

Thank you to the Darien Foundation!

At Home In Darien is deeply grateful to The Darien Foundation for its generous grant, which made it possible for us to purchase a new Toyota Camry sedan to expand our transportation services for Darien seniors.

There has perhaps been no greater partner to At Home In Darien than The Darien Foundation. Of our four current vehicles, three have been funded through their incredible support. With this latest addition, we anticipate providing nearly 5,000 one-way rides for Darien seniors in 2025 to and/or from destinations in Darien, Stamford, Norwalk, and New Canaan.

A heartfelt thank-you to Sarah Woodberry, Executive Director; Ward Glassmeyer, Board President; and the entire Darien Foundation Board for their extraordinary commitment to Darien seniors and their



L to R: Debbie Parnon (AHID Board President), Chris Jones (AHID Executive Director), Ward Glassmeyer (DF Board President), Hilary Thompson (DF Board Member), Paige Kyle (DF Board Member) and Sarah Woodberry (DF Executive Director)

continued belief in our mission. Your partnership truly helps us keep Darien seniors connected to the community they love.

Pickleball Fundraising Event

Get ready to play, laugh, and support a great cause at At Home In Darien's Fall Pickleball Fundraiser! The event will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Pickleball America, conveniently located inside the Stamford Mall.

At Home In Darien doesn't host many fundraising events, which makes this one especially meaningful. Every dollar raised will directly support Darien seniors, helping them live independently, safely, and connected to the community for as long as possible.

This will be an open play event focused on fun—no matter your skill level! Pickleball pros will be on hand to offer lessons and tips for beginners and seasoned players alike. There will also be great prizes, plenty of delicious food and snacks, and a selection of beer, wine, and soft drinks to enjoy throughout the evening.

Whether you're an avid pickleball player or just looking for a lively night out with friends, this event offers a fantastic way to connect with others while making a real difference for local seniors.

We hope you'll join us for this spirited evening of community, camaraderie, and cause-driven fun. Your support and participation will help ensure that Darien seniors continue to receive the transportation, support, and companionship they rely on.

To learn more or get involved, please call At Home In Darien at (203) 655-2227. Let's play for a purpose!



PICKLEBALL Event

Join us for an exciting Pickleball event to support **At Home In Darien**

Every dollar raised helps provide vital services so Darien seniors can live safely and independently at home for as long as possible

When: Saturday, November 8, 2025, 5pm - 8pm
Where: Pickleball America, 140 Atlantic Street (Stamford Mall)
Cost: \$100 per participant

Includes: open play, lessons by the pros, prizes, delicious food, snacks, beer, wine, soft drinks

To Register:

Call At Home In Darien (203) 655-2227 OR ...

Sign-up on website at: <https://athomeindarien.org/pickleball-event/>

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Out & About Eats: A New Way for Seniors to Connect, Share and Enjoy

This past June, **At Home In Darien**, proudly introduced two exciting new programs—**Out & About Eats** and **Out & About Trips**—and the response has been extraordinary. What began as an idea to create more opportunities for seniors to enjoy meals together and explore new places has quickly blossomed into one of the most engaging and impactful additions to our calendar.

From the very first outing, the energy and enthusiasm were unmistakable. Yes, we've seen familiar faces—members who have long been active with **At Home In Darien**—but equally importantly has been the return of those who hadn't connected with us in years. Even more rewarding is that these programs have drawn in seniors who had never before participated in our activities. These new lunches and trips are proving to be more than just events; they are catalysts for building friendships, reducing isolation, and connecting seniors with each other and with the broader Darien community.

The impact goes well beyond attendance numbers. At every meal and on each excursion, the value of these programs shines through in the smiles, conversations, and shared laughter of those present. Seniors are greeting old friends, making new ones, and creating memories together. For some, simply having a reason to get out of the house and share a meal at a local restaurant is transformative. For others, exploring a new destination with companions provides a sense of adventure that enriches daily life.

