

front porch

COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATIONcommunity
matters

Continuing a Tradition of Caring at Canterbury Woods

Throughout their time at Canterbury Woods, resident Cathy Gordon and her late partner Martha Buck have helped to build a supportive, caring community



Canterbury Woods residents Sallie Brun (left) and Mary Dorscheimer enjoy walking their dogs through the garden that Sallie has dedicated much time and resources to enhance.

through their time and philanthropic contributions. “The community and this organization plays an important role in helping provide services and support to seniors in need,” Cathy said. “I know that it won’t just take care of my needs, but will be there to take care of others as well. My donation to the Foundation is one small way to help.”

Canterbury Woods, a Front Porch community nestled in Pacific Grove near Monterey, CA, has a rich history steeped in the spirit of compassion that is a hallmark of Front Porch. The land was gifted to the Episcopal Church in the late 1800s by Margaret Tennant to honor her brother John, and the John Tennant Memorial home for the elderly was built. In the first half of the 20th century, the buildings and land were used as a girls school and then as a clergy holiday home, with the basement reportedly serving a role during Prohibition as a waystation for “rum-runners” plying their trade along the coast.

In 1965, a newly-formed nonprofit purchased the land from the church and Canterbury Woods was built as the first retirement community of Episcopal Homes Foundation (a Front Porch

predecessor). The Rev. Darby Betts, an Episcopal priest and the founder of Episcopal Homes Foundation, had a strong interest in architecture as a way to build community and led the design and building of Canterbury Woods as well as four more Northern California retirement communities.

The Episcopal diocese then donated the purchase price of the land back to Episcopal Homes Foundation to care for retirement community residents who outlived their resources. This tradition of generosity has been passed down through the generations of Canterbury Woods residents.

Sallie Brun grew to care about Canterbury Woods when her parents resided there. When she moved to the community, she committed to making improvements for current residents and the next generation by making a gift to the Foundation to enhance the landscaping and gardens. “I have this community in my heart,” she said. “It’s so meaningful to me to be able to provide support for Canterbury Woods through my time and gifts.”

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Caring about Community: “It’s the Right Thing to Do”

Community has always been important to Spring Lake Village resident Delia Schmedding. Raised in Hawaii, she went to university in Colorado where she made good friends with whom she stayed connected even when she married and settled in California. In her retirement years, Delia moved to Spring Lake Village after her husband died and became an integral part of the community even while living there only part time. She regularly visited a good friend from college in Arizona and found the dry weather agreed with her health. Delia purchased a home in the Southwest and split her time between Arizona and California for about 15 years.

“I guess you could say I was not your typical resident, but even though I didn’t live at Spring Lake Village full time, I still felt connected to the community and wanted to support my neighbors and the team members there,” Delia said. **The Right Thing to Do** continues on page 3



Paul Cartier and Teresa Palmer, the son and daughter-in-law of Canterbury Woods resident Francis Cartier, recently made a gift through Front Porch Communities Foundation to purchase equipment in honor of Dr. Cartier's 100th birthday. "We are so aware of the need to create an environment where those who are getting older have a great quality of life," Teresa said. "Attention to detail, both in the social realm and in the realm of personal care-giving, is the secret. Our dad taught us a lot about what is important in life. He feels known and understood in his community. Staff and community at Canterbury Woods have been the key to his quality of life for many years now. We, his family, want this quality to continue, and we want to support it." ●



Velma Cooney's Legacy of Caring

Velma Cooney became a supporter of Front Porch Communities Foundation before she even became a resident of Fredericka Manor. Her planned gift of real estate to the Foundation facilitated her move to the community. Velma used part of the proceeds from her home to fund a charitable gift annuity with the Foundation that provided her a significant tax deduction and a sizeable monthly income, with the residual benefitting her community after death. While she loved her cottage and deeply appreciated the services she received at Fredericka Manor, Velma found real joy in her neighbors,

recalled Foundation philanthropy officer Keith Church. She never considered herself a "joiner" but loved visiting with other residents across the dinner table or as she walked her beloved dog, Chloe. Even after she moved from Fredericka Manor, Velma remembered and cared about her neighbors, so much so that she arranged her estate plan so the Foundation was her primary beneficiary, with the funds dedicated to the Circle of Friends resident assistance fund at Fredericka Manor. Velma died in 2021, but her legacy of caring lives on and touches the lives of her neighbors in need at the Manor. ●

Velma Cooney enjoyed walking the grounds of Fredericka Manor with her dog and was proud to include the community in her estate upon her death.

