

Board Elects Susan Lake as Trustee



Susan Lake was elected a Trustee and appointed chair of the Scholarship Committee in December. She replaces Ramona McNicholas, who stepped down in November after doing a fabulous job in both capacities. Susan brings deep experience in technology and in management to the Board following a long and successful career with Dell. Susan started immediately to work. A new application and selection cycle is already in progress with a deadline in February. The change

in deadline resulted from a decision to move our schedule to an annual one which is in sync with the Community Foundation of Collier County's scholarships. This affords our scholars additional opportunities. Susan and her husband, Terry, live in Building 25. Terry also volunteers his time to the Foundation's data base. We thank them both for sharing their valuable experience with us.

A New Experience Awaits You! New Sound and Light System Installed in Palmetto Room

The plan became reality. Look for much improved sound and viewing for our music, cultural and educational programming as soon as the Palmetto Room reopens. The new system, announced by the Foundation last March, was installed during the week of December 14 after a delay caused by COVID-19. The selected vendor, Charis, a Texas-based company, has provided other retrofitted systems in our area. The installation included new hand-held rechargeable microphones and lavalier mics. The system will parallel Bentley Village's original sound system and interfaces with the existing T-loop, an advantage for hearing-impaired attendees.

The original Bentley Village system, which remains in place, is a multifunction control system and runs many functions in the East Club House. The audio portion was not designed to support music programs and could not be upgraded to accommodate our programs. Improved technology was essential to the quality of the programs provided by all the groups supported by Thrift Shop revenue and as well as those supported by the Foundation's general fund. We appreciate Vi's decision to allow us to install the new system.

The sound system was given a trial run by members of the Bentley Musicians group on December 18. The sound was amazing and the brightly lighted stage was all we could have wanted. As Shep Drinkwater said, "We were rockin' the place out!" The Food and Beverage and Maintenance staffs were tremendously helpful throughout the preparation and installation process.

The system will be available for everyone's use. Funding for the lighting portion of the project came from Thrift Shop proceeds and the sound portion came from the Foundation's General Fund. No Scholarship funds were used for this project. We eagerly await a safe reopening of the Palmetto Room to introduce all of you to the new system.

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Our Mission: The Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the cultural, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being of our community through philanthropic programs and educational scholarships. The Foundation is funded by donations and managed by an elected Board of Trustees. We have no paid staff. Join us. Volunteer today.

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The Foundation News

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Thank you, Bentley Village Foundation, for Music Therapy

Submitted by Sara Macdonald MT-BC, AAP-BC, CDP, Lifestyle at the Care Center

Music Therapy helps seniors feel more connected...to self and others. Right after the Bentley Village Foundation began in 2016, they facilitated a meeting between key Foundation Trustees, Lifestyle at the Care Center, and the Professor of the Music Therapy Department at FGCU. A new program was born that has benefited many. Through the collaboration with FGCU, and Bentley Village Foundation's support in providing materials, we created an active music therapy program at the Care Center, which quickly expanded into the Assisted Living Facility. Memory units also receive these services.

As a Board-certified Music Therapist, I have been privileged to host FGCU practicum and intern students at the Care Center. These students have assisted in providing music therapy programming for our residents using both group and independent settings. The Foundation also provides funding for contracted weekly group music therapy sessions in both the ALR and BCC. These sessions have been well received and facilitate positive results and active participation from residents in both venues. Since undergoing restrictions related to COVID-19, BCC has not been able to offer any group activities for our residents, and we are not allowing outside vendors into the building for resident programs. However, the Care Center and FGCU believed that it was critical to keep our residents connected to the students and continue music therapy sessions. Result: We offer "virtual" music therapy sessions via Zoom.

We are currently holding three weekly virtual music therapy sessions on an independent resident basis. Lifestyle is facilitating the Zoom sessions for individual residents in their rooms and Dr. Rohrbacher from FGCU is facilitating the sessions on the student end. There have been six students and six different residents actively involved in the Zoom music therapy sessions to date. This program is providing much-needed stimulation for our residents during this challenging time.

We want to thank the Foundation and its donors for their support in this program and look forward to the day we again can have live music therapy in the building for our residents!



Founding Trustee Diane Halas to Remain Active in BVF; Steps Down from Reorganized Public Relations Functions

Diane Halas, a Founding Trustee and the first President of the Bentley Village Foundation, will continue to serve as a Trustee and a member of the Executive Committee advising on future Foundation activities, announced BVF President Brian Hitch. She will relinquish primary editorship of the BVF newsletter and public relations activities. Bill Grafstrom will assume the role of content editor for the newsletter. Bill Bond stays on in the role of Copy Editor. Tom Lynch has assumed the chair of the Public Relations Committee on an interim basis. Pat Smart will become editor of the website, replacing Karen Rosenstein, who created the site and has done a yeoman's job managing it since it went live.

"Diane was the cornerstone of the development of the Bentley Village Foundation," declared Brian. "She guided the Foundation's initial activities and spurred their growth. Under her four-year leadership, the range of Foundation programs and the growth in total assets of the Foundations has been impressive. We look forward to her invaluable counsel in the coming years."

"Any success the Foundation has enjoyed could never have been achieved without the total dedication of all the volunteers who worked so diligently in managing our programs and our extraordinarily generous donors," said Diane. "They deserve our gratitude." Diane added that the new team is composed of talented people and she is confident of their success in their new roles.

