After 25 years with St. Joseph Community Services, I am retiring from my position as head of this agency. It has been the honor of my life to have worked with such a caring team of people for such a great cause. Together our volunteers; staff, board members, and community supporters have fed the hungry, visited the lonely and advocated for an often forgotten segment of our community: our older and disabled adults.

To each of you reading this, thank you for the many ways you have supported the mission of this agency.

Warm regards,

Meghan Brady
and stakeholders consider honoring a beloved older adult who has made a difference in their lives.

Honor and celebrate an older adult who has been important in your life.

Older adults contribute to our communities in multiple ways. Through their volunteer work, they are the backbone of many non-profits; they spend countless hours taking care of grandchildren and providing care for disabled family members. Purpose does not decline with age and many of our elders actively contribute to the greater good.

Many of us have benefited from the loving care, knowledgeable advice or active mentoring provided by an older adult. Please consider making a donation in their name and sharing some of their story with us.

When you make a donation in any amount, you will have the opportunity to tell us about them and upload a photograph. We will post these stories and pictures on our website and Facebook account for others to read and enjoy.

Please visit this link to make your gift:
https://www.mealsonwheelsnh.org/celebrate-an-older-adult

Although we had hoped to host a retirement party in Meghan’s honor to celebrate her many accomplishments, in order to practice social distancing and adhere to best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have opted to host a "Drive-Through" Retirement Party. Details are in the below invitation. We hope you will consider joining us to offer your congratulations in this way!
A Warm Welcome

As Meghan departs to embrace life's next journey, we welcome Jon Eriquezzo, current Vice President of SJCS, as our next President.

"Over the past 25 years, Meghan has capably led our strategic growth and helped build our capacity as an organization," said James P. Harris, Board Chair-SJCS. "Her dedication, vision and tireless commitment to seniors in need has been inspiring. We can't thank her enough for her service and wish her the very best for a happy and healthy retirement."

Harris went on to say, "Jon was the unanimous choice of the Board of Directors. He has been a valuable member of the team for many years and is well prepared to lead SJCS into the future."

Retirement Drive-Through Celebration

honoring

Meghan Brady

Friday, July 31, 2:00-3:30 pm

Please join us to honor Meghan by driving through the SJCS parking lot and extending your best wishes for her next amazing journey!

St. Joseph Community Services
395 D.W. Highway
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-424-9967
among a competitive field of candidates and we are very much looking forward to working with Jon as we meet both present and future challenges in supporting seniors in need."

Jon joined the agency in 2019. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Innovation for the Crotched Mountain Foundation where he was responsible for overseeing its assistive technology division and HUD housing, serving seniors and people with disabilities. As Executive Director of Crotched Mountain Residential Services he led housing, residential and day supports to nearly 200 children, adults, and seniors.

Jon is a graduate of Springfield College and holds a Master’s Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership, a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and a certificate in Community Healthcare Management from Antioch University New England.

"I am thrilled with this choice," says Meghan. "I’ve very much enjoyed working alongside Jon for the past year. He brings a broad range of relevant experience and excellent management and operational skills to the table and truly exemplifies our mission."

Jon concluded by saying "I'm honored by this appointment and looking forward to this amazing opportunity. I know I speak for our employees and staff when sharing how very grateful we all are to Meghan for her leadership."

Jon will assume his new position on August 1, 2020.

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**Events You Can't Miss!**

**Give65**

**65 starts**

**July 15th at 6:00 AM!**

Set up your gift in the pre-scheduled gift time frame of July 13-14 and your gift could be matched!

St. Joseph Community Services/Meals on Wheels is excited to be part of Give65, a

**Cruisin' for a Cause!**

SJCS is excited to host Smokin' Wheels for Hot Meals, the smokin' hot car rally and classic car zone fundraiser, on October
program of the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation, which is a 65-hour crowd-fundraising platform aimed at helping senior-focused nonprofits across the US raise money online for programs and services that create hope for seniors.

Donate July 13-14 and your donation could be matched!

For details please visit: https://www.give65.org/sjcsnhmow

VOLUNTEER CHAMPIONS

Volunteers Elaine and Harvey Bloom receive Older Adult Volunteer Award

This spring, NH Governor Chris Sununu, the New Hampshire State Commission on Aging, and EngAGING NH announced recipients of this year’s Older Adult Volunteer Awards and among the honorees were SJCS stalwarts Elaine and Harvey Bloom.

"What a wonderful surprise," Elaine said during a recent interview. "Harvey and I are so very honored to be part of this award."

