



Discovery Newsletter

Celebrating Community, Connection, and Care

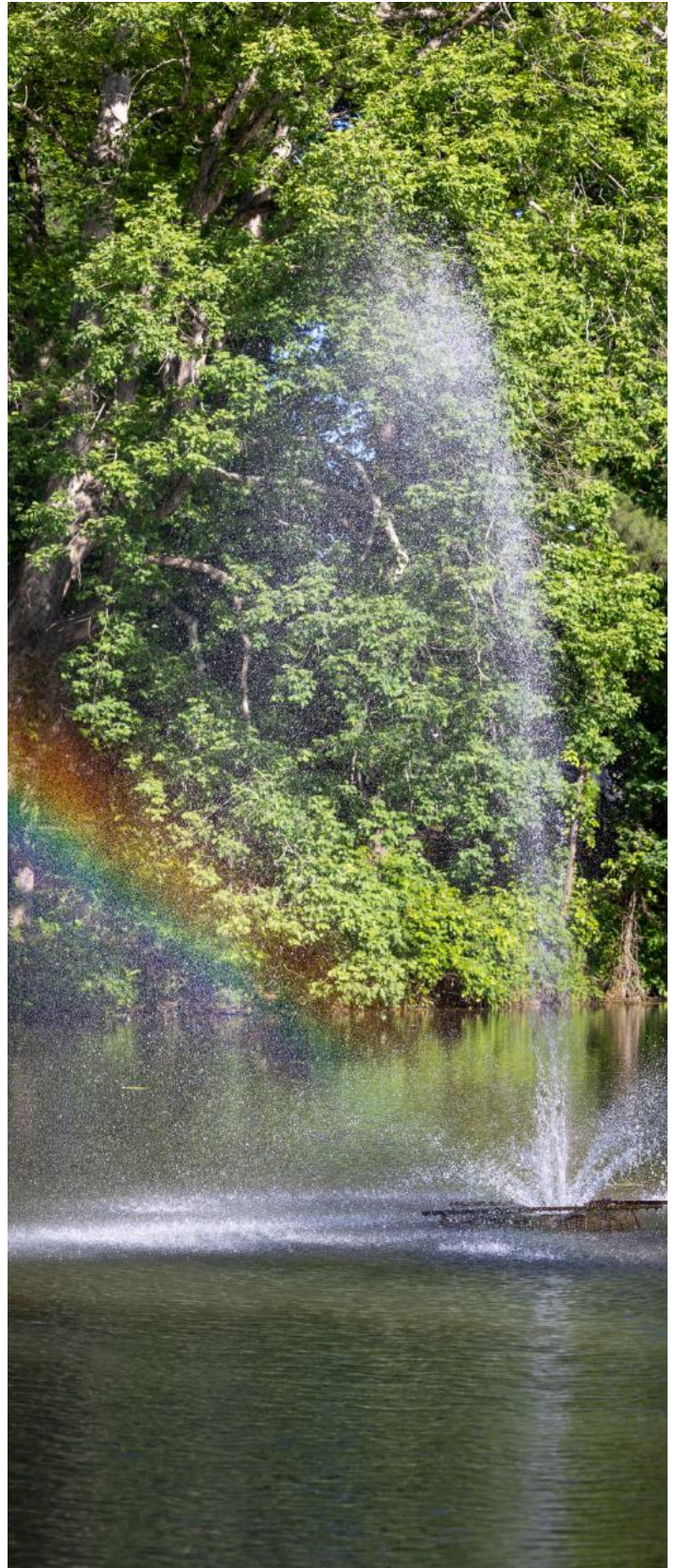
This edition celebrates the success of team members, the continuing expansion of affordable senior living in Western North Carolina, and new opportunities for resident access to whole person wellness.

