



## Staff Member Feature

*Chef Marion Macalalad*

Our dining services and culinary team is composed of dedicated and talented individuals working toward one goal: providing you with a superior dining experience.

Executive Chef Marion Macalalad has been overseeing our kitchen operations for 15 years. Chef Marion and his staff are dedicated to serving you and meeting your needs and desires at every meal in every dining venue across our campus.

Along with his culinary talent, Chef Marion is a master of multitasking, often working on special events and catering affairs for you, your family members and guests.

Chef Marion's hard work was recently recognized by food services provider Sodexo as he was named one of their top-performing North American chefs. Plus one of his original recipes – Hoisin Crispy Pork Sandwich – was also featured in Sodexo's culinary program "In My Kitchen."

When asked what inspired his delicious recipe, Chef Marion said, "My sandwich recipe pays homage to my mother, who cooked every single day."

During the month of July, Chef's sandwich were featured throughout Sodexo's North American operations. You too will be able to enjoy his sandwich in The Bistro. Bon appétit.



# INNERCIRCLE



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## Letter from our Executive Director

First, let me say how grateful I am for all of your ongoing support and encouragement. My time here over the last 11 months has been wonderful and enriching thanks to all of you. I also truly appreciate your patience and understanding throughout the many changes you've experienced with the transition of ownership. I am confident we'll continue to make positive strides.

I wanted to highlight some of the initiatives we've implemented over the past year to enhance services and make Laurel Circle an even better community to live and work. We've introduced Extraordinary Impressions® to boost hospitality and NIFS (National Institute for Fitness and Sport) to improve our fitness programs. We've added a key leadership position in the Health & Wellness Navigator, as well as enhanced communications through Touchtown®. Most importantly, we've adopted Life Care Services holistic approach to health and wellness called Lifestyle and Health Services®. You will be reading more about these, and other future initiatives, in upcoming newsletters.

While I expect continued changes, the goal of your leadership team remains the same: To enrich your experiences in virtually all aspects of community life. To do this, we're creating a community culture guided by caring and compassionate values that is committed to our mission and vision. A truly collaborative journey. I'm excited for the future.

Take care, and enjoy your community,  
Brian Alexopoulos

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## Resident Spotlight

### *Barbara Brubaker and Jan Draper*

Barbara and Jan’s friendship started 26 years ago as members of the Bridgewater Women’s Club. At first, they started socializing together, having dinner and going to events. But eventually, since both of them love to travel, they started taking trips together, first going to Vietnam and Cambodia and eventually India.

One day, they decided to attend an informational luncheon about the benefits of living at Laurel Circle. Barbara recounts the presentation this way: “The meeting was great and I kept leaning over to Jan and saying, ‘But we’re not ready yet.’ Well ... two weeks later, we were ready.” The only problem was they both had to get their houses ready to sell before going on a trip to Germany.

Although they live at different ends of the community, their friendship continues to grow and they get together more than they did before their move. When asked about life at the community so far, Jan commented, “Everyone says hello and is very friendly.” The next time you see Barbara or Jan be sure to ask them about their travels and what they have planned next.



## Construction Corner

As we prepare to make some updates to Laurel Circle, our architect has provided renderings of what our lobby, salon and spa, and wellness center will look like, and we wanted to share them with you. We hope you’re as excited about our upcoming improvements as we are and can’t wait to start enjoying these new spaces. Keep watching Construction Corner for more updates.



## Lifestyle Programs

### *Leah Jennings*

#### *Community Life Services Director*

I’m truly honored to serve as your Community Life Services Director. Getting to know you, hearing your stories, and learning more about this amazing culture and community you’ve built are the highlights of my day. As I’ve reflected on the many unique things that I admire about Laurel Circle, the one I appreciate most is how you have the opportunity to fully embrace life with our Lifestyle Programs. Whether you’re in independent living or The Arbor, you can enjoy what’s always been important to you while also experiencing new adventures. I’m so excited to be part of these new adventures! (YAY!)

Laurel Circle’s holistic, community wide approach to 8 Dimensions of Wellness (emotional, environmental, health services, intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and vocational) is incorporated into every Lifestyle Program. Your individual involvement in these engaging activities is what can help lead to more successful aging.

My focus is to collaborate with you to provide thought-provoking and riveting Lifestyle Programs everyone will enjoy. So your suggestions and feedback are critical.

Over the coming months, I look forward to expanding and growing all our amazing Lifestyle Programs together.



## Employee Highlight

### *Katie Patzelt,*

#### *Health Care Administrator*

Katie’s passion for serving seniors began at her first job. When she was 16, she worked as a waitress at a senior living community in her Naperville, Illinois hometown.

Her interest and desire to serve only flourished as she went on to college at Clemson University in South Carolina. After she earned a bachelor’s degree in health care administration, Katie completed the professional development program through LCS and became a licensed nursing home administrator in the state of Minnesota. Katie prides herself on her ability to bring fresh ideas, an inquisitive mind and a willingness to learn to every opportunity.

In her free time, she enjoys running, yoga, cooking, reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends. She is excited to explore New Jersey and is always looking for new ways to discover all the wonderful people and places the Garden State has to offer. When you see her, be sure to say hi and give her a big Laurel Circle welcome!