

Transforming the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias



# seeds



Ensworth's 2018 seventh grade class visit to Abe's Garden.

Photo by Lori Latusek

## WHAT WE DO

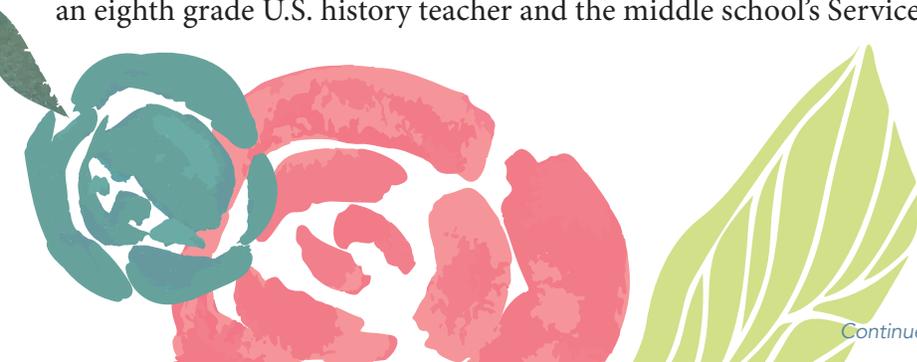
Abe's Garden® is establishing a model of residential, day, and community-based programs for those with Alzheimer's disease. The goal is to transform care for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias throughout the United States by providing an unprecedented level of care for individuals diagnosed with these disorders. Equally important, it is a site of research and teaching, setting a new standard for other programs and residential communities devoted to caring for our nation's rapidly expanding senior population.

## Ensworth School Integrates Abe's Garden® into the Seventh Grade Curriculum

By Lori Latusek

"You brought back a lot of really good memories that I haven't thought about in a long time," enthused an Abe's Garden resident after an engaging conversation with an Ensworth middle school student. The Ensworth student was visiting the campus with other seventh grade classmates as part of a special school project.

The Ensworth Memory Project, which launched in 2016, incorporates assignments from three subjects – art, English and science. Hayley Brantley, an eighth grade U.S. history teacher and the middle school's Service Learning



Continued on Page 2

“Abe’s Garden is the perfect place to bring our students to have the opportunity for some really impactful experiential learning.”

– Hayley Brantley



Resident Kay Butterworth was thrilled to see her grandson, Wilson, during a 2018 Ensworth visit. Photo courtesy of Pat Malone



In January 2019, Ensworth’s seventh grade students spent time getting to know Abe’s Garden® residents. Photo by Theo Miesner

Coordinator, played a key role in implementing the multidisciplinary project after learning about a similar Colorado school project.

In Ensworth’s seventh grade class, students learn about brain functions, memory, and Alzheimer’s and other dementias during a unit on the human body and nervous system. A researcher from Vanderbilt University Medical Center guest lectures about current Alzheimer’s research, then students research an element of Alzheimer’s or dementia and create educational videos.

In order to get a more personal understanding of what they’re learning, the students visit Abe’s Garden twice, spending time conversing with and using other approaches to engage residents. “It’s a magical experience to see our students talking with the residents,” beams Brantley. “The kids share about their own lives but also learn about the life of someone who has had a full life and is struggling with a disease that’s trying to take memories away from them. Through these interactions, our students gain a greater sense of empathy.”

As an additional aspect of Ensworth’s Memory Project, the students interview a family member or family friend to learn the details of a significant memory. They turn

the details into a shadowbox in art class and a poem in English class. During English class, they also read memory-themed novels and poems, such as *The Giver*. In March, the school hosts a Memory Reception where the students’ shadowboxes, poems and videos are displayed for parents and interview subjects to appreciate – and learn from – the creative works.

Ensworth has been bringing each year’s seventh grade class to visit Abe’s Garden for the Memory Project since January 2017. The intergenerational interactions benefit both parties. “The students come to know the residents and love them, and the residents love the students,” she adds. “It’s a really sweet connection they are able to build, even in just a couple of visits.”

In fact, the eighth grade class of 2019 felt their time at Abe’s Garden was so valuable, their graduation class gift was a contribution to the organization.

“Abe’s Garden is the perfect place to bring our students to have the opportunity for some really impactful experiential learning, to enhance what they’ve learned in the classroom and connect to the residents. It’s a place that’s important to our community and Nashville in general,” shares Brantley.



