



ANNUAL REPORT

# Exceeding Expectations is Our Way of Life

One word rises to the forefront when reflecting on Elim Park in 2024: elevate. This goes beyond our new tagline, **Elevate Your Everyday**, introduced this year—it's a genuine reflection of our community's 119-year mission, capturing who we are and what we aspire to achieve.

Over the past several years, we have transformed our environment with a \$10M infrastructure upgrade that

your everyday



benefits Elim Park residents and the greater Cheshire community. From celebrating the completion of the Arts & Leisure Center in 2023 to seeing families and residents embrace its classes, gatherings, and activities in 2024, this space has become a vibrant hub of connection and creativity. Highlights like the outdoor Summer Shack restaurant and entertainment areas add even more joy to the community experience. Meanwhile, many beautiful renovations in classic New England style Elim Park's dedication to excellence has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, we were honored to receive the prestigious International Council on Active Aging (ICAA) Beacon Award, recognizing us as one of North America's Top 10 Senior Living communities for leadership in wellness. From fitness opportunities to emotional, social, and spiritual

engagement, this award underscores a commitment to providing residents with a vibrant, enriching lifestyle.

We've also raised the bar in health care and rehabilitation services through an expanded partnership with Hartford Healthcare and investments in



If you indeed obey the LORD your God and are careful to observe all his commandments I am giving you today, the LORD your God will elevate you above all the nations of the earth. — Deuteronomy 28:1

In 2024, Elim Park achieved an average

**96%** occupancy rate one of the highest in Connecticut have elevated common areas, providing residents with inviting spaces to relax and socialize.

"Elevate" also applies to our exceptional culinary offerings. This year, we introduced new dining experiences tailored to meet the tastes of today's residents, emphasizing fresh, healthy, farm-to-table options. Adding a smoothie bar designed by dietitians has been a refreshing hit, blending great taste with vital nutrition. Residents have also enjoyed the launch of our Panini Bar, featuring daily specials crafted with the finest local ingredients.



advanced medical technology, providing more comprehensive on-campus care, improving patient outcomes, and reducing hospital admissions. This year, we also introduced The PALM, our Adult Day program designed to provide a socially engaging alternative for people with memory loss, further enriching resident services.

A dedicated Board of Directors and staff, supported by our unique Elim Angels culture, are at the heart of it all. By hiring, training, and celebrating team members who embody the spirit of going above and beyond, we've built a community where residents consistently feel cared for, valued, and inspired.

> Brian Bedard, Elim Park President & CEO, collaborates with Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut, at the LeadingAge Board of Directors Annual Meeting held at Elim Park last summer.

This Annual Report celebrates the many blessings and achievements we've experienced in 2024. We invite you to discover how Elim Park is dedicated to Elevate Your Everyday today and in all the days ahead.

Sincerely Brian F. Beclaul Brian F. Bedard

Brian F. Bedard President & CEO

# So Many Reasons—*Every Season*—to Celebrate Life

All year 'round, Elim Park residents enjoy a world of activities, amenities, events, and friendship no matter what the weather. Every season provides so many opportunities to feel like a kid again! Within beautifully designed social spaces or on our lovely 40-acre campus you'll discover dozens of ways to pursue a beloved hobby or find a new one. Socialize with family and friends, and enjoy delicious dining, indoors and out.

> Where you take the wheel!

> > elimpark.org

Staying fit and healthy is a big part of life here at Elim Park. Rain or shine, a good workout designed for your needs is just steps away from your front door.

> Our commitment to "Elevating Your Everyday" is evident throughout every aspect of our community, and we want others to know more about us.

Elim Park

Which is why Elim Park vehicles—vans, buses and cars—will be sporting lively, engaging new graphics as they travel all across Connecticut to showcase the wonderful lifestyle we enjoy here. Elim Park is the perfect place to pick up a new sport, like Bocce, in the Summer Shack courtyard. Best of all, simply enjoy each day as you please, free from chores and cares.

> Who doesn't love a game of Jenga? We certainly do! There's always something fun to do and someone to do it with at Elim Park.

# New Partnership and Innovation Elevates Well-being

Elim Park has long been recognized for its exceptional inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services. 2024 marked a new milestone that included a deeper collaboration with the Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network. This partnership brings advanced recovery care, proactive health solutions, and

specialized support to complement Elim Park's existing services, including 7-day-a-week APRN coverage, wound care, and physiatry. Residents now have on-campus access to cardiology and orthopedic services, reducing the need for off-site medical appointments.