Son Honors Mother by Supporting Circle of Friends

Dixie Harvey's son Stan recalls that his mother wanted to find a place to live that would be able to care for her until the end of her life. After a thoughtful search, she found her home at Spring Lake Village. She especially enjoyed the beautiful scenery and her view of the courtyard, as well as the proximity to Stan, who lived nearby in Santa Rosa.

Stan is grateful to the staff of Spring Lake Village and the Front Porch organization for the support his mother received while she was a member of the community. "I appreciated the friendliness and continuity of the team members at Spring Lake Village, a sign of a very well-run organization," Stan said. "The people who cared for my mother were committed, caring and engaged. I also loved that it

was a nonprofit organization that clearly prioritized the needs of the community."

Dixie lived at Spring Lake Village for eight years, moving into Assisted Living shortly before her death in 2022. During her time at Spring Lake Village, she always shared the community news with Stan, including copies of the Foundation newsletter, Community Matters.



Stan Harvey and his mother, Dixie, appreciated the caring community that she found at Spring Lake Village.

"Making a gift to the Circle of Friends was a way to honor my mother, but also a way to pay back some of our good fortune."

— Stan Harvey,
Circle of Friends donor

"I enjoyed reading about what was happening in the larger organization, and when I read about the Circle of Friends resident assistance fund, I just thought it was a really great idea and a wonderful cause," Stan said. "I thought about my own mother and how much stress she would have been under, without me as

her back stop, with having to pay bills and worry about running out of resources. When she passed away, making a gift to the Circle of Friends was a way to honor my mother, but also a way to pay back some of our good fortune by helping others who might not have the support my mother did." ●

Inspiring and Building Community with New Front Porch CEO Sean Kelly

Front Porch Communities Foundation is at the heart of the Front Porch mission of creating community and meeting the evolving needs of the people we serve and may hope to serve. The Foundation has the support and direction of a group of dedicated and visionary leaders, including Front Porch's new Chief Executive Officer, Sean Kelly. Sean brings to the organization extensive experience and thought leadership around pivotal issues that relate to senior living, aging services, and the intersection of health care and well-being among older people.

"I feel very fortunate to have been able to work in this field for a good part of my career, to work with incredibly talented people and to learn from some of our field's true visionaries," said Sean. "Joining Front Porch allows me to keep learning and to keep growing as part of an organization that is poised to expand its already strong footprint in senior housing and services as we explore new paradigms for aging in our changing world."

Gifts from residents, families and friends to the Foundation and its predecessors help older adults flourish. These gifts represent caring, joy and vision — and can have direct impacts by improving quality of life, ensuring support for those in community who have outlived their resources, and connecting the isolated and vulnerable with services and people who care.

"Reinforcing and building on its dynamic legacy, I see that Front Porch is ever more committed to 'inspiring and building community,'" he said. "The evolution of this mission is vital and in many ways, made possible through work of the Foundation which itself, inspires engagement and activation of programs and people toward greater purpose." ●



Front Porch Communities Foundation and Villa Gardens recently honored residents whose cumulative gifts qualify them for a gold leaf on the Tree of Life. The tree, displayed near the front entrance, celebrates the generous donors whose gifts help enrich life at the community. (From left) Front Porch CEO Sean Kelly, Front Porch Communities Foundation Board Member Alice Coulombe, Villa Gardens Executive Director Shaun Rushforth, Front Porch Communities Foundation Board Chair Tom Porath.

