



The Golden Gram

Dear Friends & Supporters,



As we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall, a word comes to mind that perfectly describes each undertaking we've endeavored these busy few months. That word is **OUTSTANDING**.

We've made outstanding progress on Harry's House, thanks to our partner, Sunseri Construction. Harry's House is our 60-unit affordable congregate care housing campus for low-income seniors that broke ground last February. We are thrilled that its progress continues unabated with occupancy still slated for next summer.



Photo provided by Sunseri Construction, Inc.

Our 5th Anniversary Celebration, also known as our "Class of 2016" Commencement Ceremony, was an outstanding event. In June, we honored our first residents who moved in as soon as we opened our doors in December 2016. These past and present residents feel deeply gratified that the Golden Inn & Village is not just a roof over their head, but their home.

We've decided it's time we introduced our outstanding donors. We would like everyone to have the chance to see the caliber of support they all provide. Whether their donation is time, effort, services, or financial contribution, be they large or small, we deeply appreciate each and every one.

This year, we celebrate National Grandparents Day on September 11. The proclamation that established it stated three distinct purposes: To honor grandparents; To give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children; To help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer. Three cheers for our outstanding grandparents!

Thank you, our friends, and champions, for your outstanding support for the work we do to provide the golden years our seniors in need deserve.

With love and appreciation,



MEET OUR DONORS

JAMES H. BRAY

Being a retired Public & Government Relations manager in the oil and gas industry allows Jim Bray to be one of the most giving donors of his time, effort, services,

as well as financial contributions whenever possible, to the organizations in his community he ardently supports.

Jim and his wife, Denise, reside in Orcutt, but he expands his community outward serving on the Allan Hancock College Foundation board, as president of the PCPA Foundation board, as an advisory board member of the California Oil Museum, and as an Honorary Commander Emeritus at Vandenberg Space Force Base. On top of all that, for the past three years, Jim has also been the Sponsorship Director for the Central Coast Air Fest in Santa Maria.

"Now that I'm retired, I donate a lot of time. That's my joy," Jim proudly states.

Five years ago, Jim was at an event in Solvang that Rona attended. He had admired her since he was a teenager, "I just thought she was the best; greatest entertainment reporter there ever was," he enthused. So, he took the opportunity to meet one of his most favorite icons.

Says Jim, "And she couldn't have been nicer. She was the sweetest lady. And when I found out that her passion was

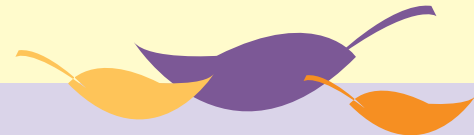
seniors, I was doubly impressed because I don't know anybody who has a heart for seniors, much less anybody of her celebrity."

Jim has a friend who has a local radio talk show, which he will periodically guest host when his friend is out of town. He wasted no time in asking Rona to be his guest so she could spread the word about the Golden Inn & Village. He followed up with an opportunity for her to speak to his Santa Maria Breakfast Rotary Club.

Jim was so impressed with the story about Rona's dad, Harry. "I'd love to have met this guy because he made such an impression on her that she would take this on because of him," Jim recalled.

When asked about his favorite aspect of the Golden Inn & Village, Jim expounded, **"It's the demographics it reaches. Everybody is concerned about the young people, the homeless and veterans – homeless veterans. Rona picked those who are so under-represented. My mom and dad at that time were struggling with their issues, and so I was just really touched by her heart for seniors."**

We are honored to have Jim Bray consider The Rona Barrett Foundation an organization he ardently supports through his time, effort, and financial contributions whenever possible.



Special Edition MEET THE RESIDENTS

Eight of the eighteen Class of 2016 residents feted on June 17 gathered in the GIV Great Room, "the heart, hearth and hub," of the GIV, to share their thoughts about what living at the Golden Inn & Village has meant to them these past five years.

Please meet four of the residents. We will introduce you to the additional four in our Winter Golden Gram:



FAITH WEEDN is from England and explained her unusually spelled last name came from her "Sooner" husband's family. Faith travelled with racehorses for

their owners, which brought her to California. The ranch home she worked hard to keep was foreclosed on, but a

local rancher allowed her to bring her RV onto their property. She heard about the GIV in the newspaper and applied because she was worried about living on the ranch as she continued to age. "Now I have a home where I can grow things. I love the library ☑ brilliant. And our gym. And Anna Widling. When we came here, she made us feel secure and happy...and now Vanessa and Cindy look after us. Thank you, Rona, for imagining the GIV, and for making it a reality."



