



WESLEY WOODS  
FOUNDATION

FALL 2022

# THE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM WESLEY WOODS



Billye Aaron



Judy Greer



Virginia Hepner

Over the past two years we have heard much about heroes—first responders, healthcare workers, caregivers, teachers and more. In addition to these, at Wesley Woods we honor Heroes, Saints, and Legends who have transformed our community through a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and philanthropy.

For the first time in the 33-year history of the Heroes, Saints & Legends Awards, we will honor three remarkable women, [Billye Aaron](#), [Dr. Judy Greer](#) and [Virginia Hepner](#). These leaders have blazed historic trails and widened paths for others through extensive community leadership.

Since the event's inception, we have celebrated 109 of Atlanta's most exemplary leaders and raised more than 7.2 million dollars for [charitable care](#), [pastoral care](#), and [wellness programming](#) at Wesley Woods. Clark Dean, executive managing director at Transwestern, and Bob Hope, president and co-founder of Hope Beckham, Inc., will co-chair this year's highly anticipated event. Best-selling author and veteran reporter Sally Sears of CBS46 will serve as emcee.

We invite the community to join us on September 15th as we shine a light on our 2022 honorees and raise vital funds to create communities of connection, well-being and promise at Wesley Woods. Visit [wesleywoods.org/heroes](https://wesleywoods.org/heroes) for ticket and sponsorship information and to see a complete list of prior Heroes, Saints & Legends honorees.

Gratefully,



*Diane*

Diane Vaughan  
President  
Foundation of Wesley Woods



*Terry*

Terry Barcroft  
President and CEO  
Wesley Woods Senior Living



Scan here  
to see videos  
from 2021



In the past year,  
Chaplains have provided:

**10,037**

Resident Connections

**800**

Family Connections

**2,162**

Staff Support Connections

**2,605**

Studies and Services

## CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

In the last few weeks Wesley Woods has welcomed youth from Haygood Memorial UMC, Glenn Memorial UMC, and Lawrenceville First UMC. These churches have nurtured an ongoing connection with our community through simple conversation. Residents shared stories about ways they are still learning and growing, things that surprise them as they age, and advice gained in living through so many decades of change. Youth reflected on their interests and shared their curious questions about growing older and living in community.

A resident shared that he had a problem with his smart watch, and one of the youth jumped in to solve the problem. The resident then introduced the young woman to the game of Rummikub. They laughed and smiled the entire time they played, and she was surprised to learn that he is 95 years old. "No, there is no way! she exclaimed."

When people are curious about one another's lives, when they lean in toward one another to listen, and then pause to ask another question or to share a moment from their own lives... THAT is when connection happens! As the resident expressed, "You can't trade that for anything."

Be a part of providing pastoral care to residents at Wesley Woods by making a gift at [wesleywoods.org/donate](https://wesleywoods.org/donate).

Thank you to the **ANTHEM BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD FOUNDATION** for their generous grant that enabled us to purchase PPE, cleaning supplies, and disposable food containers to support our COVID-19 needs.



## WELCOME CARSON RAYMOND!

The Foundation of Wesley Woods welcomes Carson Raymond as Development Director. Carson previously served as Director of Major Gifts at the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, and is excited to join the Wesley Woods family. He eagerly looks forward to engaging and stewarding Wesley Woods donors and friends and helping raise financial support for the Wesley Woods' mission. Carson and his wife, Coleman, have a two-year-old son, Chapman.

## WHY I GIVE

by Susan Walraven



I was blessed to have joy-filled, loving parents. They both worked most of their lives and were active in church and community. They stayed busy and never paid anyone to do something they could do themselves, evidenced by a time I asked about the very shiny light pole at the end of the driveway. Dad explained he had held the extension ladder on top of the picnic table while Mom climbed to paint from the top of the light pole down. I learned to ask fewer questions that day.

In 2008, Mom announced she was ready to move to Wesley Woods, and Dad always wanted what Mom wanted. I stayed close and watched as their Wesley Woods years were filled with love, growth, relationships, and care. Fourteen years later, they are now both in heaven, and I give to Wesley Woods out of gratitude and appreciation for the people, so many beautiful people, who truly loved Mom and Dad every moment of every day.

## PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

It has been said that we sit beneath trees we did not plant and build on foundations we did not lay. So it is with Wesley Woods. A recent gift from the estate of Nikki Fain will help build a future Wesley Woods community, and additional gifts from the estates of Brad Currey, Jr. and Jennings Watkins will provide financial support for Wesley Woods programming.

Please contact Carson Raymond at 404-728-6204 to discuss leaving your legacy at Wesley Woods so we may continue creating communities of connection, well-being and promise for older adults.

## MOVEMENT IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Robin, a resident of Wesley Woods in Blairsville, has suffered with fibromyalgia and muscle pain most of her life. These issues prevented her from doing simple tasks like cooking and cleaning, but also from doing fun things. Robin met with the Wesley Woods on-site wellness nurse to discuss her chronic ailments, and during one of their sessions, the nurse encouraged Robin to try on-site physical therapy to help with her pain and mobility. Robin, like many of our residents, is on a fixed income and has outlived her resources and was discouraged to learn her Medicare Advantage plan did not cover the co-pays for the physical therapy services. When the Foundation of Wesley Woods learned of Robin's need, they stepped in to cover the co-pay costs so that Robin could focus on her health and wellness. The physical therapist began working with Robin on her hands, muscles, and walking. Now Robin can cook, clean, and even enjoy recreation! Thanks to the Wellness team's efforts and generous Wesley Woods donors, Robin is now active and enjoying a high quality of life mostly pain free!

To make a gift to the wellness program, visit [wesleywoods.org/donate](https://wesleywoods.org/donate).



Wesley Woods Wellness Programs delivered in the past year:

**2,342**

Virtual Fitness Classes

**2,779**

In-Person Fitness Classes

**7,192**

Wellness Nurse Visits

**773**

Mental Health Visits



**WESLEY WOODS**  
FOUNDATION

1817 Clifton Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**FOUNDATION OF WESLEY WOODS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*Heroes, Saints & Legends*

benefiting Wesley Woods

**JOIN US—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

**2022 HONOREES**



**Billye Aaron**



**Dr. Judy Greer**



**Virginia Hepner**

**EVENT CO-CHAIRS**

**Clark Dean**

*Executive Managing Director  
Transwestern*

**Bob Hope**

*President & Co-Founder  
Hope Beckham, Inc.*

Become a sponsor or purchase tickets at  
[wesleywoods.org/heroes](http://wesleywoods.org/heroes) or scan the QR code.



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