

The public is advised that extensive highway

construction may be ongoing at the entrance to the community center so please use extreme caution when entering and exiting the grounds. The committee asks for your patience and cooperation so that the event can be conducted without incident. Also, social distancing and mask procedures are required.

For more information about the August 7 event, please call 302-515-3040 or go to www.cheerde.com.

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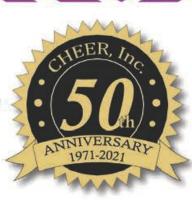
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(Rain Date Sunday, August 8)

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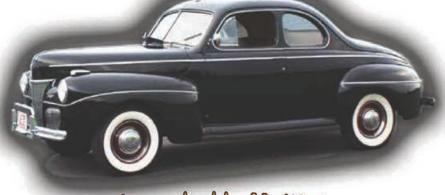
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Conducted by: County Seat Cruisers



Pre-Registration Recommended

For more information contact: Joyce Infussi 302-515-3040 - jinfussi@cheerde.com

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