

HORIZONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SADIE G. MAYS HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER



SADIE G. MAYS
HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER

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BEST WISHES, BETH!



Beth, at her retirement reception at Sadie G. Mays.

Beth Laxton, Executive Director of Sadie G. Mays for the past 3 ½ years, has retired. Beth accomplished so much in her tenure, including streamlining and upgrading many of our operations systems. She also oversaw the raising of \$4.3 million for Phase I of our capital campaign which focused on the renovation of the facility. Thanks to the support of twenty-four foundations, several corporations, numerous individuals, and Fulton County, she successfully managed major renovations projects to the building. "We are grateful to Beth for all that she has done to enhance our organization and make Sadie G. Mays a more beautiful and efficient place for our residents and staff," said Board Chair, Sam Bacote. Beth stated, "It has been an honor and a privilege to lead Sadie G. Mays." Beth will spend more time with her elderly parents in North Carolina and hopes to rejoin the SGM board of directors later in the year. Meanwhile, Assistant Executive Director, Malik Hakeem will serve as the Interim Executive Director while the board mounts a national search for a permanent Executive Director. Thank you, Beth! We wish you all the best.



SGM team members bid Beth a fond farewell on her retirement.



**HAVE A GREAT
2025!**

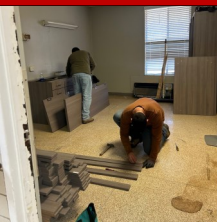
**COME TO OUR
BLACK HISTORY
PROGRAM**

**"Let Freedom Ring!"
FEATURING TOTAL
DANCE/DANCICAL
PRODUCTIONS
SUN., FEB. 23, 2025
4:00—5:00 p.m.**



**FREE & OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC
DONATIONS WILL
BE APPRECIATED.**

RESIDENT ROOM RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY



Workmen assemble the new closet/chest-of-drawers units.

Renovating the residents' rooms is one of the last projects in Phase I of our capital campaign – *Renovation & Expansion of Sadie G. Mays*. The biggest job is replacing the built-in, closet/chest-of-drawers units that were installed when the building was constructed in 1968. We are replacing these with new customized, ADA-compliant units in all 107 rooms. **We are grateful to the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, anonymous, and the Betty & Davis Fitzgerald Foundation for making grants to Sadie G. Mays, specifically for this upgrade.** Many other foundations and donors have contributed to the renovations as well, and we are grateful to each one. All the installations should be completed by the end of February. Meanwhile, many



A newly-installed closet/chest-of-drawers unit.

residents are already enjoying their spacious, new closet and chest-of-drawers units, which make it easier for them to access their belongings while also beautifying their rooms. Additionally, the rooms have been painted, and new cove base and window blinds have been installed. The last step for Phase I will be replacing the furnishings in each room. **To help, you may donate online at www.sgmays.org/donate/. Thank you!**

RESIDENTS ENJOY A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS OUTING

On December 2nd, fifteen residents took a field trip to see "Stepp Stewart's A Soulful Christmas," at the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts Center in Decatur, GA. Thanks to support from the community for this special field trip, the residents were able to enjoy the vibrant, holiday musical production. "I had never been to a play before," said Resident, Nathaniel Swinger. "I really liked it!" he continued. The all-



The gentlemen of Sadie G. Mays pose at the Porter Sanford III Center with two SGM team members.

male group of residents had lobbied for a field trip since last spring when an all-female group had a chance to visit the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, courtesy of the Jesse Parker Williams Foundation which supports elderly, Christian women. The men were delighted to have their turn and they truly enjoyed the show which featured dancers, singers and a story tracing soulful holiday music through the decades.



Resident, N. Swinger, at the theater entrance.

**26th Annual
COMMUNITY
HEALTH FAIR
"Tapestry of Life"
WEDNESDAY, MAY
14, 2025
10:00 A.M.—1:00
P.M.
Health Screenings,
Information,
Entertainment,
Snacks & More!
Free & Open to
the Public**

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Members of New Emmanuel Baptist Church enjoy the Volunteer Appreciation Social.

Sadie G. Mays held its first annual *Volunteer Appreciation Social* on Oct. 23 in our sunny courtyard. We honored the dedicated individuals who contribute their time and effort to enhance the lives of the residents of Sadie G. Mays. Every volunteer received a Sadie Mays reusable lunch bag, and the group was serenaded by

Sadie's Divine Community Choir. Did you know that there are 14 churches whose groups volunteer at Sadie G. Mays? We also have more than 11 community organizations and several individuals who donate their time, talent, and gifts to Sadie G. Mays. We thank you all! Together, we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents.

DIETARY DEPT. SCORES 100



The Dietary Dept. team poses during Dietary Appreciation Week 2024.

Congratulations to our amazing Dietary Department for achieving a rating of 100 from the Georgia Dept. of Public Health (GDPH). The GDPH is the same agency that rates restaurants. Every skilled nursing facility must provide its residents with nourishing, palatable, well-balanced diet that meets his or her daily nutritional requirements, special dietary needs, and preferences.

