



May 2025



Goddard Times

GODDARD HOUSE

UPCOMING EVENTS

GROUPS AT GODDARD HOUSE

Olmsted Family Caregiver Group

*This group welcomes Goddard House family members. Meets monthly on the **first Tuesday** from 6:30–7:30 P.M. on Zoom. Please contact Olmsted Program Director Kristen Cipriano at kcipriano@goddardhouse.org for more information.*

LGBTQ & Friends Conversation Group

*This monthly group is open to all. Meets monthly on the **third Thursday** at 3:30 P.M. For those who are not Goddard House residents, families, or associates, please contact EnrichedLIFE Director Rebecca Margolin at 617-731-8500 or rmargolin@goddardhouse.org for more information.*

RESIDENT PROFILE



Sue Press joined us here at Goddard House a little over a month ago and has already become a special part of our community. Born in Albany, New York, Sue has always had a love for the arts.

After receiving her BA in Fine Arts from the University of Rochester, she spent much of her 20s traveling Europe with her belly dancing troupe. She loved being able to experience these new places and learn about their culture and lifestyle through dance. Flamenco was another one of her favorites! In addition to dance, caring for others has always been a large part of Sue's life. After returning to the states, Sue moved to Massachusetts to attend Boston College where she earned her Master of Social Work. This began what would be a very successful 37 year career as a social worker for the state of New York's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. She was very passionate about this and would travel to other counties in the state to lead training.

Sue's kindness and love of dance remains apparent here at Goddard House. Her warm personality puts everyone at ease and she will never say no if you need a dance partner! Sue has also recently joined our OMA program and has enjoyed expressing her creativity in a new way. We are so happy to have Sue here with us as part of our Olmsted community.

-Olmsted Program Director Kristen Cipriano

Recent Donation is “Music to Our Ears”

Goddard House Receives \$500,000 Grant from The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
*by Director of Community Partnerships **Christine Nagle***


Goddard House is thrilled to announce a generous \$500,000 grant from The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation to help support a new addition to Goddard House that will serve as a creative aging hub, part of our \$16 million renovation project. This exciting addition to our Chestnut Street campus comes as we celebrate our 175th anniversary and reaffirm our commitment to enriching the lives of older adults through the arts.

The new gathering place will serve as a welcoming hub for residents and the broader community to enjoy programs in music, art, theater, film, and lifelong learning. These creative opportunities promote purpose, engagement, and connection—core values at the heart of the Goddard House mission.

“Music has always been a big part of my life,” said **Ronald Brown**, president of the Foundation. “Contributing to the creative aging hub at Goddard House is incredibly meaningful. This community has a warm and comforting atmosphere that we’re proud to support.”

The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation, founded by the Brown family, has strong ties to Brookline and a long history of championing initiatives that enhance the lives of older adults.

“We are incredibly grateful for this meaningful gift,” said Goddard House President & CEO **Candace Cramer**. “With this donation, we will create a vibrant space for older adults to express themselves, build connections, and engage in joyful learning.”

We look forward to welcoming residents and neighbors into this new space—a place where creativity and community come to life. 

Skills Fair

In April, our team of directors hosted an interactive Skills Fair, in which associates were invited to discuss a range of topics in connection with their roles at Goddard House. Topics included Workplace Safety, Memory Support Training, and SAGECare (a leading LGBTQ+ aging cultural competency provider).



*Dining Associate **Jean Antonio**
Santerre and Olmsted Nurse Manager
Sherley Belizare discuss types of
dementia*



*Wellness Nurse **Natalia Sanchez** and
Resident Care Associate **RoseMarie
McNeish Waite** discuss nutrition and the
effects of dehydration*

Connecting Communities through the Arts...with Heart

Exhibition Spotlights Creative Expression of Goddard House Residents and Older Adults
Across Greater Boston

by *Director of Community Partnerships* **Christine Nagle**

Reflecting Goddard House's desire to bring the joy and fellowship of the arts to older adults living both within and beyond the Goddard House campus, this spring, Goddard House proudly hosted its third annual multi-community art exhibition, Connecting Communities through the Arts...with Heart—a joyful celebration of creativity and connection among older adults.



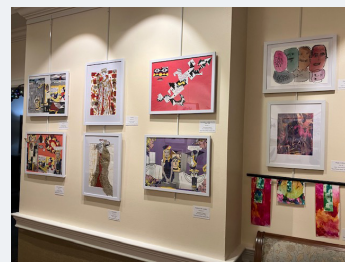
*President & CEO Candace
Cramer speaks at the reception*

Each year, this special event brings together residents from Goddard House and Boston-area older adult communities who participate in arts programs offered through Goddard House Community Initiatives (GHCI). GHCI was created to share Goddard House's creative spirit, deepening connections among under-resourced, Boston-area older adults through collaborative, intergenerational, and inclusive creative aging programs.

The exhibition reception, held in April, featured artwork created by more than 60 older adults through creative aging programming across six communities: Goddard House (Brookline), Anna Bissonnette House (South End), Hearth at Olmsted Green (Dorchester), Mount Pleasant Home (Jamaica Plain), Ruggles

Assisted Living (Roxbury), and Symphony Towers (Back Bay). Exhibition attendees enjoyed viewing artwork created through a variety of media and styles—each piece a testament to the artists' imaginations and lived experience. A special feature was a lively musical performance by the “Double OGs” Band, all residents from Olmsted Green. The band is facilitated and supported through GHCI.

The exhibition will travel to Symphony Towers for a community-building event on May 15 to honor the artists and their artwork—and further gather the artists from the six communities together. 



Featured Art

Lifetime Achievement

A longtime artist and 14-year resident of Goddard House, **Musia Watkin** was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Musia has inspired others to pursue their own creative passions (*here she is pictured with some of her sculptures*). She also founded a knitting group, in which participants knit and donated scarves to local charities while fostering social connections within the community!



ASSOCIATE PROFILE



Dining Associate **Maria Depeiza** was born in Grenada, and raised in Trinidad with her grandmother. She is one of six children and had a strict Christian upbringing. After coming to Boston in 1982, Maria attended Roxbury Community College. She has been working at Boston Medical Center for 36 years, and loves her job there as a certified nursing assistant, caring for others and feeling joy when she sees someone walk out of the hospital to be with their family. Maria loves to sing and dance, enjoys bowling, cooking, and spending time with her children and grandson, and has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters for seven years. A graduate of the Barbizon Modeling School, Maria has been modeling in Boston for 18 years. She was recently featured as the cover story of the *Phenomenal Women of Color* magazine! The article highlighted Maria's commitment to supporting her community and promoting social justice. Congratulations, Maria! At Goddard House, Maria is known for her warmth and kindness, and looks forward to being with the residents. We are glad to have her here!

-EnrichedLIFE Director Rebecca Margolin



Goddard Happenings



In April, our Brain Healthy Cooking program presented a Mediterranean soup tasting event designed by our Director of Dining Experience **Marcello Cardona** at the Brookline Senior Center.

Above: Executive Assistant **Bianca Pierre** discusses the benefits of Brain Healthy Cooking

Right: Executive Director **News-Johanne Marcellus** having soup with a guest



Left: **Grace M.** and art therapy intern **Kasriel**

Volume 13 No. 5—May 2025

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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Above: **Mimi H.** at our "Grab Your Passport! Destination: Haiti" celebration (left); **Lynn W.** making jewelry (right)