

## CONNECTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Ms. P USING IPAD APP "RECOLOR"

In Fall 2016, Search and Care launched "Silver Circles"—a program in which Computer Coaches provide one-on-one tutorials to older people about tablets, smartphones, laptops, etc. Whether a person brings in their own device—or practices on an agency iPad—sessions are tailored to each person. Some are using email for the first time, or learning to surf the net to look up recipes, read the news, safely bank online, and much more. If an older neighbor can't make it to the office, a Computer Coach will visit the client at home. In less than two years, Silver Circles has brought nearly 100 seniors into the digital age!

Time and again, participants report that Silver Circles is unique. As Ms. N, a 73-year-old regular attendee, said, "I tried computer classes at senior centers, but could never keep up. It's so much better working one-on-one here."

Often, tutoring sessions turn into chats, clients attending Search and Care socialization groups, the identification of client needs agency social workers can address, and opportunities to make social connections.

"Now, I go to a café with my laptop and get on the internet by myself," Ms. N said. "I was never one to use the phone and hadn't spoken to my younger sister in a year. Now, we email almost every day."

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

Margaret Diaz-Cruz, who joined Search and Care's Board of Directors in 2017, grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The notion of "caring" came early to Margaret. With ten brothers and sisters, she noted, "My widowed grandmother and two single great aunts were at our home almost every day. We were very close. I was inspired and never thought of another career other than becoming a social worker."

When Margaret's mother-in-law—her three-year-old's caretaker—moved out of state, Margaret decided to work just part-time. After leaving the Hospital for Special Surgery, she connected with Sue Chandler (then Search and Care's Exec. Dir.) about the program of ongoing financial assistance for the elderly developed for the Tuttle Fund. (Through its grant program, the Tuttle Fund still supports Search and Care.) "The meeting was a success! I started as the social worker for the Tuttle Fund's Stipendiary Program in January of 1980 and retired last year."

During her first year, Margaret was housed at Search and Care. "Tuttle wanted me to have sound supervision with Sue." Margaret leaned forward slightly and stated, "What Sue was doing was unique. Her professional care management included outreach to neighborhood doormen, bankers, and others—all in an effort to ensure the safety and wellbeing of older people." Margaret smiled. "She had guts and thought of older people 'as family.' I joined the Search and Care Board because the agency is still providing individualized care and doing incredible work—and it's where my roots are."

— SAVE THE DATE —

SIP AND SAVOR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

"A WINE AFICIONADO'S EVENING TO SUPPORT SEARCH AND CARE"

## MORE THAN JUST PETS



JORGE BENDERSKY OF *Dogs 101* AND HIS POM, TITO

For many older people, pets are a lifeline. Whether it's the doggie that sits next to Ms. L whenever she gets a chance, or the kitty that sleeps at Mr. K's feet every night—these animal companions are often an older person's main source of affection and family.

Recognizing the importance of these connections, Search and Care's multifaceted Pets and Elders Together (PET) program helps ensure the wellbeing of both the older people we serve, and their beloved pets: from animal-loving volunteers changing cat litter and walking dogs, an emergency Pet Fund for food and vet visits, to our monthly "Pet Pro" Saturday workshops led by animal professionals—so far, a veterinarian, trainer and behaviorist, social worker, and celebrity dog groomer.

As Ms. H, a 79-year-old attendee, said, "It's a bit of a struggle getting to the pet workshops, but I'm proud to get to them on my own. I especially loved Jorge Bendersky's presentation"—from Animal Planet's *Dogs 101*. "He was so dynamic! And his Pomeranian, Tito, was a doll. I'm so grateful for all of Search and Care's support for me and my lovely Shih Tzu, Bebe, when I was recovering from surgery. Bebe is so full of energy and happy—and so am I."

SPRING 2018

HELPING OLDER PEOPLE LIVE AT HOME SINCE 1972

### PERSONAL APPEAL FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support of Search and Care throughout the years. Search and Care depends upon individual contributions, bequests, faith-based benevolence, and foundation grants to support our mission to protect and enhance the lives of seniors by allowing them to age in the dignity of their own homes. We stay in touch with each of our clients and cater the care to their interests and needs, whether this is providing fee-free medical escorts, computer coaches, pet upkeep, etc. To do this, we employ a team of skilled and caring professionals.

Despite the expenses and challenges of operating in New York City, we are celebrating our 46th year and have served 15,000+ vulnerable older New Yorkers.

We have much to celebrate but are aware that the wolf is never far from the door—we must always be vigilant to secure funding for our mission. Would you please consider including Search and Care in your estate plans? This will cost you nothing during your lifetime but will make a huge difference to the financial health and sustainability of Search and Care.

The simplest and most popular way to leave a planned gift is through a bequest, but there are many other options, such as a gift of life insurance or making Search and Care the beneficiary of an IRA (to mention just a few). For more information, please contact me at 212-289-5300 or [kravitz@searchandcare.org](mailto:kravitz@searchandcare.org). All conversations are totally confidential.

We have no control over so many things in our lives, but each of us can decide what legacy we wish to leave. The agency's most treasured supporters are those in our **LEGACY CIRCLE** who have chosen to remember Search and Care when they are no longer here. I hope you will consider joining this very special **LEGACY CIRCLE** group.

—Brian C. Kravitz

**JAZZ IN JUNE**  
A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT  
**SEARCH AND CARE**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 AT 6:30 PM  
DIZZY'S CLUB COCA COLA —  
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER  
"PROVIDES COOL JAZZ IN A FANTASTIC SETTING OVERLOOKING CENTRAL PARK AT SUNSET!"  
FOR TICKETS, VISIT  
[WWW.SEARCHANDCARE.ORG](http://WWW.SEARCHANDCARE.ORG), OR CALL  
(212) 289-5300



WITH APPRECIATION TO SEARCH AND CARE AND  
REGIS HIGH SCHOOL ... A HAPPY CLIENT.

**IN MEMORIAM:** we acknowledge, with sympathy, the recent loss of the following clients. It was our pleasure to serve them, and they will be missed by all of us at Search and Care: **MR. T, MS. Z, MR. R, MS. B, MR. J, MS. W, MS. B, MS. R, MS. D, MR. I, MR. K, MS. C, AND MS. M.**

### THE WHOLE PICTURE



HERBERT AND Ms. G

Herbert Duran joined Search and Care as a part time East Harlem Volunteer Coordinator. At the agency for nearly four years, Herbert has worn many hats—from matching volunteers and clients, helping pet-owning clients identify emergency contacts to care for their beloved pets, to co-coordinating the "Silver Circles" computer education program. He is now a Care Manager, addressing the urgent, emergent, and future needs of vulnerable older people (help with benefits & entitlements, homecare, transportation, etc.).

When asked what led him to apply for his initial position, Herbert replied, "I love the East Harlem community. I'd lived there for two years by then, and before I moved, I was introduced to the community by tutoring in East Harlem during college. I loved the murals and cultural diversity—it reminded me of the neighborhood I grew up in.

"Volunteerism is what taught me the importance of really getting to know each person in order to make the right connection," Herbert stated. "Now, I know how to be more patient, and approach topics from different points of view."

While he reports finding some aspects of care management challenging, Herbert feels that, as a Care Manager, he can really contribute more. "Before, I could only address specific issues—volunteers, pets, computers—but now, I'm helping vulnerable older people with the whole picture."