



Voice of the Village

Eliza Bryant Village

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



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

A Moment or a Movement?

Something happened last year. No, I'm not talking about the pandemic. The sooner that word fades from our vocabulary, the better. Something else. A different attitude seemed to emerge about race

and about justice. In my neighborhood in Cleveland Heights, Black Lives Matter signs started appearing on the tree lawns of some of my white neighbors. Others, perhaps feeling the focus was too narrow, posted signs expressing support for an exhaustive list of marginalized groups. As Malcolm Gladwell so eloquently wrote in his seminal national bestseller, it felt as if the events of the last several years had suddenly reached a "tipping point." The question is, how do we transform this moment of societal awareness into a positive and sustainable movement?

We've seen this before. Following mass high school shootings, or after the Occupy Wall Street protests over income and wealth inequality and, most notably, in the face of several horrific, high-profile killings of Black suspects, it seemed inevitable

something must change. But, almost always, the energy faded and little, if anything, resulted.

This time feels different. This time, economic leaders such as Loretta Mester, the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, are speaking out, acknowledging: "Limiting opportunity because of race, ethnicity, or gender threatens the health of our economy." Barbara Snyder, respected former president of Case Western Reserve University, confided during her last few weeks in Cleveland that she now favors some form of reparations for Black folks.

We must seize this moment and find the common thread that links us in our collective outrage at the injustices we are witnessing in real time, and come together in support of policies that more equitably distribute resources to all of our people, particularly those who are the most at risk.

I hope the stories of hope and caring in this newsletter will inspire you to build on the current momentum toward creating a more racially just and equitable community. We need a movement, not just a moment.

COVID-19 Vaccinations Safeguard the Village!

After many months of anticipation, Eliza Bryant Village began vaccinating skilled nursing residents and Village employees on December 29, 2020. Since then, the Village has hosted three more COVID-19 vaccine clinics in partnership with CVS to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to vulnerable older adults and essential healthcare workers who continue to provide

quality care every day and night. A fourth vaccine clinic was held on March 31 to administer the Moderna vaccine to residents and staff. We are working with partners at the local, city, and state levels to help our independent housing tenants and adult daycare participants get vaccinated at appropriate COVID-19 vaccine clinics hosted throughout the community.

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Celebrating Our Quasquicentennial

Donate \$125 (or more!) in honor of our 125th year of service

Eliza Bryant Village is pleased to announce our 125th year fulfilling our mission to “provide quality services, outreach programs and a dignified, compassionate and secure living environment for seniors.” We are inspired by the vision of our founding group of women, who established the “Lady Board of Managers,” which has since become Auxiliary I, Auxiliary II, and Auxiliary III. These women volunteered their time and their passion for creating a legacy that has continued to withstand the test of time.

Over the years, this small but mighty group of nearly 100 women evolved alongside the Village to include family, community members, businesses, educational institutions, and new friends. Today, Eliza Bryant Village encompasses a 17-acre campus that serves more than 1,000 seniors and their families through critical healthcare, programs, and services, including skilled nursing, rehabilitation, adult daycare and senior outreach, affordable independent housing, and an Elder Justice Center.

We are celebrating 125 years in a variety of ways throughout 2021. We invite you all to celebrate our Quasquicentennial with us! Do not underestimate the influence and power of a small group of individuals. Today, more than ever before, Eliza Bryant Village needs your support. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger together.

To honor this special occasion, Eliza Bryant Village asks you to please give \$125 (or more!) to commemorate our anniversary.

Blessings for a healthy and safe 2021.

Sincerely,

Today, more than ever before, Eliza Bryant Village needs your support. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger together.



**Teena Mitchell,
President Auxiliary 1**



**Gwendolyn James,
President Auxiliary II**



**Zadie Barber,
President Auxiliary III**



Eliza Bryant Village

One Village, Inspired by Traditional African American Values, Welcoming to All.

Village History + Evolution Over the Years...