Nancy Perrotta, Regional Director of Rehabilitation Services at Hartford HealthCare, highlights the benefits: "By partnering with the exceptional rehabilitation team at Elim Park, we combine resources and expertise to enhance outcomes and accelerate recoveries. Already, we've seen a significant reduction in hospital readmissions following medical procedures, which benefits everyone." She adds, "Elim Park's vision and

> commitment to innovation make it an ideal partner for this transformative approach to care." Tracy Reynolds, Director of Rehabilitation Services at Elim Park, emphasizes the advanced tools now available to residents. "We are proud to integrate innovative technology and specialized methods. Elim Park is the only skilled nursing facility in Connecticut to utilize the ReDS<sup>™</sup> system, a non-invasive radar device that provides quick, accurate measurements of lung fluid in patients with congestive heart failure (CHF)."

She adds, "Our Speech Therapy program now uses biofeedback technology to address swallowing difficulties, helping patients to transition off feeding tubes and improve their quality of life."

John Sweeney, Administrator of Rehabilitation and Health Care Services at Elim Park, concludes, "This collaboration reflects our commitment to staying at the forefront of senior care. Combining Hartford HealthCare's expertise with Elim Park's innovative technologies and expert multidisciplinary team sets a new benchmark for excellence in on-campus health care services."

Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation team members Tracy Reynolds (left) and Nancy Perrotta collaborate with on-campus services at Elim Park to support and facilitate patient recovery.



Kara Taylor, Elim Park Director of Nursing, and John Sweeney, Healthcare Administrator, are credited with bringing the ReDS<sup>™</sup> radar technology to Elim Park. Here, they demonstrate its use with the assistance of Courtney Wright, LPN. Speech-Language Pathologist Bethany Bandola-Brunnock utilizes cuttingedge biofeedback technology to deliver advanced swallowing therapy as demonstrated by resident Jerry Swenson.

# **Camaraderie is the Best Medicine**

Memory loss, even in its mild or moderate stages, can significantly impact daily life for older adults. To support residents facing these challenges, Elim Park introduced The PALM Program in August 2024, ensuring that everyone can fully



participate in the community, regardless of memory concerns.

Memory Care Consultant Mary Underwood, who helped develop the program, explains: "PALM stands for Positive Activities for Those Living with Memory

Loss." The name also symbolizes the 70 palm trees in the oasis where God provided shelter to the Israelites during their journey to the Holy Land (Exodus 15:27).

Designed to help individuals with memory loss stay active and engaged, The PALM Program offers a variety of physical, social, creative, and cognitive activities. Residents can enjoy watercolor and

ceramics classes, play bocce at the Summer Shack, and take scenic walks through the beautiful campus.

"He is so much more talkative since he started the Program. And he is smiling much more, too. It's great to see!" — Caregiver of PALM program participant Mary Underwood brings sign language to life for PALM participants!

Lifelong learning is also a key focus, with popular activities like sign-language classes (a crowd favorite!) and group excursions throughout Connecticut. Participants are encouraged to suggest new activities, fostering a sense of involvement and choice. A shared daily lunch provides opportunities to connect, socialize, and exchange stories.

"We also offer education and support for family members, many of whom have noticed positive changes in their loved ones," Underwood adds. "The PALM Program enriches the Elim Park community, helping every resident live their best life. It's truly a win-win-win!"

# Sold-Out Performances Headlined 2024!

2024 was a banner year for Nelson Hall, Elim Park's professional caliber theater that brings the best of big-city entertainment to our campus. Spring and Fall performances quickly sold out due to the incredible line-up of talent that brought down the house all year long, including tribute bands for Abba, Dolly Parton, The Beatles, Chicago, Jimmy Buffet, Sinatra, Whitney Houston and Louis Prima. Here's more on what the twist and shoutin' was about!

Our Spring season kicked off in rocking good form with Abbacadabra, a dazzling show, produced and delivered with such energy and detail that fans have sworn the original ABBA members have actually reunited. Performing 20 of ABBA's greatest hits, Abbacadabra astonishingly recreated all the excitement and passion of this iconic band's record-breaking world concert tour experience. Fan favorites such as "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance on Me," "Fernando," "Waterloo," and "Super Trouper," made this a MUST-SEE show for every generation of fun-loving Elim Park ABBA fans.

