



President's Message

“Amazed” is the word that comes to mind when I think about what Staying Connected accomplishes. During the week of hurricane Florence, for example, and despite the confusion about evacuation, we were able to continue to provide services.

Consider these amazing facts:

- ✓ 370 Volunteers were responsible for providing over 750 services during the past month.
- ✓ Currently 509 Sun City residents rely on our Volunteers to extend a helping hand to them.
- ✓ The Resource Hub continues to answer phones, questions and visitors to help keep our operations on track.
- ✓ Our generous donors understand the financial needs of a non-profit with the breadth and scope of Staying Connected.

I am truly amazed by all of you who go the extra mile to achieve our mission.

With sincere thanks,
Holly Field

Volunteers Are Our Best Recruiters

As demands for member services increase, we are always in need of new volunteers.

Staying Connected continues to recruit volunteers through a wide variety of efforts, including speaking engagements, newspaper articles, club fairs and informational brochures. Wherever there may be an opportunity to

promote the good works of Staying Connected, efforts are made to provide the information.

What cannot be emphasized enough is that our best source for recruiting new volunteers is, yes, YOU! Your enthusiasm for Staying Connected, your experiences in providing services, your pleasure in meeting members and helping make their lives better, is simply CONTAGIOUS. Your friends and neighbors hear you, admire what you do, and hopefully may want to learn more. Your volunteering piques their curiosity.

So, if your friends or neighbors express curiosity or interest, encourage them to put in a volunteer application so they can attend an Orientation and learn more about us. Perhaps you would like to come with them. As you know, there are no obligations, just an opportunity to learn and ask questions. And who knows, your friend or neighbor may become our next terrific volunteer!

Speak to your Neighborhood Rep or Club President and arrange for a Staying Connected speaker at their next meeting. This is a good way to multiply your recruiting efforts and spread your enthusiasm to others.

Recent Volunteer Comments

We often hear from our Members about their appreciation and gratitude for all our volunteers, and the “above and beyond” services they receive. What about our volunteers? Why do they give so much of their time and energy? Below are some of their experiences.

This volunteer was a volunteer, then a member, now a volunteer again. She recalls, “I had a transport to Savannah for a member’s eye surgery. When I picked him up, he was in a pressed shirt and khaki pants with pressed pleats.

He ran ahead of me to be a gentleman and opened the car door for me. On the way home his eyes were bandaged, and I said 'speed bump' many times so he would not be startled. The next day I called to see if he was OK as he now lives alone. He sent me a lovely thank you card."



"Home Maintenance is a great experience. I put light bulbs in the ceiling and a new bulb in the oven for a woman living alone. I bought them at Home Depot as I was going there anyway. She sent me a thank you note to my home. Most of the jobs are not that hard. I just love to help the folks out and see them smile."

"This volunteer 'job' works both ways, the Members get the transportation they need to get to their appointments and the ear of someone to talk to if they choose, and I get a lot of positive satisfaction of meeting and assisting some pretty awesome people. As many of our Members are dealing with all sorts of maladies, I am impressed at how positive they are."

We have volunteer mentors who stay in touch with our Members and ensure that they are utilizing the services that they need. One mentor wrote: "What a rewarding experience."

All our Members truly rely on our volunteers to get through their challenges. So many of them contributed in a volunteer capacity and now are the beneficiary of volunteer services. It proves that, if you give love away it comes right back to you."

Training Schedule for Fall 2018

Orientation

10/04/18 - 1:00 - Broad River Room, Pinckney Hall
 11/01/18 - 10:00 - Riverview Room, Riverbend
 12/06/18 - 1:00 - Chechessee River Room, Pinckney Hall

Direct Service

9/20/18 Bayside Room, Lakehouse
 9:30 - Transportation
 11:00 - Home Visit

10/18/18 Coosaw Room, Hidden Cypress
 1:00 - Transportation
 2:30 - Home Visit

11/15/18 Bayside Room, Lakehouse
 9:30 - Transportation
 11:00 - Home Visit

12/20/18 Coosaw Room, Hidden Cypress
 1:00 - Transportation
 2:30 - Home Visit



Operations

During the eight months ended August 31 our volunteers completed 1,900 transportation assignments, taking our members to doctor appointments and grocery shopping; completed over 700 home visits and respite care assignments; and provided some 170 home maintenance repair visits. Volunteers at our Resource Hub spent over 3,000 hours assisting Sun City residents providing them with various information.

In total, our volunteers spent 12,250 hours and drove 46,300 miles helping our 500 plus members.

Staying Connected Retention Coordinator

Staying Connected has initiated a new Coordinator of Retention. But, you say, whatever does that person do? Well, the main goal for this position is communication to address various needs of volunteers to enhance and encourage a steady assignment satisfaction. We all know that volunteers are the organization's primary asset. And, Staying Connected is dedicated to keeping volunteers.