Formerly known as the Joseph Vaughn Award, the recognition acknowledges and celebrates those who have made a significant positive impact in their community. The Blooms were among a select group of individuals or couples aged 60 and older who were selected from each county in the state for their outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of New Hampshire’s older adults and others.

According to Rebecca Sky, Executive Director of the NH Commission on Aging, the award is usually bestowed at an awards ceremony scheduled in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. While this year the recognition ceremony is postponed to a yet-to-be-determined date due to the COVID-19 outbreak, that in no way should diminish the degree to which the Blooms and other honorees are held. "Our communities are better and stronger thanks to selfless volunteers," said Sky.
The Blooms have been active fixtures at St. Joe's for many years; Elaine having started as a volunteer driver in 1998 and Harvey joining her in 2011. "Our clients are very nice people who need some assistance," said Elaine. "The visits are important to them and its gratifying to know that we can make such a difference in their quality of life."

Long-time residents of Merrimack and former black belts in Karate, the Blooms say they "jumped at the chance" when they first learned of St. Joseph Community Service and the need for volunteers. As a former business owner and retired engineer, Harvey had been working with SCORE and wanted to transition to a new volunteer opportunity. "Through Elaine's service, I knew about the great cause of the agency," Harvey said. "It was a natural selection for me and I found St. Joe's to be run efficiently with many volunteers to minimize overhead and make sure the maximum amount of resources went to clients."

Though they've resided in Merrimack for many years, Elaine recalls that early in their volunteer service, she received a great lesson in local geography. "There were parts of our town I didn't know existed," she joked. In addition to a fondness for the work and clients, Harvey counts among his memories of the work "interesting encounters with geese" and helping clients in many ways.

For about 25% of SJCS clients, the visit from Meals on Wheels drivers might be the only outside contact a person has in a given week, and Elaine knows how important those interactions are. "Even if we are only there for a few minutes, now even shorter due to COVID-19, we know how much the clients look forward to seeing us," she said.

Thank you, Elaine and Harvey!

DONOR CENTRAL

Your Donor Dollars at Work

Some key statistics from March-May 2020:

**Home delivered meals:**
March — 36,084
April — 41,354
May — 37,506
**Total:** 114,944

**New client intakes:** 24
**New volunteer drivers:** 41
Thanks to our amazing donors and volunteers, we continue to meet current and new needs in our community.

**Mask-querade!**

Staff and volunteers at our site at the Nashua Senior Center enjoyed a donated lunch and a spirited dance party, courtesy of our friends at Bridges by Epoch in Nashua. Good times were had by all!

Thank you, Bridges!

**From the Heart**

SJCS clients got a wonderful boost recently when Merrimack Girl Scout troop #10375 and their leader **Doreen Rolls** created and donated some beautiful hand-painted inspirational rocks to be given to SJCS clients. "What a wonderful gesture," said **Joan Barretto**, Director of Development and Events. "We appreciate the kindness and generosity of the troop, as well as their amazing creativity. These will be treasured by our seniors!"

Thank You to Our May-June 2020 Donors!*  

**CORPORATE/FOUNDATION/ORGANIZATION SUPPORT**

- Anheuser-Busch
- Bright Funds
- CAF - Charities Aid Foundation of America
- Dell Giving
- Frontstream
- Hollis Woman's Club
- Network For Good
- Stewart Property Management
- We Share a Common Thread Foundation

**INDIVIDUALS**

- Jonathan Eriquezzo
- Alexandra Ferrelli
- Robert and Margaret Garneau
- Steve And Leslie Goan
- Ami and Justin Grenier
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Guerrette
- Andrea Guidoboni
- Philip Harris
- Barbara Haymann
- Susan E. Hennas
- James Houghton
- Christy Houpis and Dawn Mcguire
- Irene Jenness
- Brian Kennedy
- Craig and Terry Knowles
- Diana Kroeger
- Jennifer Lawson
- Kristin Lewotsky
- Ellen Lomasney
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Our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, including those who chose to remain anonymous and gave either through NH GIVES 2020, or gave otherwise in May and June. Your gifts mean so much and we could not do this work without you!

**CORRECTION:** In our June 2020 Newsletter, one of our donor entries should have read as follows: John Leacy DuPre and Colleen Lyons.

*Please note: We appreciate all of our donors and have taken great care to compile this list, although we do sometimes make mistakes. If you have made a donation and do not see your name on this list, or your name is misspelled, please contact Joan at jbarretto@sjcsinc.org*

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