

Dear Friends –

Anniversaries are a celebration—even for nonprofit organizations.

This year is an exciting one for us as **At Home In Darien** celebrates a decade of providing service to Darien seniors. **At Home In Darien** has made a significant impact in the lives of Darien seniors, helping them to live independently and keeping them connected to the community. We are proud to have become a trusted organization and an important resource for the community.

Our 10th anniversary gives us the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and progress we have made, to honor and thank all those that have made it possible, and to build awareness of our

organization. It is my hope that the excitement surrounding this milestone will continue as our organization grows and moves toward the future.

As always, we are here to help you! Give us a call at 203.655.2227.

All the best,



Gina Z. Blum
Executive Director of
At Home In Darien

Gina@AtHomeInDarien.org

Like us on Facebook 



2019 Board of Directors

Susan Bhirud, President
Olive Hauser, Vice President
John Hess, Vice President
Tamsin Sickinger, Vice President
Robin Woods, Vice President
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Mallory Arents, Ex officio
Beth Paris, Ex officio
Ali Ramsteck, Ex officio

Gina Z. Blum,
Executive Director

At Home In Darien is supported by hundreds of people. Are you one of our generous donors? We depend on your charitable contributions to serve Darien's senior citizens. We are a private, tax-exempt, non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.

Please send your gift today to:

At Home In Darien
2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820


Did you know you can use your IRA to make a donation and reduce your taxes?

Retirees with certain IRA accounts must begin withdrawals when they reach 70½ years of age or older. These Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are taxed as ordinary income and must be taken to avoid a penalty. Transferring money from your IRA to a qualifying charity (in lieu of taking an RMD) can be a tax-efficient way of meeting this requirement and satisfying your charitable giving objectives. This is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You can find additional information about QCD's and donating to **At Home In Darien** on our website. This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.


Don't forget to remember us in your will or trust!




At Home In Darien
provides the following
free services to all
Darien residents age 60+:

 **Transportation within Darien, Stamford, Norwalk and New Canaan, Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Half-Price Taxi Voucher Program

 **Telephone referral, advice and counsel.**

 **Communication and Programs — *Out & About* newsletter.**


Monthly calendar of events.

Monthly blog.

Membership Cards that provide discounts with local businesses.

Home safety evaluations.

Social and educational programs.

 **Handy Services —**
Volunteers including Friendly Visitors, Shoppers, Helpers, Callers, and Drivers along with seasonal services such as snow shoveling of public sidewalks and leaf raking.

Referrals to discounted vetted property and home maintenance services.

our mission:

“Helping Darien seniors live independently, comfortably and with dignity in their own homes and the community as long as possible”

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AT HOME
IN DARIEN
CONNECTING SENIORS TO COMMUNITY
2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820

You are invited!
Sunday, September 29th
At Weed Beach
from 4-5pm

Please join us
for a special anniversary event
to celebrate our volunteers and
to dedicate park benches in
honor of individuals who have
contributed to our success!

The event is free and open to
the public.

Please RSVP to 203.655.2227
so we have adequate
refreshments.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

At **Home** In Darien celebrated its 10th Anniversary at the Country Club of Darien on Friday May 10, 2019. Over 130 attendees enjoyed a lovely evening...



Park benches will be installed in Darien parks to recognize our 10th Anniversary Honorees and to commemorate this milestone.

Please join us on Sunday, September 29th at Weed Beech from 4 to 5pm as we dedicate the benches and honor our volunteers.



AT HOME IN DARIEN
HISTORY

Prior to 2009, several groups endeavored to bring the AGING IN PLACE concept to Darien. Aging in place is a term used to describe people living in the residence of their choice as they age for as long as they are able.

With collaboration, research, assessment, and planning, a pilot program funded by The Community Fund of Darien was formed in 2009. The organization, named Aging in Place in Darien, began offering services and helping residents to remain at home in Darien.

Gallivant also served the older adults of Darien providing transportation to Darien seniors. The two organizations merged in 2011 to create Aging in Place+Gallivant, an independent, charitable, nonprofit organization.

In 2013, the Aging in Place+Gallivant Board of Directors renamed the organization At Home In Darien to more clearly communicate its mission of helping Darien seniors live independently, comfortably and with dignity in their own homes.

Over the past 10 years, services have been expanded, and new ones have been added, in order to meet the needs of Darien’s growing senior population.

