

## **WESLEY LIVING / WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES / WESLEY MISSION**

Jim Nasso, Chief Executive Officer

Wesley Housing Corporation of Memphis, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Living, Wesley Senior Ministries, Inc. and Wesley at Graceland, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Mission is essentially about people — elderly residents and at-home clients, staff, pastors, executives, and boards of directors — all necessary to the mission of enhancing the lives of older generations. Please visit our website at [www.wesleyliving.com](http://www.wesleyliving.com).

For those familiar with the 1993 movie “Groundhog Day”, 2021 was much like 2020 in how the pandemic effected the daily activities of each one of us including the more than 2,200 residents and clients Wesley Living cares for daily. Wesley Living’s Core Values of Service, Compassion and Integrity were on display and lived daily. The virus made its way to almost every community and with it we lost five additional residents since the last annual conference.

Also, since last year’s annual conference, our organization’s focus has not wavered from its service-oriented areas with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for the elderly. These areas are ministry, preservation, staff development and the future. Ministry is at the heart of our purpose and pastoral care is a key to the lives of those we serve. We are finding more and more residents wanting one-on-one care requiring more dedication to this and what is sometimes a very specialized service. The Rev. Dennis Neenan, now fully retired from the conference, gracefully continued to serve our residents on a contractual basis while Wesley Living excitedly welcomed the Rev. Camille Bradley in September 2021. She brought her heart and energy for ministry at the perfect time as Neenan fully retired at the end of the year. Almost every community continues to be served by a United Methodist pastor located in close proximity. This would not be possible without the ongoing cooperation of the active clergy and several retired clergy who remain committed to serving, in addition to their respective district superintendent.

Providing affordable housing and assisted living is the largest part of our ministry. The goal is to continually update the existing portfolio while expanding the services being provided. During 2020, our ministry was once again notified that two additional communities will be awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits to acquire and preserve: St. Mary Manor in Jackson, Tennessee, and Wesley Pine Ridge in Paris, Tennessee. Again, the pandemic slowed the closing of these projects to the early part of 2022 and delayed beginning the physical work.

Wesley Home Services provides non-medical, in-home assistance services which range from companionship to housekeeping to personal assistance. Despite the pandemic, it has been a refuge for many seniors who have remained in their homes.

No amount of ministry, preservation, or genuine caring can be provided without a compassion-filled quality staff committed to our core values. Our efforts to provide a living wage and competitive benefits have not wavered although the labor market remains difficult. Once again, the minimum entry level wage was raised \$1 per hour in 2021. Careers are to be found at Wesley Living and we encourage everyone to inquire if a faith-based organization is of interest for their career.

The number of elderly needing quality, affordable housing and services continues to grow. Wesley Living is a premier provider and remains committed to solving these social issues. Wesley Living also remains committed to expanding the number served when possible.

GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, Inc. continues to be a strong partner providing answers to resident needs. Kristi Owens became the new executive director during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 to assure the partnership will continue to flourish as they celebrate 25 years.

We sincerely appreciate your prayerful support and continue to value our effectiveness in how the lives of the elderly are improved every day. Today, we recommit ourselves to honor this connection and to live out our mission “In response to the love of God....”