

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



# seeds



Allen performed at Gratitude in the Garden, an Abe's Garden donor appreciation event in May.

Photo by Dan Heller

## JAY ALLEN: A Musician on A Mission to Cure Alzheimer's

by Walker Duncan

**N**ashville owes so much of its fame to the power of music; its ability to connect people, to move them, and to help them heal. For one local musician, those same goals have taken root and grown into a passionate mission to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and, hopefully, to someday find a cure. As part of that ambition, he has pledged an incredible amount of support to Abe's Garden.

*Continued on Page 2*

### 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.



Photo: Facebook

"The cause that Jay is behind is one that I know personally," shared radio host Storme Warren prior to premiering a live version of "Blank Stares" on SiriusXM's The Highway in September. Warren's mother, an organist, passed away seven years after her Alzheimer's diagnosis. Like Allen, he used music to engage his mom. "Her hands would automatically come up and she would air play. Her smile would come back, and the connection was there. Music is the way through. The line [in 'Blank Stares' that says] 'If I could only seal the cracks you're slipping through, only somebody who's been around [Alzheimer's] knows exactly what that means.'"



*“We’re all  
fighting this  
together.  
There will  
be an end.”*

—Jay Allen



Jay and his sister, Amber, with their mother, Sherry (c.) during a visit to Nashville.  
(Photo courtesy of Facebook)

## JAY ALLEN

### A Musician on a Mission to Cure Alzheimer's

Songwriter Jay Allen penned “Blank Stares” in the midst of his emotional journey with his mother, Sherry Rich, who was diagnosed six years ago with early-onset Alzheimer's at the age of 47. The track begins with a scene painfully familiar to anyone who has a loved one with dementia. From an answering machine, we hear his mother's loving voice greet her son, zone out and quickly realize she does not remember why she called.

The woman who sacrificed so much to raise her son and shared her love of country music with him was slipping away. Aware that her disease had progressed, Allen was anxious for her visit to Nashville two years ago. Upon arrival, she looked blankly at Jay until his father noted it was her son. The vacancy the tune describes is punctuated by his mother's moments of lucidity that are engrained in the songwriter's mind.

Desperate for a connection, Allen took his mother to see a friend's band, where she began tapping her foot to the beat. “She was suddenly present,” he shares. “We started dancing and she had a ‘come-to’ moment. She pulled me in close and

said, ‘Jay, I’ve missed you so much. I love you.’”

Propelled both by this struggle, as well as witnessing his mother's strength in the face of her condition, Allen set out to write her a song with the expressed purpose of raising awareness and funds benefiting those with Alzheimer's. Together with friend Jason Nix, he wrote and recorded “Blank Stares.” Through Sony ATV President and CEO Troy Tomlinson, Allen found his way to Abe's Garden, to which he has pledged all proceeds from the song.

Working with other supporters in and around the music business, Allen has become a tireless advocate for Abe's Garden, getting the song regular play on SiriusXM's The Highway and using every public opportunity available to spread awareness about Alzheimer's. At a recent event in California, he helped fellow Abe's Garden supporter Kim Campbell raise over \$10 million for Alzheimer's research.

“We’re all fighting this together,” says Allen. “There will be an end.”





**Abe's Garden**<sup>TM</sup>  
Alzheimer's and Memory Care Center of Excellence

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

**Contributors to Abe's Garden of \$100 or more between February 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018.**

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

## **\$50,000 to \$1,000,000**

Anonymous  
Dugas Family Foundation  
Ms. Emily A. Magid  
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn McPheeters  
Mike & Lisa Shmerling  
The Cal Turner Family Foundation  
Anne Potter Wilson Foundation

## **\$10,000 to \$49,999**

Fishel Family Philanthropic Fund  
The Fruition Fund  
Mr. Jack May  
The Mimsye & Leon May Foundation  
The Melkus Family Foundation  
The Bernard A. Pargh Donor Advised Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Phillips  
Selma & Ernest Rosenblum Foundation  
Sage Age Strategies  
Jim & Debbie Shmerling  
SunTrust Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey J. Zander

## **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

The Danner Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Fesmire  
Carol K. & Robert A. Frist M.D. Fund  
Ms. Teresa Kersey  
Ted & Anne Lenz Advised Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses  
MSB Cockayne Fund, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. David Small  
Mr. Michael Thieberg  
Ms. Shirley A. Zeitlin

## **\$1,000 to \$4,999**

Anderson Benson  
Averbuch Family Philanthropic Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Beber  
The Blum Family Foundation  
Mr. Chris Brown

