

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Scholarships



Programs



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* On the cover: Geff Joseph, 2023 Scholarship Awardee

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A TRIBUTE TO FRANK FLOOD Trustee who also served in 2023

The Bentley Village Foundation lost a valuable trustee on November 14. It was not just his generous financial support, Frank was a warm and caring person, giving his time and talents to those in the Bentley Village community who needed it. As a volunteer in the English as a Second Language program, Frank not only helped people improve their English skills, he provided information and support to improve their lives. A co-chair of Bentley Village Foundation's Scholarship Committee, he cared deeply about the young people who would benefit from the scholarships. Frank's commitment to the community included support, enthusiasm, and leadership for the Bentley Singles Community and Bocce Ball events and participation in the Men's Golf Club. Many of us lost a great friend and he will truly be missed throughout the Bentley Village community.



Our Mission

To provide competitive scholarships for eligible individuals and to sponsor and/or donate to projects intended to enrich the cultural, intellectual, emotional, and physical interests of the residents of Vi at Bentley Village or that advance the interests of the Foundation in the greater Bentley Village Community and Southwest Florida.

President's Message



As I reflect on this past year, I am very thankful for the progress and accomplishments of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Committee Volunteers. After four years of actively being involved with the Foundation I will be retiring from the Board and the President's Position. While I have contributed to many accomplishments, I have also received the benefits of working with a terrific group of volunteers who are the main driving force for running the Foundation.

Since our formation in 2016, with the generosity of our residents and supporters, we've awarded 99 scholarships for a total of over \$650,000 to Vi at Bentley Village employees or their dependents. This year a record 14 scholarships were awarded. Many of the scholarship recipients are the first in their families to get advanced education. Some came from the Immokalee area which according to 24/7Wallst.com is one of the poorest communities in the US.

Scholarships are only one way the Foundation makes a difference in our Bentley Village Community. The Bentley Village Foundation's Programs also support the Foundation's mission of "enhancing the cultural, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being of our community." These include Music Therapy Programs, Memory, and Mindfulness Programs. We also support the Literacy Council which helps Vi employees speak and read English through the English as a Second Language program (ESL). This year we implemented our "Seniors Helping Seniors" Program where volunteers from Bentley Village assist in serving lunch to the members of the Baker Senior Center Naples. We also co-sponsor The Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) educational classes with Lifestyles.

We stress music in many of our programs because of the positive changes music makes in senior's lives. Music has been proven to reduce stress, reduce blood pressure, and increase memory. Many of our music programs are participatory, adding the extra benefit of improving mental alertness and giving a feeling of accomplishment.

Throughout this report, you'll see how your generosity and your volunteer assistance have made a difference in the lives of employees and seniors in so many ways: Scholarships that help improve the Social and Economic position of employees and their dependents, Music and Music Therapy Programs, Mindfulness Programs, English as a second language and FGCU educational classes all support our mission of enhancing the cultural, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being of our community.

I encourage and invite all residents to become involved with some aspect of the Foundation and its work in 2024. If you already are, we thank you. Participating can be personally rewarding and will expand your network of friends in our great community.

Thank you for your financial and physical support!

Thomas J. Lynch

Making a Difference - SCHOLARSHIPS



Bentley Village Foundation, with its scholarship partner Collier Community Foundation (CCF), awards “Bentley Wings” scholarships each year to Vi at Bentley Village employees or their dependents. These scholarships may be continued as long as the student is pursuing the same course of study in their original application. The Foundation awarded its first scholarships in 2016 and has awarded a total of 99 scholarships.

Scholarships are available to any member of the Bentley Village workforce and/or their dependents and may be used for any accredited institution offering advanced education and/or vocational training. Thirty-four of our “Bentley Wings” scholars have graduated.

This year, the Foundation awarded a record 14 scholarships to deserving students. These scholarships open doors that many awardees never thought possible. Your support helps to turn their dreams into reality. Many of our scholars come from families who have immigrated to the US for a better life. Some did not speak English when they reached our shores. Some came from among the poorest communities in the US.

Your support is instrumental in continuing the “Bentley Wings” Scholarship program. You have funded the \$84,000 needed for this year’s new scholars plus the money to meet our obligations to previous scholarship awardees. Since the scholarships are renewable, we have 31 active scholars from scholarships awarded from 2017-2023 producing a future financial obligation of approximately \$650,000.