- In 1896, The Cleveland Home for Aged Colored People was established from the dedication and fundraising of **Eliza Simmons Bryant** and women from her Church
- In 1960, our name was changed to the **Eliza Bryant Home for the Aged**.
- The **Inez Myers Senior Outreach Center** opened in **1999**, which today houses our Adult Day Care & Senior Outreach Program.
- In 1999, the **Eliza Bryant Village Manor** senior housing complex was built. Our name was changed to **Eliza Bryant Village** that same year.
- In 2003, we built garden-style housing units, the **Garden Estates**, and expanded the **nursing home from 100 to 175 beds**, after acquiring the former **Madonna Hall Nursing Home**.
- Our third affordable housing complex, the **Amasa B. Ford Lodge** was built in 2008.
- In collaboration with the **Centers for Dialysis Care (CDC)**, Eliza Bryant Village constructed a new dialysis center on-site that opened in 2015.
- The **Elder Justice Center** opened in **December 2019** to serve seniors experiencing abuse, violence, trauma, or criminal victimization.

Kindness During COVID-19

We are so grateful for the donations, kindness, and support shared with the Village and the seniors we serve over the past year. While we were able to capture many acts of kindness, we recognize that many more acts of service and compassion were shared over the past year that we couldn't include on this page. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your continued support!



Ms. Bates reads a hand-made card from our friends at UpCycle.



Staff enjoyed receiving beautiful flowers to brighten their spirits from BigHearted Blooms.



President & CEO Danny Williams receives a donation on behalf of the Village from Alpha Kappa Alpha to help the Village seniors.



Seniors and staff at the Village enjoyed community support from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter. They provided snacks and gave out thank you cards to all staff. Thanks to Tracey Mason for volunteering her time to help distribute to staff.



Restorative Nurse Connie sends love to residents and Village supporters.



Residents enjoy socially distant activities to dance their way through COVID-19.



The Jackson Family donated essentials and care packages to the Village, instead of receiving Christmas gifts, in response to COVID-19.



Mr. Jones enjoyed a hand-made card that brought him a smile.



The Cleveland Section of the National Council of Negro Women provided a pizza lunch for staff and drove-through our campus honking and waving to show support to residents and staff.

Board & Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations Danielle Sydnor

Board President Danielle Sydnor has earned several well-deserved recognitions for her work to create a safer, more equitable community for residents of all ages. WKYC honored Danielle on March 9, 2021, in a series called "21 Strong," featuring local leaders dedicated to educating and building bridges to make sure Ohioans of all races have access to the American dream.



Danielle was named one of "10 Cleveland Women who Inspire Us" in Cleveland Magazine this past March, as well as *Crain's Cleveland Business* "40 Under 40" in 2019.

Welcome Brandy Driscoll, new Director of Nursing



Join us in welcoming our new Director of Nursing, Brandy Driscoll. Starting this spring, Brandy brings a wealth of knowledge, compassion, and leadership to her new role. In addition to a nursing career that began in 1996, Brandy brings a long-term care and critical care background to the Village. She has

experience with sales and marketing and earned her B.A. in Nursing through Western Governors University. She is currently earning her MSN from Walden University. Brandy is most looking forward to getting to know the Village residents, families, and staff. Her hobby and personal passion is singing/songwriting. Her lifetime dream is to perform on Broadway! She auditioned for *The Voice* virtually during the pandemic.

Elder Justice Center receives NAMI Valeria Harper Award

The Elder Justice Center at Eliza Bryant Village is the winner of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland Valeria Harper Cultural Competence in Mental Health Award. The award recognizes a peer, family member, professional, or organization that has demonstrated excellence in working with minority populations in the mental health field. The Elder Justice Center was recognized for providing critical support to older adults experiencing abuse, violence, trauma or criminal victimization. The Village will accept the award at the

NAMI Greater Cleveland 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Welcome new Chief Philanthropy Officer Michelle Carver



Michelle Carver joins the Village as our new Chief Philanthropy Officer. Welcome! Michelle comes to EBV with more than 20 years experience in various marketing, special event, and fund development roles. She received a B.A. in Journalism from Ohio University and recently earned an MBA from Ashland University. Joan

Palumbo, who served as Chief Philanthropy Officer for more than four years, moves on to a new role. We wish Joan continued success in her new endeavors and appreciate all her leadership and fundraising efforts to improve the seniors' lives at the Village!