Spring 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTES FROM THE MANOR	03
VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON AT CLINCHFIELD MILL	04
GIVENS EXPANDS REACH IN HENDERSON COUNTY	06
GIVENS SUPPORTS DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE PROJECT	08
SENIOR CARE'S BEST	09
BRAIN HEALTH STUDIO	10
GIVENS FOUNDATION	12
SPOTLIGHT	14
THE RIGHT CHOICE	15
A LEGACY RESTORED	16
CAREER CORNER	18
STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS	20
GIVENS ALDERSGATE AT HOME	21
KNITTERS & QUILTERS	22
LEADINGAGE NC	24



NOTES FROM THE MANOR

Dear Givens Communities,

In every season of growth and change at Givens, our core values remain the constant that guide who we are and how we serve. Whether we are welcoming new residents, advancing affordable housing, or strengthening our services, our commitment to being People Passionate, Making a Difference, embracing the Power of Community, and Doing What's Right is at the center of each decision we make. These values are not just words on a page; they are lived out daily in the care, compassion, and dedication of our team members across every campus and program.

This quarter's stories in Discovery reflect those values in action. You will see the ways our teams are coming together to support one another, the meaningful impact of our affordable housing initiatives, and the continued investment in programs that enhance the lives of those we serve. Each story is a reminder that the strength of Givens lies not only in our buildings or services, but in the people and purpose that drive our mission forward.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a future that honors our values while continuing to evolve to meet the needs of our communities. Thank you for being part of Givens and for helping bring these values to life each and every day.

Sincerely,



Kevin Schwab, President & CEO
Givens Communities



VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON TOUR DEVELOPING GIVENS PROPERTY

Givens Communities leadership joined U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards and U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Scott Turner for a press conference and tour of the historic Clinchfield Mill in Marion on March 12. The government officials saw first-hand our vision for transforming the former textile factory into affordable housing for older adults.

First opened in 1917, Clinchfield Mill has long stood as a symbol of Western North Carolina's textile heritage and has remained vacant for years. Through an \$11 million HUD grant, combined with state and local funding, Givens Communities is repurposing the site into 141 affordable senior living apartments—preserving history while addressing urgent housing challenges facing aging adults, including those impacted by Hurricane Helene.



Kevin Schwab, President & CEO of Givens Communities (right) gives remarks on Clinchfield Mill with Scott Turner, U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development (left).

Kevin Schwab, CEO of Givens Communities, emphasized the importance of stable housing for older adults, stating: “When all older adults have access to safe housing and supportive environments like this will be, they tend to remain healthier and more independent. Housing is health care.”



Scott Turner, U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development (right) speaks at Clinchfield Mill tour with Kevin Schwab, President & CEO of Givens Communities (left).

The redevelopment of Clinchfield Mill represents a powerful collaboration among federal, state, and local partners—honoring the region’s past while building a resilient, healthy future for older adults across Western North Carolina.

**You can see the entire press conference
online here:
[Givens Connect Clinchfield Mill Press Conference](#)**

GIVENS PARTNERS IN HENDERSON COUNTY GROUNDBREAKING

A significant step toward alleviating the local housing shortage took place on March 20 with a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of apartments at Apple Ridge Development in Hendersonville.

The 19-acre project by the Housing Assistance Corporation WNC in partnership with Givens Communities includes 60 apartments and 20 single-family homes designed for residents earning 30-60% of the area median income, with completion anticipated mid-to late next year.



Teresa Stephens, Vice President of Givens Affordable Communities, speaks at Apple Ridge Groundbreaking.



Givens Communities and Henderson County Leaders break ground together at Apple Ridge site.

“At Givens, we see affordable senior housing not as a single project, but as a regional priority,”

- Horace Jennings, Board Chair



Horace Jennings greets Apple Ridge Planners.



Kevin Schwab, Givens Communities President & CEO (left) and Horace Jennings, Chair of the Givens Communities Board of Directors (right).

“Across Western North Carolina, the need for senior affordable housing is growing, especially after Hurricane Helene impacted so many communities, and we believe the solution must be regional as well. From the very beginning, partnerships with the Housing Assistance Corporation helped make it possible for older adults in Western North Carolina to have access to safe, dignified housing and a strong sense of community. It is essentially part of our DNA.” said Horace Jennings, Chair of the Givens Communities Board of Directors, in remarks during the ceremony.

