



# The Golden Gram

Dear Friends & Supporters,



Milestones. They're those special moments in life that merit acknowledgment, celebration and reflection.

Earlier this month, I had a personal milestone: my biggest birthday to date. Take a 3, plus a 2 and

add an 8! Got it? I was very touched by the outreach of greetings from so many people, including some friends from whom I'd not heard since the COVID outbreak. While blowing out the candle on my cake, I reflected and made a wish: "I want our seniors to have the golden years they truly deserve!"

I'm happy to say that part of that wish is already true – and, it's also another milestone! The Golden Inn & Village, the affordable senior housing campus that was envisioned by the Rona Barrett Foundation, will be celebrating its fifth year anniversary! Five years ago this month, our non-profit and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara held an official ribbon cutting (pictured). The ceremony culminated years of planning, developing and most of all, believing that it would be built.

We officially welcomed our first residents in mid-December 2016. However, it was never enough to just put a roof over their heads; these low-income seniors also needed essential wellness services and programs. Our foundation, thanks to your generous support, continues to provide a host of activities at no cost for these seniors.

So, my birthday wish continues as our non-profit plans to launch Phase 2 of the Golden Inn & Village, called Harry's House, named after my dear dad. I look forward to taking our golden shovel and breaking ground on this new building, which will house 60 new apartments, next to the Golden Inn & Village. This, too, another milestone!



Through the coming months, we will be sharing more about the 5th Anniversary of the Golden Inn & Village and the future of Harry's House. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your ongoing support.

With love and gratitude,

*Rona*

CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC



One of the wellness services that the Rona Barrett Foundation provides senior residents of the Golden Inn & Village (GIV) is a weekly Chiropractic Clinic. Dr. Jim Hazard of Hazard Chiropractic has been conducting the health screenings at the GIV for four and a half years. Each Friday, each takes five appointments just before lunchtime.

The residents who schedule appointments with Dr. Hazard are always commenting about how much better their backs, necks and hips feel after having adjustments. In addition, Dr. Hazard bills Medicare for his patient appointments, so this wellness service is no cost to our seniors.

While away from his professional duties, Dr. Hazard enjoys spending quality time with his three daughters, who are all involved in sports. One time, he left a track meet after his middle daughter ran her event, came to the GIV and conducted a clinic, and then went back to the school to see his youngest daughter play soccer!

Thank you Dr. Hazard for providing such attentive care to the senior residents of the GIV.

Meet The Board of Trustees  
**ROGER BATTISTONE**



Roger Battistone joined the Board of Trustees of the Rona Barrett Foundation a year before the doors opened at the Golden Inn & Village (GIV). "When I was asked to join the Rona Barrett Foundation six years ago, I wanted to help Rona accomplish her dream of providing affordable housing for low-income seniors," Roger said.

"As we all know," Roger continued, "our country is in dire need of even more affordable housing for senior citizens. With the driving force of Rona and her leadership, other Board members, the Housing Authority of the

County of Santa Barbara, and our many donors and volunteers, the GIV became a reality. We are now preparing to build the second phase of Rona's humanitarian dream, Harry's House, which will house 60 senior affordable living spaces."

While Roger truly admires Rona's vision to help seniors, he's also inspired by one of his own favorite senior citizens, his father-in-law Eugene Marasco, (pictured) who works with Roger at the Battistone Foundation. "Eugene and his wife, Jean, have dedicated their lives for the past 30 years to managing the Palm Tree Apartments, an affordable apartment complex for low-income seniors, "His constant dedication made we want to do more for our country's seniors."

Roger is married to Cristina, who works for an accounting firm in Santa Barbara. Roger has five children: Arianna, Chanelle, Angelina, Mia and Roman.

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Send us your email address to:  
[info@ronabarrettfoundation.org](mailto:info@ronabarrettfoundation.org)

Meet The Residents of  
The Golden Inn & Village

**MAURICE STOLIAR**

Maurice Stoliar was one of the very first residents who made the Golden Inn & Village (GIV) his home when the doors opened in December 2016. Right away, he became friends with the other residents and embraced the many programs offered at the GIV.



Over the months, Maurice has taken advantage of the medical screenings, hairdresser services, painting classes and field trips, among others. "I have everything I need; I'm very happy living here," he said.

Maurice also believes in "giving back," by volunteering. On many occasions, he's provided transportation assistance to his fellow residents and offered his services for the FoodBank Brown Bag program. He was even awarded a Volunteer Appreciation Award from Community Partners in Caring.

Born in Argentina, where he owned a men's apparel store for 56 years, he eventually moved to Santa Barbara. His entrepreneurial spirit continued in California, where he owned a small boutique that sold costume jewelry, sunglasses, t-shirts and other novelties.

"The Golden Inn & Village is a special place," Maurice said. "I'm proud to call it my home."

Volunteer Spotlight

**ANNABELLE DIAZ**

"Good things come in small packages!" – Aesop



Annabelle Diaz may only be ten years old, but she has enough energy to light up a marquee. Combine that with her adorable charm and you have one of the youngest volunteers who brings joy and happiness to the senior residents of the Golden Inn & Village (GIV).

"Annabelle just made the afternoon so special. It was so wonderful seeing our senior residents socialize together," said Vanessa Kernes, Director of Wellness Programs and Services. "Annabelle's mother, Bethany, has also served as a volunteer at the GIV, so giving back must run in the family!"



Recently, Annabelle had an idea: she wanted to organize and host a Tea Time for the seniors. She gathered decorations, made invitations and prepared all of the goodies that were enjoyed at Tea Time. During the actual event, Annabelle served as the most engaging hostess by welcoming each resident individually.



THE RONA BARRETT  
FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1559  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

The Rona Barrett Foundation Tax ID 77-0555412

## 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!

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