STAYING PUT *in* NEW CANAAN

Fall 2025

Staying in Touch

Helping older New Canaan residents live confidently at home and stay engaged in the community by providing practical services and social connections.

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT





***Staying Put** is a friendly welcoming place to be a part of as a senior living in New Canaan."*



- **STAY** *Connected*
- **STAY** *Lively*
- **STAY** *Healthy*
- **STAY** *in Charge*
- **STAY** *Put!*



STAYING PUT *in* NEW CANAAN
P.O. Box 484, New Canaan, CT 06840

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MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your continued support and generosity, 2024–2025 was another exceptional year for **Staying Put in New Canaan**! Together, we've continued our mission of helping older adults live confidently, independently, and with dignity in the homes and community they love.

This year, we were proud to provide the following **KEY SERVICES** that assist seniors to age in place:

Help is a Phone Call Away
Caring professionals to turn to for help, information, referrals, counseling, support and personalized assistance.

Transportation
Door-to-door rides within New Canaan and to local towns.

Social Events
Fun and enriching gatherings, excursions, and programs to be active and connected.

Groceries and Errands
Grocery shopping, prescription pick up and other helpful errands.

Help at Home
Minor home repairs, changing ceiling light bulbs, moving heavy objects and more.

Technology Assistance
One-on-one assistance in the home to troubleshoot issues for computers, televisions, cell phones and other electronic devices.

Professional Service Providers
Trustworthy members-only vetted list of home service and repair professionals for hire.

Communication and Visits
Keeping in touch with those who may be facing issues of loneliness and isolation.

Community Resource
Education, advice and referrals for healthy aging.

We are thrilled to share the impact of these services in this 2024–2025 Annual Report. It's a reflection of what we've achieved together—and an invitation to be part of where we're headed next.



Our accomplishments this past year were numerous and **our staff is key to our success**. We were delighted to welcome Kim Herr back to **Staying Put** as Manager of Operations, joining Kate Brambilla, Manager of Member Services. Since our staff is the heart of the organization, we've focused on team building and improving employee benefits—often overlooked in the nonprofit world, but crucial to long-term success.

We also made significant strides in advancing **our strategic plan**. Key highlights were the expansion of our services and our membership. To support safe aging in place, we've formed a partnership with a trusted provider who conducts **professional home safety assessments** and offers recommendations to make homes more senior-friendly.





We also often hear from residents, "**Staying Put** sounds great, but I'm not ready yet" which leads to people waiting too long to join and missing the full benefits of membership. To address this, we launched a **membership campaign** last fall to encourage earlier engagement—and the results were terrific. We're also proud to continue to offer **dues scholarships** so that cost is never a barrier to membership.

Isolation and loneliness are major health risks—and the latest research reinforces that **social connection is vital for health and longevity**. This strengthens our commitment to creating fun, engaging opportunities for seniors to stay connected and active.

We are proud to be a **community resource** not just for our members, but for everyone in New Canaan. Through strong partnerships, we offer programs and events on topics relevant to healthy, empowered aging for the community.



To support all of this important work, we've introduced a new way for donors to contribute: the **Legacy Circle**, which honors individuals who make a planned gift to **Staying Put in New Canaan** through a bequest or other estate planning vehicle. These gifts help ensure that our mission continues for generations to come.

There's even more to come in the year ahead, and we hope you'll continue to be a part of the **Staying Put** community.

Here's how you can stay involved:

- **Join** as a member—or encourage someone you know!
- **Subscribe** to our monthly calendar—just send us your email.
- **Follow** us on Facebook or Instagram.
- **Volunteer** your time—you'll make a real difference.

Thank you for supporting our mission. We rely on your generosity to keep doing this important work. A remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience, or you can visit us at stayingputnc.org to make a secure online donation. Every gift—large or small—helps New Canaan seniors thrive.

With gratitude,



Peter Ziesing
President of the Board of Directors



Gina Z. Blum
Executive Director

Staying Put In New Canaan
www.stayingputnc.org
info@stayingputnc.org
Facebook
Instagram
203.966.7762

IMPACT





65 TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

1,234 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Hands-on service for rides, visits, grocery shopping, errands, tech support and helpful tasks around the home.