We could not have launched **Out & About Eats** without the generosity of our local restaurant partners. From the beginning, Darien's eateries have embraced the idea, crafting special menus and offering thoughtful pricing for seniors. Their hospitality and support have helped make these gatherings warm, welcoming, and affordable. Each restaurant has not only provided wonderful meals but has also contributed to the spirit of community that is at the heart of the program. We are excited to continue building these partnerships and look forward to reaching out to additional restaurants for future breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.

Out & About Trips have been just as rewarding. Whether it be private tours at the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion in Norwalk or at the Yale

Museum of British Art in New Haven, the excursions are providing opportunities for seniors to explore, learn, and enjoy new activities together. They remind us of the importance in staying active, engaged, and curious!

The early success of these programs underscores the importance of creating spaces where seniors feel welcome, valued, and connected. **Out & About Eats** and **Out & About Trips** are not simply about food or destinations—they are about community, friendship, and joy.

As we look ahead, we are excited to grow these programs, welcoming more participants, partnering with more local businesses, and continuing to provide opportunities for seniors to live life fully. The smiles and laughter we've seen so far tell us all we need to know: these programs are making a real difference.

At Home In Darien is honored to play a role in bringing people together, and we can't wait to see where our **Out & About** journeys takes us next.

A special thank you to the local restaurants who have already hosted Out & About Eats events



Free Leaf Raking and Snow Shoveling for Seniors

At Home In Darien is once again offering free leaf raking and public sidewalk snow shoveling for Darien seniors! These seasonal services help seniors avoid strenuous and potentially painful outdoor work, allowing them to stay safe and comfortable at home.

We are fortunate to be supported by a dedicated network of volunteers and community groups who generously give their time to assist with these important tasks. Whether it's clearing fallen leaves or keeping sidewalks safe after a snowfall, their efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of local seniors.

To sign up for leaf raking, snow shoveling, or both, please call **At Home In Darien** at (203) 655-2227 to add your name to the list.



Darien Men's Association Hosts Golf Benefit for AHID



DMA Golf Tourney participants (L-R) Jay Bennett, John Colon, Huck Hough, and Guy Riegel

At Home In Darien extends a heartfelt thank-you to the Darien Men's Association (DMA) for hosting a golf tournament on July 7, 2025, to benefit our organization. It was a beautiful day on the course, and everyone enjoyed great weather, friendly competition, and camaraderie. Congratulations to former AHID Board member Peter Sosnow and his team for taking first place!

Events like this truly make a difference. The funds raised will help ensure that Darien seniors continue to receive vital support - all free of charge - from transportation and home visits to social engagement opportunities that keep seniors connected to our community.

We are deeply grateful to the DMA for their partnership, enthusiasm, and generosity in organizing such a successful and enjoyable event for **At Home In Darien**.

Museum Trips

At Home In Darien continues to expand opportunities for seniors to engage with each other and the broader community. In addition to the new Out & About Eats dining program, AHID has introduced a new service offering trips to concerts, museums, and other cultural or civic destinations. These excursions – made possible by our new passenger van - provide wonderful ways for seniors to explore, learn, and share memorable experiences together.



AHID member Bette Pietsch listens intently while learning about the rich history of the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion

At Home In Darien members recently enjoyed trips to two separate Connecticut museums.

On August 11th, a trip and private tour was conducted of the beautifully renovated Lockwood-Matthews Mansion in Norwalk. The outing offered a fascinating look at the mansion's rich history and stunning architecture, providing seniors with a memorable afternoon of learning, connection, and appreciation for this local treasure.

On September 11th, AHID brought a group of members to the Yale Center for British Art in downtown New Haven – home to the largest and most significant collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. Participants enjoyed a



AHID members outside of the Yale Center for British Art and then enjoying lunch afterwards



private guided tour led by one of the museum's expert docents, who shared fascinating insights into the collection's masterpieces and history. Afterward, the fun continued with a stop at Long Wharf Park, where the group enjoyed a seaside lunch under clear blue skies. It was a day filled with art, sunshine, laughter, and friendship.

Suggestions and requests are already being made for future trips!

