



WESLEY WOODS  
FOUNDATION

WINTER 2023

# THE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM WESLEY WOODS






This year at Wesley Woods, residents and families have been supported by our yearlong theme inspired by Paul Harvey’s iconic radio program, *The Rest of the Story*. As you may recall, this popular radio program shared encouraging stories of individuals who faced adversity, overcame hardship, and reinvented themselves. Similarly, the stories of our Wesley Woods residents continue to inspire us each day, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve more than 1800 older adults—thanks to our generous supporters.

*the best of the story*

At Wesley Woods, we strive to create a transformational living environment for our residents, making their chapter at Wesley Woods one of the best chapters of their lives. Rather than *The Rest of the Story*, our residents proudly describe their time at Wesley Woods as ***The Best of the Story!***

Furthering our mission to create communities of connection, well-being, and promise for older adults is made possible through philanthropic support that provides:

-  **Financial assistance** for housing and meals to residents who have outlived their resources
-  **Chaplains** in every community who provide compassionate pastoral care
-  **Wellness nurses and programs** to enable our residents to live independently longer

In this season of Thanksgiving, we invite you to partner with Wesley Woods by supporting our residents in this meaningful chapter of their life story. Please consider making a special, tax-deductible, year-end gift by visiting [wesleywoods.org/foundation](https://wesleywoods.org/foundation).

With your continued generosity, we will ensure seniors living in Wesley Woods communities continue to thrive and celebrate ***the best of their story*** with Wesley Woods.

Gratefully,



*Diane*

Diane Vaughan  
President  
Foundation of Wesley Woods



*Terry*

Terry Barcroft  
President and CEO  
Wesley Woods Senior Living



## WELLNESS NURSES HELP RESIDENTS LIVE THEIR BEST LIFE



**A**t our Branan Towers community in Atlanta, a resident was having difficulty with medication management, which led to seriously uncontrolled blood pressure. At the resident's request, our Wellness Nurse, Christine, stepped in to help. Christine contacted the resident's doctor, scheduled an appointment, and attended the appointment with the resident as their advocate.

After a medication change, Christine helped the resident set up a pill box using pictures to help remind the resident what time of day to take their medications. Christine worked with the resident's family to coordinate weekend medication reminders to help keep the resident on track. She also organized weekly standing appointments to talk with the resident and check their blood pressure.

Thankfully, these interventions have helped this resident to stay out of the hospital and maintain a healthy blood pressure. This resident will be able to remain in their home independently, living their best life because of Christine's efforts. Our Wellness Nurses make a huge difference in the lives of our residents, and that's because of generous donors who help make them available.

*Make a gift to the wellness program to help more residents by visiting [wesleywoods.org/donate](https://wesleywoods.org/donate).*

### DONOR SUPPORT PROVIDED:

**4,913**

Fitness Classes

**8,173**

Wellness Nurse Visits

**1,151**

Mental Health Visits



## WRITING LEGACY STORIES



**A**t Wesley Woods of Blairsville, Chaplain Melanie Stanley-Soulen is helping residents tell their life stories. She led a workshop to help residents write down who they are and what they would like for their legacies to be. Their words may never be published in a newspaper or even shared with anyone else, but the process of reflecting on their lives helps them have gratitude for the life road they have traveled, a sense of peace in the present, and hope for their future.

Members from one of our strongest church partners, Lanier United Methodist, have volunteered to spend a Saturday interviewing residents and writing down their stories for them. Chaplain Stanley-Soulen will curate the stories into the Wesley Woods of Blairsville Legacies book. She hopes to capture all the stories of the people who make the community a place of connection, well-being, and promise.

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

### DONOR SUPPORT PROVIDED:

**11,920**

Resident and Family  
Pastoral Care Connections

**1,871**

Staff Support  
Connections

**2,431**

Studies and  
Services



# LOWER YOUR TAXES AND FUND THE WESLEY WOODS MISSION THROUGH YOUR IRA



**V**icki and Joe Riedel have generously supported Wesley Woods for more than 20 years. Their relationship with Wesley Woods began when Vicki volunteered to serve as the first chair of the newly-formed advisory board of Wesley Woods Towers, which was almost in their backyard. Vicki currently serves on the Foundation of Wesley Woods board of directors. She and Joe wisely support the vital mission of Wesley Woods and lower their capital gains by making gifts through appreciated securities. Now that Joe is eligible to give through his IRA as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), they can lower their taxable income and make a gift that is tax-free up to \$100,000 each year. Vicki and Joe believe deeply in Wesley Woods and have used their IRA distribution to support the organization. They count it a privilege to help Wesley Woods residents write the *Best of their story*.

## WHY SUPPORT WESLEY WOODS WITH A DONATION FROM YOUR IRA?



**SAVE ON TAXES**—a gift from your IRA to a nonprofit will count as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) and will be tax-free up to \$100,000. The transfer does not generate taxable income or a tax deduction, so donors benefit even if they don't itemize their deductions.

**HELPS YOU MEET YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD)**—for people who must take a RMD, an IRA gift will count toward your RMD without adding to your taxable income and in turn reducing your annual income level.

**HELP WESLEY WOODS THRIVE**—a gift from your IRA can make a significant impact for the mission of Wesley Woods. Also, no matter your age, you can designate Wesley Woods as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA and it will support our mission after your lifetime.

*Always remember to work with your advisors on charitable gifts using planned giving vehicles such as an IRA or bequest.*

## Heroes, Saints & Legends

**J. Veronica Biggins, Governor Nathan Deal** and the late **First Lady Sandra Deal** were honored as **2023 Heroes, Saints & Legends**. These extraordinary individuals have transformed lives and our greater community and state through a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and philanthropy.

*To catch a glimpse into their remarkable lives we invite you to visit [wesleywoods.org/heroes](https://wesleywoods.org/heroes).*



*(L-R) Bill Burch, Foundation of Wesley Woods Board Chair, Phil Jacobs, Event Chair, Governor Nathan Deal, Veronica Biggins, John Ethridge, Wesley Woods Senior Living Board Chair, Condace Pressley, Director of Community and Public Affairs at WSB TV, event host.*



**WESLEY WOODS**  
FOUNDATION

1817 Clifton Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329

## FOUNDATION OF WESLEY WOODS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>CHAIR</b> Rev. Dr. Bill Burch	Terry Barcroft Jess Barron	Bob Currie Ron Davis	Chuck Jordan, Jr. Ann Lally	Vicki Riedel Barry L. Storey
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*the*  
**best of the**  
**story**



**This holiday season, help ensure the Wesley Woods chapter is the best chapter of each resident's life.**

- Lower your taxable income by donating your Required Minimum Distribution
- Give a tax-smart, IRA Rollover (Qualified Charitable Distribution) gift if you are 70½ or older
- Lower capital gains with a gift of appreciated securities
- Include Wesley Woods as a beneficiary in your will
- Secure a matching gift from your company that will double your contribution
- Establish a recurring monthly or annual credit card contribution

***To make a gift using one of these charitable vehicles, please contact Diane Vaughan at [Diane.Vaughan@wesleywoods.org](mailto:Diane.Vaughan@wesleywoods.org).***