Here are the stories of a few of our 2023 Scholarship Awardees.

Iulia Smarandache



Iulia is the daughter of Elena Smarandache in the Care Center. Iulia is a third-year microbiology student at the University of Florida with a minor in Sociology, on the Pre-Med track, hoping to become a physician. Julia was born in Romania where most of her family still lives. She moved to Naples when she was nine to have more opportunities for education and her future.

Iulia thanks those who made her scholarship possible, “The road to becoming one is not an easy one, so thank you so much for taking part in helping me along with other students in pursuing their dreams. With this money, I will be able to pay for the many necessities of my senior year of undergrad, as well as any labs and fees that I will have to complete. My mother

and I are very grateful, as she has had to support me during college, and this will aid both of us.

“One of my greatest interests is working with children, and in the future, I hope to become a pediatrician. Through my internship with the GNV Bridge Literacy Program, I have been able to help underprivileged students reach their literacy potential.”

SCHOLARSHIPS



Woodelene Pierre

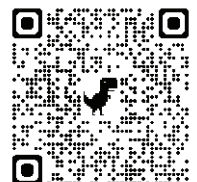
Woodelene Pierre, daughter of Ann Pierre, Culinary Services, thanks all those who made her “Bentley Wings” Competitive Scholarship possible. Elene is the youngest of four children. Her parents moved to Immokalee from Haiti to create a better life for their family. As the youngest, she was born in the US. Her father passed away ten years ago, leaving her mother to raise her children as a single parent. Since her family is from Haiti, Elene is fluent in English and Creole and speaks some French.

She says, “Your help with my education has put me on a path that will lead me to academic success. I began to get discouraged because I thought, that although I worked hard in school, I did not receive any scholarships. But you took a chance on me and granted me a scholarship. Your actions have reminded me to continue to have hope and my efforts will be rewarded. You have given me the motivation that I need to excel in school in these upcoming years. I will forever be grateful for what you have done. I may not know you on a personal level but I wanted to say that I will make you proud. Thank you and God bless you.”

Woodelene is a freshman at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her goal is to be a neonatal nurse to be able to restore the health of ill babies. She also hopes to extend the limited medical care provided in her home town including the care of newborns.

Woodelene believes that her medical training will provide her the tools to better understand very young patients who cannot communicate their symptoms — critical skills for any neonatal nurse. Plus, she cites trust, patience, compassion, kindness, and honesty as essential to success in the medical field.

To see the stories of other scholars, point your phone’s camera on the QR code and tap the banner that appears.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Marckev Fleury

Marckev is the son of Evelyne Fleury, a Haitian immigrant, who currently works in Assisted Living.

"I am currently attending Hillsborough Community College for my AA before transferring to the University of South Florida to major in cybersecurity. I'm working hard to achieve this goal because I want to be an example for my community to show all young men that there are more ways to be successful in life

than just sports. Your willingness to learn and your ability to apply this information can make you just as successful as the ability to dunk a basketball or throw a football and I feel like more light needs to be spread on this where I am from."

Marckev says, "I give credit to my mother who taught me many lessons that helped me become successful later in life. My mother showed me what the power of focus and sheer willpower can do for you. I am excited about pursuing a cybersecurity degree because I have a passion for technology I am motivated by the constantly changing nature of cybersecurity, the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, and the wide range of career paths in the field. This scholarship this means a lot to me as someone who has struggled with a sense of direction and dealing with the uncertainty of covering my college expenses. With this scholarship, I have an added peace of mind that will ultimately let me focus on what is most important to me which is pursuing my dream. I hope that one day I can give back to those who helped me but also to those in my community who may struggle with the same things I struggled with growing up. I promise to use this opportunity to its fullest and work hard to make you proud."

J'Noel Enock

J'Noel is the daughter of Hilermise Hilaire who works in the Care Center. She and her brother Serge both received "Wings" Scholarships. J'Noel is an honors student at the University of Alabama, pursuing a dual degree in Economics and Philosophy, with a minor in Sociology.