At Home In Darien is thrilled to announce an organizational milestone—our 50,000th ride! Since our founding, providing safe, reliable, and friendly transportation has been at the very heart of our mission to help seniors live independently at home, while staying connected to the community. We expect this landmark ride to be completed in mid-October, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate the occasion.

Each one of those 50,000 rides represents more than just a trip from one place to another—it represents independence, connection, and peace of mind for a Darien senior. From rides to medical appointments, shopping trips, community events, and everything in between, our transportation program has been a lifeline for so many.

We are deeply grateful to all of our Board members, staff, drivers, volunteers, and supporters throughout the years who have made this milestone possible. We look forward to reaching new milestones!

Summer Beach Picnic

A perfect summer day set the stage for a Summer Beach Party held in August at the Weed Beach Paddle Hut. More than 80 guests attended the lively event, which was co-sponsored by **At Home In Darien**, the Mather Center and Darien's Human Services department.

Guests enjoyed snacks, refreshing drinks, and some of the thickest and tastiest sandwiches provided by local organization Seniors Helping Seniors. Lively music filled the air and added to the fun as friends and neighbors mingled and soaked up the beachside atmosphere.

Members of Post 53 joined the gathering to share information about their remarkable organization and the File of Life program, which helps first responders quickly access vital medical information in emergencies.

The afternoon was such a success that many attendees asked **At Home In Darien** to make it an annual tradition!



At Home In Darien's Andrew Burke catching up with Ali Ramsteck, Darien's Director of Human Services



Members of Post 53 sharing some potential life-saving information to the party participants

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 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; Friday 9 a.m. to 1 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.
- Social and educational programs.
- 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.

The Darien Foundation
 OPPORTUNITY • INNOVATION • IMPACT

Special thanks to the Darien Foundation for their partnership and donation of the vehicles that enabled us to provide nearly 4,300 one-way rides for Darien seniors during 2024. We are grateful for their support in making our mission a reality!

MESSAGE FROM AT HOME IN DARIEN

Dear Friends,
 As we head into the fall season, we are reminded of the commitment we made at the beginning of this year—to expand our services, reach a broader group of Darien seniors and most importantly, foster deeper connections that help reduce isolation and loneliness. **At Home In Darien** is more than a service provider; we are a community builder. Every ride, program, and interaction is designed to ensure our seniors feel valued, supported, and connected.

It has been a very busy and rewarding year. From lively social gatherings and enriching programs, to new initiatives that bring neighbors together, we have seen firsthand the impact of creating opportunities for engagement. These experiences not only support individual well-being but also strengthen the bonds that make Darien such a special community.

Looking ahead, we are pushing ourselves to do even more. The need is great, and so is

our determination. We want every senior in Darien to know that they are not alone—that there are opportunities to connect, to learn, to celebrate, and to belong.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our community. Your financial support fuels every mile driven, every event hosted, and every smile shared. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected Darien for all seniors.

With gratitude,



Debbie Parnon
 President of the Board of Directors
At Home In Darien



Chris Jones
 Executive Director of **At Home In Darien**
 Chris@AtHomeInDarien.org

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AHID to hold Annual Meeting on December 3rd



At Home In Darien will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m. in the Darien Library's Community Room. The event will feature an exciting presentation by Michael Stern, the distinguished Music Director of Orchestra Lumos (formerly Stamford Symphony) and the National Repertory Orchestra.

A graduate of Harvard University, Michael Stern brings a wealth of experience and artistry to the podium. During his 19-year tenure with the Kansas City Symphony, he and the orchestra were celebrated for their remarkable artistic ascent, innovative programming, and growing audiences. His conducting

engagements have spanned the globe, leading major orchestras in London, Stockholm, Paris, Helsinki, Budapest, Seoul, Israel, Moscow, Taiwan, and Tokyo.

This special event will also include light food and refreshments. The Annual Meeting offers a wonderful opportunity to hear from an accomplished guest speaker, celebrate At Home In Darien's achievements, and learn more about the organization's work supporting Darien seniors.

All are welcome to attend—please call (203) 655-2227 to register for what promises to be an inspiring and enjoyable evening.

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

THANK YOU!

Please remember **At Home In Darien** in your will or trust!