

JUNE 8, 2023



**A MESSAGE FROM  
BRIAN DANAHER**

**VP, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL**

I had the pleasure on May 17 to join several Benchmark Senior Living colleagues in representing our organization at *Spirit Magazine's* 15th annual **LGBTQ+ Executive Networking Night** held at Boston Marriot Copley Place. Benchmark was one of only two senior living companies of more than 50 exhibitors at the event.

It was a wonderful opportunity to explain to many of the 900 attendees why Benchmark is committed to being an inclusive place to live and, of course, to work. It's a message that I am proud to share with anyone. From the Home Office to each of our 65 communities, we have remained steadfast in fostering a respectful and inclusive workplace for years.

As we celebrate **Pride Month** in June, our compassion and tolerance will be on full display as we hold an array of activities and start what will be new conversations for many. I encourage you to be engaged and to show your support of your LGBTQ+ colleagues.

Of course, this compassion and commitment to doing the right thing by all – regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, race, ethnic background, faith, politics, etc. – is something we must embrace all year. It's also something that will always be a work in progress here and through-

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## A Lifetime of Artistic Inspiration



**Keeping a Full Plate:** *Haverhill Crossings resident Bill Hallett continues to pursue the passion and profession he and his wife enjoyed for decades.*

Ask any collector plate aficionado who their favorite artists are, and you'll likely hear of Bill and Charlotte Hallett.

Over the past 50 years, the Haverhill, Mass., couple gained international acclaim for their vibrant collectible housewares. Many feature religious, nature and other themes, and were produced

in partnership with Steuben Glass and Hutschenreuther.

"I've honestly lost count of how many plates we've created," said Bill, who recently moved to Haverhill Crossings.

Though Charlotte passed away last

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## BSL Celebrates Pride Month

June marks **Pride Month**, and Benchmark communities are celebrating in a big way!

At **Orchard Valley at Wilbraham**, associates wasted no time decking out the community with rainbow lights, banners, and balloons.

"Our community is very passionate about embracing diversity, and that includes embracing the LGBTQ+ community," said Orchard Valley's Executive Director, **Emily Perkins**. "We have a whole slew of

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*Orchard Valley is holding Pride Month celebrations throughout June.*



Bill in his home studio. Below, a drawing he and his wife were commissioned to create for a magazine cover. The fantastic scene portrays the couple.

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year, Bill continues his work at Haverhill Crossings -- teaching resident art classes, and recently showed off his latest collection of drawings at a community-wide event.

Bill fondly recalls his courtship of the woman who not only became his wife, but his business partner.

In 1964, while working as a flatware and textiles designer at Wallace Silversmith in Haverhill, he interviewed Charlotte for a job. Although immediately struck by her, it would take him two years to ask her out.

"She was a fantastic artist! In no time at all, I was absolutely in love with her," exclaimed Bill. "After a year of dating I asked her to marry me and was delighted (and somewhat shocked!) when she said yes."

In the early 70s, the pair started their own home-based design firm in Haverhill, Hallett & Associates. Although each maintained their own projects, they did everything as a team, including when Charlotte did some engraving work for Steuben Glass that's featured in the White House.



Soon, they were tapped to create artwork for Germany-based Hutschenreuther, widely considered to be one of the world's finest porcelain makers. "They treated us like royalty," said Bill. "We would design the artwork for the front of the plate, and they would produce it."

Traveling the globe with his wife was amazing, Bill says, but he is happy with his current corner of the world, as well. "One thing that really surprised me is how friendly everyone is (at Haverhill Crossings)," said Bill. "It's wonderful. You walk down the hall, and everyone says hello and asks you how you're doing. It's terrific, they really make you feel welcome."

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out society. As a member of the Benchmark Inclusion Advisory Council, I am excited by the enthusiasm and hard work

of council members, their coworkers, and our leadership -- all of whom recognize that embracing our uniqueness is what makes us *Better Together!*

**BRIEFS**

**Honoring Juneteenth**



**Juneteenth**, the annual commemoration of the end of slavery in the US, is coming up on June 19. The Benchmark Inclusion Advisory Council encourages all communities to celebrate this holiday in thoughtful and fun ways. For more information about Juneteenth and celebration ideas, please visit [IAC's Hub page](#).

**Get with The Program**



**The Falls at Cordingly Dam's Kasey Larsen and Shayla McDermott** -- the community's art therapist and music therapist, respectively -- recently shared their trade secrets with CEO Tom Grape during a special segment of Tom Talks. Together, the programming directors have introduced creative, fun and innovative activities and events to benefit their residents. Watch it [here](#).



## OPEN POSITIONS

Benchmark is currently looking for talented individuals to fill the following positions. For information, contact [recruiting@benchmarkquality.com](mailto:recruiting@benchmarkquality.com).

- **RN Designee** at Carriage Green at Milford
- **Director of Business Administration** at The Atrium at Cardinal Drive
- **Director of Community Relations** at Evans Park at Newton Corner
- **Director of Community Relations** at Billerica Crossings
- **Director of Community Relations** at Shrewsbury Crossings
- **Resident Care Director** at The Village at South Farms
- **Portfolio Accountant** at Home Office
- **Memory Care Specialist** at Home Office



## HUMAN RESOURCES

**GO and Compass Date Change:** Due to the July Fourth holiday, virtual GO will be on Wednesday, July 5 and Compass will be on Thursday, July 6.

**Upcoming Training:** Lead Aide training for newly promoted RCA's on June 14-15 at Buckland Court in CT.

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events slated for the month and are looking forward to building awareness.”

Established in 1970 to honor the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, Pride Month is when Americans across the nation celebrate the impact that LGBTQ+ individuals have had, and continue to have, on society. It's especially important this year, as the LGBTQ+ community continues to suffer persecution and violence.

“In addition to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, Pride Month is an opportunity for us to reinforce our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace where everyone feels welcome,” said **Tom Grape**, Chairman and CEO.

Between the Inclusion Advisory Council, community programming, professional networking and advocacy, there are many ways we can get involved and support the LGBTQ+ community in its march towards equality. Thank you for *Being the Benchmark!* Happy Pride Month!



## WARM WELCOME



**Helen Parker**

Helen is the Mind and Memory Care Director of **Adelaide of Newton Centre**. Helen has more than 15 years of experience in the health care industry, and most recently served as Resident Care Coordinator for Sunrise Senior Living.



**Jake Quigley**

Jake is the Regional Director of Operations for the **CCRCs**. He recently served as Director of Senior Living Asset Management at the RMR Group, and as an Executive Director for EPOCH Senior Living and Benchmark before that. He received his bachelor's and master's from Kansas State and his Doctorate of Law and Policy from Northeastern.



**Michael Tubbs**

Michael is the Executive Director of **Adelaide of Newton Centre**. He has spent the last 13 years in senior living, and most recently served as an Executive Director for Brookdale Senior Living. He received his bachelor's degree from York College of Pennsylvania.

## HIGHLIGHTS



Associates at Whisper Woods enjoyed a visit from the ice cream truck.



Residents and associates at Willow Crossings had fun at the "senior prom."



Plymouth Crossings enjoyed a trip to a local park on a wonderful spring day.