Buhl Family Advised Fund  
Mark & Donna Coleman  
Luci Crow & Kenneth Kraft  
Dr. & Mrs. James Daniell  
Mrs. Laura T. Dugas  
Egret Consulting Group  
Donna & Jeffrey Eskin  
Steven & Laurie Eskin  
Greg & Chris Follansbee  
Forget-Me-Not  
Mr. Harris Abram Gilbert  
Mr. Steven Greil  
Mrs. Ann Hammonds  
Ms. Anna Gray Hart  
Patricia & Rodes Hart Foundation  
John & Heidi Hassenfeld  
Family Foundation  
Doug & Melanie Hirt  
Donald N. Holmes &  
Deborah Smith-Holmes  
Dr. & Mrs. A.G. Kasselberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Letterman  
Mrs. Susan Logan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff H. Mathis  
Richard W. Mattson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Maynard  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McKown  
Ms. Krysta McNaughton-Giacobone  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Moskovitz  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Moskovitz  
Ms. Tina Nafus-Parshall  
Mr. Jennings Orr  
Mr. & Mrs. Moises Paz  
Mollie & Robert Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Peugeot  
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Posch  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip R. Russ  
The William & Sara Robin Family  
Philanthropic Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Schoggen  
Ms. Leida Schoggen  
Suzanne & James Schulman  
Donor Advised Fund  
Irvin & Beverly Small Foundation

Shirley & Stuart Speyer Family Fund  
Berney & Elise Steiner Family  
Philanthropic Fund  
Sunnyside Foundation  
T & T Family Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Zabaski  
Ms. Beth Zeitlin

## **\$500 to \$999**

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Anchor  
Elyse & Norm Armitage  
Mr. Tom Beasley  
Ms. Pam Brown & Mr. Bruce Compas  
The Charitable Giving Card Program  
of The Community Foundation of  
Middle Tennessee  
Cumberland Trust & Investment Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirby Davis  
Mrs. Annette S. Eskin  
Eskin Family Fund  
Tom Frye & Frances Baird  
Mr. & Mrs. David Gales  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Z. Garfinkel  
Danielle & Harris Gilbert  
Ms. Lynda Goodgame  
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Jacobson  
Mr. William F. Laird, Jr.  
Charlotte & Bill Langford  
Mr. Peter R. Latusek  
Mr. Charles McCarty  
Col. & Mrs. Ottavio J. Milano  
Frank E. Neal & Co., Inc.  
Ms. Beverly Patnaik  
Col. Joseph Rambo  
Ms. Joan K. Raskin  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Safer  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Sandler  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
Steakley Family Fund  
Ms. Hope L. Stringer  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Weiss  
Dr. John Zeisel





Photos by Dan Heller



## Gratitude in the Garden

Abe's Garden hosted a donor appreciation event in the courtyard on May 1st.

Clockwise from top: 1) Caricature artist Tracy Latham created a sketch of resident Ann O'Day 2) Special guest Dr. Gary Small signed copies of his latest book "2 Weeks to a Younger Brain" 3) Founder and Chairman of the Board Mike Shmerling thanked the generous donors who have contributed to the organization's marked success 4) Multi-talented country duo Haley & Michaels entertained guests 5) Interim CEO Charlotte Nesbitt Langford and Director of Marketing and Development Beth Zeittlin greeted The SunTrust Foundation's Carolyn Erney and Scott Pohlman (l.to r.).





To view the Abe's Garden Annual Report please visit [www.abesgarden.org/annualreport](http://www.abesgarden.org/annualreport).

## \$250 to \$499

American Paper and Twine Company  
Charitable Trust  
Mrs. Mary L. Bandy  
Mrs. Vicki Bartholomew  
Ms. Patricia Campbell  
Barbara & Eric Chazen  
Mr. Dan Cornfield & Ms. Hedy Weinberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ellis  
Ms. Donna Finto-Burks  
Ms. Tish Fort  
Mr. Rick Fuqua  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ghertner  
Gil & Judy Given  
Mr. Colman B. Hoffman  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Holton  
Mrs. Henry Hooker  
Ms. Rhonda Hyder  
Mr. John Leeson  
Mr. & Mrs. James Marks  
Dorothy & Jack Miller  
Ms. Nancy Phipps  
Mr. Bill Purcell  
Ms. Margaret Reddy  
Larry & Nancy Rocamora  
Corky Rorrer & Hermene Rocamora  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roth  
Mr. Bill Simmons  
Ms. Christy L. Sluder  
Ms. Nan Speller  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron R. Trauger  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wesley Wilson  
Ellen & Jim Wiss