Peer Recognition of Chris Wood for Hard Work During COVID-19

Director of Dietary Services, Chris Wood, was recognized by a colleague for his exceptional efforts to the Village throughout COVID-19. Specifically, Chris was noted as being "all in each and every day." When asked why he likes working in long-term care, Chris said: *I have always loved being around seniors. I used to volunteer at a nursing home growing up. My childhood neighborhood had a lot of seniors as well. They have great real-life stories and were always happy to share them, and were always quick with some kind of advice that only could come from life experience.*

Peer Recognition of Tracy Freeman for Hard Work During COVID-19

Tracy Freeman, MSN, RN, Director of Quality Assurance, Staff Development, Infection Control, was recognized by a colleague for her dedication to the Village during COVID-19. Her teammates appreciate Tracy taking every opportunity to educate staff one-on-one and with formal classes to keep facility staff current with required infection control policies and procedures. When asked why she likes working in long term care, she said: *Caring for the elderly has always been a passion for me. This work enables me to give back to society by caring for those who helped and watched us grow to become who we are today. From teachers to mail carriers, these seniors all contribute to our being and who we are today.*

Words from Village Seniors

“I believe that the housing staff is nice, and Eliza Bryant believes in keeping their establishment clean and neat. The lunch program is nice. I have a real nice apartment.”

– Ms. J, Housing Tenant

“I like the people and arts and crafts. I like getting away from the house. Eliza Bryant makes me happy. It means so much to me. I enjoy Ernestine, Joyce and so many other people. They make me happy when I’m sad or blue. I don’t like to miss a day. I come five days a week. I love Denise and the nurse too. I love everybody here.”

– D. Williams, Adult Day Care Participant

“Eliza Bryant Village has been beneficial to me because I’m around people who have different things wrong. When I came here (EBV) I was mad and bratty. I learned how to get along with other people who are different. I’m different too. They don’t baby you here. I’m learning how to share my feelings and that I’m not always going to have my way. I love the company of the other people. We talk, laugh, play cards, and work on art projects. I like all the teachers and “Mr. Michigan,” [Danny]. Ms. Lisa taught me how to connect to a Zoom call with my family. My sister was so happy she baked and sent Ms. Lisa oatmeal cookies from Michigan.”

– Guest of the Elder Justice Center

Eliza Bryant Village Rehab Success Story Ms. Richmond



Congratulations!

Ms. Richmond came to Eliza Bryant Village in July following a surgery. She was dedicated to her recovery, and with the help of the therapy team at Eliza Bryant Village, Ms. Richmond regained her strength and independence to return home.

We wish Ms. Richmond the best of luck and thank her for choosing Eliza Bryant Village.

Thank you

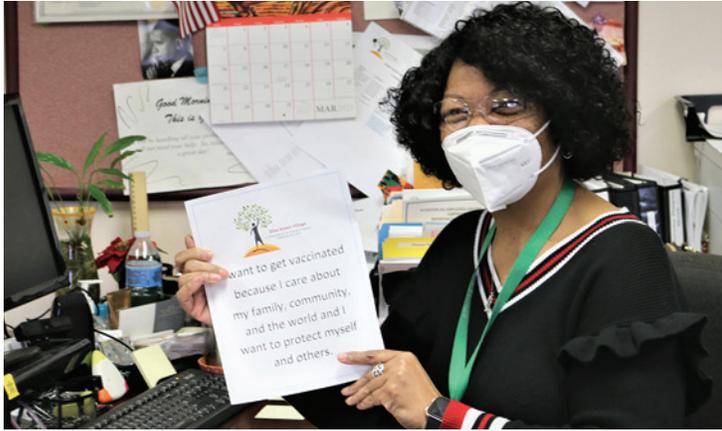
“I enjoyed working with Tim and Soonarie. They were my best friends while I was here. Without them, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Ms. Richmond

COVID-19 Vaccinations continued from page 1

To protect our family, friends, and neighbors' health and safety, Eliza Bryant Village encourages those eligible to receive the FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Village residents and staff share their reasons for getting the vaccine:



