

# VOICE of the VILLAGE



**Eliza Bryant Village**

A Community of Care. Rooted in Tradition.  
Embracing the Future.

## Eliza Bryant Village's Award-Winning Elder Justice Center Celebrates Two Year Anniversary

Eliza Bryant Village is committed to addressing the growing problem of elder abuse. Our Elder Justice Center (EJC) is the only one in Ohio that provides relief exclusively to older adults, who often have no other options.

We respond to the needs of our community based on what we have learned over the last two years of service. We have lowered the age of admission to 55+ and removed the requirement of a third-party referral, now accepting self-referrals directly from individuals experiencing abuse. To date, we have connected 69 seniors to much needed community support programs and have hosted 23 guests in-house, the average stay of each being four months.

The EJC offers a trauma-informed model of care that includes therapeutic support provided in a person-centered framework by our supportive, multidisciplinary team. One former EJC guest stated, "Our generation was raised 'you don't talk about it.' You act as if it didn't happen. You don't have time to digest what you are going through because each day is a constant struggle. Here, you can focus on you." We help our guests process their trauma and begin healing, so they can grow their self-confidence and live a life free from the threat of violence, abuse and exploitation.

The program provides a physical refuge while giving each guest the best chance to be able to lead a fulfilling, safe and happy life. "There are so many factors and barriers that affect each person's success, and we have to peel through those layers to find appropriate ways to assist and support our guests," says Jeanna Davis, Director of Senior Outreach and the Elder Justice Center.

The Elder Justice Center is a response to the growing incidence of elder abuse experienced by many older adults. High levels of poverty and other social and economic stressors have resulted in



untenable levels of physical, emotional and financial abuse of many of our older adults. The privacy of all seniors is carefully protected and all are treated with respect and dignity. Since opening in December 2019, the Elder Justice Center at Eliza Bryant Village has received two awards. The NAMI Greater Cleveland Chapter awarded its Valeria A. Harper Cultural Competence in Mental Health Award to the EJC. The C3A Consortium: Awareness, Advocacy, Action in Combating Elder Abuse awarded its 2021 Recognition Award. These awards reinforce how necessary our Elder Justice Center program is to the community.

### Admission Criteria:

- 55+ years of age
- Experiencing one or more forms of abuse (physical, sexual, psychological, financial)
- In need of a temporary safe shelter and agrees to be placed in a temporary, safe space
- Victim will not contact abuser through any form of communication during stay
- Victim will keep shelter location confidential from alleged abuser.

**For more information on the Elder Justice Center, please contact 1-844-EJC-SAFE (1-844-352-7233).**

**To financially support Eliza Bryant Village's Elder Justice Center, please contact Michelle Carver, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at 216-658-1880.**

# Crisis and Character

A message from our President & CEO, Danny R. Williams, JD, MNO, LNHA



Many of us have heard the quote attributed to the late Kentucky novelist James Lane Allen, "Adversity doesn't build character; it reveals it." This phrase is often uttered to encourage athletes during difficult stretches. However, our various responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic gives the saying new meaning.

For many, as in the examples highlighted in this newsletter,

the current crisis has inspired greater empathy and a renewed appreciation of the fragility of life. Helping others to achieve their highest potential has become an even more critical priority for many of us.

During the pandemic, those with the means were even more generous with their time and their philanthropy. According to the annual Giving USA Foundation report, charitable giving in the United States reached a record \$471 billion in 2020. Despite the unsettling and uncertain times, giving by individuals, which made up the majority of donations last year, increased by approximately 2%, while foundations increased their giving by

17%, resulting in a 5.1% spike in total giving from the \$448

billion recorded for 2019.

Still others developed creative ways to stay connected with those in need and to bring joy to individuals who would otherwise suffer greatly from social isolation. Would most of us have even heard of Zoom but for the pandemic?

Unfortunately, this crisis has not always brought out the best in us. Many of us still rebel against safety measures that are perceived as unreasonable intrusions on our personal liberties. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that precautions are taken not just to protect ourselves, but to protect others. Legal disputes have taken the place of opportunities to compromise and reconcile differences. And, staffing agencies and other enterprises have seized the "opportunity" presented by this crisis to engage in price gouging and other unfair practices.

However, as vaccination rates continue to rise and protective practices become more routine, there are encouraging signs that this devastating virus may be approaching a manageable stage. The articles to follow offer reasons to be hopeful and thankful for our ability to meet this challenge. On behalf of our staff and board at Eliza Bryant Village, please accept our gratitude for your continued support during these most difficult of times. It reveals your true caring character.