UPDATE: GIVENS WORK FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING DOWNTOWN

With support from Givens Communities, the Haywood Street Community Development has 41 deeply affordable rental units, a mix of 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for individuals and families earning 80% of area median income and below. At least half of units will be reserved for HUD voucher holders.

We're delighted to share that the first residents of Lady Gloria Ridge Apartments in downtown Asheville have started to move into their new homes. Among the earliest occupants were military veterans who had been living on the streets and families who were living in hotels and out of their cars.

Haywood Street Community Development was formed in 2020 to develop affordable housing connected to existing Haywood Street ministries and programs already in service. Givens Communities is a partner with Haywood Street Community Development and manages the affordable apartments.



New Lady Gloria Ridge Tenant and Staff.

GIVENS COMMUNITIES EARNS SENIOR CARE'S BEST PLACE TO WORK 2026 AWARD

We are delighted to share that Givens Communities has been selected as one of Senior Care's Best Places to Work 2026 by Activated Insights, an industry leader in senior care, healthcare, and human services surveys.

The award was earned by meeting rigorous benchmarks, supported by objective third-party data, and setting exemplary standards. Activated Insights utilizes third-party survey data to assess, certify and rank organizations at regular intervals for awards.

**Proud
to be
named**



“Winning the Best Workplace award affirms the culture we work hard to build every day—one grounded in respect, positivity, and support for our team members. When our people feel valued and heard, it translates directly into an exceptional experience for the residents and families we serve,” said Christian Grunder, Givens Communities Vice President of Human Resources. “What sets Givens apart is our intentional focus on development and belonging—creating clear opportunities for professional and personal growth and encouraging every team member to bring their authentic self to work. That commitment strengthens engagement and collaboration, ensuring our teams feel supported and empowered to deliver the highest level of care and services to our residents.”

The Best Place to Work 2026 award underscores Givens Communities status as an employer of choice and signals its ongoing commitment to excellence in the workplace.

