





Dear Friends,

America is growing older at an unprecedented rate. Today, there are more than 35 million Americans age 65 and older, and that number is expected to rise to nearly 55 million by the year 2020—a 65% increase. Most importantly however, is the fact that older adults are overwhelmingly choosing to stay in their own homes and communities as they age.

This past year, **At Home In Darien** surveyed Darien seniors and confirmed national survey results to reveal that 89 percent want to stay in their own homes as long as possible. Fortunately, Darien is at the forefront of this aging in place movement as we celebrate our 5th anniversary as a non-profit organization that provides services to seniors.

This annual report highlights how we strive to keep Darien seniors connected to the community. The services we provide, at no charge, not only assist seniors to remain living in their own homes as long as possible, but also allow them to age gracefully in our wonderful town.

Your support has allowed us to provide transportation, assistance, and information to seniors. Just as Darien seniors depend on us, we depend on you, our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, to help us continue to grow with the needs of our seniors.

Thank you!

Anne Rodriguez McGuire

President of the Board of

Directors of At Home In Darien





Gina Z. Blum

Executive Director of
At Home In Darien

OUT mission:

Helping Darien seniors

live independently,

comfortably and with

dignity in their

own homes and the

community as long

as possible.



I am a volunteer for **At Home In Darien** and I shop for an elderly woman in town. It is incredibly rewarding for me to feel that I am making a difference in an older person's life.

- Susan B.

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OUR 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



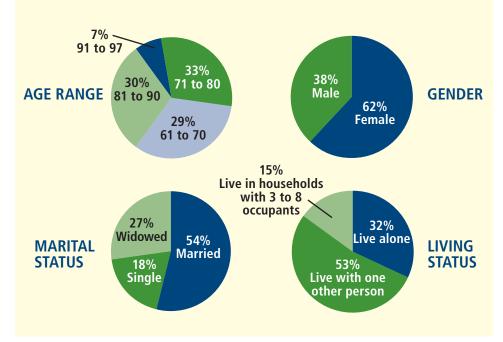
MEMBERSHIP CARDS

In October 2015 **At Home In Darien** announced a NEW membership card program and provided all Darien seniors with

a FREE membership card. 3,436 Darien residents, 60 years of age or older - who are automatically a member of **At Home In Darien** - received a personalized membership card by mail. The card provides access to discounts and promotions at local businesses and shops in town, priority sign in for special events hosted by **At Home In Darien**, and **At Home In Darien** contact information at one's fingertips. New promotions are regularly added and are advertised on our website and in our Monthly Calendar of Events.

SENIOR SURVEY

In April 2015 we mailed a survey to Darien seniors and the 297 Darien seniors who responded provided candid feedback, important information, and more than 325 comments! We learned about the senior services they desire, their future plans, how they want to get information, what they think of our services, and their involvement in town.



MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



In response to our April 2015 senior survey we learned that while 26% of respondents want to receive our Monthly Calendar of Events on-line, 65% want to receive it by regular postal service. The June Calendar of Events was the first issue mailed by post to all of those respondents who requested it. We continue to mail (and email) this central source of information regarding opportunities, events

and news consolidated from many organizations each month, with our last 2015 issue reaching 195 by mail and 946 by email.

OUR NEW WHEELS

At Home In Darien is driving a new Chrysler 300, four-door, all-wheel drive sedan thanks to the **Darien Foundation for Technology & Community** and their charitable donors who provided funding for this beautiful new vehicle. The new car replaces an aging sedan and allows Darien residents to travel in style, in a safe, comfortable, fuel efficient vehicle.



VIDEO

This past summer we created a video featuring many of the Darien seniors and loved ones who are highlighted in this Annual Report.

The video allows us to tell our story, and the stories of just a few of the seniors we help, in this ever growing media centered age. We invite you to watch our video which can be found at the bottom of our website homepage.

www.AtHomeInDarien.org



At Home In Darien — I am so happy that it has come into being. I have benefitted by volunteers...who come and do some of the things for me that I am not able to do myself. We are so fortunate to live in Darien where such a wonderful institution as this is available...and I'm very glad to be living here.



– Betty L.