"We take pride in caring for our residents and making sure they have the nutrition they need," said Marcus Reese, Dietary Director. Sadie G. Mays provides three meals and two snacks daily to its residents. Sadie G. Mays received 100 ratings on its last two annual surveys. Keep up the great work, Dietary Dept.!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PASSIONATE CARE HOSPICE



Dr. Scholar Ibezim, RN, founder and owner of Passionate Care Hospice, at the Fish Fry on Sept. 17 in the SGM courtyard.

Passionate Care Hospice, LLC has partnered with Sadie G. Mays to serve our hospice patients since 2022. It is a female-owned, Georgia-based, independent agency dedicated entirely to hospice care. Owner and founder, Scholar Ibezim, RN, PhD.DNP, has more than 30 years of extensive clinical and leadership experience. The Passionate Care Hospice team goes above and beyond the usual hospice services by supporting the entire Sadie G. Mays family. On September 17, Passionate



The Passionate Care Hospice team poses at the Fish Fry.

Care Hospice hosted a Fish Fry in the courtyard where residents, staff, and even visitors, enjoyed delicious fried fish and all the fixings! In December, they hosted a Year End Appreciation Luncheon for residents and team members with delicious holiday foods. In between, they donate their time and resources to support the residents and staff of Sadie G. Mays. Thanks for the great partnership, Passionate Care!

SGM RESIDENTS VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



Sadie G. Mays residents line-up to cast their absentee ballots for Nov. elections.

The residents of Sadie G. Mays exercised their right to vote in the Presidential Election of 2024. On Sept. 18th, 43 residents and team members cast absentee ballots and 34 updated their addresses without having to leave the facility. This was thanks to LaShandra Little, the Voter Education and Outreach Manager for the Fulton County Dept. of Registration & Elections and her team, along with representatives of The Atlanta (GA) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, who assisted. Arranged by the Social Services and Development Depts. of Sadie G. Mays, the residents were able to have their questions answered

and cast their ballots right here at Sadie G. Mays. "This is a service that we arrange for all our residents who are able to participate," said Linda Walker, Social Service Director. "It is an important part of their federally mandated Residents Rights," she continued.

Resident, C. Fuller, is helped by the Fulton County Elections team to cast his absentee ballot.



SCENES FROM SADIE G. MAYS



Fulton County Commissioner Dana Barrett(l) and Chief of Staff, Fran Calhoun(r) visit SGM Interim Exec. Dir., M. Hakeem.



Drummers with Total Dance/Dancical Productions kick off the Kwanzaa celebration on Dec. 30.



Resident, J. Green, sings karaoke at a holiday party hosted by the Pi Alpha Omega Chapter of AKA.



Activity team members congratulate Cassandra Stovall, a Girl Scout volunteer, for her participation in the Christmas program.



Sadie's Showbiz Squad acts in "The Greatest Gift Ever!" an original play by Activity Dir., D. Curier, as part of the Christmas program on Dec. 21.



These resident veterans pose with guest speaker, Orlando Pryor, (red tie) and Interim Exec. Dir., M Hakeem (white shirt). 43 veterans were honored, including residents, staff, and volunteers, at our Veterans Day Salute on Nov. 11.



WCLK 91.9 Radio personality, Debb Moore, hosts the 12th Annual Thanksgiving Concert featuring the Metro. Atlanta Community Band on Nov. 16.



The Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band performing in their 12th Annual Thanksgiving Concert at Sadie G. Mays on November 16.



Resident, Constance Waters-Brown, enjoys the October birthday party with her friends on Oct. 22.



EVS team member, Michelle Toliver, dances with resident, Jennie Andrews, at the Taco Party on Oct. 4.



Resident, David Green, creates an original oil painting at the Paint & Sip event on Sept. 25.



Resident, Geraldine Parks, enjoys purchasing items at the Rummage Sale on Sept. 27, using her SGM Bingo bucks.



Residents, S. Taylor(l) and A. Brown (r) enjoy cooling their feet at Sadie's Pool Party on Sept. 13.



Residents, Hattie Diop and Douglas Alphabet, show off their new looks after receiving makeovers from the Activity Team members on July 26.





**HAVE A SAFE &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center

1821 Anderson Ave., NW
Atlanta, GA 30314

Phone: 404-794-2477
FAX: 404-799-9876

Newsletter Editor—Shirley H. Coleman
Email: scoleman@sgmays.org



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 78 YEARS!
DONATE TO SADIE G. MAYS ONLINE AT
WWW.SGMAYS.ORG

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS!



Volunteer, Tammy Mills (red coat) and friends, brought Christmas sacks loaded with gifts for our residents.



The St. James Lodge of Prince Hall Masons served a Christmas-style dinner to residents and staff, Dec. 7.



Dorothy Mabry and family created beautiful Christmas wreaths to decorate the doorways of our residents, and hung them, too!

Founded in 1947, the Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center is a 206-bed, non-profit, skilled nursing facility providing comprehensive nursing and rehabilitative services.

www.sgmays.org



Interim Executive Director
Malik Hakeem, LHNA

Medical Director
T. Andrew Frinks, M.D.

Director of Health Services
Kristin Watts, RN



Members of the Strong Tower of Faith and Deliverance Church sing during their monthly Sunday service.



Volunteer photographer, Craig Sneed, poses with Dev. Director S. Coleman after taking Christmas portraits of residents and team members.



Members of the Showers of Blessings Outreach ministry show the gifts they received for their many years of conducting sing-alongs at Sadie G. Mays.