RON RENFRO was working for Walt Disney World when he retired in 2000 at sixty-five. He taught US Government to tenth graders before that. His daughter

found out about the opportunity to apply to GIV, filled out the application for him, then announced, "You've been accepted," and he moved in the first day GIV opened. From the beginning, Ron was very active. He helped wherever and whenever he could. Then he had a heart attack and a pacemaker put in, among other issues. Today, his arms don't work as well as they used to. "I've been trying to put this stupid button in the hole all morning," chuckled Ron, then refusing offers of help. Ron says, "They are fantastic people here...everybody... this is a very peaceful place to live."



Soft-spoken WILMA GYESKO

was born in Wisconsin. She married her husband, who had escaped from Hungary, in Los

Angeles in 1960. In 2000, they came to Santa Barbara to open a one-man mechanic shop. Wilma's husband then had a series of illnesses starting with heart trouble and ending with a stroke. Wilma nursed him through it all until his death in 2015. She spent a year living with her son and daughter-in-law. Her son found out about the GIV in the newspaper. She became number thirty-four on the list: "...it was the best thing in the world because I didn't know what I was going to do. I couldn't stay with the kids. I feel very safe here and comfortable. And I have a lot of friends, which I didn't have before. And that's really important."



CAROL PICKETT

has long-time roots in the Valley. Her father opened Solvang's second bakery in 1941 bringing donuts for the first time, which

was a big hit! Carol's husband was a Lieutenant who flew B-24's in the Pacific Theater of WWII. Afterwards, they traveled and lived around the world. She is now a retired widow. She found out about the GIV through word of mouth and the newspaper. Carol put her experience at the GIV simply: "I found a beautiful home where I'm able financially to have independent living! GIV is a blessing from God and Rona Barrett and her dreams to make this happen. I have a sense of security in a clean, gorgeous home environment and have made life-long friends who I call family. GIV is a family."

Home friends, and family. Three of life's golden treasures.

We are deeply indebted to all those who have helped, continue to help, and who will help us, improve the lives of our vulnerable seniors in their time of need.



GIV'S 5th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

When we were anticipating our Fifth Anniversary of the Golden Inn & Village, it didn't take us long to decide how we wanted to celebrate.

We all agreed this would be the perfect time to honor those residents who moved in that momentous day in December 2016 when the Golden Inn & Village first opened our doors, and who happily continue to reside at the GIV.

Our "Class of 2016" Commencement on June 17 was a joyous commemoration for all who attended.

Eighteen of the original residents whose ages range from 67 to 92 included **Charlie Bothwell, Emma Castaneda, Judith Collier, Erlinda Delgado, Oscar Delgado, Toni Delgado, Wilma Gyesko, Cori Jarvi, Gwen Johnson, Carol LaRue, Cliff Lewis, Carol Pickett, Ron Renfro, Sylvia Reusser, Maurice Stoliar, Jimmie Vincent, Faith Weedn, and Erin Wheatley.**

Caring opening thoughts were provided by Emma Castaneda. Tony Morris warmly welcomed everyone, and Rona Barrett offered her steadfast thanks. Vanessa Kernes and Cindy Germino presented the diplomas, and Vanessa offered hearty congratulations.

Class Speaker was Carol LaRue who opened with a heartfelt tribute to "...our friends and neighbors unable to be with us today, you are remembered, and you are missed."

Carol recalled everyone meeting in the GIV dining room to sign their final documents before being issued keys to their new homes as well as their security fobs for the outer doors and how she felt. "I felt grateful and so blessed as I made the right turn down the hall and approached my front door for the first time. Like winning one of the Golden Tickets in a Willy Wonka Chocolate Bar. With the turn of a key and the opening of a door... I was home."

Carol felt that opportunity had knocked when she saw a notice in the Lompoc Record announcing the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County was accepting applications for Senior Housing at the GIV. She used a friend's computer to apply online, hitting the "send" button within an hour and fifteen minutes of reading the announcement.

She concluded her remarks with not just a look back, but a look forward – with immense gratitude: "It's said, 'All roads lead to Gettysburg.' So too, it is the personal roads we've traveled in our lives that have brought each one of us here today. We celebrate the experiences of our lives and the experiences we've shared... Turning our gaze now toward the future, as a special kind of family, who share a home, born of a dream: The Golden Inn & Village..."

It is our privilege and pleasure to continue to offer all our residents the most "vibrant senior living for those in need."



THE RONA BARRETT
FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1559
Santa Ynez, CA 93460



The Rona Barrett Foundation Tax ID 77-0555412



THE RONA BARRETT FOUNDATION

Invites you
to celebrate

*Love,
Italian
Style*

AT THE SUNSTONE VILLA IN SANTA YNEZ
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

Dress for fun! Wear your favorite Gucci, Pucci, Armani, Valentino
or Versace outfit. Or show off your cool Italian shades and shoes.
Think Marcello Mastroianni or Sophia Loren. Or play the part!
La Dolce Vita!

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:
RonaBarrettFoundation.org/Italian

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*at press time