10th Anniversary Honorees
who have contributed to the success of At Home In Darien



10th Anniversary Honorees: Wyn Lydecker, Diana Kalman, Olive Hauser, Peter Eder, Ann Mandel, Kaye Barker, Annie McGuire, and in memoriam Charlie England and Pete Wright. The family of Pete Wright—Anne Wright, Wendy Wright Marrinan, Sandy Wright, and Steve Wright—are pictured with the honorees.



Charlie England



Pete Wright



10th Anniversary
Committee

Front: Tamsin Sickinger, Annie McGuire, Susan Bhirud, and Annie Burleigh. Back: Gina Blum, John Keating, Alison Wright, Robin Woods, and Peggy Brown.



- 1 Wyn Lydecker, John Lydecker, and Kaye Barker. 2 Nancy Cammann, Ann Mandel, Diana Kalman, and Olive Hauser. 3 Pamela Payne, Jim Metzger, Belinda Metzger, and Bob Woods. 4 Jane Matthews, Kathy Eder, Tom Rusin, Katrina Rusin, Peter Eder, and Mallory Arents. 5 John Keating. 6 Bill Leach, Cate Leach, Gil Alexandre, and Julie Forrester Alexandre. 7 John Hess and Annie McGuire. 8 Pat van den Broek, Albertus van den Broek, and Jim Raymond. 9 Judy Rodriguez. 10 Jess Bauer, State Representative Terrie Wood, Liz Geiger, and Dan Bauer. 11 Peggy Brown, First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, and Jim Brown. 12 Liz Geiger, Carol Reed, Marti Lanese, Donna Christensen, and Debbie Carnes. 13 Peter Harned, Jay Wood, State Representative Terrie Wood, and Amy Harned. 14 Alison Wright, Heather Raymond, Steve Wright, Peter Sosnow, and Sue Okie.



A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

We could not provide the important services that we do without our amazing volunteers who contribute so much time and effort to Darien seniors. We value and appreciate all you do!

Thank You to Our Collaborators and Supporters

We appreciate the organizations, agencies, and individuals that have made our success possible!

BLUE SPONSORS



GREEN SPONSORS

Belinda and James Metzger

YELLOW SPONSORS



Susan and Suresh Bhirud

Peggy and Jim Brown

Amy and Peter Harned



Robin and Richard Woods

FRIENDS

Bankwell | Maplewood Darien | OsteoStrong Darien | Right at Home, Darien

TIMELINE

Prior to 2009 several groups (including the First Congregational Church of Darien's Women's Association, Darien Human Services, and the Human Services Planning Council) endeavored to bring the AGING IN PLACE concept to Darien. All those interested collaborated to research, assess, and plan, which culminated in a pilot program funded by The Community Fund of Darien, which became At Home In Darien.



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.



FRIENDLY VOLUNTEER CALLER PROGRAM launched.

BIRTHDAY CARD PROGRAM for all Darien residents 75+ added.

Monthly BLOG launched.

ON-CALL VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM added.



2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS designed for seniors and those who care about 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.

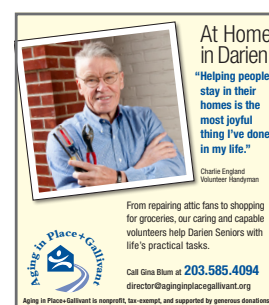
MONTHLY CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS emailed.



AD CAMPAIGN initiated to spread the word.

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.

Aging sedan replaced with NEW VEHICLE.

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO created.

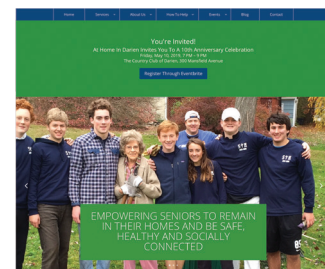
In Home FALL SAFETY PREVENTION ASSESSMENTS offered.

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS mailed in addition to email.



WALKING CLUB AND WALKING MAPS created.

Improved WEBSITE Launched.



STRATEGIC PLAN developed with goals to: Contribute to the well-being of our members; Ensure a stable and growing organization; and Foster a livable community.

HALF PRICE TAXI VOUCHER PROGRAM reinstituted.



FIFTH PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL DRIVER hired.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS information sessions launched.