*Changes in Latitudes* is the country's premier tribute show to the late Mayor of Margaritaville, Jimmy Buffett. This nationally acclaimed band thrilled Nelson Hall audiences with their amazingly authentic reproduction of the Jimmy Buffet concert experience. Lead singer Steve Kareta captured Jimmy's casual storyteller style, while the band's world class musicians took us on a musical cruise around the sun-drenched tropical islands of the Caribbean. Buffet fans enjoyed enduring classics such as "Margaritaville," "Come Monday," "Volcano," "Brown Eyed Girl," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," and of course, "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes."

> In 2025, generous contributions are making it possible to build an impressive new barnstyle stage, upgrade our sound and lighting systems, remodel the backstage area, and more. To support our mission of keeping the arts alive, please visit us at NelsonHall.org

# Winner of Jimmy Fallon's CLASH OF THE COVER BANDS

as the best tribute artist in the country, Karen Hester is one of the world's most soughtafter Dolly Parton t ribute artists. In October, Hester and her live country band performed all Dolly's greatest hits including "Here You Come Again," "Jolene," "9 to 5," and "I Will Always Love You." The tribute artist paid homage to Dolly's unique energy and charisma and her performance resonated with fans who adore the original

"Queen of Country." In November Nelson Hall audiences were treated to the NYC Cabaret Awardnominated show

I Wanna Dance with Somebody: Nelson Hall The Songs of Whitney Houston, achieved new starring Nicole Henry. This milestones with soldamazing tribute artist put her out crowds for 2024 stamp on some of Whitney's performances greatest hits, including "The Greatest Love of All," "Saving All My Love for You," and "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," along with other timeless Whitney classics and a timeline of Houston's extraordinary life. Last Christmas, Nelson Hall audiences were treated to Louis Prima, Jr. and The Witnesses' electrifying "Swingin' Christmas." Featuring beloved Prima Christmas classics and the band's signature musical mayhem, this show included eclectic styles, from big band and swing to rock and blues, combining original music from the legendary Louis Prima, Sr's five-

decade career.

To check out our exciting performance calendar for 2025 and get on our email list, please go to Nelsonhall.org, or call the Box Office at 203.697.8992

# **Our Community Thrives with You**

As you explore Elim Park, you'll notice new spaces, enhancements, and improvements throughout the community. What may not be immediately apparent is that much of this growth is made possible by the generosity of residents, families, and friends who support Elim Park's mission to thrive and grow.

Director of Development Jennifer McHale explains, "Because Elim Park is a single location, not-for-profit community, every investment made in our organization stays right here. Jennifer adds, "it's truly an honor to work with donors who see a need in our community and want to make a meaningful difference. Whether it's a gift today—

dollars invested in the Elim Park

Foundation are directed back to

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supporting the mission."

In addition to

donors can

the Foundation,



Elim Park founder, Mary Melby

> Jennifer McHale, Director of Development

support specific funds that align with their interests and values:

- The Mary Melby Fund: Named after one of Elim Park's faithful founders. this fund provides spiritual resources for retired pastors living and serving in the Elim Park community.
- Resident Benevolent *Fund:* Gifts to this fund assist

qualifying residents who need financial support for ongoing living expenses.

- Employee Emergency Fund: This fund provides financial assistance to Elim Park staff members who face unexpected hardships.
  - Friends of Nelson Hall: Donations from patrons help keep ticket prices affordable for all. Becoming a Friend of Nelson Hall includes exclusive perks, such as early access to premium seats and invitations to special events. To learn more, visit NelsonHall.org.

Jennifer concludes, "We truly couldn't achieve all that we do or be the community we are without the generosity of our donors. Thankfully, Elim Park is blessed with some of the most giving people in the world!"



Ask anyone at Elim Park, and they'll tell you the true heart of our community is our extraordinary team of dedicated staff. Across every service area, their unwavering commitment to excellence and care has earned them the cherished nickname of "Elim Angels."

This title is more than just a term of endearment—it also embodies our unique orientation and customer service training program. The Elim Angels program is designed to inspire and empower staff, helping them discover a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment in their work. It emphasizes the guiding principles that define Elim Park's culture: Act, Nurture, Give, Engage, Love, and Serve.

> At the heart of the program is the message: "You are here to fulfill a purpose." This mission enhances the

experience of our residents and touches the hearts of staff,



Elim Angels and

reaffirming why they've chosen Elim Park for their careers.

Do you have the

heart to wear

this shirt?

A guiding verse that resonates deeply with our mission is Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do,

work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Together, our Elim Angels elevate the everyday for residents and embody the spirit of care, compassion, and purpose that makes Elim Park truly special.