Anita Bailey, Executive Assistant



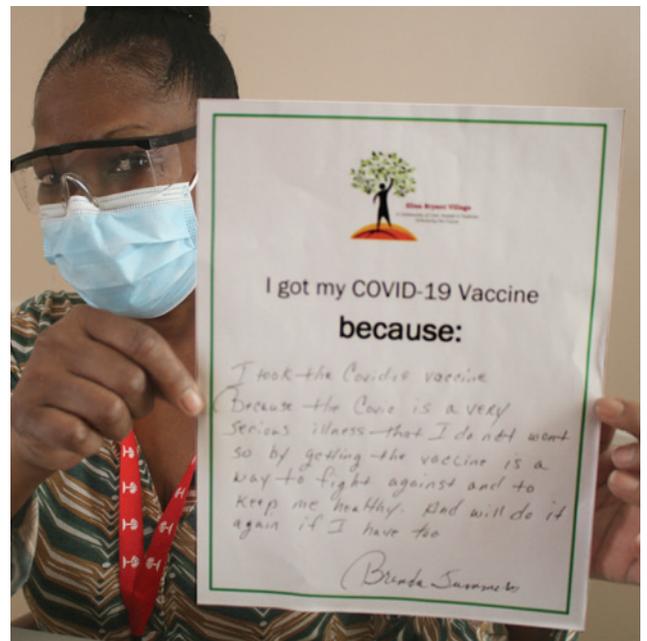
Danny R. Williams, JD, MNO, LNHA, President & CEO



Mr. Brown, Skilled Nursing Resident



Ms. Oden, Skilled Nursing Resident



Pam Walker, Dietary Aide



Dietary Aide, Brittany Jackson



Joan Palumbo, former Chief Philanthropy Officer



Jeanna Davis, MSSA, Director of Senior Outreach & Adult Day Care

Upcoming Calendar of Events



Virtual Annual Meeting Save the Date

Please join Eliza Bryant Village as we celebrate our 125th-year with our 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Monday, April 26, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

April National Minority Health Month

April 18-24 National Volunteer Appreciation Week

May Older Americans Month + National Mental Health Month

May 6 National Nurses Day

May 9 Mother's Day

May 9-15 National Skilled Nursing Care Week

June 15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 17-24 National Nursing Assistants Week

June 20 Father's Day

July Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Saturday, June 19, 2021: Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, on June 19, the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with General Lee's surrender in April of 1865 and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

– Juneteenth.com

August: Black Philanthropy Month

- The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported that organizations led by people of color win less grant money and are trusted less to decide how to spend those funds than groups with white leaders.
- According to the findings, white-led groups had budgets that were 24 percent larger than those led by people of color. And, groups led by black women received less money than those led by black men or white women.
- The research found that the unrestricted assets of groups with leaders of color were 76 percent smaller than those led by whites.
- Support Black Philanthropy Month by donating to Eliza Bryant Village at www.elizabryant.org and other Black-led and Black-benefitting organizations.

– www.philanthropy.com



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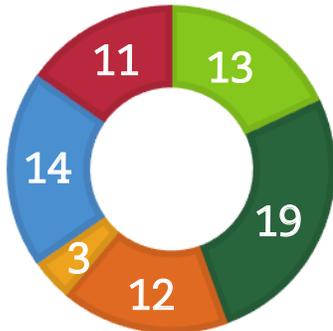
Interested in sponsoring a column in our next newsletter?
Call Katie Boland, Director of External Relations, at 216-658-1881.

The Elder Justice Center at Eliza Bryant Village Year 1 in Review: March 2020—March 2021

49 Seniors Referred and Connected

Referred seniors suffered these types of abuse:

■ financial ■ physical ■ emotional
■ sexual ■ verbal ■ psychological



Admission Criteria

- Must be 62+ years old
- Must have experienced or be at risk of experiencing one or more forms of abuse
- Must be referred to EJC by a community or governmental organization
- Must be in need of and agreeable to temporary safe space
- Must refrain from contacting the alleged abuser during stay
- Must keep Center location confidential

“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.”

—Former Guest of the EJC

13 Seniors Rescued

- 4 moved into EBV affordable housing
- 2 moved into a new home in the community
- 2 voluntarily left the program before finding new, safe housing



Donate

www.elizabryantvillage.org