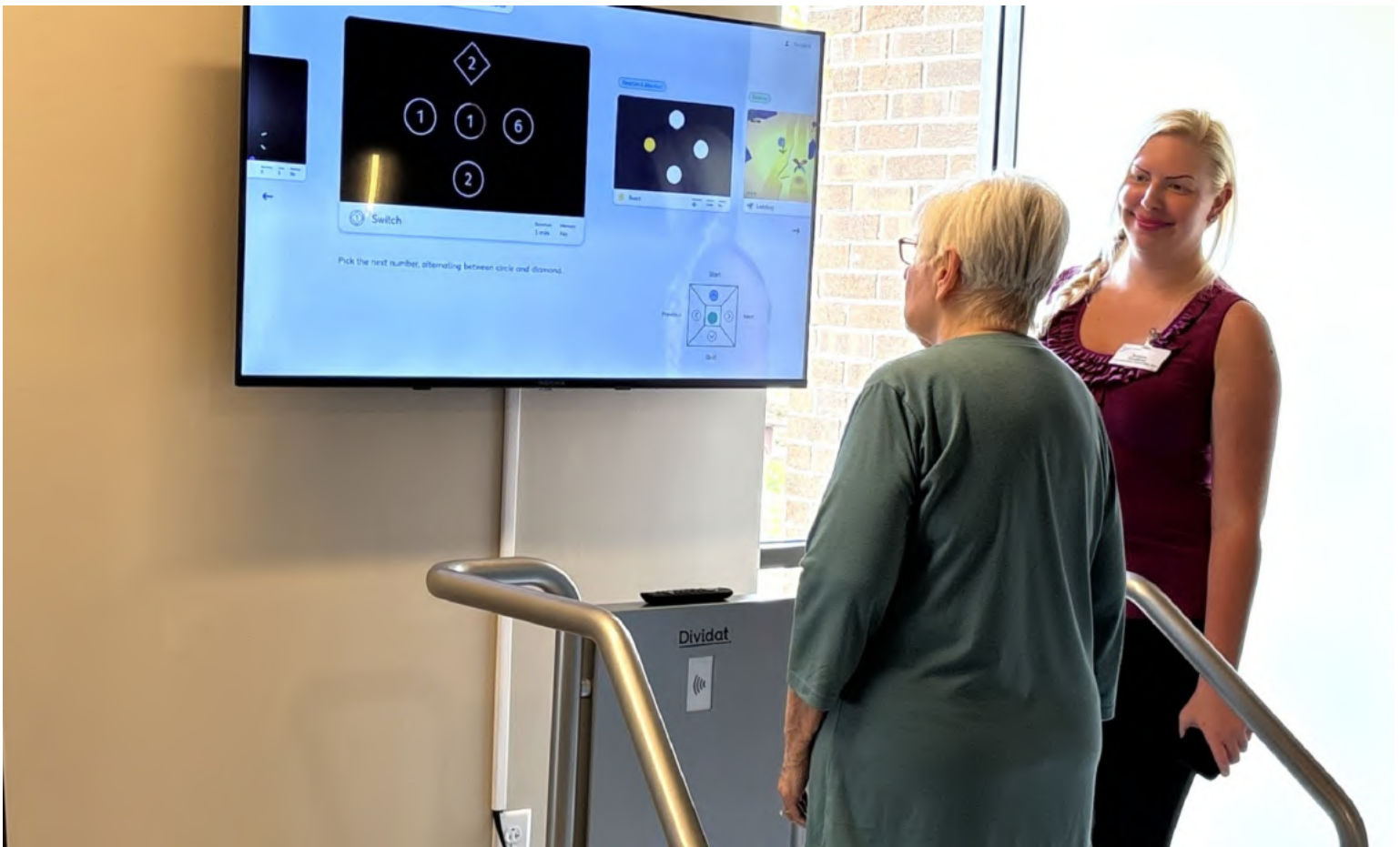
BRAIN HEALTH STUDIO OFFERS CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT COGNITIVE WELLNESS



Taryn Tindall and Givens Highland Farms Residents in the Brain Health Studio.

The December 2025 announcement of our new Longevity and Brain Health Program again set Givens Communities apart as a leader in strengthening whole-person wellbeing for seniors.

While Alzheimer's and other dementias continue to pose major public health challenges, research clearly shows that proactive lifestyle choices can strengthen cognitive health and overall vitality as we age. Now, in another progressive step, the program is opening our first Brain Health Studio at Givens Highland Farms. Located in the Wayside Wellness Center, the Brain Health Studio is designed to support residents in building cognitive reserve through dual-task cognitive-motor training. A grand opening ceremony is planned for late May.



JoAnn Lindfors and Givens Highland Farm Resident utilize new brain health facilities.

“We’re opening this space as a pilot program with a goal of better understanding the feasibility and impact of embedding this sort of technology within a senior living environment using an innovative, scalable operational model centered on accessibility, flexibility, and independence,” explained Taryn Tindall, Longevity and Brain Health Program Director.

“Givens Communities has demonstrated a unique commitment to whole-person wellness through the creation of this program and the willingness to invest in infrastructure, pilot programs, education, and cross-department collaboration at a level that allows us to truly support longevity and brain health across our communities,” Tindall said. “As the evidence base surrounding health span optimization and brain health continues to strengthen, I believe that we have an ethical responsibility to move beyond passive awareness and begin thoughtfully operationalizing that evidence in ways that support residents who wish to preserve function, agency, and quality of life for as long as possible”.

GIVENS FOUNDATION



Givens Foundation Team in lighthearted moment at the Asheville Chamber Challenge 5k.

In a major announcement, Givens Philanthropy will now become Givens Foundation – a name that more clearly reflects the vital role in advancing the mission and expanding the impact of the Givens philanthropy team.

