

Dear Friends,

This summer I celebrated my 10-year anniversary with **At Home In Darien**. Our Board of Directors recognized the milestone with a lovely gathering of board members past and present, as well as staff, volunteers and supporters at Weed Beach. It's been an honor to be part of this important aging in place movement in the Darien community. I am so proud that we have created something very special and established such necessary services for Darien's senior citizens. Over the past decade we have developed solutions to address the needs associated with helping Darien's older residents to live independently as they age, including transportation, volunteer assistance, and communications. I look forward to the next 10 years and greatly appreciate everyone who has helped to make the organization a success.

It's a privilege, and extremely gratifying, to do this rewarding work. **At Home In Darien** makes a huge difference in people's lives and I am fortunate to regularly hear how much our services mean to older adults and their loved ones. I often get phone calls, cards, and emails expressing appreciation and I wanted to share some of these sentiments with the community. Inside this newsletter you will read some of the recent comments we have received. Over and over you will "hear" grateful appreciation for **At Home In Darien's** meaningful services. Thank you for making this possible!

We don't know what the rest of 2021 will bring, but we do know that we will continue providing key services to meet the needs of Darien's older adults. We will reinforce measures for safety and take precautions to keep our staff and the community as safe as possible while delivering necessary assistance.

As always, we are here to help. 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 

Connect with us on Instagram 

our mission:
"Helping Darien seniors live independently, comfortably and with dignity in their own homes and the community as long as possible"

At Home In Darien celebrates Executive Director's 10th Anniversary



Gina Blum, Executive Director of **At Home In Darien**, center, with Board Presidents of the past decade, Dorothy Baker, Susan Bhurud, Nancy Herling, and Anne McGuire.

2021 Board of Directors

Susan Bhurud, *President*

Amy Harned, *Vice President*

John Hess, *Vice President*

Tamsin Sickinger, *Vice President*

Peter Sosnow, *Vice President*

Alison Wright, *Secretary*

James Metzger, *Treasurer*

John Bartlett

Bob Baylis

Mark Bergen

Monica Billeter

Peter Carnes

William Carney

John Keating

M.S. Koly

Michael Nedder

Robin Woods

Elisabeth Marrocolla,
Ex officio

Beth Paris,
Ex officio

Ali Ramsteck,
Ex officio

Gina Z. Blum,
Executive Director

TAXI ANYONE?

Half Price Taxi Vouchers for Sale

Darien seniors and people with disabilities are able to purchase taxi vouchers at half the value of the voucher for rides whenever and wherever you want to go. Call **At Home In Darien** at 203-655-2227 for more information.

Need help with leaf raking this fall or shoveling snow from your public sidewalk this winter?

**Please call
At Home In Darien
at 203.655.2227
for an application.**



What our senior community is

We always listen to, and regularly survey, the people who use our services

100% of those surveyed would recommend At Home In Darien to a friend.

“At Home In Darien is absolutely excellent for all seniors in Darien. Absolutely a treasure we respect and honor.”



“Driver Jane is a superstar!”

“The phone staff is always polite and helpful.”

“Sometimes I need to make a sudden call. Staff goes out of their way to fit me in.”

“Extremely grateful for the service.”

“Drivers are very friendly and chatty – I like that.”

“Many thanks to At Home In Darien. You have been a tremendous help over the years, but especially in the past year. You offer a great service to the community and to the individual. Thank you for all you do.”



“We are fortunate to have this wonderful, valuable service.”

“We have been appreciative of everything you have done. Your agency has gone above and beyond to provide safe, prompt, and courteous service. Please thank (your volunteer) for his courteous, polite and gentlemanly manner, he was just terrific!”

“After my stroke, At Home In Darien rides were a life saver! It allowed me to do PT at the YMCA, and I am slowly doing better! My Husband and I sent a donation check a while ago! Cause you guys are wonderful!”

“Fortunately, there have been very few times I needed assistance, but always grateful when I did!”



“I just want to say thank you for all your referrals you have provided. Most recently, you provided a referral for a plumber who worked out just great.”



saying about... AT HOME IN DARIEN

and here's what older adults say about **At Home In Darien**

100% of those surveyed say At Home In Darien services help them to remain living independently.



"Perfect!"

"Very friendly and helpful."

