COMMUNITIES RAISE $10,000 FOR HAITI

Sales of buttons, baked goods, meals and used furniture brought out the generosity of Chelsea Senior Living employees, residents and family members during the months of February and March.

Various fundraisers throughout the communities raised more than $10,000 for the Haiti earthquake relief effort. Chelsea Senior Living matched the proceeds from each community, which then made the donations directly to a favorite charity such as the Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

The top fundraiser was Somerset Gardens of Plainview, NY, which has more than 50 employees who are Haitian immigrants. Their multi-pronged fundraising effort included the sale of “Support Haiti” pins, employee meal days and a canned food drive. SG raised $2,000 which was donated to the Red Cross.

Events by community can be found on page three.

Deana Davoudiasl, a junior at South Side High School, Rockville Centre, NY, was removing old nail polish from the fingers of Dorothea Ruggerio, a resident of Maple Pointe Assisted Living, when she noticed her high school ring.

“Where did you go to school,” asked Deana. “Bay Ridge High in Brooklyn,” answered Dorothea, who was having her nails done by Deana as part of the Glamour Gals program. “It was all girls back then.”

Deana and five fellow students are part of the South Side High chapter of Glamour Gals, a nationwide, non-profit organization made up of high school girls who do free makeovers for senior citizens at assisted living residences, nursing homes and senior communities.

“They are a wonderful group of teens,” remarked Tammy Marshall, Executive Director of Maple Pointe. “They trade stories and share their lives with the seniors, then write about their experiences in essays.”

About a dozen seniors had their nails done by Deana’s group, who planned to return the following week to do more. “It turned out beautiful,” said resident Ruth Klein, whose nails were a sparkling, glossy pink.

More information about Glamour Gals, which was founded by a high school student, can be found at www.glamourgals.com.
SG CHOWDER COOK-OFF RAISES FUNDS FOR ALZ

Somerset Gardens and other Long Island senior care providers raised $600 for the Alzheimer’s Association during its first annual Chowder Cook-Off on March 25th.

Chefs from a total of eight facilities brought their best chowder or soup recipes for an evening of tasting. Residents and members of the community paid $5 to eat all they could, sampling and resampling soups from Somerset Gardens Senior Living, Maple Pointe Assisted Living, Sunrise Senior Living, Brandywine Senior Living, Huntington Village Rehab & Nursing, White Oaks Nursing Home and Glengariff Health Care Center. All proceeds benefited the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

“We appreciate this showing of unity and support for our cause,” remarked Mary Ann Ragona, Executive Director of the Alzheimer’s Association. Ms. Ragona, her mother, Martha Malack, and Nassau County Legislator Judy Jacobs counted the ballots.

Somerset Gardens Food Service Director Mike Fitzpatrick enjoyed the home court advantage and took home the First Prize trophy with his spectacular New England Clam Chowder. Other memorable entries included the sweet and spicy Asian chowder entered by Tom Taylor of Maple Pointe Assisted Living and the luxurious Roasted Corn and Lobster Chowder brought by Chef Sal from Glengariff Health Care Center, a clinical partner of Somerset Gardens.

Sylvia Davis turns 100 at Maple Pointe

Deputy Mayor Chuck Joyce was on hand March 20th to present a proclamation to Sylvia Davis, a resident of Maple Pointe Assisted Living, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Ms. Davis, a Manhattan native who spent many years as a book keeper for a furniture store in the Bronx, was surrounded by two dozen family members including grandchildren who flew in from Tucson and Santa Fe for the occasion. Daughter Maxine Diamond and Maxine’s husband Joe were the organizers of the party.

“Can you believe she’s a hundred,” said Joe. “She sure doesn’t look it.”

Following the proclamation and many photographs, the family escorted Ms. Davis into Maple Pointe’s activity room for cake, beverages and a hearty round of “Happy Birthday” from her fellow residents including Dorothy Kromer, who turned 100 last year.

Sylvia has two daughters, eight grand children and 7 great grand children.
Haiti earthquake relief: Community Tally

Somerset Gardens, Plainview, NY: $2,000
Raised through sales of pins, employee meals and other donations. Donated to the Red Cross.

The Worthington, Brick, NJ: $1,719
Raised through pizza and bake sales. Donated to Doctors Without Borders.

The Chelsea at Manalapan, NJ: $1,000
Raised through a raffle, sale of paper hearts and an event with music and food. Donated to the Salvation Army.

The Chelsea at Toms River, NJ: $1,000
Raised through a rummage sale. Donated to the Red Cross.

Castle Senior Living, Forest Hills, NY: $791
Raised through a bake sale. Donated to World Vision.

The Chelsea at Montville, NJ: $712
Raised through a pizza lunch, silent auction and employee jeans day. Donated to the Clinton/Bush Haiti Fund.

The Chelsea at Fanwood, NJ: $450
Raised through a benefit concert. Donated to the Red Cross.

The Chelsea at Warren, NJ: $415
Raised through sale of “Hearts For Haiti” pins. Donated to Hope For Haiti.

The Chelsea at East Brunswick, NJ: $350
Raised through sale of heart pins and jewelry. Donated to the Red Cross.

The Chelsea at Bridgewater, NJ: $335
Raised through a Superbowl event. Donated to the Red Cross.

The Chelsea at Tinton Falls, NJ: $330
Raised through basket sale. Donated to the Red Cross.

The Chelsea at Brookfield, Belvidere, NJ: Ongoing
Preparing packages of personal care items for shipment to Haiti in conjunction with United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Additional donation from Chelsea Senior Living: $900
Donated to the Salvation Army.

GRAND TOTAL: $10,000

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for such awesome generosity!

New healthcare bill raises more questions

In March, President Obama signed into law a healthcare reform package that seeks to provide health insurance to millions of Americans who currently don’t have it.

The measure will require most Americans to have health insurance coverage, or pay a tax penalty. It adds 16 million people to the Medicaid rolls, subsidizes private coverage for low- and middle-income people and seeks to regulate private insurers more closely, banning practices such as denial of care for pre-existing conditions.

But the bill is so massive and contentious, there is still no clear understanding of exactly how it will affect many segments of the population including senior citizens.

The political wrangling hasn’t helped consumers, either. Raucous rallies, heartfelt speeches and lengthy television segments on 24-hour news channels have illustrated the polarizing effect the new law has had on the public, but not done much to actually educate us on the bill’s effects. “We will be monitoring and collecting information as it becomes available to educate our families and residents on how the new legislation may affect them,” said Roger Bernier, President and Chief Operating Officer of Chelsea Senior Living. “Currently, even the information some government agencies have put out has been wrong.” Stay tuned.
SEASONAL SNAPSHOTS

Chelsea People is a publication of the Public Relations Department of Chelsea Senior Living, LLC.

Submissions of stories, articles and photos are welcome. Email material to Tom Kranz at tom.kranz@yahoo.com.

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The Easter Bunny pays a visit to the Chelsea at Bridgewater, posing with Shawn Joan, left, and CMA Aminata Conteh.

The Maple Pointe bus drives proudly in the Rockville Centre, NY, St. Patrick’s Day Parade with Pam Gordon at the wheel.

The Chelsea at Tinton Falls hosts a Passover seder. Observance was led by Laura Katsaros, daughter of resident Hazel Nooger.

Chelsea at Brookfield resident Grace Hopkins, left, shows Executive Director Annette Watson her Easter eggs, crocheted over a plastic mold, then removed and soaked in a solution that hardens them.