

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## EMERGING STRONGER

Dear Friends,

Looking back, 2021 was a year of significant progress as we emerged from the restrictions of the pandemic and established a new normal for socialization. Each step forward required adjustments in our services, but we are now better equipped for changes in the future. We are thankful for our capable staff, dedicated volunteers, and conscientious Board of Directors, as well as our very generous donors. Each component plays a vital role in our response to the needs of Darien seniors.

We are gradually seeing greater demand for our services, as seniors resume regular activities. Transportation continues to be our primary focus and each week the calls for rides, free of charge to all Darien residents 60 years and older, increase. The past two years have been very difficult for our senior neighbors. Dedicated volunteers have continued to regularly offer shopping and visitation for those who need support and companionship throughout these unusual times.

The Fall brought a significant acknowledgement of our importance to the community from the Darien Foundation. With their funding, we purchased a new handicapped equipped van to replace an older version. We are so very grateful for this gift, that provides our riders with updated safety and comfort as they travel to appointments and social commitments.

Recently, we bid a fond farewell to our outstanding Executive Director, Gina Blum, who led the organization for almost 11 years. She has guided our mission and developed our programs throughout her tenure. We wish her good luck as she assumes a full-time position in a neighboring town.

The following report highlights some of our more outstanding achievements of 2021. We are overwhelmingly grateful for our wonderful community of supporters. With your help, we continue to evolve and grow, adjusting our services to the needs of Darien seniors. A remittance envelope is included should you wish to donate to our effort.

Sincerely,



*Susan M. Bhurud*

Susan M. Bhurud  
President of the Board of  
Directors of At Home In Darien

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IN DARIEN  
CONNECTING SENIORS TO COMMUNITY  
2 Renshaw Road  
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*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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The At Home In Darien Board of Directors would like to thank John Bartlett, M.S. Koly, Elisabeth Marrocolla, Diane Schlinkert and Alison Wright, for their service on the Board which was completed in December 2021.

OUR 2021 VOLUNTEERS

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Cris Leone  
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Troop 50847  
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Natalie Treacy  
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Mark Weber  
Westhill Girl Scout  
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Sophia Zanga

**SNOW SHOVELERS**  
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Emily Dimonekas  
Olivia Durbin  
Andrew Ferguson

Liza Klingman  
Liam McBride  
Jason Rideout  
Sophie Smith  
Jake Wilson  
Nicky Yoo

**LEAF RAKERS**  
Church of Latter  
Day Saints Youth  
Darien Ward  
Community Fund  
of Darien’s Thriving  
Youth Task Force  
Darien YMCA  
Adventure Guides  
and Princesses  
Ice Cats  
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St. Thomas More  
Youth Group  
of Darien  
The Hopper Family  
Grace Liu  
The Ventker Family  
The Vicente Family  
The Wheeler Family



Intergenerational connections are formed when seniors & volunteers come together.



Jake Wilson and Jason Rideout coordinated volunteers for the snow shoveling program.

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

OUR FINANCES

At Home In Darien’s financial condition remains healthy and stable. Private donations from members of the Darien community provide the primary source of our funding. We thoughtfully and responsibly spend funds to offer free services and assistance for the benefit of Darien seniors, allowing them to continue living independently at home, socially engaged in our community.

2021 REVENUE	
Contributions	\$217,464
Grant Income	\$40,370
In-kind Contributions	\$12,038
Interest Income	\$1,968
Total	\$271,840

2021 EXPENSES	
Programs	\$172,963 - 74%
Management & General	\$22,634 - 11%
Fundraising	\$16,040 - 8%
Total	\$211,637



# 2021 Year At A Glance



## Our Accomplishments

- 2,098 Rides** door-to-door in our sedan or handicapped accessible van
- 736 Calls for advice and assistance** from seniors and their families connecting them to assistance in the community
- 166 Referrals to trusted service providers** including property and home maintenance services for peace of mind
- 1,496 Volunteer hours** – hands on service for grocery shopping, check in calls, removal of snow from public sidewalks, and leaf raking
- 2,651 Half price taxi vouchers sold** for affordable on demand transportation
- 1,241 Birthday cards – and gifts** mailed to seniors 75+
- 283 Membership cards sent to Darien residents** who turned 60



Volunteer Erika Osherow painted inspiring rocks as gifts for seniors.



At Home In Darien would like to thank Gina Blum for her 10 years of service. We wish her all the best as she continues to support seniors in a neighboring town.



Marti Lanese, Volunteer of the Year 2021.



Volunteers spent 259 combined hours assisting seniors with leaf clean-up.



At Home In Darien's Annual Meeting - State Representative Terrie Wood, At Home In Darien's Board President Susan Bhurud, and Attorney General of CT William Tong.



Volunteer Reva Corrigan delivered Spring gift bags to Seniors.



Students from Dance on the DL created gifts and cards to bring love to seniors on Valentine's Day.



Recording local podcast Now We're Talking Darien—in the studio, Peter Sosnow, Gina Blum and Taylor Carter.



OUR DONORS

We thank all donors for supporting us and allowing us to provide important services to Darien seniors.

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