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## Finding Community and Purpose Through FiftyForward

For FiftyForward members Jerrie and Sherry, becoming part of the organization was more than joining a center, it was a step toward improving their health and well-being.

After experiencing the loss of her son and brother, and facing her own health challenges, Jerrie received advice from her neurologist: get more active or risk impacting her quality of life. Determined to turn things around, Jerrie's first step was joining the FiftyForward Martin Center, a place she had driven by many times. Her goals were simple but important: exercise and reconnect socially.

Starting with SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) Fitness classes, Jerrie quickly became a regular. She now looks forward to monthly activities like day trips, mystery meals, and potlucks, finding herself with a full calendar and a renewed sense of joy. *(continued on page 3)*

*\*Photo: FiftyForward J.L. Turner members at western-themed Bunco game day.*

## CEO Corner!

Dear Friends,

The new fiscal year is a time of renewal, and this year brings some uncertainty. Like many nonprofits, FiftyForward faces challenges as federal funding reductions ripple across Tennessee, impacting essential services that support older adults. Some grants have been significantly reduced, discontinued, or paused, leaving nonprofit agencies and the individuals they serve without support.



FiftyForward's mission is to support and champion adults over 50, and Middle Tennessee's population needs our programs and services more every year. We are part of a sector that provides more than 40,000 Tennessee jobs and contributes upwards of \$30 billion to the economy. We remain committed to serving older adults with compassion and care because we deeply value the community we call home. Thank you for your gifts and support that help us serve thousands of older adults each year. I am grateful.

I hope to see you soon,

*Sallie*

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## Team Highlights

Join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest FiftyForward team members and offering special congratulations to 14-year team member Teresa McDaniel on her CFO of the Year Award, presented by the Center for Nonprofit Excellence.



**Glen Linthicum**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Javita Williamson**  
Adult Day Services  
Director



**Malcolm Richards**  
HR Director



**Michael Hare**  
Development Director



**Teresa McDaniel**  
Chief Financial Officer

Reflecting on her journey, Jerrie shares, "I think the Martin Center has saved my life. At least it's given me a life that I now enjoy [again]."

For Sherry, involvement with FiftyForward began more than 20 years ago when she started volunteering at the J.L. Turner Center. Encouraging her mom to participate after the loss of her father, Sherry soon found herself immersed in the community, organizing Bunco games and outings. The experience not only revitalized her mom, who credited FiftyForward with adding years to her life, but also cemented Sherry's connection to the center.

Today, Sherry continues to bring people together through Bunco and enjoys participating in center activities, like card games, line dancing, and walking trips at state parks. Now retired, she has embraced FiftyForward not just as a volunteer but as an active member, doing what she loves most: staying connected and creating community.

For both Jerrie and Sherry, FiftyForward has become a source of strength, friendship, and renewed purpose. It's a place where they go to stay active and connected to others in the community.

## Hispanic Cultural Center at FiftyForward Madison Station



At FiftyForward Madison Station, community thrives through connection, compassion, and culture. Each month, the Hispanic Cultural Center, located on-site, welcomes over 300 community members, offering essential resources and a space where culture is celebrated.

Through partnerships with Second Harvest Food Bank and the Community Resource Center, the Center provides fresh groceries,

community services, and access to resources that promote health and dignity. With support from TriStar Health, Legal Aid Society of Middle TN, and other neighborhood partners, monthly Spanish-language lectures are offered on topics such as health, legal services, and support for families with children on the autism spectrum.

The Center's goal is to foster a sense of belonging among older Hispanic adults and their families in the Madison area. Visitors are always welcome. Stop by and experience the community for yourself.



## See What's New At FiftyForward Bordeaux Senior Center



Construction at **Forward Creative Commons** began earlier this year, and neither the progress nor the excitement has stalled. The new collaborative space, which will house the **FiftyForward Bordeaux Senior Center** and **Creative Girls Rock®**, is well underway, with construction scheduled for completion in early 2026. A project that began over seven years ago has blossomed into what will become a community hub, offering flexible space for gatherings, nonprofit organizations, and rental opportunities.

The new concept was shaped by a community needs assessment that highlighted the need for better access to health information for seniors and families, and more shared gathering spaces and creative arts programs.