HOME SAFETY EVALUATIONS



This year **At Home In Darien** launched a program with **Family & Children's Agency** to offer free in-home Fall Safety Prevention Evaluations to Darien seniors. This valuable professional assessment of the home is critical to living safely at home. It opens an essential discussion of potential hazards in the home and how a fall can be prevented. Ten individuals took advantage of the program in 2015 and we encourage more to do so in the future!

SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

- **3,130 door-to-door rides,** including those for **103** first-time riders!
- 1,707 hands on volunteer hours a 59% increase over 2014.
- **1,182 calls** for advice and assistance.
- **251 referrals** made to vetted service providers.





At Home In Darien provides assistance from yardwork volunteers to referrals for home modifications.









At Home In Darien is always there when you need them, you just have to pick up the phone, and ask, and they will answer you with any kind of help you need. - Kathleen T.











At Home In Darien collaborates with many local organizations to sponsor social, educational, and wellness events and also distributes a monthly calendar of events for seniors. The photos above are from the At Home In Darien Annual Luncheon which is our signature event where seniors enjoy a complimentary lunch and presentation. Our guest speaker was Dr. Katherine Takayasu, Darienite and board certified Integrative Medicine physician, who gave an informative and engaging presentation entitled "An Integrative Approach to Stress Management". First Selectman Jayme Stevenson proclaimed the day as "At Home In Darien Day" and recognized all that At Home In Darien does to keep seniors engaged and connected to the community.



At Home In Darien has helped to make me feel very independent because I don't have to rely on family or friends. — Irene K.

A LOOK AT OUR FINANCES

At Home In Darien's financial condition remains healthy and stable. The majority of our funding comes from private donations from members of the Darien community. We thoughtfully and responsibly spend funds to provide free services and assistance to benefit Darien seniors so that they can continue living independently at home and be socially engaged in our community.

\$217,225

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2015 EXPENSES

Programs

	\$184,062	Contributions
\$	\$4,672	Transportation Contributions
	\$9,917	Grant Income
	\$2,118	Business Contributions
Man	\$14,200	In-kind Contributions
	\$2,256	Interest Income

Total

\$160,869 - 73.2%

Management & General
\$33,395 - 15%

Fundraising
\$24,968 - 11.7%

Total **\$219,232**

AT HOME IN DARIENIS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

Connecticut has the tenth oldest population in the U.S. with **679,000** over the age of **60**.

Darien has **3,436 persons over 60** ... **16%** of the town population which is higher than the national average of 13%. This is expected to reach **20%** by the next decade.

The population group **85+ will double** by 2030.

89% of Darien residents want to remain in their home as they age.

It is significantly **less expensive** for one to be cared for in their own home, as compared to a care facility.



OUR KEY SERVICES

FREE OF CHARGE, WHICH ASSIST SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE:

Professional drivers provide door to door transportation by sedan or handicap accessible minivan, within Darien, Stamford, Norwalk and New Canaan weekdays between 9am and 4pm.

Trustworthy volunteers:

- Assist with rides to appointments outside of our service area or hours.
- Provide ongoing companionship and support with in-home visits.
- Grocery shop or run errands for homebound seniors.
- Help take care of small tasks in a senior's home.
- Clear snow off public sidewalks and rake leaves from a senior's lawn.

Advice and resources to seniors and their families by connecting them to assistance in the community.

Referrals to vetted health and home care professionals, and property and home maintenance services giving seniors reliable references and peace of mind.

The Out & About newsletter mailed three times a year to every mailbox in Darien, full of valuable information of interest to seniors and their loved ones.

A Monthly Calendar of Events, sharing information from many organizations regarding community opportunities, events and news, sent each month via email or regular mail.

Social, educational, wellness programs in collaboration with other local organizations.

Membership cards entitling seniors to discounts at numerous local businesses.

OUR VOLUNTEERS 2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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I drive for **At Home In Darien** – I love what I do. We take excellent care of seniors, we make them feel safe and comfortable. – **Rick T.**e as ker and i King King man gman n

66

It was so wonderful to have At **Home In Darien** available to help my family after my Dad had his stroke. He ended up in a wheelchair and the only transportation that we could get for him was through At Home In Darien. It was wonderful, it was such a peace of mind for my mother to be able to schedule the appointments through At Home In **Darien** for him to take the wheelchair van to doctor appointments, to physical therapy, and what I loved the most was just taking him out to lunch or to the beach and to see how happy it made him to not have to be at home and to be able to get out into the community. - Anne M.