"My long-term aspirations involve pursuing a career in law, and I dream of attending law school to become an attorney. Your scholarship brings me one step closer to achieving this goal and, as a first-generation student, it carries particular significance to this goal. It serves as a testament to the power of education to transform lives and open doors to opportunities that might otherwise remain closed."

In her letter of appreciation, J'Noel noted, "The path to achieving my academic and career aspirations seemed steep and unattainable, marked by financial barriers that loomed large. However, your support has illuminated this path and given me the hope and courage to continue. This scholarship is not just a financial boost; it is an affirmation of my potential, a recognition of my dedication, and an endorsement of my dreams... It has reminded me that there are individuals like you, who believe in the power of education to transform lives. Your belief in me is a powerful motivator, inspiring me to excel academically and contribute meaningfully to my community and the world at large. I want to assure you that your investment in my education will not go in vain. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity, not only for myself but also for those who have supported me along the way. I am dedicated to giving back to my community and to society as a whole, just as you have done through your generous act of philanthropy."

Making a Difference - PROGRAMS



The Belles and Beaus Holiday concert



Bow Strome reads "A visit from St. Nicholas" at the Belles and Beaus Holiday concert

Bentley Village Foundation's programs fulfill the part of our mission "dedicated to enhancing the cultural, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being of our community."

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **Music Therapy at ALR and BCC** - the Foundation provides bi-weekly music therapy at the BCC and ALR. Music therapy greatly improves the mood and increases socialization with other residents and caregivers.
- **Mindfulness at ALR and Independent Living** - Mindfulness helps seniors cope with the stress and anxiety in our lives: illness of ourselves or loved ones, death of a spouse or a friend. In 2023, the Foundation sponsored Mindfulness programs for Independent Living and Assisted Living.
- **Belles & Beaus** - the Vi at Bentley Village choral group which performs for residents twice a year.
- **Bentley Musicians** - Residents of Vi at Bentley Village who perform at various times during the year.
- **Ukulele lessons** for residents who perform at events such as the HUGS (Happy Ukulele Group of Naples) concert.
- **Forum support** - The Forum, established over 25 years ago provides speakers on intellectual and cultural value to Vi at Bentley Village residents. Speakers encourage thoughtful engagement on cultural, scientific, governmental, and philosophical topics of concern the the residents.

PROGRAMS

- **Music programs for Independent Living** - The Foundation sponsored over 12 music programs throughout 2023, several of them including sing-alongs.

- **Volunteer Group Support** - In 2023 we implemented our "Seniors Helping Seniors" Program where volunteers from Bentley Village assist in serving lunch to the members of the Baker Senior Center Naples.

- **Singles Community Support** - It's easier for couples to socialize within the community. Singles sometimes feel isolated. The singles community helps singles meet each other and holds two events a year.

- **FGCU Academy support** - We co-sponsor Florida Gulf Coast University educational programs with Lifestyles.

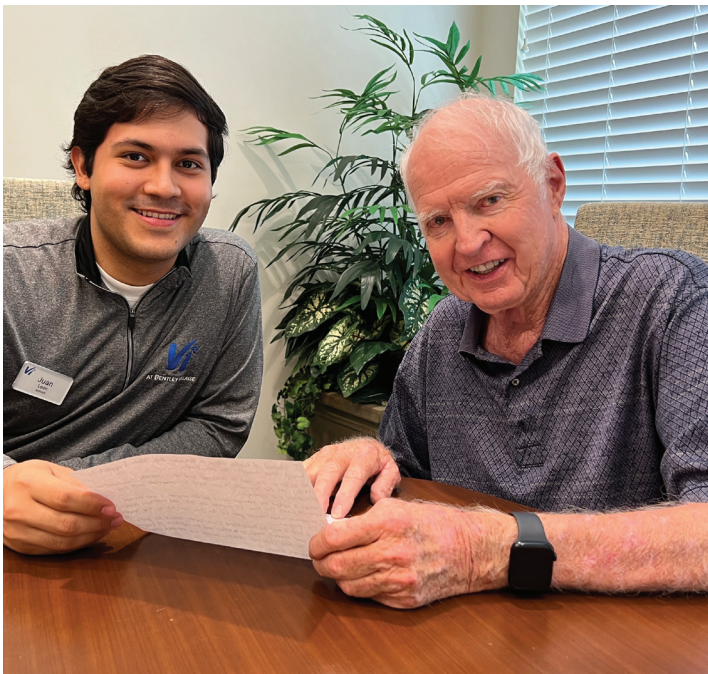
We stress music in many of our programs because of the positive changes it makes in everyone's life – especially seniors. Music is powerful. Johns Hopkins School of Medicine calls music a total brain workout, reducing blood pressure, anxiety, and even pain. It improves sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory.

