

# Monthly Review

A monthly newsletter for residents and family members of Jerome Home and Arbor Rose

November/December 2018

Vol. 4, Issue 6

## Arbor Rose celebrates 10 years of excellence

**A**rbor Rose at Jerome Home officially celebrated its 10th anniversary on Sept. 6, an occasion which was acknowledged by the state of Connecticut General Assembly with an official citation.

State Sen. Terry Gerratana, who said she was also present at the grand opening in 2008, presented the document that recognized the milestone. "Thank you for creating a great environment for our parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters for independent living. Your motto, 'Life is what you make it,' helps our seniors live life to the fullest," she read to the assembled crowd that included representatives of Hartford HealthCare Senior Services.

Arbor Rose Executive Director Will Menoche, a 10-year Arbor Rose employee, applauded other staff who have worked there for the past decade including Pat Eleveld, Virginia Flores, Irena Dabrowski, Violetta Tokarczyk and Lori Toombs, executive director of Jerome Home. He also recognized the residents who have called the independent and assisted living community their home since it opened.



At the Arbor Rose at Jerome Home celebration are, from left, Lisa Connolly, vice president, Hartford HealthCare Senior Services; state Sen. Terry Gerratana; and Will Menoche, Arbor Rose executive director.

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## Arbor Rose/Jerome Home team realizes second highest fundraiser status

The Arbor Rose and Jerome Home Team walked to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 14 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. This year the team raised over \$11,400 and was listed in second place in fundraising among 239 teams that participated! This tremendous fundraising effort was largely attributed to an Arbor Rose family member, Laura Berman, who raised \$3,500.



"We are so grateful to our family, friends and community for support toward this fundraising effort, but especially this year. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of donations we received," said Kate Rabinoff, Alzheimer's Walk captain. Funds raised benefit programming, respite care and support for those living in Connecticut with Alzheimer's or other

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Staffers join other Hartford HealthCare walkers for this group shot.

## Our pet visitors: warm and fuzzy therapy on four paws

Arbor Rose resident Mary V. gently stroked the soft fur of Ryder, a visiting Golden Retriever, as she told a story about her own dog Whitey from years ago. “He was a mongrel but we all loved him,” she recalled.

Ryder is always a canine magnet and soon other residents and staff flocked around him as he took a stroll in the outdoor courtyard with owner Karen Pagliaro, RN, BSN. Pagliaro, the director of Community and Government Relations for Hartford HealthCare at Home, and Ryder have been visiting Arbor Rose and Jerome Home as a Pet Partners Registered Team since March when they passed the stringent evaluation. Many people regard the pooch as a friend, even greeting him by name as he pads down the halls.

The human-animal bond has been shown to be mutually beneficial, improving the physical, social and emotional aspects of life. Donna Valente, activities director for Arbor Rose, said she loves when the therapy dogs visit. “It is a different type of socialization,” she commented. They are not only calming, but also evoke happy memories and get residents more involved, she noted.

Dover, a Bernese Mountain Dog, just started visiting with his owner Linda Nadeau. Mr. Blue, a Golden Retriever, and “his human,” Don White, are regulars. “A buzz hits Jerome Home three times each week when we expect Mr. Blue and Don to arrive, providing comforting visits through our various neighborhoods. Residents smile, cheer and extend their hands to pet his fluffy fur,” said Jenna Sweet, Jerome Home life enrichment director and volunteer coordinator.

White, who owns three Golden Retrievers with his wife Judi, retired several months ago and finally had the time to try pet therapy, something he’d always wanted to do. Mr. Blue brings smiles to people’s faces and brightens their day. “Sometimes I get overwhelmed seeing the reactions,” he said.

It is estimated that more than 78 million dogs and nearly 86 million cats are owned in the United States and many of the residents of Arbor Rose and Jerome Home were pet owners. Residents, such as Harvey B., often like to talk about their own pets when Ryder, Mason and Mr. Blue stroll through.



Jerome Home resident Eleanor S. welcomes Mr. Blue and Don White.



Chatting during a pet visit are, standing, Karen Pagliaro, Pet Partner, and Fayna B.; seated, Ryder, Mary V. and Frank V.

Pagliaro noted that her “Canine Good Citizen” has been a calming and loving presence to those nearing the end of life and their families. A visitation even reconnected Pagliaro with a resident who was her high school French teacher. “I zipped over to her and we hugged. Not only was I crying but staff were too as we were so excited to see each other,” she recalled.

Pagliaro, who owns 2-year-old Ryder and two other Golden Retrievers, said she has been a dog owner for more than 30 years. However pet visits have brought a whole new experience. “I love dogs and sharing them with others just seems like the right thing to do. It gives me such peace.”

so, have puzzles? Call Donna Valente at 860.356.8284.

## Adventures abound in our community and out and about



A group from Jerome Home traveled to see the sights and sounds of the BIG E fair on Sept 19 for "Celebrating Connecticut Day." The group stopped by the petting zoo to feed the animals and then sampled different fair foods.

Our Carnival - which provided festival food, games and fun for all - raised \$120 toward the "Pave the Way" project to beautify the grounds around Jerome Home's North Community. Thank you to our willing dunk tank participants: Lori Toombs, Will



Menoche, Sue Kuchman, Greg Sieron, Violetta Tokarczyk and Tor Alston. They were good sports!

Left: Resident Blanca S. poses as an acrobat.



Left: Happy 106th birthday on Sept. 6 to Lena P. a well-known Jerome Home resident. Staff, friends and family celebrated her with a wonderful birthday party.

## Celebrations



Left: Sue and Tom S. celebrated their 63rd anniversary this fall! They met when he gave a friend, his girlfriend and her sister a ride to Jones Beach in his 1932 Buick. They were together ever since then. Their advice? "Patience, understanding and communication."

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Menoche noted that Arbor Rose at Jerome Home has been recognized as one of the top workplaces and commended the staff for their care and compassion.

"We are so proud of the community that we have built here in New Britain. We stand by our mission and vision to provide the utmost care and support to the seniors we serve," Menoche said "Here's to another 10 years of making memories."

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dementias and their families.

Donations can continue to be made to the Arbor Rose and Jerome Home Walk to End Alzheimer's team until Dec. 15 at <http://act.alz.org/goto/ARandJH> . For information, contact Denise Lebrocqy at 860-356-8256.

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860.229.3707  
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## Holiday Fair on Dec. 13

Get the perfect gift for that special someone at the Holiday Fair on Thursday, Dec. 13 at Arbor Rose at Jerome Home. The fair - featuring homemade crafts, jewelry, gift baskets, bake sale and much more - will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Sandy Brown, 860.229.3707.

## Overwhelmed by caregiving? Welcome to our support group

A free caregivers' support group is held on the third Tuesday (Nov. 20 and Dec. 18) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Arbor Rose at Jerome Home. To RSVP or for more information, please call Kate Rabinoff, MSW, resident services coordinator, at 860.229.3707.



For a free lunch & tour of Jerome Home, contact:  
Nicole Archambault-Benson, *Admissions Director*  
at:



For a free lunch & tour of Arbor Rose, contact:  
Denise Lebrocquy, *Retirement Counselor*  
at:

**860.229.3707**

*Rehabilitation & Health Center, Skilled Nursing Care*

*Independent & Assisted Living with Memory Care*