As of April 2019, PACE-RI achieved a record number of participants and now serves 318 older adults across our three locations in Providence, Westerly and Woonsocket. The growth has come from all parts of the state as word spreads about how we help older adults with significant health care needs remain in their homes for an extra four years, on average. This is one big, important step for PACE-RI in its aim to grow and serve more people.

We couldn't have achieved such growth without our hardworking team. Each PACE-RI staff employee, board member, community partner, caregiver, and participant is an advocate for our program. We are grateful to have multiple enthusiastic referral sources through community partners and look forward to connecting with even more.
Every Voice Matters

PACE-RI has been visible on a policy level. Chief of Marketing and Development Tom Boucher, Vice President of Community and Government engagement Kelly Lee and Chief Financial Officer Lynda Gilbert attended the National PACE Association Spring Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. this April. They advocated for PACE with Senators Sheldon Whitehouse and Jack Reed and their staff.

When they returned, PACE Westerly had a visit from Congressman Jim Langevin, to learn more about our impressive model of care. It was a great chance for our participants, who are his constituents, to meet their congressman. We always encourage our participants to let their voices be heard and to stay informed.

Ocean House Black & White Ball

In February, PACE-RI walked the red carpet and joined 500 guests at the idyllic Ocean House hotel for their annual Black and White Ball, which was a night of lavish food, drinks, and entertainment, to benefit PACE-RI and our Adult Day Center of Westerly. The theme was the Golden AGE of Hollywood, and to ensure our participants were the stars of the evening, “glamour shots” of participants adorned the banisters, and unique and decorative stars that our participants made were hung to create a starry night.

Valenti Subaru Share the Love

Thanks to the Subaru Share the Love Campaign, PACE-RI’s Adult Day Center of Westerly (ADCW) received a $26,250 donation. From November 15, 2018, to January 2, 2019, every Valenti Subaru customer who purchased or leased a new Subaru vehicle at the dealership elected that PACE-RI/ADCW receive a donation of $250. Bruce Morrow and Rob Valenti of Valenti Subaru presented the check to our CEO, Joan Kwiatkowski, and to our participants in Westerly at a well-attended and publicized check presentation ceremony. This generous donation will directly benefit the participants who attend our Westerly location. As always, we are thankful to our remarkable community partners for their continued support.

PACE in the RI Medical Journal

Our CEO, Joan Kwiatkowski and our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tsewang Gyurme, MBBS, MD, CMD, and have authored an article in the Rhode Island Medical Journal that describes how we integrate medical and social care to keep our participants out of the nursing home for four years, on average. Head to www.rimedicalsociety.org/rimj to see the article in the June 2019 edition of this renowned publication.
Providence: Beautiful Creations

“Everything that we make at PACE is beautiful,” said participant Corrine M. as she admired the stunning quilt that she and other PACE participants helped make out of unique patches of dyed fabric.

Participants in Providence continued to create arts and crafts, but this quarter, there was a focus on creating beautiful pieces as a team. Kim Joslyn, Life Enrichment Specialist, taught participants a Japanese technique called Shibori that includes dip-dyeing fabric. Together, they made a quilt with each of their fabric patches for Joan Kwiatkowski, CEO, to show their appreciation.

Westerly: Giving Back

PACE-RI has many participants who are interested in community service and making life better for others. Through PACE Community Corps, our participant volunteer program, we connect them with local organizations to perform meaningful acts of kindness. While performing good works certainly helps other people, studies show that seniors who have a sense of purpose also generally have better health. A true win/win!

Participants in Westerly are very active when it comes to giving back to their community and had a large focus on that this quarter. For example, this winter, the group made some homemade dog treats that they delivered in-person to the Westerly Animal Shelter, where they saw the pets that they helped. In the past, the group also baked cookies for the fire department and has visited the local nursing home. We believe that doing good deeds, and creating moments together, leads to a life full of purpose.

Woonsocket: Spring has Bloomed

It’s a good thing that Spring was relatively warm this season, because once the temperature hit 60 degrees, participants were ready to celebrate. Nothing says springtime in Rhode Island like gardening and the PawSox.

The garden at our Woonsocket location is robust. It boasts many vegetables and flowers such as carrots, spinach, sweet peas, and zinnias. Participants eagerly started planting during the last week of February this year. Everyone helps by labeling the plants, pouring the soil and seeds into the pots, or keeping up with the watering schedule. To celebrate the season, participants also attended “Silver Seniors” day at the Pawtucket Red Sox, including some players and their mascots: Paws and Sox! They were also treated to free food and drink as well as a bingo game.
The National PACE Association launched a strategic initiative titled PACE 2.0 to lay a course for bringing the innovative model of care to more communities and populations. Currently in 31 states, NPA ambitiously aims to double the current national enrollment from 50,000 to 100,000 by December 2021. PACE Organization of Rhode Island aims to do our part and support the growth of the unique PACE model of care.

Thank You!

Thanks to Savings Institute Bank & Trust and Director Kathy Nealon for generously donating $5,000 to the PACE Organization of Rhode Island! The impetus for distributing the funds is the merger of Savings Institute Bank & Trust with Berkshire Bank. Kathy Nealon has served as a Director at Savings Institute Bank and its previous iterations for more than 15 years. The directors of Savings Institute Bank & Trust contribute a portion of their board fees into the Savings Institute Foundation each month. Because of the merger, each director has been given the opportunity to have their contributions distributed to charities of their choice.

Mrs. Nealon chose us because she served on the board of directors for the Adult Day Center of Westerly as the treasurer for 15 years. We think that it is a great choice, as this generous donation will allow us to improve our offerings for older adults with chronic health needs, helping them remain in the community they cherish.

“I like getting out of the house, and being with the other people...I've become fond of the other participants.”

PACE-RI Participant Survey, November 2018