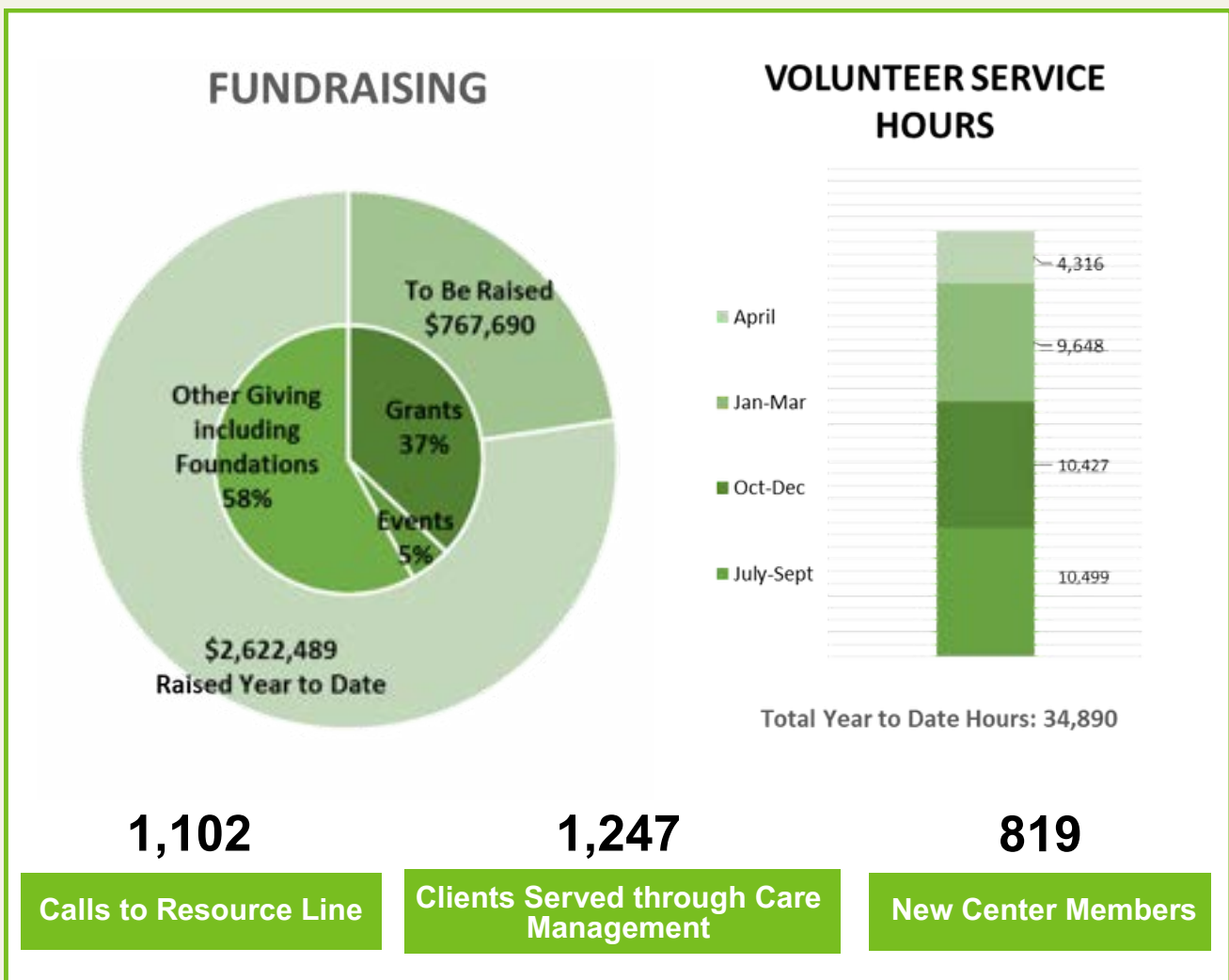
Over the past year, the two organizations have collaborated on intergenerational programming to support older adults and children through activities such as exercise, storytelling, and other engaging initiatives. The most recent class created by CGR founder Charmin Bates is **Creative Seniors Rock!** FiftyForward Bordeaux Director Melvin Fowler and Charmin are looking forward to joining forces in 2026 to support new ways for the community to connect.

With a total cost of \$7 million, fundraising is still underway. To support the project, please visit [fiftyforward.org/thebordeauxcollaborative](https://fiftyforward.org/thebordeauxcollaborative).

# Impact Snapshot

FiftyForward's mission to support, enhance, and champion the lives of adults over the age of 50 is carried out through our lifelong learning centers and supportive care programs every day. Here is a snapshot of our community impact from **July 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025**. Behind every number is a person—a neighbor, caregiver, or friend whose life has been touched by programs designed to combat isolation and promote independence, connection, and well-being.

Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community for older adults across Middle Tennessee.



## Rich Little, FiftyForward Members Delight Guests at Older Americans Month Breakfast



FiftyForward's 3rd Annual Older Americans Month Celebration Breakfast was filled with entertaining stories and lively performances! The 2025 breakfast was held on Tuesday, May 13, at GEODIS Park, and our keynote speaker was the world-renowned comedian, impressionist, and voice actor Rich Little.

Rich, now 86, is known as "The Man of a Thousand Voices." During his keynote, he shared a few celebrity impressions and stories from his decades-long career, as well as thoughts on how adding humor to our lives can help us feel younger for longer.

FiftyForward members from the Donelson Poms and the La Vergne Choral Group brought enthusiasm and talent to the event, with spirited cheers from the Poms and a lively rendition of "You Make Me Feel So Young," inspired by Frank Sinatra, from the choral group.

We'd like to thank our phenomenal sponsors for helping FiftyForward make this amazing day possible.

Breakfast ticket sales support FiftyForward's lifelong learning and wellness programs, supportive care services, FiftyForward Fresh meal deliveries, and volunteer activities. To view photos from the breakfast and make a post-event donation, visit [fiftyforward.org/oam](https://fiftyforward.org/oam).





## Living at Home: Keeping Comfort and Care at the Center



Your favorite blanket. The scent of your own soap. Cherished songs playing in the background. The perfect thermostat setting and mementos that tell your story. These simple joys bring comfort and warmth, reminding us of what it means to feel at home.

At FiftyForward, our **Living at Home** and **Care Team** programs are centered on preserving the autonomy and dignity that come with aging in place. But what happens when circumstances change and living at home becomes challenging? How can we ensure that our personal sense of home stays with us, wherever we are?

This August, FiftyForward will introduce **Five Wishes® Advance Care Planning** facilitation—a new opportunity to define your own vision of home. This program helps you create a plan to carry that vision forward, whether you're in your own home, a loved one's residence, or a care facility. A member of our care management team will guide you through meaningful conversations about your personal, emotional, and spiritual needs, as well as your medical preferences if you become seriously ill. You'll walk away with a legally binding document that ensures your loved ones and care team understand your wishes, even if you can't communicate them yourself.

Home is more than a place—it's a feeling of safety, comfort, and belonging. Let's work together to help you preserve that feeling, no matter where life takes you.

***The Five Wishes program launches in August 2025, with sliding-scale pricing available. Call our resource line at (615) 743-3416 to schedule an appointment.***



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### Our Mission:

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