## \$100 to \$249

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Edwin B. Anderson, Jr., MD.  
Mr. Jake Aronov  
Dr. Larry Averbuch  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Baird  
Mr. & Mrs. Bo Bartholomew III  
Ms. Judy Beisswenger  
Mr. & Mrs. David Berezov  
Ms. Nancy R. Berry  
Ms. Merle Born  
Robert S. Brandt Giving Fund  
Ms. Joni Bryan  
Mrs. Diane Conkin

Mr. Paul Conkin  
Conoco Phillips  
Ms. Jalila Cunningham  
Ms. Ellen Davis Dansky  
Cassandra & Roy Dickson  
Ms. Dee Doochin  
Mr. Walker Duncan  
Mr. Vincent Durnan  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence J. Evans  
Ms. Valerie Feldman  
Dr. Henry Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Foyer  
Mr. Todd Frye  
Mr. Matthew Gasper  
The GE Foundation  
Steve & Patty Ghertner  
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Gluck  
Maralee Gordon  
Ralph M. Greenbaum  
Ms. Shirley Greenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Groomes  
Michael Gryll  
Mr. Scott Haley  
Ms. Samantha Hamilton  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard M. Heller  
Ms. Linda Herrell  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hettinger  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Hirsch  
Kenny & Mindy Hirt  
Ms. Barbara Hobson  
Dr. & Mrs. Irwin Hodes  
Mr. John M. Hooper II  
Ms. Madeleine C. Hosea  
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Isenburg  
Mr. Gavin Ivester  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Jacobson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jacobson  
Ms. Patricia Jameson  
Ms. Rachel Johnson  
Mr. Charles Edgar Jones, Jr.  
Ms. Katherine Jones  
Judy & Allan Kaplan  
Gene & Jan Kieffaber Family Trust  
Randall L. Kinnard  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee S. Kraft  
Debbie & Lawrence Kroman  
Mr. Paul Kuhn, Jr.  
Nancy Latusek  
Ms. Gail Lavelly

Mr. & Mrs. Steven L. Lefkovitz  
Lehman Family Advised Fund  
Ms. Sally M. Levine  
Wendall & JP Lowe  
Jim & Kim Massey  
Ms. Jeanne Massey  
Ms. Patricia McDonald & Family  
Sandra McSeveney  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moore  
Motown Friends  
Mr. Karl M. Olsen  
Patty Outlaw  
David A. Owens, PhD &  
Jennifer Bostwick-Owens  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Paillet  
Ms. Elizabeth Papal  
Ms. Jana Lisle Parham  
Dr. & Mrs. Stewart Perlman  
Dr. James S. Powers &  
Ms. Martha Wetteman  
Ms. Cherie Roberts  
Dr. Howard & Betty Lee Rosen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Russ  
Ms. Charlotte Seloff  
Ms. Judy F. Simmons  
Ms. Nina Sivek  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Dan Smith II  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Snyder  
Ms. Caroline Moses Sprouse  
Ms. Karen H. Stevens  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Straus  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Stumb  
Dianne & Craig Sussman  
Ms. Joan Thomas  
Trace Ventures  
Mrs. Pamela Trotter  
Ms. Bernadette Tucker  
Ms. Jean K. Turberville  
Ms. Barbara Turner  
Ms. Lynn Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Wayne  
Ms. Joni P. Werthan  
The West End Home Foundation  
Ms. Anne M. Westfall  
Mr. & Mrs. Ridley Wills II  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Wilson  
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence K. Wolfe  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas S. Woods  
Mohtaram Yazdian





Photos by: Dan Heller



## Abe's Garden Happenings

Clockwise from top: 1) and 2) Mosaic artist Gail Christofferson created two new pieces for the courtyard—a mural in memory of Frances W. Fishel, and a column recognizing The Memorial Foundation 3) Shannon and Ashley Campbell treated residents to a live performance of Glen Campbell's "Gentle on My Mind" to honor what would've been their late father's 82nd birthday 4) and 5) Volunteer Pam Brown (r.), resident Marcia Beranek, and other guests admired the talent displayed at the Abe's Garden resident art show.





### The Perennial Society Founding Members

These founding members of The Perennial Society were recognized for the first time in May. These individuals are special because they have included Abe's Garden or Park Manor in their estate plans. If you would like to become a founding member, please let us know before the end of 2018 so your name can be included in our next donor appreciation newsletter. Contact Donna Coleman at [dcoleman@abesgarden.org](mailto:dcoleman@abesgarden.org) or 615.490.6340.