We do!

their families came together for a fun-fille summer picnic on camp Pictured enjoying the livel event are Director of Facilities Rob Ullrich, his wife Alyssa, and their son Emmett.

"Everyone, I mean everyone at Elim Park, goes out of their way to make sure you feel cared for and special. I believe the staff here are angels!" - Elim Park resident. M. Feinberg

# Generous Donors

The following donor list represents donations given from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If any names have been omitted or appear incorrectly, please contact the Development Department at 203.272.3547 x172.

Richard & Diane Albro Melissa H. Alpert Anonymous (8) Bridge Betty & Rich Ardolino Barbara D. Michael Argento Barbara Baker **Gladys** Camp Estate of Judith Barone Ellen J. Barry Cannon Bea Smith's Inc. Maurice & Carol<sup>†</sup> Beaulieu Brian & Kim Bedard Club, Inc. Roger Beliveau Lora-Lee Bell Collins Christine M. Bellomo Connecticut Christopher Berman

Rosemary A. Berton The Community Barbara Brandolini Frank & Barbara Gail Curren & Barbara Brundage Family Arianne de Asis Burkhardt Asis, Jr. Mary Jane Cannon Robert & Laura Disbrow Chapel of the Cross **Bonnie Donato** Joseph Cherwon Elim Park Place Cheshire Lacrosse Mary Christian<sup>†</sup> Michael & Gail Judith Ferrandiz Community Foundation Fontana

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Zell & Susan Gaston Holder Edward & Joyce Holtzman Ion Bank Foundation Josephine Izzo David & Eunice Iohnston Mary Elaine Betty & Jim Hackett Eiko Kaneko Kearney Mary Kilpatrick Guongyue & Jean J. King<sup>†</sup> Bob Knapp<sup>†</sup>

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Honor God in all we do. (Colossians 3:23)

Encourage spiritual growth. (Colossians 1:9)

Respect the dignity of life. (1 John 3:17)

Joanna Baldwin **Best Life Hearing** Center **Blackies LLC** Rodney & Margaret Bodnar

incorrectly, please contact the Development Department at 203.272.3547 x172.

Elim Park is a not-for-profit Life Plan Community whose mission is to provide quality care through comprehensive wellness programs and medical facilities for our residents in a Christ-centered

environment.

Elim Park looks upon its mission as an extension of the Church ministry within Converge Worldwide and gives admission priority to its members.

Residents are encouraged to grow spiritually as they live out their lives at a level of wellness and independence appropriate to their individual situations.

# **Friends of Nelson Hall**

The following donor list represents donations given from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If any names have been omitted or appear

**Our Values** 

**Our Mission** 

# In Celebration

Elim Park is grateful to those who contributed in memory or honor of the following:

John Afman Elizabeth Allen Wendell Bell

Gretchen Brockett Julie Carangelo Sally Chidsey Marshall Davidson Myron Disbrow Elim Park's Loving & Caring Staff Robert W. Ferrandiz, II John Fiondella Illma Hafetz

James Hart Virginia Hauser Gross Glenn & Sandy Havumaki Jean Heston Paul Hunt Margaret Irving Addie Jacobs Ginny Knapp Elaine Kuhrt

Joseph LoPrinzi Paul Lynch Eleanor K. Martin John "Jack" Mastriano Lou Mauriello **Tommie McClain** Frances Milroy Millie Morgan Ray Normand

Arlene Ollayos Our Parents Fern Parks Peter Petti Annette L. Proto Dominic F. Proto Joseph Rebeschi **Richard Shank Onyx** Sleeper

Arthur (Allan) Stolzenberg Esther Tompkinson Loraine Trudell Daniel Uylaky Margaret Von Schmeling Webster Zackery

Suejin Orlins Sharon Ort Estate of Dolly Peabody Lowell Peck John & Carol Pensiero Joanne & Ken Perry William & Barbara Potter Paul & Marcia Proto Angel Ramos Lynne Rapisarda Rose Marie Rebeschi Barbara Reynolds Janice Reynolds Steve & Lori Robey Deborah & Waldron Rowe

Irene Schaefer Doreen Schiavo Mildred Schlesinger Seymour Evangelical Baptist Church Carol Shank Kimberly Shaunesey Allison Simeone Pamela Sleeper Dwight Southwick Mary Alice & Vincent Stanton Charlotte B. Strmecki Raymond & Cynthia Stronk Jean M. Thompson Yvonne & Bob Thompson Sei & Kay Tokuno