We encourage participative music events such as sing-alongs. When people participate in the creation of music such as sing-alongs or playing an instrument, it increases all the benefits of music.

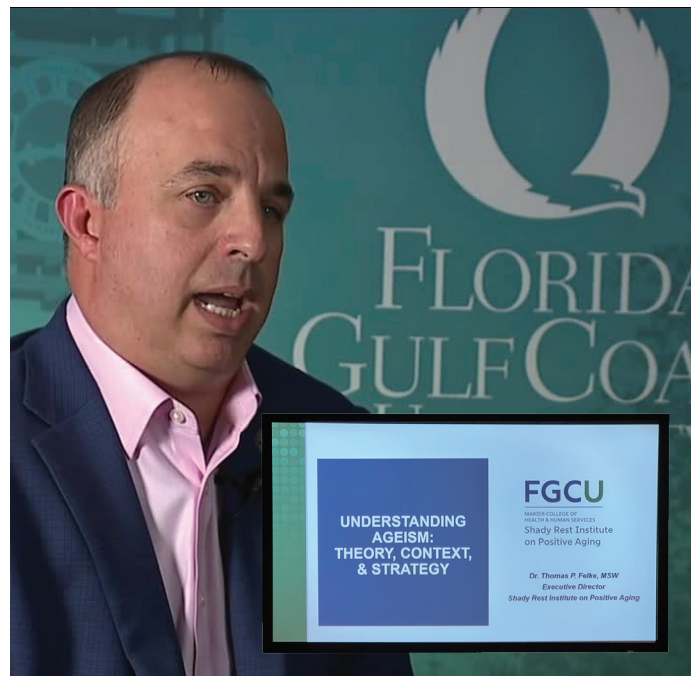


Ira Dash serves Baker Senior Center residents as part of Seniors Helping Seniors

Frank Flood helps Juan Leon with ESL (English as Second Language)



FGCU Academy presenter Thomas Felke discusses Ageism



PROGRAMS



*Singing unlocks
pleasant memories in
dementia patients*

Music Therapy

The Foundation sponsors weekly Music Therapy sessions at the Assisted Living (ALR) and the Bentley Care Center (BCC) and is piloting a program for independent Living residents with memory problems.

Music therapy, performed by a qualified music therapist, offers significant support to seniors grappling with memory issues. This unique form of therapy harnesses the power of music to enhance cognitive function and emotional well-being. By engaging in musical activities, seniors can experience improved memory recall, increased social interaction, and enhanced overall mental health. The rhythmic and melodic elements of music have a profound impact on the brain, making it an effective and enjoyable tool for seniors seeking cognitive benefits.

Dr. Oliver Sacks, a renowned neurologist and psychologist at Columbia University Medical Center, best known for his 1973 book *Awakenings*, says, "The power of music is very remarkable...One sees

PROGRAMS



*Maracas
are fun and
build
confidence*



*Drums can reduce anxiety
and increase relaxation*



Music Therapy uses props to get residents moving in rhythm

patients almost unable to talk, who can sing perfectly well... I think that music therapy and music therapists are crucial and indispensable in institutions for elderly people and among neurologically disabled patients."