• Geraldine Bryant • Mark & Donna Coleman • Gil & Judy Given • Mollie & Robert Perry • James & Suzanne Schulman •  
 • Jim & Debbie Shmerling • Mike & Lisa Shmerling • Rob & Lisa Shmerling • Beth Zeitlin •

### Contributions were made in honor of...

Phyllis Alper's birthday  
 Bev & Ed Anderson  
 Myrtle Ann Archer  
 Sam Bartholomew  
 Celia Brook  
 The Abe's Garden Care Partners  
 Doris Carter  
 Drs. Cynthia & Ben Curtis  
 Dr. & Mrs. David Cutts  
 Sandra & Jim Daniell  
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Dickerson  
 Tom Ellis  
 Steve Emley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Buzz Evans  
 Larry Fitzgerald  
 Judy Given  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goidel  
 Eileen Handler  
 Eileen Handler's 92nd birthday  
 Mark Hartley  
 Nick Hartley  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hassenfeld  
 Don Hillenmeyer  
 Edith Hudson  
 Barbara Ivester  
 Ardis & Richard Jacobson  
 The Abe's Garden Leadership Team  
 Dr. James Madden  
 Robert M. Moses  
 Don Neibergall  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichol  
 Ann O'Day  
 Roger Osborne

Maxwell Harrison Perry  
 Mary Purcell  
 Joe Rambo  
 Ann Robertson  
 Rodney & Lynne Rosenblum  
 Rudy Saperstein's recovery  
 Molly Schneider's recovery  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tony Scoville  
 Mike & Lisa Shmerling  
 Herschel Stewart  
 Julie Strickland  
 Dr. & Mrs. Craig Sussman  
 Abigail Wayne  
 Roy Wunsch  
 Beth Zeitlin  
 Jack Zitter

### Contributions were made in memory of...

Ida Alexander  
 Joann Aron  
 Frank Bateman  
 Mary Biggers  
 Betty & John Butterfield  
 Peggy Caldwell  
 Glen Campbell  
 Gerald Chernofsky  
 Ruth Coleman  
 Hortense Hayes Powell Cooper  
 Mr. Dee  
 Nancy Lee Covington Dismukes  
 Jane Eskin  
 Martha Finto  
 Muriel Fitler  
 Alven & Jean Ghertner

Sue Greener  
 Shirley Greenfield  
 Netta Harris  
 Marion B. Hecht  
 Henry W. Hooker  
 Bill Hosea  
 Lura Notgrass Knox  
 Frank Latusek  
 Albert W. Lenz  
 Bill Long  
 Norman Lustig  
 William Andrew Lyon  
 Pat Madden  
 Lura Jane Mattson  
 Emmie McDonald  
 John McNaughton  
 Dr. Denis O'Day  
 Carolyn Orr  
 Carolyn Outlaw  
 Barbara Patterson  
 Ben Perlman  
 Bob Radock  
 Dolores Rocamora  
 Cecile Schlesinger  
 Dikkie Schoggen  
 Phil Schoggen  
 Arnie Shevin  
 Abe Shmerling  
 Rita Shmerling  
 Elise L. Steiner  
 Joanna Thomas  
 Ralph Thorne, Jr.  
 Gussie E. Willis  
 Walter Thomas Woods  
 Roberta Goldfarb Zimmer



115 Woodmont Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37205

TO VIEW

Abe's Garden Annual Report visit  
[WWW.ABESGARDEN.ORG/ANNUALREPORTS](http://WWW.ABESGARDEN.ORG/ANNUALREPORTS)

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No. 704



@abesgarden

## donor spotlight

### DUGAS FAMILY FOUNDATION



Photo: Nick McGinn

*Sherri Warner-Hunter created a custom mosaic for the outdoor kitchen at Abe's Garden, which recognizes DFF's philanthropic leadership role.*

Soon after Laura Dugas made Nashville her home, she and her husband Wayne learned about Abe's Garden and engaged their family and the Dugas Family Foundation (DFF) to support its construction. "We toured Abe's Garden and were very impressed," shares Mrs. Dugas.

Beyond recognizing Abe's Garden's achievements in residential memory care, DFF is passionate about helping the organization elevate dementia care beyond its campus. For this reason, DFF is currently supporting the following projects: Abe's Garden Community Group - a day program for individuals in early stages of dementia, At Home with Abe's Garden - a near-term, in-home caregiver training and support initiative, and the free distribution of "How to Evaluate the Quality of Residential Care for Persons with Dementia".

The DFF appreciates Abe's Garden's commitment to serving the needs of those with Alzheimer's and other dementias throughout all stages, as well as serving the needs of their caregivers. The foundation believes Abe's Garden's programming sets a very high standard in this field for quality, compassionate care.