



# Steere House

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

*Fulfilling Our Promise Since 1874*

## Resident Spotlight

### Evelyn Schenck

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” To hear Evelyn Schenck’s story, you may think that she has spent her life giving these words true meaning.

A North Carolina native, Evelyn is the daughter of Ell and Hattie Jeffries Schenck. And while her childhood leaves her with some wonderful memories, Evelyn recalls tough times when she had to leave school in the fifth grade to help with finances at home. Yet, this soft-spoken girl grew up with a determined resolve to finish her education. At the age of 50, she did just that, receiving her GED in 1971.

After moving to Rhode Island in 1951, Evelyn worked at Rhode Island Hospital in the Housekeeping Department. However, it was beyond her day job that she turned her listening ear

and caring ways to those struggling with the demons of drug use. “Mom has always helped folks with drug problems,” Evelyn’s daughter, Ruby Levy tells it. “Even when their own families said “no”, she would take them in and



give them food, hot running water and a warm place to sleep.” When Ruby expressed concern for her mother’s safety, Evelyn reassured her by saying, “I’ll be okay and so will they.”

A Steere House

resident for five years now, Evelyn is enjoying her life here, particularly when there’s a good game of bingo, checkers or dominos to be played. As the oldest of a family spanning five generations, Evelyn is also blessed with the joy that they bring her. And you can see that joy in her bashful smile that, when encouraged, grows like a bright ray of sunshine on a cloudy day.



## WHAT’S INSIDE

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# A Letter From The Executive Director

Julie H. Richard, NHA, MA



## *Winter Warmth From Steere House*

At Steere House, this time of year always has a hint of something special in the air and a feeling of benevolence toward each other. Maybe

it's because we just celebrated our community with a night of Autumn's Promise, saluting the precious gift of time and talent of someone like Norma Owens. Maybe it's because our employees are joining in our "Gifts From The Heart" Employee Annual Fund Campaign, generously designating paycheck contributions for specified Steere House projects or funds for the coming year. Maybe it's because together, we try to add that unique touch to Steere House life that truly brings the joy of the holidays here. And maybe it is the promise of yet another new year.

Steere House has taken steps to continue to evolve the services and life we provide. We do our best to improve the way we do things and the environment in which we do them. The changes we've made this year are important steps in our quest for excellence. And our work isn't done. For us, the coming year provides us with renewed hope and energy to solve tomorrow's challenges.

An ancient Japanese Proverb says "One kind word can warm three winter months." and so, as we look to the coming holidays and colder days ahead, let us say "thanks" to you. We know that our continued success comes only with your support and it is in this spirit, we take this moment to recognize what the Steere House community means to us, to our residents and patients and to their families. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and may the winter months be filled with a touch of warmth.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Julie H. Richard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

# Steere House Announces Plan for Transitional Care Unit

Steere House recently announced a number of changes that will be taking place in the coming months. First, Steere House has announced plans to expand the current program for individuals requiring short lengths-of-stay. This enhanced program for post-acute hospital care, called transitional care, will include the establishment of a separate and distinct nursing care unit (TCU). Initially planned for a designated area on the second floor, this specialized short-stay program will provide rehabilitative and other specialized care to more community seniors, most of who will ultimately return home or be discharged to other settings.

Along with these services, Steere House is also exploring options for restoring and renovating our 20-year old building. Feasibility work on the first phase of a much-needed face-lift and capital improvements is well underway. Although we do not know yet when the work will begin, consideration will be given to making our residents' environment as safe and comfortable as possible while work is in progress. Every effort will be made to complete planned construction with a minimum of inconvenience.

Steere House remains committed to fulfilling our promise to long term residential care and dementia services yet we caution that it will not be ideal for residents to receive services in areas where the distinct unit is created and later, when renovation work affects certain areas of the facility. It may then be necessary to relocate residents to other beds within the facility.

Cooperation within the entire Steere House community for these considerations and planning will be appreciated as we move forward. Periodic updates about the progress of our progress will be forthcoming.





*Steere House*

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*Happy Holidays*



Mission Statement - Steere House is an independent non-profit organization, serving adults who require skilled, restorative and long-term care services within a secure and caring environment. Steere House also provides educational and research experiences that enhance the care of those we serve.



## Calendar of Events

**Gifts from the Heart Day**

*Thursday, December 9th*

## ADMISSIONS

If you or someone you know is interested in placement at Steere House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, please call for an admission packet at 401-454-7970.

Visit [www.steerehouse.org](http://www.steerehouse.org) for more information and to download an admission application.

*Did you know?*

You can now donate online at

[www.steerehouse.org](http://www.steerehouse.org)

*Go Steere House*

# GREEN!

Send your email address to [jfallon@steerehouse.org](mailto:jfallon@steerehouse.org) so that whenever possible we can communicate to you online. We will not share your address and you can request to be taken off our list at any time.



This NewPage paper has been chain-of-custody certified by three independent third-party certification systems.

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