

HORIZONS

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



SADIE G. MAYS
HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER

Volume 17, Issue 1
WINTER – SPRING

UniverSoul Circus Soars!



SGM residents pose in front of the Big Top on their UniverSoul Circus field trip.

“Big Top! Circus!” That rousing cheer – led by Zeke, the UniverSoul Circus ringmaster – echoed through the crowd on Saturday, May 26, as we treated our residents to an unforgettable



SGM residents get ready for the show to begin.

afternoon at the internationally acclaimed. Thanks in part to the **Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation**, we were able to take 12 residents to experience the circus, many for the first time. “I was so excited I could hardly sleep that night thinking about all I had seen,” said Bessie Davis, one of the residents who attended. From the daring Ethiopian acrobats to the gigantic Caribbean Carnival puppets, to the death-defying motorcyclists and more, it was an exciting and exhilarating experience for residents and the staff alike. We can’t wait to go again next year!



Giant Caribbean puppets thrilled SGM residents.



OUR 27th ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR!



Nearly 200 people participated in this community health



Marilyn McCain(r) of Grady Office of Health Outcomes tests an attendee.

Our 27th Annual Community Health Fair was the best yet, with more health screenings, vendors, entertainment, and attendees than ever! Held on May 14 in celebration of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, there were 28 service providers who offered free health information and important screenings. Attendees from several Metro senior centers attended. They rocked with the KIPP Atlanta Collegiate marching band, the Steppin’ Seniors of the Old Adamsville Senior Center, and songs by Sadie’s Divine Community Choir. Attendees enjoyed everything from carnival games and snow cones to hula hoops and walking the “Falls Prevention Trail.” In conjunction with the theme, “Moments in Bloom,” Community Foodscapes invited attendees to plant small plants to take home. They also enjoyed raffle prizes and treats. We thank our sponsors who helped to make this free event possible (See list)



Resident, C. Brown is greeted by “Boss Frog” and Xylina Cassandra of the National Entertainment Therapy Alliance.

THANK YOU MAJOR HEALTH FAIR SPONSORS:



WELCOME & FAREWELL, BOARD MEMBERS!



Scholar Ibezim,
DNP, Ph.D.



Municipal Court
Judge Christopher
E. Ward

We are happy to welcome two new board members, **Scholar Ibezim, DNP, Ph.D.** and **Judge Christopher E. Ward**. Dr. Ibezim, is founder and CEO of Passionate Care Hospice, one of our partner organizations. Judge Ward, an Atlanta native, has served as a Municipal Court Judge since 2012. We welcome the energy, expertise, and insight of these two new board members. We would also like to **send our fondest best wishes to three board members who are concluding their terms on the board: Alton Myers, CPA**, who joined the Sadie G. Mays board of Directors in 1998 and faithfully served on the Finance Committee and as well as a term as Board Chair. Next, **James “Pete” Hayley** joined the board in 2003 and faithfully served for 22 years, primarily as Chair of the Finance Committee. Finally, **Edward Curtis, DPT**, a nursing home administrator and physical therapist, who joined in 2022 and lent his expertise immeasurably. Thank you for the time, talent, and treasure that you poured into our facility and its residents. We appreciate your dedication and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



Departing board members, Edward Curtis, DPT, Alton Myers, CPA, and James “Pete” Hayley.

A WORD FROM GERRI'S DESK



Gerri Cooper, LNHA, MHRER, is SGM's Executive Director



SGM's award for its secure environment.

We recently celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week. I am extremely proud of our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly each day to provide compassionate care for our residents. Their commitment makes a meaningful difference in the quality of care we provide. From our nurses and CNAs to our therapy, dietary, EVS, maintenance, activities, and administrative teams, every department plays an important role in making Sadie G. Mays feel like home. Their dedication, patience, and kindness do not go unnoticed, and I am deeply grateful for the heart they bring to their work every day. As we move forward, I am excited to continue supporting our team members and ensuring that Sadie G. Mays remains a strong pillar in our community. I would also like to thank our families, volunteers, and community partners for being such an important part of this journey with us. **Finally, we are happy to share that Sadie G. Mays has been named a 2026 Safest Places to Live recipient.** This national designation from Accushield recognizes senior living communities that meet the industry's most rigorous standard for resident security. This means that our community has gone beyond minimum regulatory requirements to build a genuinely secure environment. I am excited about the future of Sadie G. Mays and the opportunities we have to continue building a culture of compassion, teamwork, and excellence. Together, we will continue to create a place where quality care, respect, and kindness guide everything we do.



SGM team members enjoy "Hat Day" during National Nursing Home Week.



CNAs Janero Walker and Stacy Mouzon receive continuing education from Interim DON, Kortney Simmons Johnson, RN.

STARS OF THE MONTH

Congrats to our Stars of the Month for 2025-2026! Chosen by SGM team members, they each receive a plaque and a \$100 gift card.