50 PERSONAL VISITS and **145** ERRANDS

Plus **YOUTH VOLUNTEERS** who assist with seasonal jobs like moving patio furniture, and making crafts and cheerful greetings.



105 EVENTS

Social, educational and wellness programs.

1,346 ATTENDEES

A variety of monthly events are offered—coffees, walks, cultural trips, dining out, speaker events, holiday celebrations, and more—there is truly something for everyone!

13 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

539 ATTENDEES

One of our key goals is to be a trusted community resource, offering education, to support healthy aging. We collaborate with local organizations—including the Library, the YMCA, Lapham Community Center, and others—to deliver informative and engaging programs that benefit the entire community.

For upcoming programs, visit events at stayingputnc.org



Across the nation, Connecticut, and right here in New Canaan, the population is aging at an unprecedented pace. Adults aged 65 and older now represent nearly 17% of the U.S. population, with Connecticut seeing a steady rise in that figure. This demographic shift is transforming communities and placing growing demands on the systems and services that support older adults.



846 BOARD MEMBER HOURS

19 DEDICATED BOARD MEMBERS

moving the organization forward.

1,089 **2025 CALENDARS** – distributed to the community.

COUNTLESS **DELIVERIES** and **INTERGENERATIONAL CARDS AND CRAFTS** – to bring cheer including Valentine's Day cards, Cookies, Springtime Tulips, Fall Greetings, Gingerbread Houses, and Holiday Poinsettias.



Through practical support, trusted resources, and meaningful social connection, Staying Put empowers older adults to remain confidently in their homes and engaged in the community—now and in the years to come.



309 **MEMBERS SERVED, AGE RANGE** **68-99**

MEMBERSHIP is open and inclusive for all Senior New Canaan residents.

74 **SCHOLARSHIPS** provided partially or fully funded membership—Membership Dues never stand in the way of joining.

171 **REFERRALS** – to trusted service providers, including property and home maintenance services, for peace of mind.

12 **STAYING IN TOUCH NEWSLETTERS** – mailed and emailed each month to communicate, share events calendar, and provide information on important local and health related topics.



Staying Put was established in 2008 in New Canaan, a town celebrated for its multigenerational character, as a proactive effort to help residents age safely and comfortably in place. Looking ahead to 2040, the number of residents aged 80 and older is expected to grow by 40%—underscoring the importance of continued planning and support.



3 **STAFF MEMBERS**

Dedicated and caring professionals who give assistance, information and guidance to address concerns and resolve issues, and who are there when needed.

1,858 **STAFF CALLS AND INTERACTIONS**

615 **PERSONAL STAFF VISITS**

2,096 **RIDES**

Safe and compassionate door to door rides within New Canaan, Stamford, Norwalk, Wilton, and Darien Monday – Thursday 9am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 1pm.

22,459 **MILES** traveled



THE POWER OF SOCIAL CONNECTION





*"I love living in New Canaan and **Staying Put** helps me stay here."*

Research into so-called "super-agers" — older adults whose cognitive abilities rival those of people decades younger — has revealed that strong social connections are one of the most consistent factors linked to healthy aging. These individuals don't necessarily follow specific diets or exercise routines, but they do have one powerful trait in common: a deep value for social relationships. Scientists have found that social engagement can help preserve brain volume, reduce stress-related inflammation, and even protect against age-related cognitive decline. Super-agers demonstrate this firsthand by remaining active in their communities — whether it's singing in a group, volunteering regularly, or simply catching a cup of coffee with friends.

Organizations like **Staying Put** are crucial in fostering these connections for older adults. Through a wide range of social activities — from group outings to weekly gatherings and special events — we create spaces where members can build friendships, stay mentally engaged, and continue contributing to the community. These programs aren't just about entertainment; they're a vital component of healthy aging. By helping older adults maintain strong social networks, **Staying Put** directly supports the kind of lifestyle that research shows can lead to longer, sharper, and more fulfilling lives.



We hold a variety of events each month and there is something for everyone! Following is a sampling of the activities we offered in the 2024-2025 year:



Favorite Ongoing Programs:

- Book Talk Group
- Lunch and Learns
- Friday Walks at Irwin Park
- Men's and Ladies' Coffees
- Guest Speaker Coffees – *a New Canaan who's who!*
- Expert led conversations on everything from town parking to estate planning



Special Tours and Visits:

- The Dome at New Canaan High School
- Lee Garden
- New Canaan Land Trust Grupes Homestead
- New Canaan Nature Center
- New Canaan Playhouse
- Swap Shop
- Private Home Luncheons

Local Cultural Trips:

- The Bruce Museum
- Carriage Barn
- Darien Museum
- The Glass House
- Mather Homestead
- New Canaan Chamber Music
- New Canaan Museum and Historical Society
- Silvermine Arts Center

New Events:

- Afternoon Tea
- Get Organized
- Learn Mahjong
- Pizza Party
- Tech Open Hour



Dining Out with Friends at:

Cava, Ching's Table, Curry Mango, Grace Farms, La Vista, One Twenty Three, Pesca, Scena, Silvermine Market, Spiga, Waveny Bar & Grill and more!



Plus Annual Favorites everyone looks forward to…

- Annual Meeting
- Holiday Poinsettia Delivery
- Our Birthday Party – 2025 marked 17 years!
- The Summer Soirée – our one and only fundraiser!
- Woodway Beach Club Barbeque
- And the Memorial Day Parade!

Plus Special Celebrations for Valentine's Day, Halloween and the Holidays

Always fun and welcoming, there truly is something for everyone. And we have lots of fun and interesting new activities planned for this year!

MEMBERSHIP

Staying Put in New Canaan embodies the very best of our community—from dedicated members and volunteers to generous donors. People turn to us because they trust us to be dependable, compassionate, and yes—fun. Whether you're new to town or a lifelong resident, we provide the support and connection needed to age confidently and independently, right at home.

Our members span more than three decades in age, and we meet each person where they are. From practical support to social engagement, we offer a range of services tailored to your needs—at any stage of aging. While we are a dues-based organization, no one is turned away who can benefit from our services. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we offer reduced fee or no-fee memberships—no questions asked.

How We Help

At **Staying Put**, our members know they can count on us for a wide range of support — from simple tasks like changing a lightbulb to more significant needs, such as navigating life's transitions. Whether it's everyday errands like transportation, pharmacy pickups, and grocery shopping, or more personalized requests, we're here to help.

Over the past year, we've assisted members in a variety of meaningful yet unexpected ways. We've moved furniture, accompanied members to medical appointments, renewed driver's licenses online, and helped ensure members could vote with ease. We've helped thwart computer scams, troubleshoot phone and TV issues, and set up new printers. Our team has referred trusted service providers, lent walkers and wheelchairs, and picked up items for the Swap Shop. We've helped a member create a photo album from a recent trip, assisted with jury duty exemption, and even reconnected a member with an old college friend. From managing library book pickups and visiting the farmers market to taking a nervous cat to the vet or walking a beloved dog — we're proud to be there.

These everyday acts of support may seem small, but they make a big difference. At **Staying Put**, we're more than just a service — we're a trusted, caring presence in our members' lives.



Membership Promotion

We kicked off our first annual September Member Drive in 2024 with a lovely and informative luncheon at Waveny House for anyone interested in learning more about **Staying Put**. As a result, 55 new members joined between September and December.

When asked why they joined, most new members cited the importance of social engagement—highlighting our shared need for connection and community, and reflecting the warmth and vitality of our members.

We're thrilled to be offering the Member Drive again this fall. If you're even a little curious, we encourage you to get in touch. It's a wonderful, low-commitment way to experience what **Staying Put** is all about.

NEW – Home Safety Assessments

We are proud to introduce a valuable new service to support our members in safely aging in place. In partnership with the non-profit Family & Children's Agency (FCA), we are offering Home Safety Assessments to help ensure that members' homes are as safe and functional as possible.

Staying Put will cover the full cost of these professional assessments—just one more way we're helping our members truly stay put. The assessments are completely confidential, and FCA may provide personalized, recommendations based on their findings.

Should members decide to make any home modifications, we are ready with referrals to trusted professionals and helpful resources to support the process.









OUR DONORS

We're deeply grateful to our donors for making it possible to serve New Canaan's seniors, their families, and our community. Your support helps seniors to thrive at home. We hope we can count on you again!

$10,000+

The Anderson Family Fund
Cindy and Paul Bamatter
Dede and Jim Bartlett
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Ann R. Cohen
Daniell Family Foundation
Estate of Ruth A. Kelley
The M.L.E. Foundation, Inc

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$2,500-$4,999

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Kerry and Jed Stevens
Katie and James Stewart
Mary and Chris Swift
Liz and Bill Taggart

$500-$999

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Erica Bergmans
Betsy and Ben Bilus
Angie and Roland Brenninkmeyer
Jill and Alex Carles
Susie and Ross Catlin
Patricia Chalian
Christine Chapin
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$250-$499

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Lisa and Scot Melland
Mary and William Murdy
Riv Neiss
Jane and Jim Nyce
M.E. and Chris O'Connor
Lynda Pescatello
Harriet Plavoukos
Lisa and Jeff Popper
Michelle and Rich Riley
Dudley and Chris Schipper
Janet Schmitz
Patricia Schubert
Catherine J. Seton
Katie and Steven Simone
Sue and Dave Squier
Megan and James Steele
Suzy and Alex Stewart
Gail Stewart
Kathy and Dennis Swanson
Frances B. Thompson
Mara Thorpe
Toddy and Tom Turrentine
Jeffrey Urstadt
Gwyneth Walker
Joan Wexler
Alicia and Bob Wyckoff
Lori and Steve Wyckoff
Frank Zimbaro

$100-$249

Anonymous (6)
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Jackie and Julius Alexander
Joan and Michael Allocca
Sue and Roy Anderson
Jane Arestia
Marjorie and Howard Aronson
Suzanne Beatty and Sandy Babos
Sharon Bassock
Susan and Peter Bergen
Alison and George Birnbaum
Susan Blabey
Carol and George Blauvelt
Barbara and Gary Bloom
Barbara Boccuzzi
Eileen Boehme
Marilyn and Stan Bogacki
Pauline and Richard Bourgeois
Holly and Bruce Brittain
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Beverly Buonaiuto
Michelle and Michael Buscher
Lyn and Beecher Chivvis
Mary and Chris Cody
Eva and Denis Colacicco
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Sharon Daga
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Thomas Emmons
Christina and Daniel Eng
Susan Engel
Karen and Rick Ericson
Gayle Findlay
Ann Flinn
Kitty and Paul Fowler
Georgene and Jack Frantz
Elaine Gilner Friedman
Margie and Rob Fryer
Pamela and Kenneth Gammill, Jr.
Patti and Jon Geanakos
Wendy and Howard Gidez
Jeanne Pflaum Gnuse
Trudy and Alan Goldberg
Karen and Curt Gowdy

Gifts received July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or misspellings in this listing, if an error has occurred, please contact us.

Joan B. Gray
Joby Gray
Yolanda Gruseke
Joan and Lou Guzzetti, Jr.
Maury Hartigan
Christopher Helle
Elise Henning
Kimberly and Bradford Higgins
Mary B. Higgins
Dorcas and Ralph Hills
Breeze and Skip Hobbs
Kathy and Jeff Holland
Mary P. House
Deqiang Hu
Geraldine and Norman Hugo
Martha Hutter
Evelyn Jacobson
Peggy Jay
Carolyn Johnson
Diane Johnson
Meera and Arun Kapur
Russ Kimes III
Msgr. Rob Kinnally
Diane Knetzger
Deborah and Glenn Koennecke
Katharine Koller
Francesca Lacerenza
Rhoda Lauro
J. James and Ruth H. Lewis
Janet Lindstrom
Lynne and Jeff LoRusso
Stella Lowry
Janice and Tom Luddy
Maria and Marc Magliacano
Miyuki and John Mangini
Virginia and William Martens
Elizabeth T. Massey
Martin McLaughlin
Suzanne Megrue
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Jean and Lars Neubohn
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Eniko Szatai and Laszlo Papp
Carol and Joel Pelzner
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Up to $100

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Sarah and Charlie Robinson
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Lisa and Jeffrey Sandreuter
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Kristen and Joseph Schlim
Neen and Michael Socci
Terry Spring
Frances Stevens
Valerie and Harry Stryker
Sharon Fox and Eliot Tarlin
Susan Edmands and Douglas Walker
Barbara and Craig Wright

GIFTS IN HONOR

Barb Achenbaum
Lauri and Jim Sullivan
Chris Dombrowski Ayoub
Kathleen and Randy Corbet
Joan B. Gray
Joanne Gray Phillips
Peter Ziesing
Barbara and Alan Donaldson

GIFTS IN MEMORY

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The O'Herron Family Foundation
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Nancy Stagg and Charles Bethel
Gina and David Blum
Christine Chapin
Michelle Clifford
Lila Coleman
Tanis Erdmann
Robyn Greenspan
Raquel and Scott Harrison
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Lois and Dick Sandberg
Karen Sneirson
Nancy Helle
The Hersam Family
Pat Stewart
Joan B. Gray
Ruth Lewis
Ruth Ferguson

GRANTS

Exchange Club of New Canaan Foundation
The Jeniam Foundation
New Canaan Artisans
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SUMMER SOIRÉE

Benefactor

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Denise Gannalo, New Canaan Realtor
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Hoyt Funeral Home
Lions Club of New Canaan
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Privatus Care

Media Sponsor

The New Canaanite

A special thank you to the local businesses who donated in-kind items. See the full list on our website.

YOUR GIFT HELPS NEW CANAAN SENIORS THRIVE

The strength of **Staying Put** lies in the generosity of our community. Your support helps New Canaan seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity in the homes they love—and ensures we'll be here for anyone who may need us in the future.

How to Give:

- Donate online at **www.stayingputnc.org**
- Mail your gift to: **Staying Put in New Canaan**, P.O. Box 484, New Canaan, CT 06840
- Call us at 203-966-7762 to learn more or to donate securities

We're proud to launch the Legacy Circle—an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of New Canaan seniors. By including **Staying Put** in your estate plans, your legacy will help sustain our mission for years to come. Planned giving strengthens our future while supporting your own financial goals. Whether you're ready to take the next step or just exploring, we're here to help.

Staying Put in New Canaan is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Our Finances

Staying Put remains in a strong and stable financial position. As an independent nonprofit, we receive no funding from the Town, State, or Federal government. Instead, our work is made possible through the generosity of private donors. We carefully steward these contributions to deliver essential services, support, and enriching programs that help New Canaan seniors live independently and stay connected within our community.

OPERATING REVENUE 2024-2025

Contributions	$286,338
Dues	$78,925
Fundraiser	$59,985
Grants	$14,600
Programs	$4,242

Total $444,090*

OPERATING EXPENSES 2024-2025

Salaries/Benefits	$288,097
Programs/Member Events	$42,052
Rent/Utilities	$32,351
Fundraising	$15,260
Marketing	$20,843
Administration/Technology	$15,496
Insurance/Accounting	$29,238

Total $443,337* **unaudited*

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on October 10, 2024 was an opportunity to review **Staying Put's** accomplishments over the past year and to look ahead to the coming year. Our featured guest speaker, Attorney Ann Fowler-Cruz, presented *"Legal Tools and Strategies for Staying Put"*.

Sharpening Our Practices

This year, we strengthened our internal operations with a focus on both people and processes. We enriched our employee benefits package by introducing an IRA plan, adding life insurance, and enhancing Personal Time Off.





To further support long-term organizational health, we engaged outside counsel to review and improve our documents, practices, and governance procedures—laying a stronger foundation for sustainable growth.

Summer Soirée Fundraiser

Our third annual Summer Soirée, held at the beautiful Waveny House on June 5, 2025, brought members and friends together for a memorable evening. Thanks to the incredible support of our sponsors, the event was a resounding success. Mark your calendars—next year's Soirée is set for June 4, 2026!

Grants

We are honored, and very grateful, to have received multiple community grants this year that enable us to fulfill our mission. The funds support scholarship funding which allows membership to be accessible to every New Canaan senior regardless of financial ability.

VOLUNTEER HONORS



Barbara Johansen was posthumously awarded the Jim Cole Inspiration Award at the New Canaan Community Foundation's Volunteer Recognition Awards, in honor of her remarkable contributions to **Staying Put in New Canaan** and the broader community.

Barbara was a dedicated volunteer working in our office every Wednesday answering phones, responding to inquiries, and extending warmth and compassion to seniors facing loneliness. Her behind-the-scenes clerical support was invaluable, and her presence brought comfort and kindness to all she encountered. As part of the original team behind **Staying Put**, her vision, wisdom, and unwavering support were instrumental in the organization's growth and impact.



Our Staff

Gina Z. Blum, *Executive Director*
Kate Brambilla, *Manager of Member Services*
Kim Herr, *Manager of Operations*

2025 Board of Directors

Peter Ziesing, *President*
Mimi Pitt, *Vice President*
Susie Catlin, *Secretary*
Paul Bamatter, *Treasurer*



Christine Dombrowski Ayoub
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Peg Bull
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Dr. Paule Couture
Tom Ferguson
Ken Gammill, Jr.
Jim Hilboldt
Ralph Hills
Tracey Karl
John Kerchoff, DMD
Diane Knetzger
Julie Russell
Carrie Sindelar







OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated volunteers are the heart of our mission—neighbors helping neighbors to build a stronger, more caring community. Their commitment makes our work possible.

If you're interested in getting involved, we offer a variety of flexible and rewarding volunteer opportunities that make a meaningful impact in our community.

The rewards are amazing – strengthen our community, give back, and make a difference!

Volunteer with us!

Betsy Afragola
Charles Antin
Sarah Armour-Nemetz
Cindy Bamatter
Paul Bamatter
Joe Bodak
Ray Boller
Betty Branch
Liz Burt
Susie Catlin
Patricia Chalian
Lyn Chivvis
Vikktoria Cooper
Carrie Corcoran
John Corcoran
Paule Couture
Tanis Erdmann
Christen Farley
Tom Ferguson
Denise Gannalo
Robert Godzeno
Deborah Golden
Michael Golden
Joan Gray
Harley Griffiths
Tonya Gwynn
Dorcas Hills
Martha Hutter
Evelyn Jacobson
Angela Jameson
Mary Jawlik
Barbara Johansen
Judy Johnson
Perry Kaiser
John Kerchoff
Susan Leeming
Addison MacKenzie
Peter Mason
Lisa McCarthy
George McFarland
Alexandra Mohrmann
David Moran
Fanny Moran
Amy Murphy Carroll
Vicki O'Neill
Steve Orteig
Howard Palmer
Marshall Pask
Davida Paul
Jeanne Peloso
Joel Pelzner
Debera Prosek
Sue Scannell
Isabelle Schuh
Phoebe Schuh
Robin Schuh
Molly Scott
Donna Simone
Rita Stone
Eniko Szatai
Christine Walsh-Kelly
James Webster
Karin Weller
Neil Wilson
Linda Wolfgruber
Richard Wood
Peter Wyman
Elizabeth Zea
Peter Ziesing

ORGANIZATIONS

National Charity League - Canaan Parish Chapter
New Canaan CARES Craft Club
New Canaan Girl Scouts - Troop 50175 and Troop 50592
New Canaan Public Schools
SLOBS - Service League of Boys

JOIN

Get the support you need to stay right at home where you want to be.

"I encourage every senior to join Staying Put in New Canaan because it is true: there's no place like home."



VOLUNTEER

Volunteering with Staying Put in New Canaan is a town-wide effort across all ages.

"I love helping seniors; it's one of the most gratifying things I do."



SUPPORT

Help keep our members safe at home and connected to the community.

"It feels great to be able to help seniors stay put."



PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

A remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience

or

Donate online at stayingputnc.org

or

Call us at 203.966.7762

Thank you for your generosity!

THE HOLIDAYS ARE APPROACHING

Looking for a gift for that special person who has everything?
Consider a gift of membership to **Staying Put** for a friend or loved one.

If you would like to learn more about Staying Put in New Canaan call us at 203.966.7762 or visit us online at stayingputnc.org