While the name is new, the heart of the work remains the same. Givens Foundation will continue to operate as an integral part of Givens Communities, ensuring that every act of generosity directly strengthens the people, programs, and communities our supporters care deeply about.



From Left to Right: JoAnn Lindfors, Amy Renigar, Kristine Buckwalter, Hope Claytor



From Left to Right: JoAnn Lindfors, Amy Renigar, Joey Abel

Importantly, this change does not affect how donations are received or managed. The Givens Foundation will continue to operate under the same tax-exempt ID, maintaining continuity and trust for donors. Now structured as a subsidiary LLC of Givens Communities, the Foundation is positioned to provide enhanced clarity, strong stewardship, and thoughtful reporting of philanthropic resources for years to come.

Philanthropy plays a vital role by supporting residents, team members, and outreach efforts throughout the region. This transition helps bring impact into sharper focus for donors, partners, and the broader community, reinforcing the importance of generosity in everything we do. As Givens Communities continues to grow and evolve, Givens Foundation will help ensure that generosity remains at the center of what's possible, strengthening programs, expanding opportunities, and enriching lives across every aspect of the organization.

GIVENS SPOTLIGHT

Lovern Eastman, Wound Care Specialist, is a key member of the Asbury Skilled Care team at Givens Aldersgate. In August, she celebrates her 22nd year of care as a Givens Team member. She started as a nurse in Asbury Household Six and has grown into a highly skilled and trusted specialist.

Over the years, Lovern earned her certification as a Wound Care Specialist, playing an important role in helping Asbury maintain its reputation as a top-of-the-line skilled nursing facility. Her dedication, consistency, and focus on quality care have made a lasting impact on both residents and colleagues.

Outside of work, Lovern has a passion for gardening, especially growing some of the world's hottest peppers such as Ghost peppers, Carolina Reapers, Trinidad Scorpions, and Armageddon peppers. Her love for gardening began in her home country of Guyana, the only South American country where English is spoken as the primary language.

Faith and family are the cornerstones of Lovern's life. One of her favorite childhood memories is cooking with her grandfather and enjoying delicious meals together. When asked what her superpower would be, she smiled and said that God is already her superpower, and if she could have a theme song it would be the hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

After more than two decades with Aldersgate, and now Givens, Lovern remains grateful for the journey and committed to the care she provides every day.



Lovern Eastman pictured in front of her work station.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

Givens Choice provides a comprehensive plan that allows members to remain comfortably in their own homes with confidence and peace of mind. By proactively addressing care needs, the program helps protect members' financial assets from the rising costs of long-term care. Most importantly, Givens Choice removes the burden of planning and managing care, so members can focus on what matters most, living well and enjoying life.



Hear why members choose Givens Choice and why it matters:

“Givens Choice has been a blessing to my wife and myself. The Care Navigator took a great deal of time to know us, our needs, and plans for future care needs. The entire staff is always easily accessible and very responsive to our changing needs. We have had a number of medical challenges, and the Care Navigator has taken a hands-on approach to ensuring our care needs were met efficiently and effectively.” - *Jay Casselberry*

“After my heart attack, my care navigator was extremely helpful. She visited me in the hospital, took me to a follow-up medical appointment with my doctor, and brought me meals for 2 weeks.” - *Christy Gunther*

“I decided a few years ago that I did not want to be a burden to family and friends as I got older but did not know how to avoid that. Thank goodness, Givens Choice started up and offered me an opportunity to stay in my home and receive the care I hope not to need, but probably will, without calling on family and friends. Their staff is excellent and have been more than helpful in all ways. I recommend them and their staff to anyone and everyone who may find themselves in a similar situation.” - *Daniel Collins*

A LEGACY RESTORED

In 2024, Givens Communities completed the thoughtful renovation of the historic Manor House at Givens Estates—an investment that honored its rich history while preparing it to serve residents for years to come.

