



89th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Name of Organization: Episcopal SeniorLife Communities (ESLC)

Officer(s): Loren J. Ranaletta, President/CEO

Committee Members/ESLC Relationships:

- **Patti Cummings**, ESLC Development Assistant, Diocesan and Convention Volunteer
- **F. Paul Greene**, ESLC Board Member, Assistant Chancellor of Diocese
- **The Rev. Deven Hubert**, ESLC Chaplain
- **The Rev. Canon Robert Picken**, ESLC Board Member, Standing Committee, Deputy to General Convention Alternate
- **Canon Todd Rubiano**, ESLC Foundation Board Member
- **Suzanne Spencer**, ESLC Board Member, Former Clinical Pastoral Education Intern at ESLC

Programs: Beatrice Place, Brentland Woods, Center for Rehabilitation, Episcopal Church Home, Penfield Square (Coming Soon!), Pinehurst, River Edge Manor, Rockwood Center, Seabury Woods, Upper South Street, Valley Manor, Neighborhood Programs and Service Coordination

Update:

In this time of uncertainty, it would be remiss to ignore the situation in our community and nation. It is unprecedented. Through it all, ESLC remains incredibly strong, and we are meeting the needs of seniors and families in new and innovative ways now more than ever – thanks to the good people who support us.

We quickly took steps to protect ourselves and residents by acquiring the proper personal protective equipment, limiting gathering sizes, screening residents for signs of the virus, testing staff, and implementing the heartbreaking precautionary measure of restricted visitation. Safety has been the guiding principle; however, the possible social-emotional effects of these precautions are also important to acknowledge.

We are keeping residents engaged with their loved ones as best as possible with the guidelines, instituting games, theme days, exercise programs, and special meals for both staff and residents. Within just a few weeks, ESLC launched the virtual neighborhood program that connected our residents and neighborhood program members across seven campuses. We began offering daily meditations, exercise programs, yoga, cooking classes, prayer groups and social “gatherings” all through Zoom. All programs are facilitated by staff, volunteers and residents. This program, although brought on by the pandemic, has been extremely successful. Connecting people virtually has allowed ESLC to reach residents and community members in a new way, and share resources between programs and best practices for the future to expand our in-person programming.

Our faith has remained important and has grounded us. We are especially grateful for our partnership with Crossroads of Caring. This program is led by The Rev. Mary Ann Brody and hosted by St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church. This partnership is with Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and funding from the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church. It is the first community-based Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program in the Rochester area. Unlike other CPE programs that are based in medical institutions, this program supports community programs such as transitional housing, homeless shelters and nursing homes. ESLC's Chaplain, The Rev. Deven Hubert, has been particularly passionate about bringing this program to the Episcopal Church Home and serves as a member of the advisory committee. Soon after student placements began, our world was changed by COVID-19. The support and compassion that these students brought to our staff and residents was invaluable; their presence allowed us to provide additional small prayer groups and services, pastoral care visits and support calls at a time when it was needed most.

ESLC is only as strong as the people who support the organization. We have been amazed by the dedication and commitment exhibited by our staff. Our workforce across the entire organization has risen to the occasion, many working outside of their typical roles. These employees are some of the best in the field, and we are especially appreciative of the tremendous job they are doing while balancing life at home. It has been through the work of those closest to the residents that has allowed ESLC to rise above the devastating loss that occurred in many nursing homes and assisted living communities in our area and across the county.

As we continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19, we remain committed to meeting the needs of seniors in this community. We are enthusiastic to continue to grow our community-based programs, like our Neighborhood Program and Service Coordination, as well as projects like Penfield Square, the new assisted living, memory care and affordable housing community scheduled to open in 2021, in partnership with Home Leasing in Penfield.

Finally, we thank you for all the prayers and encouragement you have given to ESLC during this challenging time. We truly appreciate the continued support now, especially, and always.