

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Antoinette Cardarelli has lived at Bella Vista for many years. While living there she has been an active member of the **311 Club**. During that time she has served as Secretary, Vice-President and is currently serving as President. "Whether it is flipping pancakes at our annual pancake breakfast or making meatballs for our annual Ziti Dinner, she works hard to make the club a success."



Trofimena Gagliardi (Mamie) of the **East Shore Senior Center** has been a member for 6 years. She serves on the Senior Association Board, and is very active in thinking about how the Center looks and in making it a welcoming place. She purchases curtains and dish towels, straightens up rooms and storage closets, donates baked goods, and decorates the raffle baskets for the parties at Anthony's. She makes coffee for everyone and helps the Cafe manager in the kitchen. She volunteers with the children for intergenerational programs. Mamie is very vocal and is known as the Iron Lady. Yet she never wants to be recognized for the work she has been doing. Everyone wants to thank her and let her know this award is well-deserved.



Glenn Johnson is an active member and volunteer with the **Dixwell-Newhallville Senior Center**. He is a Vietnam Veteran, retired from the Veterans' Administration, and a world traveler. He joined the Senior Center Club 4 years ago. He is a photographer on the trips, for special events, and regularly provides photographs of the Club members for the City's Elderly Services Newsletter. He enjoys people, and he also enjoys telling jokes. He loves to dance. He is a bingo caller on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3 p.m. He also is the Club's Choir Director. How did that come to be? Knowing that Mr.

Johnson was a singer in his church choir, three years ago, the President of the Club asked him to sing as part of a club meeting. Two ladies spontaneously came up to join him and sang in harmony, and the choir was born. It has 20 members today, with a shared enjoyment of singing Gospel music.

Joan Laraway is active with the **343 Club**, and helps with Bingo and the kitchen every Saturday night. She is also Secretary for the Bella Vista Reporter, and is a volunteer for the FSW Senior Community Cafe for Bella Vista. She assists with the Over-80 party, and the annual Bella Vista Block Party. She has worked on many fundraisers, and is always willing to help when needed.



Joe Mascia moved to **Tower One** in 2005 with years of volunteer experience. In the 70's, Joe coached baseball and basketball for his son and 4 daughters and was a boy scout leader. He has been a Tower's Resident Advisor for 8 years and served on the Board of Directors for 4 years. Joe is a founding member of our Tower's Chorus. He helped create "The Sidewalk Grill," is an opportunity for Towers Residents, family members, and staff to enjoy a burger, hot dog, or chicken prepared on our outdoor grill. He helped to obtain patio furniture. Joe hosts a weekly "Trivia with Joe" group and has about 20 residents who come for the trivia, but have the added perk of his corny jokes! He assists at Bingo, and helped manage our Gift shop for 2 years. Joe makes dinner-time announcements to his fellow residents to keep them up to date about activities and trips. He raises funds for Breast Cancer research. Joe generously provides all staff with zeppole to celebrate St Joseph's day. Joe has 14 grandchildren.

Hyacinth Miller is a retired Certified Nursing Assistant who lives at **Josephine Jarvis Gray**, St. Luke's Senior Housing. She volunteers her time assisting with bingo, crossword puzzles and other activities. She also volunteers with the Girls Friendly Society of St. Luke's. It provides girls with crafts, camping, baking and Christmas special events and other activities. She also assists with the St. Luke's lunch program twice a week.





Lottie Pearson of **Josephine Jarvis Gray**, St. Luke's Senior Housing, moved to New Haven 2 1/2 years ago to be near her four brothers, having spent 6 years in Pennsylvania, 2 in South Carolina, and 30 in New Jersey. She helps with bingo, does Bible Study and helps with putting crossword puzzles together. She is an Elder and mother at Faith Center Church, and sings in the choir. She says she is a "mother of 5 children and grandmother of 12, a housewife and a child of God."

Kanae Parris (Connie) moved to New Haven in 1958 and worked for the New Haven Board of Education for 25 years. In the summer she would tutor students in math. She was instrumental in bringing Japanese culture into the New Haven school system. Upon her retirement, she attended Gateway Community College for 2 years. She has lived at Bella Vista for 27 years, where she enjoys volunteering her time for the **339 Club**, and for many, many activities, including delivering the Bella Vista Reporter to residents' doors for 15 years. In 2010 Connie was also named the Atwater Senior Center Senior of the Year.



94 year-old year old **Florence Radin** moved to **Tower East** in 2008. Her previous career as Credit Manager for Arnold Shoe Store in New Haven for 26 years gave her many skills that she uses as a volunteer. Prior to moving to The Towers, Florence volunteered at The Red Cross assisting with bulk mailings. As soon as she moved in, Florence made it known that she was willing and able to volunteer. She assisted with fundraising, office work and mailings. In 2009, she became Assistant Vice President of The Tower's Resident's Association. She helps to run the Annual Membership Drive and helps to plan their wonderful parties. She is active with intergenerational programs that The Towers offers too, such as reading to the students of Ezra Academy and allowing the students of Roberta Clemente to read to her. Florence and other residents also volunteered her time to create a Menu Committee where they reviewed our dinner menus and helped to make healthier choices for all Tower's Residents. Florence is a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Mercedes Rivera was born in Juncos, Puerto Rico, moving to Pennsylvania at age 6 and Hoboken, NJ at age 16. She and her husband had 4 children and were married for 36 years until his death. She attended the CT Business Institute in Bridgeport, and had a successful career with the Social Security Administration from which she retired in 2006 after 20 years and numerous awards. She moved to Bella Vista in March 2011, and is happy and as active as possible. She is Vice-President of the **321 Club**, and teaches a knit and crochet class. She loves to sing and dance. She loves helping people.



Marilyn Wenzel was born in New Haven and attended sight-saving classes at Webster School. She left school at age 16, and after a series of jobs, married at age 21, and, raised two children, Anthony and Sherri, and is now the grandmother of four. She and her husband traveled across country. She came back to New Haven, got her GED and ran a restaurant for the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. In 1989 she moved to Bella Vista. After a career in retail and restaurants, she became a home health aide, and is presently employed by Utopia Health Care and South Central Continuing Care. She leads the Rosary at St. Francis Church. She is a reporter for the Bella Vista News, is Vice-President of the **315 Club**. She is also a Notary Public and Justice of the Peace. She is a member of the 12-Step Program.

Antoinette Wright has been a member of **Atwater Senior Center** for 3 years. She enjoys ceramics, yoga, bingo and Pokeno. She is a volunteer with the Elderly Services newsletter, helping to count and sort them for the more than 50 locations where they are distributed. She helps in the senior center office. She leads yoga on days when there is no instructor. She helps with the Christmas Party. She grew up in New Haven, and is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where she sings in the choir and is a member of the Bible Study group. She retired from the Yale Day Care as an assistant teacher.