Originally the site of Givens' first board meeting in 1975, the Manor House has been reimagined as a welcoming hub for administrative offices and life-enrichment spaces. The renovation preserved the character of the original Colonial/Rustic Revival home while modernizing its interior to better support the evolving needs of the community.



Diana Latta (center) with her daughters Mary-Stewart (left) and Marion (right).

For many supporters, this project also reflected a commitment to sustainability and stewardship. Through the reuse of materials, preservation of the existing structure, and intentional upgrades, the renovation aligned with values that extend beyond the building itself—caring for both people and the environment.

This milestone was made possible through the generosity of many donors, including **Allen and Julia Anne Dawson; Ed and Donna Broadwell; Charles and Jean Johnson; Will and Carlotta Jordan; Diana Lennox Latta; Bill and Janet Leonard; Pim Little; the Martha Lowe Family; Kathy Miritello; Ken and Peggy Partin; the Rusty Pulliam Foundation; and Martha Rowlett.** Their collective support reflects a deep belief in the mission of Givens and the importance of preserving spaces that bring people together.

For some, the opportunity to give was also deeply personal.

“In 2024, after having been a very ‘happy camper’ at Givens Estates for sixteen years, I began thoughtfully exploring meaningful ways to express all the ‘goodness’ I had found there, while also honoring the memory of my parents. Naming opportunities for the renovation of the Manor House surfaced and quickly generated my great enthusiasm in this regard.

Everything about the proposal to convert the former Living Room into a Conference Room spoke to me as a lovely reflection of my parents’ lives. The room’s warm, friendly, and intimate atmosphere, paired with modern technology and park-like views, creates a sense of calm that supports both Givens’ mission and the purposeful way Mother and Dad lived their lives.

*Additionally, honoring my parents expresses my enormous gratitude to them for first introducing me to Asheville during a summer-long road trip in 1952. The city captured my heart then and continued to grow in meaning over the years. After being widowed and spending eighteen years in the Pacific Northwest caring for them in their final years, I returned to Asheville in 2008. It was my great good fortune to have found Givens Estates as that destination.” – **Diana Latta, March 2026***

Diana’s story reflects a sentiment shared by many—gratitude for what Givens has been, and a desire to ensure its strength for the future.

The Manor House renovation stands as a meaningful milestone, grounding Givens in its history while quietly setting the stage for what comes next. As we look ahead to the upcoming master plan expansion, new opportunities will emerge for individuals and families to create their own legacy—honoring loved ones, reflecting personal values, and shaping the future of Givens for generations to come.

To explore opportunities to be part of what comes next at Givens, please contact Amy Renigar, Director of Philanthropy, at **828-669-6474**

CAREER CORNER

Givens Communities is committed to fostering a meaningful work environment, with career growth being equitable and accessible for all. Together, team members contribute different ideas, skill sets, and backgrounds, which lead to more innovative solutions and services. We are excited to announce these recent promotions:



Brian Lewis

Brian Lewis has been promoted from Controller at Givens Highland Farms to Director of Financial Operations Systems and Controls for Givens Communities. He will continue to serve on the Givens Highland Farms Leadership Team, providing day-to-day support in his previous capacity while taking on this expanded organizational role.

In his new position, Brian will oversee Accounts Payable and Payroll cycles, along with related accounting functions. He will also lead Financial Operations Systems, Internal Controls, and document retention policies, serving as system administrator for the platforms supporting these areas.

Brian joined Givens Highland Farms in May 2024 as Controller, bringing extensive financial and leadership experience. He is a CPA licensed in Florida and North Carolina, a Certified Internal Auditor, and holds a BBA in Accounting from Florida Atlantic University and a Master of Accountancy with Honors from Stetson University. His background spans public accounting, governmental internal audit, and private industry leadership roles, including COO and CFO. We are proud to recognize Brian's expanded leadership role and look forward to his continued contributions across Givens Communities.