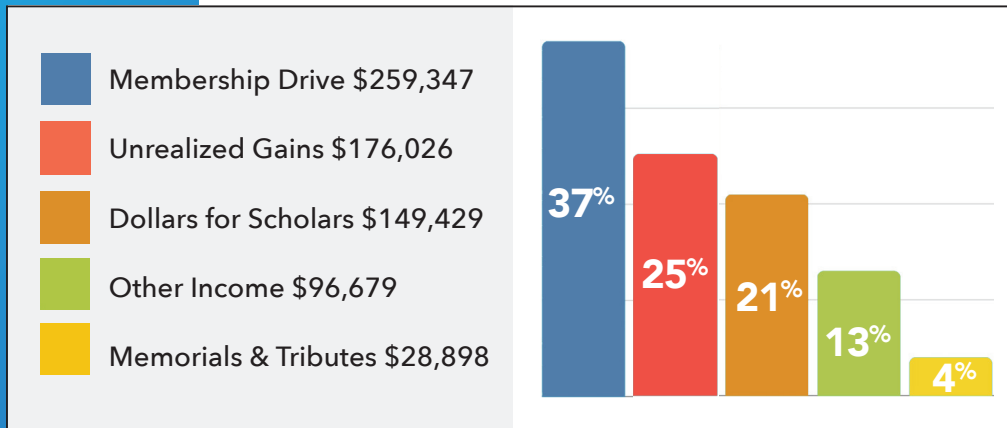
"Music therapy can make the difference between withdrawal and awareness, between isolation and interaction, between chronic pain and comfort..."

"(Music therapy) can make the difference between withdrawal and awareness, between isolation and interaction, between chronic pain and comfort - between demoralization and dignity." - Barbara Crowe, Past President of the National Association for Music Therapy.

Caregivers and workers at BCC and ALR mirror the expert's comments. After a music program, a senior said, "My husband spoke for the first time in months during this concert. He even sang some of the words."

How You Help Us Support Our Mission

How We Raise Our Money



\$710,379 (of which \$176,026 was unrealized gains from investments). Net of unrealized gains, the total amount raised was \$534,353.

You support the Foundation through our Annual Membership Drive, the Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament and Spring Fundraising Events for our Foundation Programs. You also

support the Foundation through Memorial and Tribute donations. You can contribute by check, credit card or use the Foundation website on Touchtown or www.bentleyvillagefoundation.org to contribute.

When you give a donation to the Foundation, you can designate your contribution to support the Scholarship Fund or the Program Fund. When you specify your gift for the Scholarship Fund it is restricted to that fund. The Program Fund supports Music Therapy, FGCU sponsorship, the Literacy Council, our Seniors-helping-Senior program, Citizenship Awards, Memory and Mindfulness, and all of our other services and music programs.

The 2023 Annual Membership Drive raised over \$259,347. Of that, \$169,526 was designated for the Scholarship Fund and \$89,821 for the Program Fund.

The 2023 Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament grossed a record of over \$149,429 in support of the Scholarship Fund.

Memorials and Tributes are an important part of the way you help us support our mission. Memorials are contributions to remember and honor residents, family members, friends, or employees who have passed away. Tributes are donations that show appreciation or gratitude for kindness or services offered by another. Some residents, provide services to other residents and generously suggest a Tribute Donation in lieu of personal compensation. The total raised for Memorials and Tributes was \$28,898.

Other Income includes dividends, interest, realized gain from investments as well as general donations. The total other income raised is \$96,679.

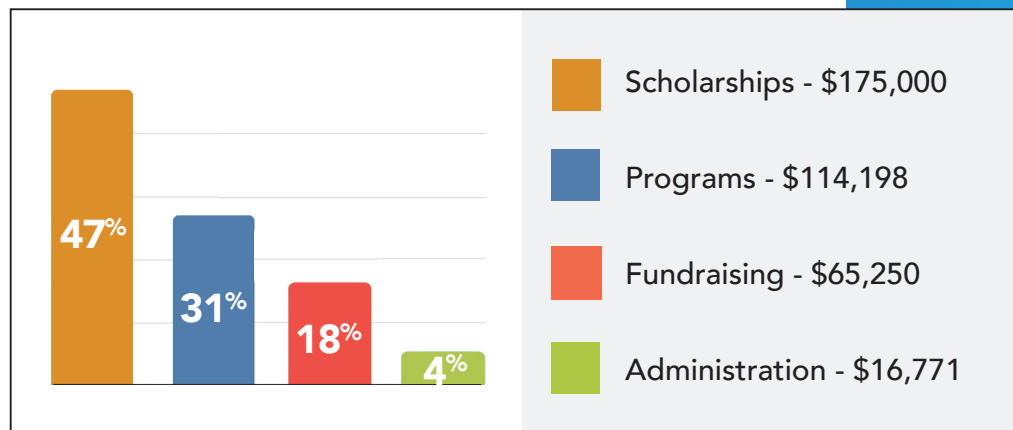
“Bentley Village Foundation is rated Four Star by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator assists millions of donors in their charitable decision-making. These ratings reflect a charity’s programs, stability, efficiency, and sustainability.”