How can you, as a volunteer, help? We all understand the many reasons why people get busy, have medical issues, travel, etc. You can help by communicating those situations. Shari Mohr has been selected to be the Retention Coordinator. Any reasons you might have that you are unable to take assignments for a period of time should be sent to Shari at Mohr.shari@gmail.com. She will then place

that information in our database and coordinate with you and various staff to assist you with any issues. If you are a part timer, we need to know the dates that you are, in fact, available to take assignments. In the alternative, if you are unable to continue as a volunteer, please also advise Shari so that we can place you in an Inactive status and stop sending emails to you.

We need you, we want to keep you and want you to be happy, so let's communicate more!!!!

The Mentoring Project "The Connection Crew"

What started as a "one woman show" in 2015, has grown exponentially. Initially, mentoring was a concept developed by one of our Board members as a way to connect with our members. It was a way to determine continued qualification of services; add possible services in response to member's evolving needs or just a way to reach out with a friendly call. More than 50 members were contacted monthly by the Member Coordinator. Realizing that if this project was going to grow and continue, more volunteers were needed to have more in-depth contact with our members.

Lo and behold, volunteers joined the "mission" and became a core group for the past two years. We have continued to grow and evolve, and we are now proud to say that we have grown to 14 strong. There are several volunteers currently who are considering joining our wonderful group in the Fall.

Some of you could be in the Fall group. Like they say in the Marines, "we are looking for a few good men and women".



The benefits we volunteers reap from this project, far outweigh what our members reap. I have to say though, many of us have become "phone-pals" and our members look forward to our contacts.

Please consider joining this incredible group.

Recent Comments From Members

"Thank you for making our lives easier and for being so caring."

"Thank you for your time, caring, thoughtfulness and most of all for being a needed friend."

"You guys are great! An outstanding organization! I thank and value all of you."

"Staying Connected has been a most vital part of our community for which I and many others are grateful! I thank you all for your dedication, kindness and helpfulness and patience."

"When I say my prayers I always remember how much I appreciate your help and I always say, 'Thank You God'."

"You could not improve! The service is wonderful as are the people."

"I don't know what I would do without staying connected."

Thank You

Staying Connected is very grateful having received \$ 32,000.00 in donations during the eight months ended August 31 from 49 residents, 3 family members of residents, 9 Sun City clubs, 5 neighborhoods and 13 corporate donors. We appreciate all donations, large or small. Thank you.



For a complete list of our Donors, you are invited to go to the Donor pages of our website,

StayingConnectedSCHH.org. These donations help cover our ongoing expenses and allows our membership fees to remain low and affordable. Unfortunately, currently, we are behind our budgeted expectations.

Second Half 2018 Fund Raising Events



NHC Bluffton Healthcare has earned Gold Sponsor recognition by funding Staying Connected's File of Life project for 2018.



The September **Hilton Head Lexus** sales event is going on currently. For every auto purchased at Hilton Head Lexus, by a Sun City resident in September, they are contributing \$100.00 to Staying Connected. Still time for you to purchase

a great car with exceptional service and benefit Staying Connected.

The Women's 9 Hole Golf Club annual charity event for the benefit of Staying Connected was held September 17. "Party with a Purpose" was a great time for all attendees. A nice break after the stress of waiting for hurricane Florence to make up her mind. Not only did they have fun, enjoy music, beverages and hors d'oeuvres; attendees went home with raffle prizes, gift cards, tickets and tee times at area golf courses. All while helping Staying Connected.



The next big event is the 17th Annual 2018 Sun City Car Show presented by **The Sun City Car Club** on October 27, 2018. This annual event recognizes autos from the all over the

low country with cherished awards to owners of 14 classes of old and new cars. This sponsored event is for the benefit of Staying Connected. In prior years it has resulted in the Car Club earning Gold Sponsor recognition. I'm sure this year's event will follow in that tradition. I urge all of you to attend. It is free for SCHH residents.

SMILE AMAZON BENEFITS STAYING CONNECTED

Members, volunteers and their families can benefit Staying Connected by entering "smile.amazon.com" after signing in to their Amazon account. Select Staying Connected in Bluffton SC as the recipient under the Smile program. It adds no money to the purchase, but

Amazon donates 0.5% of the sale to Staying Connected. This helps with our expenses. We have already received some money from Amazon but could increase it significantly if more people would designate Staying Connected under the Smile program.



Lands End Business

If you want to order clothing with the Staying Connected logo there is a link on our Staying Connected website volunteer page "Shop Staying Connected". Click on it and you will be ordering direct from Land's End Business. They run frequent sales, have proven, quality products and will take returns. We have no restrictions on what volunteers order. The entire catalog has been approved.



Volunteers bring visibility and exposure to Staying Connected as they wait with members for services, wearing their Staying Connected apparel.

HELP WANTED

Do you have Marketing or Sales Management experience?

Would you like to make a major contribution to Staying Connected's continued success? We need a Marketing Director. If you would like to consider this opportunity, please contact Bob Hooper at rhooperjr@hargray.com or (843) 705-5998. Bob will be glad to answer your questions and provide you with a job description and additional information.