



# FORWARD THINKING

FIFTYFORWARD.ORG | FALL 2023



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## FiftyForward and Creative Girls Rock Launch New Bordeaux Collaborative

FiftyForward and Creative Girls Rock® recently announced a partnership to develop the Bordeaux Collaborative, a new community hub offering a variety of programs and services **including a new home for our FiftyForward Bordeaux center.**

The Bordeaux Collaborative will provide much-needed resources to a community that has historically received less investment. The new building will break ground in spring 2024 at the site of the existing FiftyForward Bordeaux location.

To date, \$4.5 million has been raised to fund development through partnerships with The Frist Foundation, HCA Healthcare Foundation, West End Home Foundation, and Metro Nashville with a goal to raise \$700,000 through community donations.

# CEO CORNER!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for meeting me here again for the second issue of our semi-annual newsletter. So many exciting things have happened over the past six months, including an announcement about our new exciting partnership with Creative Girls Rock!

Our goal at FiftyForward is to support living and aging in an active, healthy way – engaging with the community, adding new services, and adjusting current programs when needed. Older Tennesseans contribute to the vibrancy of our community every day. By the end of this decade, 25% of our state will be over the age of 65.

I'm grateful FiftyForward continues to embrace change across our centers and programs. The mission to support and champion older adults has not changed for over 65 years. We're just finding new ways to move forward in how we do it.

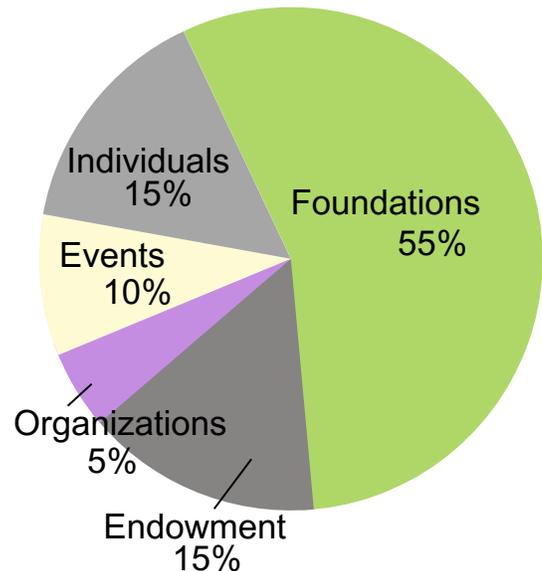
That's how we'll continue to grow, serve, and support. We hope you'll join us!

All the best,

*Sallie*



## FUNDRAISING SOURCES



We are honored and grateful to all of our individual, corporate, and foundation partners for their financial donations, which enable us to support and champion thousands of older adults each year.

For additional and complete financial information, please visit our website at [fiftyforward.org/about/financials](https://fiftyforward.org/about/financials).

### BY THE NUMBERS: FY2023

- Government grants - \$1,229,518
- Earned revenue - \$1,324,899
- Fundraising - \$2,026,793
- **Unaudited Total - \$4,581,210**



## IMMUNIZATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TOOLS FOR HEALTHY AGING

*by Gretchen Funk, MSW, FiftyForward Chief Program Officer*

We all want to stay healthy as long as possible. Some factors affecting how we age, like our genetics, are out of our control. We can do our best to make healthy food choices and get enough physical activity, however. We can also receive vaccinations to protect ourselves against

the big three respiratory illnesses - influenza, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and COVID-19 because as we age, we are at higher risk for serious complications from diseases like these. FiftyForward is partnering with the National Council on

*FiftyForward is committed to being your partner in healthy aging!*

Aging to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations for older adults. To find where you can receive the new COVID-19 booster, visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) and ask your medical professional about the new RSV vaccine and special influenza vaccines for people 65+ .



## FiftyForward Friends Brentwood

Check out all of the friendships being formed and fun being had at FiftyForward Friends Brentwood. Visit our website [fiftyforward.org](https://www.fiftyforward.org) to learn more about how older adults and caregivers benefit from the safe, supportive, and welcoming environment at FiftyForward Friends.