2025

AUGUST — SHERRELLE HOLMES — Central Supply
SEPTEMBER — MICHELLE CURRY — Environmental Svcs.
OCTOBER — SHIRLEY COLEMAN — Dev. & Marketing
NOVEMBER — AMADOU SOW — Administration
DECEMBER — PEARL ANDERSON — Administration

2026:

JANUARY — BEXSIRA MAXIMO — Social Services
FEBRUARY — WHITLEE CLAY — Life Enrichment
MARCH — INGRA KEMP — Social Services
APRIL — ALFREDA GIBBS — Environmental Services
MAY — SHERONDA HIMES — Administration

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN AND AT SADIE G. MAYS



Dietary Chef, "June" Wilson and Veronica Middleton, LPN

Love has blossomed at Sadie G Mays! LPN, Veronica Middleton, and Dietary Chef, William "June" Wilson, first met in the break room at Sadie G. Mays in October 2024. A widower for three years, June had prayed and was "ready to get back out there." Veronica was "...looking for someone who could love me as much as I loved him." Soon, they started dating. He took her to New York to meet his family. "They all loved me and I loved them," she said. A short time after, June popped the question and they married on July 1, 2025. This is the second marriage for both. June said, "Now we pray together, we live together, and we work together at Sadie G. Mays." We wish you both a long and happy marriage!

ASCPN BRINGS CHRISTMAS BOUNTY



ASCPN members bring Christmas gifts for Sadie G. Mays residents.

The Atlanta Senior Care Professionals Network (ASCPN) selected Sadie G. Mays as the recipient of a bounty of gifts donated at their annual holiday gathering on Dec. 11, 2025. ASCPN is comprised of professionals across all aspects of the senior care industry. Though they usually collect children's gifts for their holiday giving, this time they decided to focus on gifts for seniors. "The members said how much more meaningful it was to provide gifts for seniors and more relevant to our mission," said John Butler, President of ASCPN. Shirley H. Coleman, Sadie G. Mays' Director of Development & Marketing, is a board member of the ASCPN. "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of ASCPN," she said. Exec. Dir. Gerri Cooper said, "We thank everyone who participated in and donated to our community during the Christmas season. Your generosity and support truly made a difference and helped bring joy to our residents."



Board of Directors of the ASCPN at the holiday party at Capstone Hospice.

SCENES FROM SADIE G. MAYS



SGM team members, J. Dewberry, A. Ashner, P. Anderson, and W. Brown channel their 60's and 70's personas during National Nursing Home Week.



Transportation coordinator, Debra Aikens (r), bids farewell & "Happy Retirement" to CNA Judy Jordan (l) after 44 years at SGM.



The Sound of Royalty marching band of KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School open the 26th Annual Community Health Fair with fanfare on May 14.



Life Enrichment Director, S. Denise Currier leads members of our residents' choir in Mother's Day program.



Residents, Warren Harris and Bessie Davis prepare for the Easter Program at Sadie G. Mays.



Fulton County Commissioner Marvin Arrington greets resident, John Evans, at the SGM 79th Anniversary program on March 24.



Passionate Care Hospice presented a memorial program for deceased residents in March.



Resident, Bailey Waymon, was crowned King of the Valentines Ball in February.



Residents enjoy a special Kwanzaa presentation on December 29.



Resident, Ann Scott gets a Christmas portrait by volunteer photographer, Craig Sneed.



CNA, Vernice Goodwin, escorts resident, Shirley Gates, along with other residents, to see "Stepp Stewart's A Soulful Christmas."



Volunteer, Sue Ross, former Fulton County Commissioner Mo Ivory, Volunteer, C. Houston-Torrence and FOX5-TV reporter, Aungelique Proctor, talk at the Veterans Day program.



The Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band performs their 13th Annual Thanksgiving Concert at Sadie G. Mays on Nov. 22.



SGM Board Chair, Sam Bacote, Dev. Dir., S. Coleman, and E.D., G. Cooper visit with Fulton County Commission Chair, Robb Pitts.



Resident, Terri Sparks was crowned Queen of the SGM Senior Prom in October.



Fulton County Commissioner, Bridget Thorne (2nd from left) and her staff visit with G. Cooper (c) at SGM in Sept.





**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY
SUMMER!**

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SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 79 YEARS!

DONATE TO SADIE G. MAYS ONLINE AT

WWW.SGMAYS.ORG

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS!



Students from Tri-Cities High School visited our residents in February and played Bingo, danced, and sang Karaoke with them.



Fulton County Commissioner Bob Ellis helped to secure laptops for our nursing staff in February.



The Booker T. Washington Class of '86 brought numerous Christmas gifts for our residents and visited with them.

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



Executive Director
Gerri Cooper, LHNA, MHRER

Medical Director
T. Andrew Frinks, M.D.

Interim Director of Health Services
Kortney Simmons Johnson, RN



Members of Thee Hills and the Dixie Hills First Baptist Church brought Christmas cheer through music and gifts to our residents.



Hearts for Humanity brought warm blankets for all our residents during the holidays.



The NBSC Line Dancers entertained our residents with a special program in November.