## New Staff Highlights

**Earlontae Jackson**  
Nutrition Services Assistant  
in Adult Day Care

**Isaac Kwofie**  
Accountant

**Marcia Laury, LPN**  
PRN and works night shift

**Megan Thompson**  
Director of External Relations

## Eliza Bryant Village: Providing Care Like Family

JOIN OUR FAMILY TODAY!

**Skilled Nursing:**  
SIGN ON BONUSES AVAILABLE!

- Director of Infection Control, Quality Assurance & Staff Development
- Director of Nursing
- Wound Nurse
- MDS Nurse-RN/LPN
- RNs/LPNs/STNAs
- Social Worker
- Transporter Nursing

**Adult Day Services:**

- Personal Care Assistant-PRN
- PRN Driver-Adult Day Care
- Adult Day Care Activity



**Independent Housing:**

- Social Service Coordinator

**Dietary Services:**

- Dietary Aid

## Elder Justice Center Success Story

\*Names have been changed to preserve anonymity

When Sarah\* came to Eliza Bryant Village, it was originally a physical rehabilitation visit in our Rehab Center. Her landlord had found her unconscious on the floor of her apartment after a seizure. However, while receiving treatment, the Village's staff found out her boyfriend, Ed, had been abusing her emotionally, psychologically, verbally and financially. It was then they knew they had to take action. Sarah has been a guest of the Elder Justice Center here on campus since October 28, 2021.

Sarah discovered that Ed was cheating on her with another woman, but she had a difficult time accepting the situation or taking action. During her stay in rehabilitation, the financial abuse by Ed escalated. However, because his name was still on the accounts, no legal action could be taken. At this point Eliza Bryant Village's Elder Justice Center Outreach Worker, Shauna Mack, stepped in. She aided Sarah in rectifying the situation, accompanying her to various banking institutions to ensure Ed's access to Sarah's money and accounts was revoked.

Now that Sarah is staying at the Elder Justice Center, she is not only protected from Ed's abuse, but she also is participating in group art and music therapy sessions and is receiving psychotherapy services. Sarah stated that working with the psychotherapist on a weekly basis was proving very helpful to her mental state. Sarah said, "I'm glad to be leaving him. My life wasn't going on the right foot with him at all...I think I'm doing better by myself."

Similarly, Shauna stated that since Sarah has been a guest of the Elder Justice Center, "She thrives! She's more verbal and willing to accept direction...she is in a better mental place." Sarah said she's excited to be moving into her own apartment soon and said that anyone else in a similar situation needs to, "work on your life first, get your life together first."

Eliza Bryant Village is working to secure housing in our Independent Affordable Senior Housing for Sarah as soon as a unit becomes available, and we have signed her up as a participant in our Adult Day Services program. Until then, she will remain under the watchful eyes of EJC staff members.



# Adult Day Services Visits Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Thanks to generous support from the Fox Charitable Foundation, we have been able to take our Adult Day Services participants on a number of field trips this year, including to Greater Cleveland Aquarium. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so enjoy this epic in pictures!



## Congratulations to United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland for winning the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cleveland Chapter's 2021 Foundation Leadership Award!

Nominated by Eliza Bryant Village, this award is much deserved. United Black Fund (UBF) of Greater Cleveland's primary purpose is to strengthen the capacity of organizations and agencies that serve African Americans and impoverished communities by increasing their access to funding. UBF has supported Eliza Bryant Village with more than \$136,000 over a 23-year partnership.



## Caregiver Support Groups

Please join us in person at the Village or virtually via Zoom for our monthly Caregiver Support Group. Call Denise Rembert at 216-658-2344 for more information or to register.

### Effective Communication Strategies Thursday, January 27 | 7 PM

Communication is more than just talking and listening- it's also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions and body language. As people with dementia, most often Alzheimer's, progress in their journey and the ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. Join us to explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer's, learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia and identify strategies to help you to connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

### Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior Thursday, February 24 | 7 PM

Behavior is a powerful form of communication and is one of the primary ways for people with dementia to communicate their needs and feelings as the ability to use language is lost. However, some behaviors can present real challenges for caregivers to manage. Join us to learn how to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease.

