Transforming the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders



When Abe's Garden Became a Reality

A Letter from the Founder and Chairman of the Board

Dear friends,

After 11 years of researching, planning, collaborating and dreaming about a truly person-centered, evidence-based memory-care community, the dream became a reality in 2015. Abe's Garden opened in September, welcoming its first residents and embarking on a journey to provide a new standard of care for those with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Today, 43 residents call Abe's Garden home and six individuals are participating in the day/evening care program. These residents and program participants are experiencing the benefits of living engaged, purposeful lives.

Here's a look back at this year's exciting accomplishments:

In the first quarter of 2015, Abe's Garden opened its wait list. Key management positions were filled in the areas of professional education and training and music and art therapy. Care partners joined the team, and comprehensive training sessions began and continued throughout the year.

In the summer, Abe's Garden partnered with The Hearthstone Institute to implement the I'm Still Here™ approach. Hearthstone's founder Dr. John Zeisel was nominated to the Abe's Garden board of directors.

Anticipation grew in September as construction crews put the final touches on the building, courtyard gardens were planted, and a series of events provided a preview of the community's amenities and services. Staff began assessments of potential residents, and finally, on September 21, Abe's Garden opened its doors.

Abe's Garden couldn't have become a reality without the generous support of so many. In 2016, we will continue to work toward our goal to be the most innovative Alzheimer's care community in the nation, disseminating best practices to care communities, families and individuals.

With gratitude and great hope for the future, I sincerely remain,

Michael D. Shmerling Founder and Chairman of the Board

WHAT WE DO

Abe's Garden seeks to establish a model of residential and day/ evening care programs for those with Alzheimer's disease. The goal is to transform care for those with Alzheimer's and related 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.





"Abe's Garden is a treasure and all involved should be proud."

Chuck Edwards MEMORY CENTER CHARLOTTE



"The effort that went (and continues to go) into the residential experiences... is so impressive."

Ted Lenz ATTORNEY

Photo by Stacey Nickens



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"The mission and model upon which Abe's Garden has been designed is one of incredible perception, time, effort and dedication."

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2016 Abe's Garden Annual Report

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*deceased

Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of the information.

We apologize for any omissions or errors.



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TO VIEW THE

2016 Abe's Garden Hnnyal/ Report

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When Beth Seigenthaler Courtney, president of Nashville-based public relations firm DVL Seigenthaler, first heard about Abe's Garden from its chairman Michael Shmerling, she knew right away she wanted to be part of the effort to make Abe's Garden a reality.

"His passion for helping those with Alzheimer's disease and his vision for creating a new model of care for people with dementia were inspiring," says Courtney.

Courtney and her team have been long-time supporters of Abe's Garden, donating marketing and public relations time and talent, including development and design of this newsletter for the past six years. "We have been honored to work alongside Michael and his team since Abe's Garden's early years to help take the organization from an idea to a real, vibrant community with potential to change how care for those with dementia is approached across the U.S.," says Courtney. "We look forward to seeing how what is learned at Abe's Garden experiences, design, technology and programs—will transform how those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are cared for and engaged nationwide."

Founded in Nashville in 1972 as Seigenthaler Public Relations, the agency merged with another Nashvillebased firm, DVL Public Relations & Advertising, in early 2015 and joined Finn Partners, a New York-based global public relations agency. Today, DVL Seigenthaler has local, national and global reach with 80 employees in Nashville and more than 500 colleagues around the world.