CAREER CORNER



Amelia Balzer

Amelia Balzer has accepted the position of Human Resources Systems and Process Manager for Givens Communities, a new position for Givens Communities. She joined the HR team in 2022 as the HR Coordinator, following her graduation from college with a bachelor's degree with an HR concentration. Amelia was later promoted to a HR Generalist role supporting Givens Estates and Givens Highland Farms. Over the past year, Amelia has served as one of the lead individuals on a human resources information system implementation project and has become our internal subject matter expert on the system. As our organization has continued to grow and become more complex, the technology systems now require advanced knowledge to support operational teams. A more focused role supporting HR systems and processes was needed. Please congratulate Amelia as she continues to grow with Givens and works to transition into this new role.



Gregory Dulin

Greg Dulin has been named as Staff Development Coordinator at Givens Aldersgate. He began his service with Givens Aldersgate as a Licensed Practical Nurse in our Asbury Health and Rehab Center from 2018 to 2020. We were delighted to welcome him back in 2022 as an LPN Clinical Care Coordinator in our Resident Wellness Clinic. Greg quickly became well-liked and trusted by our residents, which was evident in the meaningful connections he built with them. In July 2025, Greg earned his Registered Nurse license and was quickly promoted to RN Supervisor for Givens Aldersgate at Home. After a short time in that role, we recognized his strong teaching and organizational skills, and in February we were pleased to offer him this position. We are excited to see Greg continue to grow and have a positive impact in this new role!

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, EXPANDING CARE

Everyone is Happiest at Home



🐾 90% of adults hope to remain at **home** as they age.

🐾 100% of shelter pets hope for a **home** of their own.

We're here to make both possible!

Givens Home First continues to broaden its influence throughout Western North Carolina through strategic partnerships that promote aging in place, support caregivers, and enhance access to home-based care.

Givens Home First has been granted approval to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model in collaboration with MemoryCare, marking its inaugural CMS-funded pilot initiative. This program extends access to home and respite care for individuals living with dementia, delivers in-home support to family caregivers, and contributes to the reduction of unnecessary emergency room visits and skilled nursing facility placements.

The initiative provides \$2,500 per participant annually within Buncombe, Haywood, and Henderson counties, and forms part of an eight-year national effort to enhance dementia care.

A partnership between Givens Home First, Givens Choice, and the Asheville Humane Society supported 54 pet adoptions—promoting companionship, connection, and emotional well-being for older adults and animals alike.

These partnerships reflect Givens Home First's ongoing commitment to innovation, collaboration, and quality care—helping older adults and their loved ones live safely and well at home.

GIVENS ALDERSGATE AT HOME

With Givens Aldersgate At Home, older adults can enjoy peace of mind knowing that their needs will be met with personalized attention and the Givens' commitment to excellence. This trusted team designs a custom care program for you with services that empower your independence and comfort. This spring marks the beginning of the integration of two home care programs: Givens Home First and Givens Aldersgate at Home. Both programs have a long and meaningful history of serving residents and clients across North Carolina.

Givens Aldersgate At Home offers a range of services ranging from errands and grocery deliveries to personalized one-on-one care to ensure safety, comfort, and peace of mind for as you age in place. This approach ensures that you control daily routines, you receive support tailored specifically to your lifestyle, and benefit from a compassionate team dedicated to your well-being.

Whether you require assistance with daily tasks or simply want to enhance your quality of life, Givens Aldersgate at Home is available to help you thrive in the comfort of your own home. Givens Home First Executive Director, Jessie Bosshard, will provide overall leadership and oversight across both programs, helping guide the integration process. Rachel Smith, Operations Manager, will continue leading day-to-day operations in the Charlotte region.

Givens Aldersgate residents can schedule service visits as short as 30 minutes, ideal for medication reminders and health checks. For those requiring more extensive care, services are available up to 24 hours a day. The same home care options are available to clients outside the Givens Aldersgate campus, with a minimum consecutive service time of four hours per visit.

**For more information, call
704-532-7090.**



A STITCH IN TIME PROVIDES TIES THAT BIND



The Charity Knitting & Crochet group at Givens Highland Farms.