### Living with Alzheimer's: Early Stage Thursday, March 31 | 7 PM

This community education program is designed for people with early-stage Alzheimer's disease or related dementia and their care partners and families. Learn about Alzheimer's disease from a person who is living with it... You won't want to miss this inspiring program featuring a person in the early stage of Alzheimer's disease who will share how one learns to live with the disease.

## COME VISIT!

We're able to schedule resident visits 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm Monday-Friday. Please be advised we will continue to follow current CDC COVID protocols and guidelines to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19 to ensure that our residents, visitors and staff have safe and enjoyable visits. The following guidelines have been established for the safety of our residents, staff and visitors:

### FACILITY PROTOCOLS

- Designated area for visits. Entrance will be through the door located on the patio.
- Will provide a mask, if needed.
- Screen each visitor using COVID-19 symptom checklist.
- Take temperatures prior to visit.
- Transport residents to the visiting area.
- Monitor visits to ensure adherence to time allotted and distancing protocol.
- Clean areas upon completion of each visit.

### VISITOR GUIDELINES

- Visits must be scheduled.
- There will be no more than 2 visitors per resident.
- Duration of each visit will be for 30 minutes.
- Each visitor must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer that will be available at the visitation site.
- Each visitor must maintain the 6ft social distancing.
- No pets will be allowed.

To schedule your visit, please contact our Visitor Coordinator at (216) 658-8838.



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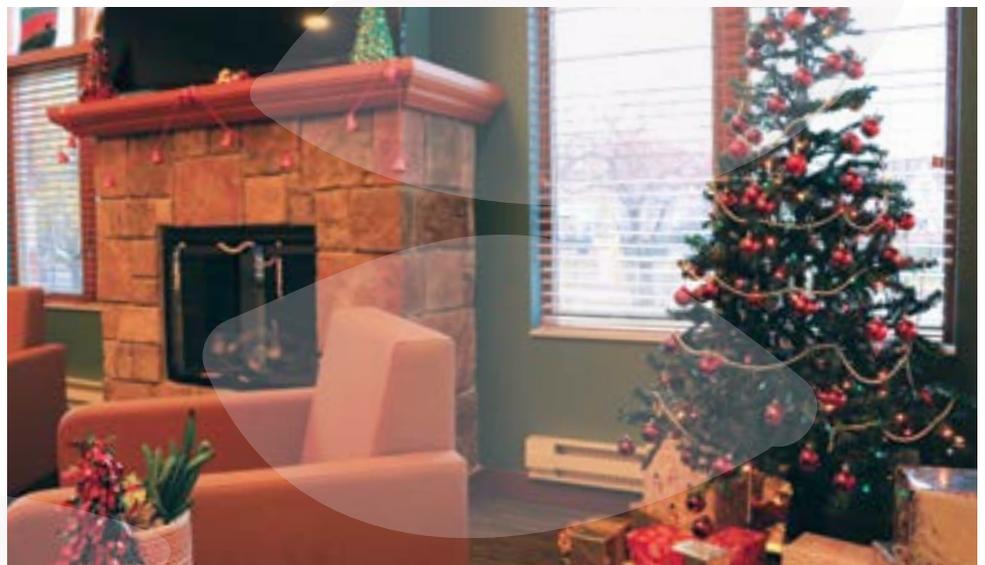
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## Coats and Winter Wear Drive

We are collecting winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves for our guests and residents at Eliza Bryant Village. Please drop off your new or gently used winter wear at the Village Monday-Friday between 8a-8p. Adult sizes only, please. We are in especially great need of sizes L/XL/XXL/XXXL as well as mittens and gloves.



# DONATE TODAY!

## Stand with Eliza Bryant Village

Eliza Bryant Village has been an anchor institution in Cleveland for more than 125 years. We are the oldest continually operating African American-founded long-term care facility in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nursing homes across the country. During the last two years, more than 500 nursing homes have closed around the country. These effects have been felt here at Eliza Bryant Village and have dramatically impacted our ability to operate as we have in the past. However, we are still operating as a culturally capable organization serving the needs of primarily African American older adults in Greater Cleveland.

We believe, as we think you do as well, that Eliza Bryant Village is "**too essential to fail.**" We ask you to please stand with Eliza Bryant Village and help our organization continue to operate our Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation facility, Adult Day Services, Independent Affordable Senior Housing and Elder Justice Center at the quality levels our families deserve. After all, we are all Eliza!

**Donate at [ElizaBryant.org](http://ElizaBryant.org) or mail a check to 7201 Wade Park Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103 Attn. Development. Thank you!**