Barry & Jeannie Tomlinson Esther Tompkinson<sup>†</sup> The Estate of Marshall & Carol Tucker Roxanne Turekian Sarah Uylaky Janet & Sam Velleca Paul & Rebecca Visnicky Roberta Warfield Joan Wasilek F. Benjamin Watters Elizabeth Whelan Sandra White Eileen Wilke Fr. John Williams Jr. Linda Williamson

Matthew & Jeni Wilmot Richard<sup>†</sup> & Sally Ziegler

*†* deceased

Commit to excellence. (Philippians 4:8)

Respect the individual. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Maintain open communication. (2 Corinthians 8:21)

Be fiscally responsible. (1 Timothy 5:8)

Hire a competent staff who exhibit a caring attitude and high moral standards. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Jane Brubaker John Budris Wayne & Charlene Cefaratti **Cheshire** Nursery Martin & Dorie Cobern Renee Cohen Connecticut Community Foundation

Feldman Orthodontics Geriatric Medical Jean Grzesczyk Robert Hudson Ion Bank Foundation Sandy Litt M&T Bank Mark Mitchell

NFP **NOA** Diagnostics of CT Perfectemp Inc. Geoffrey & Anne Ramsey Rose Marie Rebeschi Red Door Gift Shop LLC

**Rollins** Printing Anne D. Ryder **Richard Savoyski** Veronique Shay Strategic Comp **USI** Connecticut Ianet & Sam Velleca

# Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. Audited Financial Statements

# **Board of Directors**



Roberto Ecker Chair

Senior VP, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, New York, NY Chris Nelson

Immediate Past Chair President,

Nelson Construction Inc., Farmington, CT

Representing a wide range of professional backgrounds and accomplishments, the individuals who serve on the Board of Directors share the foundational vision of Elim Park: serving God by serving people. Our volunteer Board members give generously of their time and talents. They are members of the Converge churches which founded Elim Park 119 years ago. We are immensely grateful for their expertise and oversight.



Vicki Hoffman

Vice Chair

**Terrence Brennan** CFO,

Spine Wave, Inc., Shelton, CT

Dedicated leaders like

Board member Joanne

Perry also embody the

spirit of Elim Angels,

expertise to champion

the Elim Park mission

within our community.

and make an impact

sharing their time and



**Timothy Ponzani** 

Secretary

District Executive

Minister.

Converge Northeast,

Cheshire, CT

Wayne Detzler Resident and Chaplain,

**Michael Wijas** 

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ident and Chaplain, Elim Park, Cheshire, CT



Joanne Perry Treasurer

Director of Finance & Operations, Urban Alliance, Inc., East Hartford, CT



**Keith Wedjen** 

Partner, Entrust Wealth Partners, Hartford, CT



Markes Wilson Senior Consultant, Berrydunn, LLP, Hamden, CT

## Consolidated Balance Sheet for Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2024 & 2023

Assets	2024
Investments	\$ 45,928,344
Accounts Receivable	5,077,828
Prepaid and Deferred Expenses	459,637
Fixed Assets, Net	55,217,403
Other Assets	889,349
Total Assets	\$ 107,572,561
Liabilities	2024
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,623,983
Deferred Entrance Fees Income	36,428,105
Entrance Fee Refunds Payable	16,944,135
Bonds and Notes Payable	18,760,646
Accruals and Other Liabilities	1,690,563
Total Liabilities	\$ 77,447,432
Fund Balances (Net Assets)	30,125,129
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 107,572,561

# Summary of Expenses & Revenues for the Years ending September 30, 2024 & 2023

2024
\$ 15,278,168
14,907,260
4,802,760
\$ 34,988,188
2024
\$ 34,621,187
3,482,531
\$ 38,103,718
\$

# Proud to be an Elim Park Angel

#ElimParkAngels

#ElimAngelsProud

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# Experience the Elim Park Lifestyle – Join Us for an Open House!

Discover how life at Elim Park can elevate your everyday. We'd love to welcome you and show you around our one-of-a-kind community.

# **Contact us Today**

For more information or to schedule a personal tour of Elim Park Place, call 203.272.7550 or visit elimpark.org



Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. DBA

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# **Request Your Free Brochure!**

Get an inside look at life at Elim Park with our newly updated brochure. Packed with colorful photos and heartfelt testimonials, you'll see firsthand what makes our community so special—from beautifully designed apartments to our unique Arts & Leisure Center and diverse dining experiences.

Scan the QR code to request your copy!