Some residents at Givens Highland Farms and Givens Estates are turning fiber arts into a powerful force for connection, creativity, and community service.

At Givens Highland Farms, the Charity Knitting and Crochet group meets monthly, coming together to knit, crochet, and then donate handmade items to local organizations. Founded by Betsy Stobbs and now led by Ruth Hoffman, the group combines fellowship with service.

At Givens Estates, that same spirit is thriving in the campus Fiber Arts Studio, where the resident-led group Luv2Quilt has become a hub for creativity and outreach. Givens has a long history of fiber arts involvement, beginning with the Stitches from the Heart group originally organized by resident Beth Waller. Luv2Quilt is one of several sewing groups that grew from this tradition. Founded in 2021 by resident Joanie McGee, the group began with a simple idea: using quilting as a way to bring comfort and care to others.

Charity Knitting and Crochet creates some 250 items each year, including blankets, hats, and other handmade gifts for the Givens Highland Farms Health Care Center, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, and Black Mountain Children's Home.

Luv2Quilt members contributed about 775 service hours while creating quilts, blankets, tote bags, stuffed animals, and other handmade items for children, healthcare residents, and area nonprofit partners, like BEAR Closets, BeLoved Asheville, Four Seasons Hospice and the MANNA Food Bank.

The benefits of fiber arts are twofold:

- Engaging in knitting, quilting, embroidery and crocheting offers incredible benefits for older adults, including improved dexterity, cognitive stimulation, and forging strong social connections. The focus required for reading patterns or weaving acts as a calming, meditative practice that reduces stress.
- The resulting variety of handicrafts created by talented residents aid with warmth and emotional support to individuals in crisis, plush toys for children in need, and gifts reflecting love and care.

Givens Foundation, through the Life Enrichment Fund, helps support these resident groups and provides additional resources when needed. Feeling inspired? Make a gift to support resident-led initiatives like this one at: <https://givensphilanthropy.org/giving/>

LEADINGAGE NORTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Joey Abel, Director of Community Impact.

Three team members from Givens Communities graduated in May from the renowned LeadingAge North Carolina Leadership Academy, reflecting both their dedication as aging services professionals and our senior living organization's commitment to workplace excellence.

The 2025-2026 leadership fellows from Givens are:

- **Joey Abel**, Director of Community Impact
- **Josue Molina**, Corporate Director of Independent Living Sales
- **Jonathan Weaver**, Technology Director, Givens Estates



Jonathan Weaver, Technology Director, Givens Estates

The academy is an immersive, year-long program that focuses on self-reflective leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and innovation, preparing emerging professionals to lead innovation in the senior living sector. Graduation ceremonies were held during the LeadingAge North Carolina annual conference, this year in The Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville on May 5-7.

The Leadership Academy is designed to develop capacities and core values by tapping into their natural talents and authentic leadership styles. It emphasizes self-exploration and relationship-building to enable participants to embrace diversity of thought, move beyond pre-conceived assumptions, and view their own experiences and those of others as learning opportunities. Givens will be represented in the 2026-2027 cohort by:

- Whitney Moyle with Givens Aldersgate in Charlotte
- Sawyer Baxley with Givens Highland Farms in Black Mountain
- Regina Kilgore with Givens Choice in Asheville
- Robert Underwood, Jr. with Givens Estates in Asheville

LeadingAge North Carolina is the statewide association for Life Plan Communities, affordable senior housing providers, and related businesses. Through advocacy, education, innovation and collaboration, the membership organization provides expanded possibilities for aging, value to its members, and leadership to the field of aging.



Josue Molina, Corp. Director of Independent Living Sales



Givens Aldersgate residents enjoy Earth Day with a walk around the lake.



Givens Estates residents visit Lake Junaluska.



Givens Estates residents at the Asheville Tourists game.



Givens Highland Farms and Givens Estates Hiking Groups meeting up for a day on the trail.