## THANK YOU FOR GIVING.

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*Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of the following information. We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

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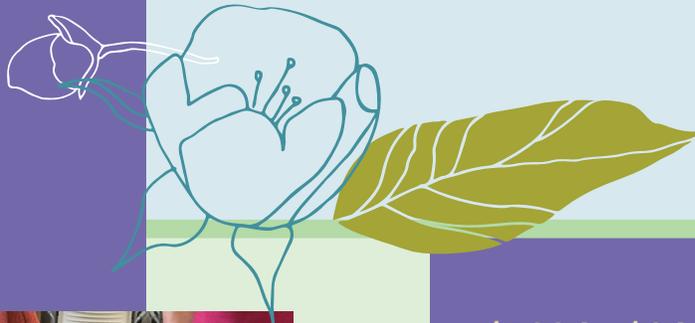
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Abe's Garden® resident Edith Hudson (r.) with Park Manor friends Sarah Lee Thomas, Lorraine Coyle and Dot Maxwell (and Life Engagement Coordinator Malloree Grimes, second from l.) at an ice cream social.



Miniature therapy horse Dream at Abe's Garden® for Kentucky Derby celebration.

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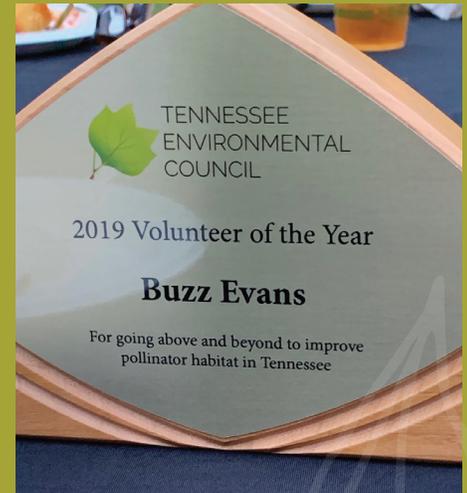
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## BUZZ EVANS' ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Buzz Evans, an Abe's Garden® and Park Manor volunteer who manages the on-site vegetable and wildflower gardens and beehives, was honored with a Volunteer Award from the Tennessee Environmental Council for his work to improve the pollinator habitat.

Congratulations and thank you, Buzz!

*(pictured with fellow volunteer gardener Paul Conkin, r.)*



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## Perennial Society Founding Members

These individuals have included Abe's Garden<sup>®</sup> or Park Manor in their estate plans. If you would like to become a founding member, please contact Donna Coleman at [dcoleman@abesgarden.org](mailto:dcoleman@abesgarden.org) or 615.490.6340 before the end of 2019 so your name will be included in the next donor appreciation issue of Seeds.

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Residents Bernie Berenson (l.) and Julia Evans made new friends when Primrose School of Nashville Midtown visited for Kindermusik<sup>®</sup> multi-generational engagement.



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Residents Linda Hassler (l.) and Emma Schwaber got in the spirit of an afternoon tea party by wearing hats and scarves.



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## donor spotlight **SAGE AGE STRATEGIES**

Sage Age Strategies is a strategic marketing and branding company with 100% of its team exclusively dedicated to senior living. For over 35 years, Sage Age has been creating successful growth strategies and census-enhancing campaigns to clients all over the country.

Abe's Garden® and Sage Age have enjoyed a very personal partnership working together to transform the lives of people living with Alzheimer's disease. The relationship began when Sage Age Founder and President, Faith Ott, was seeking philanthropic opportunities – an important component of Sage Age's mission. The founder of a long-term Sage Age client-partner introduced Faith to Abe's Garden Board Chair and Founder, Michael Shmerling. With that introduction, a 9-year partnership began.

Faith immediately connected to Abe's Garden's mission and offered to help in any way she could – not only because of her extensive experience in memory care, but also because of her passion and personal desire to improve life for those with the disease

(Faith's grandmother had Alzheimer's disease). That passion and commitment has grown even stronger and more personal as her husband is now living with dementia. "I am so thankful for my partnership with Abe's Garden," says Faith. "The Abe's Garden team has been tremendously supportive and helpful to me as I take this journey with Bill."

As an Abe's Garden board member and Strategic Planning and Fund Development committee chairperson, Faith has been instrumental in developing the brand and positioning strategies that communicate the Abe's Garden message and promote its collaborative efforts.

Faith was active in advocating for Abe's Garden's partnership with the Hearthstone Institute and the implementation of Hearthstone's *I'm Still Here*® engagement and training program developed by Dr. John Zeisel, President of Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, founder of the I'm Still Here® Foundation, and author of the paradigm-shifting bestseller, *I'm Still Here: A New Philosophy of Alzheimer's Care*. She also served on Abe's Garden's Executive Search committee and was responsible for hiring Executive Director, Chris Kincaid.

Faith and the Sage Age team have donated countless hours of professional and personal time. They are actively involved in most of Abe's Garden's and Park Manor's communications, digital and marketing strategies, including the design and production of Seeds.

