Always innovating how we care.

By Bill Lowe, CEO

At Chicago Methodist Senior Services, we take pride in driving aging services forward by providing innovative life enrichment experiences and lifelong learning programs to older adults. Recently, we’ve added even more art and music programs to give CMSS residents creative outlets, virtual reality training to help staff understand residents’ experiences and additional services to our continuum of care. This report dives into some of the new offerings at CMSS. We thank you for your continued dedication to helping us make a difference in the lives of CMSS residents and the broader community.

Sincerely,

Bill Lowe
President and CEO
Argentium Care Finds New Home

Many in the CMSS community know of our long-standing alignment with Argentium Care in Evanston, IL. That’s why we were so thrilled to bring the organization fully into our continuum of care.

Argentium Care supports the efforts of adults aging in place through two programs: Argentium Home Care and Argentium Senior Connections, a volunteer-friendly visitor program. Argentium Home Care offers non-medical support services by trained caregivers. These caregivers provide older adults with companionship, safety, night care, meal preparation and more. Through Argentium Senior Connections, individuals are matched with trained volunteer visitors at no cost to them. This intergenerational program matches volunteers and older adults through their shared interests.

“The entire Argentium Care staff has the same vision of offering programs that are reliable, responsive and provide the best services to older adults,” said Tricia Mullin, the new executive director of Argentium Care. We can’t wait to explore a new chapter of service with Argentium Care.

$100,000 Raised to Launch Sounds of Healing

CMSS recently celebrated 121 years of giving older adults, staff, residents and friends a place to call home. Our annual fundraiser featured a silent auction of donated items by organizations across Chicago, a performance from the Civic Fellows of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and an opportunity to learn about the new therapeutic music and wellness program, Sounds of Healing. Thanks to all of you, we were able to reach our goal of raising $100,000 for this new program!

Through the ambitious new Sounds of Healing program, we’re integrating music into personal care plans, partnering with local music organizations to offer group and individual performances for residents, coordinating group music sessions and much more. Employees and residents alike are singing, laughing and cheering together.

“I want to dissolve the walls at CMSS by making the senior communities a more vital part of our neighborhood,” said Henri Harps, music programming coordinator at CMSS. “Music is a uniting force that can achieve this throughout Chicago.”
Impact by the numbers
January - June 2019

143 people served at Wesley Place
$48,411 in free care provided

78 people served in memory care
80 trips to museums, farmers markets and other outings
3,153 hours from volunteers and interns

Financial summary of income and expenses
Fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 (all figures in thousands)

TOTAL INCOME $16,742
Skilled Nursing - $8,985
Community Services - $14
Housing - $667
Assisted Living - $2,022
Foundation - $942
Contributions - $1,429
Nurse Recruitment - $2,317
Corporate - $132
Other - $234

TOTAL EXPENSES $16,682
Salaries & Benefits - $10,237
Supplies - $1,297
Occupancy - $827
Interest - $393
Depreciation/Amortization - $1,252
Purchased Services - $2,009
General Admin - $666

INCOME BY PAYOR SOURCE $16,742
Private Pay/ Insurance - $9,687
State of Illinois - Medicaid - $1,876
Medicare - $3,400
Housing & Urban Development - $350
Contributions - $1,429
Program Updates

The Benefits of Bellwood

CMSS’ West Suburban Senior Services of Bellwood, IL offers a unique blend of services for those who live in their own homes or with family members. It provides older adults who are members of the local community with a place to socialize, eat lunch, get advice on practical matters and more. Our partnership with Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) also provides opportunities for members of the LGBTQ+ community to hear from informative guest speakers, socialize with one another at regular Friday lunch and discussion groups in addition to other regular programming.

Bringing Art to Life-Chicago

The expanding reach of our partnership with Bringing Art to Life (BATL), an innovative, intergenerational art therapy program, continues to grow under the guidance of Rush neurologist, Dr. Neelum Aggarwal.

This past year, BATL Chicago partnered with the Memory Farm & the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center to create the Urban Sensory Garden. The garden was designed with the purpose of stimulating all five senses as a non-pharmacological way to improve well-being. The Urban Sensory Garden provides a peaceful sanctuary with a wide variety of flowers to see, smell and touch in addition to planting, tending and harvesting herbs and vegetables. Students and residents also made colorful birdhouses, wind chimes and sun catchers to further delight the senses.

Visits From Mane in Heaven

Once again, CMSS residents were lucky enough to be visited by some special, four-legged friends. After putting leather boots on their miniature therapy horses to protect the floors and prevent the horses from slipping, the non-profit organization, Mane in Heaven visited individual residents’ rooms at Hartwell Place and Covenant Home. The miniature horses, Winnie and Hope, were a big hit with residents, family members and staff alike. Their visits triggered memories and conversations, including stories of growing up on a farm with horses, using horses for work and transportation and of being a cowboy out West. Providing opportunities for residents to experience the valuable benefits of animal therapy remains an important focus at CMSS.
We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors and dedication of our board members. Thank you for helping us care better, every day.

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