



The Golden Gram

Dear Friends & Supporters,



Happy 2022! Yes, a new year has arrived and I have some wonderful news to share with all of you: **We are breaking ground on Harry's House, which is Phase 2 of the Golden Inn & Village (GIV)!**

Just before the 2021 came to a close, a development pact was signed between the Rona Barrett Foundation, the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara and the Parsons Group. After years in the making, Harry's House, which is named after my late father, will be built to provide 60 additional living accommodations for seniors in their time of need.

The new building will be located adjacent to the existing GIV structure in Santa Ynez. Since its conception, the GIV senior affordable housing campus was always envisioned as an environment where low-income elderly could "age in place." And, when Harry's House is completed it will offer independent congregant care living, providing essential services and resources for older and more frail residents.

Of course, this exciting news could not have happened without your continuous support and encouragement. While many of you have been with us even before we broke ground on the current building, I'm touched that so many others have heard about our nonprofit's mission for seniors and have come onboard as well.



As we move into 2022, I wish each of you all the best that the new year can bring. I'll also be sharing updates with you about Harry's House. For now, it's time to dust off my golden shovel!

With love and appreciation,

Rona

VIRTUAL REALITY PROGRAM



Imagine being able to visit places like Thailand, Spain, France, Italy or even New York during the holiday season from the comfort of your chair! Thanks to a unique Virtual Reality (VR) program, senior residents of the Golden Inn & Village have the opportunity to explore so many places by simply wearing a pair specially designed goggles!

Residents can also have special "experiences," like climbing Mt. Everest, engaging in a yoga class or playing with puppies! The VR program was created with a partnership with MyndVR, a company that specializes in this technology.

5 Questions With the Chairperson of the Rona Barrett Foundation Board



Cynthia Manigault was recently elected Chairperson of the Rona Barrett Foundation Board of Trustees. Let's "Take 5" and get to know her better!

How long have you served on the Rona Barrett Foundation Board of Trustees?

I have served on the board of the Rona Barrett Foundation for three years.

What inspired you to get involved in a nonprofit that supports seniors in their time of need?

I wanted to help older adults live an engaged and purposeful life. It is essential to provide affordable housing that meets the needs of low-income older adults. I often think of this quote by Nelson Mandela: "A society that does not value its older people denies its roots and endangers its future. Let us strive to enhance their capacity to support themselves for as long as possible and, when they cannot do so anymore, to care for them."

What type of services do low-income seniors need on a regular basis?

Seniors need health-centric services, socially engaging activities and programs, meal/nutrition programs,

fitness classes, arts and crafts, gardening, musical performances, educational lectures, computer labs and more.

Will Harry's House, which will soon begin construction, serve even more low-income seniors?

Yes, when Harry's House, which will be constructed adjacent to the current Golden Inn & Village building, is completed, it will house 60 more affordable housing units for senior citizens.

How can someone make a donation to help these seniors?

You make financial contributions through various ways: become a monthly sustaining donor, make a one-time donation or you can donate stock shares. Donations can be made in memory or in honor of loved ones too. You can mail the remittance envelope in this newsletter or visit the Foundation's website: ronabarrettfoundation.org/donate-1.

Meet The Residents of The Golden Inn & Village

MARY ORTIZ



Maria Ortiz, or Mary, as she prefers to be called, came to the Santa Ynez Valley at the age of seven. Her father, a farmer from Toledo, Ohio, was searching for a place that was fruitful in agriculture. So, he decided to "Go West" with a wife and eight children!

Mary has had a very special talent ever since she was a young girl. Her mother taught her to crochet doilies at the age of five. She is very skilled with the very tiny needle and the cotton

thread used to create her doilies and blankets of many sizes. What's even more amazing is that Mary has never used a pattern, but simply looks at a sample and duplicates them perfectly.

Another favorite of Mary's is sewing. Mary is quite petite, and has learned to create things in her size, such as aprons, pants and other clothing.

As an adult, Mary eventually married and moved to Santa Maria. She followed her heart back to the Santa Ynez Valley a few years ago and became a resident at the Golden Inn & Village, where she loves to call her home a beautiful, peaceful place to live. "There's no other place I'd rather be," she smiled.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!



Don't miss out on special video messages from Rona Barrett and other updates from the Rona Barrett Foundation and news from the Golden Inn & Village.

Send us your email address to: info@ronabarrettfoundation.org

Volunteer Spotlight

WHEELS 'N' WINDMILLS CAR CLUB

When the Wheels 'N' Windmills Car Club held its Solvang Fall Classic Car Show, it chose the Rona Barrett Foundation and the Golden Inn & Village (GIV) as its leading charitable honoree. Hundreds of cars (and thousands of spectators) took to the streets of Solvang on Oct. 9, 2021 to be a part of the popular event.

The Rona Barrett Foundation would like to thank President Bob Stokes and the car show's all-volunteer committee for the generous donation of \$8,500 that will be used for the senior meal/nutrition program at the GIV. In addition, a 50/50 Raffle was held at the event and brought in additional dollars to help low-income seniors.





THE RONA BARRETT
FOUNDATION

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RONA BARRETT'S GRAY MATTERS: The Podcast

"Whether you laugh with me - or cry with me - I'm so glad you're here to join me
- in finding out what the adventure of aging is all about."



Groundbreaking entertainment reporter, now advocate for vulnerable seniors, Rona is giving voice to her acclaimed Gray Matters book and column.

In the spirit of the Rona Barrett Foundation, the new Gray Matters: The Podcast, is a weekly dose of thought-provoking, funny and useful insights on issues that matter to our senior loved ones and those who care for them. Subscribe today and don't miss an episode!

SUBSCRIBE HERE:
ronabarrettfoundation.org/podcast

To read more stories and anecdotes about aging, purchase Rona Barrett's Gray Matters visit www.ronabarrettfoundation.org or call 805.688.8887. All sales proceeds benefit the Rona Barrett Foundation and its programs and services for seniors in their time of need.