How We Support Our Mission

Where Your Money Goes

Scholarship Fund

The Foundation has awarded 99 life-changing scholarships totaling over \$650,000 over the past six years, including 14 new scholarships in 2023. Many recipients would not be able to attend college without these scholarships. Many of our scholars are the first in their families to attend higher education.



Program Fund

Foundation programs for Independent Living, Assisted Living and the Bentley Care Center dramatically increased in 2023 after Covid. Music Therapy for seniors, including those with cognitive disorders that can enhance speech skills and promote personal and social communication. The Literacy Council, with programs such as English as a Second Language (ESL), benefits many of Vi at Bentley Village employees.

Music, Memory, and Mindfulness programs to enhance the cultural and emotional well-being of Bentley Village and the surrounding community. FGCU's lecture series, co-sponsored with Vi at Bentley Village Lifestyle, includes six to eight programs each month.

Our "Seniors helping Seniors" program in partnership with the Baker Senior Center Naples' includes music programs and "Lunch & More" where Bentley volunteers serve the noon meal enriching the lives of seniors in Southwest Florida.

Expenses

Administration expenses of \$16,771 include accounting, database management, printing, legal and insurance. Fundraising expenses include the Annual Membership Drive, Dollars for Scholars, DonorPerfect database and other expenses. Fundraising expenses total \$65,250.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET - ASSETS

Cash	\$303,555
Short-Term Investments	\$452,257
Long-Term Investments - Scholarships	\$825,753*
Long-Term Investments - Program	\$445,634
Accounts Receivable	\$10,015
Fixed Assets	\$82,311
Total	\$2,119,526

BALANCE SHEET - LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$12,484
Scholarship Fund	\$1,113,469
Equity	\$993,573
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$2,119,526

P&L REVENUE

Donations	\$334,559
Investment Activities	\$50,365
Special Events	\$149,429
Unrealized Income	\$176,026
Total	\$710,379

P&L EXPENSES

Program	\$289,198
Fundraisers	\$65,250
M&G	\$16,771
Total	\$371,220

* Footnote to Financial Statements: An estimate of future scholarship obligations amounts to \$ 950,000

Thank You

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Lawrence & Sally Winston
Barbara Winton (deceased)
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Stacy & Michael Wolinsky
Mary Wollaston
Leah Yacavone
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Organization Donors

Amazon Smile Foundation
Anthony's Inc.
Down To Earth Landscape & Irrigation
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Gulfcoast Philanthropic Solutions
Gulfshore Travel
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Lighting First
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Preferred Travel of Naples
Rockwell Foundation (Aiken)
Silver Threads *Senior Relocation Specialists, LLC*
Vi Sales

Volunteering - Making a Difference



This could be the perfect fit!

Join Bentley Village Foundation and make a meaningful impact! As a volunteer, you'll find purpose, support causes you believe in, and enhance the life of the Vi at Bentley Village Community.

Discover the rewards of volunteering - a chance to meet new people, to use your skills, and to engage more deeply with the community. You have the flexibility to contribute as much or as little time as you prefer.

Explore diverse volunteer roles such as:

- Event greeter
- Donor solicitor
- Article interviewer
- Team collaborator for material organization or envelope stuffing
- Sign/poster manager
- Committee member for Scholarships, Programs, Finance or Development committee
- Article writer for Sequent, newsletters, or website
- Proofreader
- Photographer or Photoshop enthusiast

Your involvement matters, and Bentley Village Foundation welcomes your valuable contributions!

AN IMPORTANT POSITION THAT NEEDS TO BE FILLED:

- **Corporate Foundation Secretary** – As a board member, manages official Board and Executive Committee communication, documentation and governmental compliance.

Contact Bill Welbourn 732-615-8697, bmw4748@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions.