



SACRI NEWS



December 2025



The Beacon



Santa Baby - We have a List...

Dear Santa,

We are SACRI and we are sending you our wish list for the holidays. We know the season can be filled with warm feelings, but for many simple memories are all they have and often can evoke both joy and intense sadness. We are asking you for some help for our fellow R'ers. We are certain there is room in your sleigh! Help us as we advocate for our older adults and adults with disabilities. Tell Congress to protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for vulnerable residents and funding for nutrition programs that assist older adults to access healthy food. And as RI general assembly begins in 2026 tell our legislators to:

- Safeguard Core Benefits & Services and Ensure adequate state funding for our long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- Invest in more affordable, accessible housing for seniors and people with disabilities, increase funding for home modification and accessibility programs to support independent living and develop housing program for unhoused older adults and those at risk of homelessness.
- Expand Access to Home & Community-Based (HCBS) so more Rhode Islanders can age in place and fund programs that address food insecurity among older adults, including senior centers and meal delivery services.
- Advance Health Equity Promoting policies addressing the social determinants of health: transportation, access to preventive healthcare, and culturally competent services. Expand support for behavioral and mental health services.
- Oppose any cuts or threats to federal and state safety net programs that support basic needs for Rhode Islanders.

And for SACRI we ask for your help to: Grow Empowerment & Engagement Expanding our outreach across all municipalities, bringing individual experiences to policy tables and strengthen our role as a convener and resource for research, education, and rapid policy response.

Perhaps the most profound gift we can give is peace of mind. This holiday season, as we gather in the warmth of our own homes, let us consider what "home" truly means. Let us expand our definition to include our entire community. The wisest, most bold investment we can make is in each other. Let this season's wish for Rhode Island be a state where every older adult and every person with a disability lives with the security, health, and dignity they have earned. That is a gift that would truly last all year.

Thank you, Santa, safe travels, and we are pretty sure we are on the good list!



SACRI LIVE POLL

Favorite Holiday Treats
Rank your favs...

1 No Way - 5 Can't do the holidays without it

- Sugar Cookies
- Panettone
- Mince Meat Pie
- Fruit Cake
- Spumoni

- Ginger Snaps
- Snickerdoodles
- Pumpkin Pie
- Baci Chocolates
- Peppermint Bark



Live poll on our Instagram. Scan QR to go to our IG

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

- Research
- Provide Testimony
- Monitor Integrated Care Initiative (ICS)
- Medicaid Eligibility
- Transportation
- Housing
- Temporary Caregiver Insurance
- Community Advocacy & Education

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AFFILIATE MEMBER NEWS & RESOURCES

Celebrating Enrichment - All Around RI

December is always a busy month. We witness Winter Solstice, and it is filled with diverse cultural and religious celebrations worldwide, including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We are also made more aware of Human Rights on 12/10, the Bill of Rights on 12/15 and International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 12/3. And yet with all that happening around us December can be a lonely month for many. So, take a moment to check on people in your life, particularly older adults, as they may be remembering times which elicit longing for more youthful and family filled days. Be kind, be present, encourage enrichment activities, and be mindful that aging can be difficult at the holidays.



This issue of the Beacon is featuring the incredible work of OLLI, Johnston Senior Center's Quilting Club, and P.A.C.E.

PACE-RI Celebrates 20 years of Serving the Community

Non-profit healthcare provider has helped thousands of older adults to remain safe at home

By Tom Boucher, Chief of External Affairs for PACE-RI

A prima ballerina. One of the first female commercial truck drivers. An Olympian. An umbrella factory worker. A teacher. Someone who met with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The experiences people have had prior to joining PACE-RI are varied and compelling. What they all share is they have reached a point where they have become older adults and need extra care and support to remain safe at home and in the community.

For some elders, their primary concern is social isolation and loneliness as their senses fade and peers pass on. For others, it's the early onset of dementia that prompts seeking professional care. Still others come to PACE because of a stroke or some other significant health complication that requires rehabilitation in a nurturing environment.

Their caregivers rely on PACE, too. They need PACE to provide adult day care so they can go to work. They seek guidance about managing dementia symptoms and relief from the often-fragmented health care system. And others come to PACE to provide moments of respite so they can attend an event without worrying that mom/dad is ok.

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) model is unique. Once enrolled, participants aged 55 yr+ receive personalized care and services. PACE tends to all the older adult's health needs, including primary care both in its clinics and in participants' homes, with acute services, specialists, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, homecare, meals, transportation, adult day services, and more.

As we proudly celebrate our 20th anniversary of serving Rhode Island, we recommit to helping our participants with what most of us want as we age: to live safely at home, to stay out of the hospital and emergency room, and to reduce strain for caregivers.

Learn more at PACE-RI.org | Call (401) 434-1400





Have you met OLLI?

Lifelong learning is a key to long term mental acuity while a strong sense of community throughout our lives helps keep us healthy and active. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a place for adults aged 50 and better to enjoy a variety of classes, simply for the joy of learning - no tests, no grades.

OLLI is located on the campus of the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI. Registration is underway for its winter semester. Selecting from over seventy-five courses, there is something for everyone, with offerings in literature, history, humanities, art, and so much more. OLLI members also enjoy current event discussions, a book group, a photography group, and other special interest programs. A few selections for the upcoming winter semester include: Declaration of Independence- Not Just Jefferson, Brilliant but Overlooked - Photographers Worth Knowing, Hormones & Behavior, as well as QiJong for Vitality along with many, many more diverse offerings.

OLLI courses range from one time presentations to others that are three to six weeks in length. Most classes are one and one-half hours in length, with new classes beginning every week. The winter semester runs January 12 - March 20. Become part of the URI community and enjoy learning in a college classroom with new friends sharing common interests.

Visit OLLI at uri.edu/olli or call 401-874-4197 to learn more about yearly membership and twelve (12) months of lifelong learning opportunities.



Johnston Senior Center Quilting with Love



Johnston Senior Center's quilting club donates 60 quilts to make the holidays warmer and brighter for those in need.

There is a corner closet in the craft room of the Johnston Senior Center that is stacked with about 60 handmade quilts that will be donated to hospitals, nursing homes, churches and various charitable organizations throughout the state during the holiday season.

The quilts are the handiwork of the eight-member Johnston Senior Center's Quilting Club that meets every Tuesday to design, cut and sew fabric pieces that become the beautiful quilts that will provide comfort and warmth to those in need.

Each quilt is embroidered with the words The Giving Quilt Club as a subtle reminder of the true meaning of the season of giving.

The Quilting Club was organized by longtime friends Mary Lanzi and Fran Zanni in 2009 who made it their mission to help the community using their sewing skills, starting with baby quilts for a local children's home and expanding the donations to larger quilts whenever a club member heard of a place in need of items for people recovering from illness or trauma.

"I like the idea of keeping everybody warm," Zanni said.

Lanzi, who has been quilting for more than 40 years, said that quilting is "like putting together a puzzle with fabric."

The club keeps notebooks with photos of all the quilts and recipients. Among the themed entries are red, white and blue patterns for veterans, soft colors for children, animal patterns and matching fabrics.

"These quilts are a labor of love and represent the true spirit of giving," said Richard J. DeFino, executive director of the Johnston Senior Center.

Did You Know about the free resources available for RI's older adults and caregivers?



Are you age 55 or older, an adult living with a disability, or a caregiver?

There are many resources available to you. Call or visit the ADRC to talk with a specialist today. Calls are free and confidential. We can help you identify your needs, explore resources and services, and help with applying to public and private programs.

Get valuable information and assistance about:

- Home and community-based care
- Resources for caregivers and their families
- Assistance with planning for Memory and Cognitive Care
- Access to public assistance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, SNAP, Heating and Utility Assistance
- Information regarding other valuable resources in the community

401-462-4444

Are you an adult living with disabilities?

MyOptionsRI

MYOPTIONSRI connects you to the services and support you might need to live independently, wherever you choose. Everyone can use some help from time to time.

If you're living with a disability, we'll help connect you to services that can help make life more enjoyable and comfortable, wherever you live.

We bring a wide variety of services right to your door.

These are just some of the ways we can help. You can receive many of these services where you live, including in your own or someone else's house or apartment. Contact us today and let's talk about what you need.

401-462-4444



We care about **what you need.**

We care about **what you want.**

But mostly, we care about **who you are.**

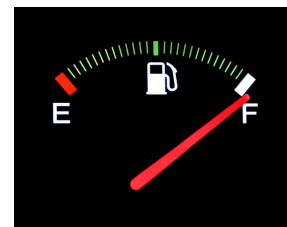
MyOptionsRI
The help you need, wherever you live.





Your Generosity Fuels the Mission

Put Some Gas in Our Tank



It's an Investment in Advocacy

As we close out another year of service and impact, we invite you to join us in strengthening SACRI's mission. Your generosity and support makes a profound difference in the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities that we work tirelessly to have a voice and a place at the table.

During this season of giving, please consider a gift to continue our work. No gift is too small. Every gift, no matter the size, is a powerful statement of hope and commitment. Together, we can sustain SACRI's mission.

Make your year-end gift at SACRI.org

Thank you for being part of our community and for believing in the impact of SACRI.

SACRI UPCOMING EVENT



Save the Date
3-13-2026
Legislative Leaders Forum
Gaige Hall @ RI College
Parking lots H I J

Exhibitor tabling will be available with special access and pricing for SACRI Affiliate Members
Details coming soon - Watch this space!

Keep in touch - Forward this email - Sign up for news - Contact us
We would love to come to your place to present our goals & initiatives.

We want to hear your stories!

401-451-8158 sacri.org

Find Us Online

#SACRI

WE ARE YOUR VOICE

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