## Elnora Terry Joins Americorps Seniors Convention in D.C.

by Robin Johnson, FiftyForward Director of Volunteer Engagement

The bright lights of the national spotlight didn't faze FiftyForward Foster Grandparent volunteer Elnora Terry who participated in the AmeriCorps Seniors' national convening in Washington, D.C. Granny Elnora was selected by AmeriCorps Seniors' CEO Michael Smith to address the convening's audience who listened to her story of finding fulfillment as a Foster Grandparent at The McNeilly Center.



Granny Elnora is one of over 40 dedicated Foster Grandparents who logged 38,250 hours mentoring and tutoring 279 children in high-need elementary schools and child learning centers last year. In addition to helping children learn and grow, the program provides support for older adults with limited incomes.

Granny Elnora will be featured as a guest on FiftyForward's "Squeeze the Day" podcast later this year, sharing her reflections on life, service, and representing FiftyForward at our nation's capital. Listen to our "Squeeze the Day" podcast series at [fiftyforward.org/podcast](https://fiftyforward.org/podcast).



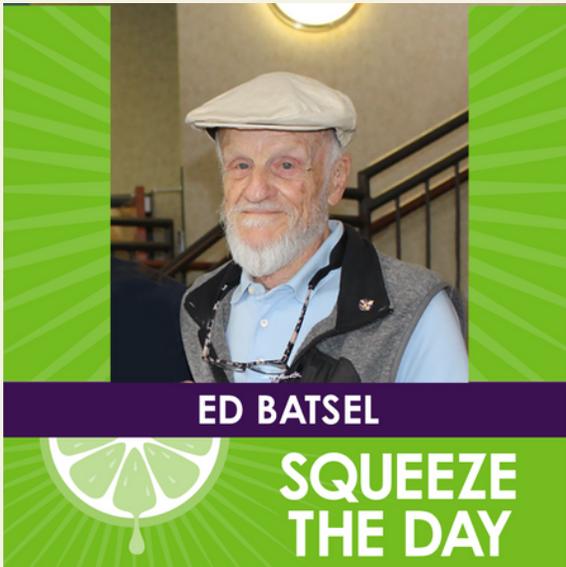
Special Thanks to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, a long-standing supporter of the Foster Grandparents Program.



**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
**LITERACY**  
**FOUNDATION**

GIVE.  
DREAM.  
HOPE.





## Ed Batsel Teaches Us About Loss And The Importance Of Community

*by Susan Sizemore, FiftyForward Communications Director*

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer Ed Batsel recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from President Biden for more than 25 years of service and 4,000 plus hours delivering meals currently through

through FiftyForward Fresh Meals on Wheels. Despite recently losing his wife, Batsel keeps a positive attitude and shares tips to help us navigate the passing of years. Soon to be 90, he is a model for active aging and is enthusiastic about health, hobbies, and engagement, especially for retirees. In this podcast, we learn about his life and hardships — including the recent loss of his wife — and how he is coping.

### **What advice do you have for others to prepare for life's unpredictable situations?**

For a man, you better learn to cook... I'm surprised at how many men whose wives do all of the finances. That's a bad sign. My wife did ours, but that's only because if it were left up to me, we would not have any money because I'm a spender. She was a very careful, organized budgeter. But she left me with Excel spreadsheets that were totally organized, and the formulas are all worked out ... all I have to do is enter the monthly totals.

In the podcast, Batsel stresses the benefit of having tough conversations related to the end of life including wills, living wills, powers of attorney, and tips that can provide peace of mind for families, especially during times of loss. His roadmap is thought-provoking and offers insight and tips for all of us. Learning about what he called his "very famous blue book" offers a very real example of advanced planning. You can listen to the podcast at

[fiftyforward.org/podcast](https://fiftyforward.org/podcast).



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Community Volunteer

### **Our Mission:**

*FiftyForward supports,  
champions, and  
enhances life for those  
50 and older.*