Volunteer with us! The rewards are amazing – strengthen our community, give back, and make a difference!

2015 STAFF

OUR STAFF
Gina Z. Blum,
Executive Director
Sandi Kornblum,
Office Coordinator
Valerie Freund,
Transportation Assistant



OUR DRIVERS Satya Akula Vincent Corsano Rick Tymon Lillie Williams



TIMELIN<u>E</u>

2006

2008



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN'S WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION forms an in-house Aging in Place committee.

THE HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL under the Community Fund of Darien, forms an Aging in Place Initiative and an Advisory Board.

> Research, focus groups, assessment and planning formally BEGIN.



AGING IN PLACE in Darien organization is : announced.

> **OUT & ABOUT NEWSLETTER** is coordinated and mailed twice per year.

REFERRAL SERVICE to local programs and vetted service providers established.

TOWN-WIDE SENIOR SURVEY conducted.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON in collaboration with First Congregational Church Women's Association (and in recent years with the Darien Community Association) debuts.

HALF PRICE TAXI VOUCHER PROGRAM developed in partnership with Darien Social Services.



Aging in Place merges with Gallivant and creates AGING IN PLACE+GALLIVANT, an independent non-profit organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS formed.

FUNDRAISING per an Annual Appeal initiated.

Part-time EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR hired.

First ANNUAL MEETING held.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION added.

FRIENDLY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM launched with visitors, shoppers, helpers and drivers.



NAME CHANGED to At Home In Darien.

DISPATCHING OF TRANSPORTATION taken in-house.

THIRD ANNUAL ISSUE added to **Out & About** newsletter.



COLLABORATION WITH DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL for Blue Wave senior cheering section and senior attendance at theater events.

Part-time TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT hired.

FOURTH PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL DRIVER hired allowing further expansion of transportation services.

OFFICE RELOCATED to the Mather Center at Town Hall.

Gallivant minibus retired and replaced with a NEW HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE MINIVAN.



DARIEN SOCIAL SERVICES

(now Human Services) creates

the first **Out & About** newsletter for Darien seniors sponsored by The Darien United Way (now the Community Fund of Darien) and the Commission on Aging.

OUT AND ABOUT



Community Fund of Darien AGING IN PLACE

PILOT PROGRAM funded by The Community Fund.

Part time COORDINATOR hired.

OFFICE ESTABLISHED.

SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS designed for seniors and those who care about 2009 them are initiated, in collaboration with other Darien organizations.

> Discussions initiated for a GALLIVANT MERGER.

OFFICE MOVES TO SENIOR **CENTER** at Edgerton Street.

VOLUNTEER LEAF RAKER and public sidewalk SNOW SHOVELER programs added.

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS emailed.

AD CAMPAIGN initiated to spread the word. 2012

Part-time OFFICE COORDINATOR hired.

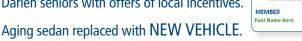
THIRD PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL DRIVER hired allowing expansion of transportation services.





TOWN-WIDE SENIOR SURVEY conducted.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS distributed to all Darien seniors with offers of local incentives.



NEW VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM acquired through a grant from The Darien Foundation for Technology & Community.

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO created.

In Home FALL SAFETY PREVENTION ASSESSMENTS offered.

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS mailed in addition to email.



AT HOME IN DARIEN

2015

OUR DONORS

We thank all of our donors for supporting us and making us an impactful organization that provides vital services to Darien seniors, their neighbors, friends and loved ones.

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The majority of our funding comes from members of the Darien community. We count on your donations to continue to serve Darien's seniors. Please send a generous gift to At Home In Darien, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820. Contact us for information about making a donation of securities. At Home In **Darien** is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are tax-deductible.



I was in recovery from open heart surgery so I was really in need of assistance and there was **At Home In Darien**. I went through numerous doctor's appointments, and therapy appointments, and exams and at every turn I would pick up the phone and call **At Home In Darien** and say "Can you help me out on this one?" and there was never a "No", there was always a "Yes we can!" Gratitude is the word for **At Home In Darien**. We are fortunate in this community to have such a care giving service. - Ray S.