Admiration for Scholarship Programs Fuels Giving for Vista del Monte Couple

For many years before moving to Vista del Monte, longtime Santa Barbara residents Roxana and Fred were members of Vista's Fitness and Aquatic Center, which is open

to the public. "We were very familiar with Vista, so when we decided to move to a retirement community, Vista was a natural choice," Fred said.

affinity for the Foundation's scholarship funds, which awards cash grants to qualified Vista employees and also to their children. Scholarships benefit those who attend traditional two- and four-year colleges and those attending trade schools, pursuing certificate programs (like nursing programs), continuing education or GED studies.

"We donate to the Foundation because Vista is our home, and it's our way of supporting an organization that we admire," Fred said. "The staff here takes good care of us so we want to be generous to them in return," Roxana added. ●

For more information about charitable gifts from an IRA or other ways to support the Front Porch Communities Foundation, email Foundation executive director Katharine Miller at kamiller@frontporch.net. ●

After they settled into Vista in 2019, Roxana became president of the Resident Association and currently serves as its past president. She was also a member of Vista's Philanthropy Committee, which helps guide how donations to Vista del Monte through the Front Porch Communities Foundation will be used.

The couple recently made a generous gift to the Foundation from Fred's individual retirement account. The gift was made as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), one of the savviest ways for those over 70½ to use their IRAs to maximize their charitable impact and realize tax savings.

Fred, a retired university professor, and Roxana, a retired librarian, have a particular



Fred and Roxana Anson have supported the scholarship fund at Vista del Monte as a reflection of the value placed on education as a result of their time as educators.

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"Especially during the Sonoma fires and the pandemic, it was important to me to give to the Circle of Friends resident assistance fund and the HEART Fund (then known as the Employee Emergency Fund). I knew I was safe and had what I needed, but there were many who struggled."

In addition to making gifts to the Foundation to support her community at Spring Lake Village, Delia also took a strong interest in the programs of the Community Services division of Front Porch, especially the social connection and housing programs. "The more I learned about the work that was being done through these programs, I felt proud of being a part of this organization and cared about the people who needed that support," Delia said. "Giving to causes you care about is just the right thing to do." ●



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CELTIC CUP 2023 Front Porch Communities Foundation GOLF TOURNAMENT
12th Annual Celtic Cup August 14th, 2023 BERKELEY COUNTRY CLUB
A great day on the course overlooking the San Francisco Bay, followed by a cocktail reception.
Your support of the Celtic Cup raises funds for isolated and low-income older adults.
Register at CelticCup.org

Social Call Brings People Together for Connection and Friendship

Social connection, especially for isolated and at-risk older adults, is at the heart of Front Porch Community Services programs. The Front Porch Communities Foundation's annual Celtic Cup Golf Tournament raises funds to support these critical programs. Social Call, connecting adults 60 and older with volunteers for a weekly phone or video call, is one of the Community Services programs that changes lives.

Rita LaForce, 81, was lonely before being matched with her friend, Austen Creger.

"Although I have good friends, I don't have many," said Rita, a San Francisco resident. "I was feeling really shut in."

Rita and Austen have spoken weekly for the last three years, and the conversations have improved their quality of life.

"I can't tell you what Austen has done for me," Rita said. "She encourages my creativity. I read my poems to her, share

my projects. I am much more outgoing. Austen has made me want to make a real contribution to the world."

Austen feels the same way.

"It's so inspiring to talk to Rita," said Austen. "She never ceases to amaze me. We talk about her past, present, and future, and it's incredible to see the world through someone else's perspective."

Rita and Austen are two of 450 people in Northern California, and more than 1,100 nationwide, who participate in Social Call. Front Porch Community Services staff matched participants with a high level of detail, including shared interests, values, and needs. The matches are diverse, with 70% being intergenerational and 30% peer-to-peer.

"The beauty of the relationship is that both people in the match are offered the chance to feel seen and heard," said Katie



Rita LaForce and Austen Creger, Social Call participants, recently got to meet in person for the first time after having known each other by phone for three years.

Wade, the senior director who oversees Social Call. "It builds lifelong friendships and increases vitality."

Learn about how to become a volunteer for Front Porch's Social Call: frontporch.net/social-call-volunteers



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