"They take care of their cars."

"Absolutely think the drivers are wonderful and friendly."

"It is a blessing for all us 'young-uns' in Darien to have your helpful services available, whether needed right now or later. Many thanks to you all for your creative and meaningful efforts."



"My thanks for the goodies. I look forward to the leaf raking in the fall."

"Thank you for all your help. And for being so pleasant!"

"I think they are wonderful and appreciate all they do."



"Thankful for all you do for our residents and our Darien community. We are so lucky to have you and your services!"

"Five stars for the staff who went out of their way to arrange for me to be driven to Greenwich for a medical visit and driven home. Most grateful!"



Classy looking sedan!

"If I had to describe a perfect person in the driver position, (Jane) is it! In the few times I've needed a ride, it was for challenging health reasons. After riding with her I always felt better for having been in her company!"

"Thank you for having the (taxi) vouchers delivered. (They) will be a Godsend. I am very blessed to have **At Home In Darien have these opportunities."**



"Thank you for the 'Happy Birthday' card! Your service answers so many of our citizens' needs."

"Thank you for the wonderful service you offer. You give me freedom to go. Your volunteer was also a gift. She was so understanding."

"Thank you so much for remembering my birthday. **At Home In Darien is an important organization and you deliver outstanding results to so many. Thank you for all you do."**

"I want to express my thanks for the leaf raking and to the volunteers."





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



Transportation within Darien,
Stamford, Norwalk and New
Canaan, Monday - Thursday
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.



Thanks for your Support!

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

Visit our website www.AtHomeInDarien.org for additional
information or to donate online.

Use your IRA to make a donation and reduce your taxes

Individuals with certain IRA accounts and 401(K)s must begin
withdrawals the year they turn 72 years of age. Required Minimum
Distributions (RMDs) must be made that year and every year thereafter,
and 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 your charitable giving
objectives and is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Consider At Home In Darien as part of your Estate Plan

Planned giving is an effective way to reduce taxes, while benefiting a
vital organization such as **At Home In Darien**. This can be facilitated
in many ways including through a Charitable Trust, a specific bequest,
or a direct gift.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your
attorney or financial advisor for professional assistance.

Please contact our office if you would like to discuss including
At Home In Darien in your plans.

THANK YOU!



Volunteer of the Year 2021

With her unwavering compassion and patience in working with
Darien's senior citizens, Marti Lanese is **At Home In Darien's**
Volunteer of the Year.

Marti has been volunteering with **At Home In Darien** for four years.
She began volunteering as a Friendly Visitor, brightening the days of
those she visited with her big smile and friendliness.

When the pandemic hit, Marti became a Friendly Shopper for seniors
who were unable to leave their homes. Maintaining safety protocols,
she also stepped up as a Friendly Driver, taking seniors to necessary
medical appointments.

One of the seniors who Marti assists commented, "Marti goes out
of her way to help me, and I think she is absolutely wonderful." We
couldn't agree more!

Free In-Home Safety Evaluations



At Home In Darien offers free in-home Fall Safety Prevention
Evaluations to Darien seniors through a partnership with Family &
Children's Agency (FCA). A registered nurse or a specially trained
caregiver will come to your home and discuss potential hazards and
how you can help prevent a fall.

The FCA caregiver can also refer you to other services to ensure you
may remain safe and independent in your own home.

Call **At Home In Darien**, **203.655.2227** for more information and
to schedule your free in-home Fall Safety Prevention evaluation.

Stay Active and Engaged



MEMBER
Your Name Here

203.655.2227
AtHomeInDarien.org
2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820

Your free **At Home In Darien** membership card
makes it very easy to get out and take advantage
of discounts at local restaurants, shops, and services
in town. Whether it's an afternoon shopping, or a
meal out, bring your membership card with you to
receive special promotions. Check out our website
to see a complete list of participating businesses or
call us at **203.655.2227**.

If you are 60 or over and have not received your free membership card, please
contact us to receive it.

**Make sure you know what's going on around town...
subscribe to our monthly calendar of events!**

Stay connected this fall and make sure you know what's being offered
around town...subscribe to our monthly calendar of events!

Call **203.655.2227** to request to receive it by mail or email.

You will also receive our BLOG notifications where we share
important information on various subjects of interest.