Eight Awarded December 2020 “Bentley Wings” Scholarships

Our Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of then-chair, Ramona McNicolas, and in conjunction with its sister committee at the Community Foundation of Collier County, named eight applicants “Bentley Wings” scholars. Their \$6000/year scholarships will commence in January and be renewed annually until they achieve their terminal degrees or certifications in the selected field. Renewal depends on continued academic eligibility in the same field. Our hearty congratulations to the new awardees, who represent a broad cross section of our employee population. The full list of 2020 awardees may be found on the insert, along with their fields of study and the sponsors of their first-year awards. Renewals are made from our Scholarship Fund. The next round of scholars will be selected in March.

Generous Bentley Village Residents Step Up to Meet the Moment

The pandemic has made 2020 an exceedingly difficult fund-raising year for many charities and not-for-profits. Many local and national organizations report seriously diminished contributions, forcing them to cut their programs. Not here, however. Bentley residents have been most generous in their support of the Bentley Foundation. Income through October has been up versus 2019. Thanks to our donors, we met our goals, were able to assist in COVID-19 response, and expect to finish the year well positioned to deliver scholarships and services in 2021.

Our annual membership drive, which raises the majority of our funds, got an excellent response. Our two major fundraisers were dramatically affected by the epidemic. Our Scholars Ball was cancelled, although much of the Spring Festival go forward and was very well supported. The annual “Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament” was forced to go virtual. Our faithful supporters, through sponsorships, tickets (actual and virtual), and outright donations, made the event a success, regardless. We were able to operate all of our programs, our COVID response initiatives, and our services on current income, leaving our reserves untouched.

While the Foundation donation revenue funds a number of special and important programs throughout the community, our leading effort is “Bentley Wings” scholarships. When each scholarship is awarded, the Foundation makes a commitment to the student to continue the award annually to the attainment of the degree or certification sought. This is often from two to six years. Recent changes to the scholarship program have increased the awards for incoming scholars from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year. The scholarship award payouts for 2020 were \$134,200 vs. \$62,600, for 2019 an increase of \$71,600. The cumulative effect of a growing number of scholarship participants along with the higher awards will require increased funding. Donor participation makes this possible. We deeply appreciate our donors support and participation. We look forward to a continued fruitful partnership.

And That is Not All ...



When a Naples Daily News article alerted the Foundation to the plight of homeless elderly women and children in the community, we joined with the Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Collier County to make help immediately available. The Foundation donated an initial \$10,000, and promised another \$10,000 as match for donations by Bentley residents before 1/31/2021. The response was overwhelming. Within two days of making our public announcement, we were able to hand-deliver nearly \$14,000 in individual checks from residents and staff along with

our promised \$10,000 match. Since then, more donations have poured in. We delivered another \$3,380 in 2020 donations on January 4. The Coalition has reported that they were able to place a homeless family of three, headed by a single mom, in secure housing using some of our donation. One family is now safe, warm and fed. You can still donate by forwarding your check to “HHCCC” to Diane McNulty, 2613 Golfside Dr, Naples, FL 34110.

Congratulate the 2020 Bentley Wings Competitive Scholarship Awardees **Awards were presented in May and December**

Aracely Aguilera, a server in Lakeside Grill, earned an associate degree in nursing from Florida State University and will study nursing at Florida Gulf Coast University. She received the Karin Moe Scholarship.

Claudia Alusma, a Lifestyle Assistant in Assisted Living, is studying Nursing at Rasmussen College. She received the Brian and Janice Hitch Scholarship.

Nicholas Arnold, the son of Lori Arnold, Accounting, is majoring in economics at Florida State University and will study for a master degree in statistics. He received the Gene and Shirley Blanchard Scholarship.

Zachary Bryson Arnold, son of Lori Arnold, Senior Accountant in Finance, is majoring in Economics at the University of Florida. He received the Barbara Kerth Scholarship.

Jamel David, son of Garvin David, Assistant Fitness Instructor, is studying for a Bachelor of Science in Biology at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received the Marlene Grier Scholarship.

Sovelande Dorrene, the granddaughter of Marie Exentus, Kitchen, is studying nursing at Florida State University and plans to obtain a master degree as a nurse practitioner. She received the Ira Dash Scholarship.

Haley Geer, daughter of Stan Geer, Golf Pro, is studying Medicine at the University of Florida. She received the Linda and Doug Stather Scholarship.

James Louis Grimsley II, a server in East Club House dining, is in Legal Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received the Harvey and Sharon Hansen Scholarship.

Neimana Hereard, daughter of Odilia Hereard, a CNA in Home Health, is seeking a degree in Education at Florida State University. She received the Jill Augustine Scholarship.

Britney Jean, the daughter of Federlin Jean, Food and Beverage, will begin studies at the University of Florida with a long-term goal of a doctorate degree in clinical psychology. She received the G. Walter and Martha Adams Erickson Scholarship. (Her brother Federlin and sister Stephanie are also recipients of this Scholarship.)

Kendall Mary Kaufmann, daughter of Scott Kaufmann, Assistant Director of Dining Services, is seeking Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Film at the University of Central Florida. She received the Joan Lane Scholarship.

Regina Nerlien, daughter of Marie Nerlien of Home Health, is majoring in architectural design and construction technology at FGCU. She received the Elisabeth Hartung Scholarship.

Jeremy Nichols, son of Sherry Nichols, an Administrative Assistant in Home Health, is studying Psychology at Southern New Hampshire University. He received the Dave and Marsha Courtney Scholarship

Anna Raybuck, daughter of Richard Raybuck, Transportation, will major in marine biology and minor in animal studies at Eckerd College. She received the Dr. Roderick and Sandra Turner Scholarship.

Michele Smith, Accounting, received the Marlene Geier and Janet Tunstall Scholarship in December 2019. She is studying for a B.A. degree in Accounting at Florida Southwestern State College.