



Abernethy  
Laurels  
EveryAge Senior Living™

# NEWS



INNOVATIVE  
PROGRAM  
CONTINUES  
TO TRAIN  
NEW CNAS



# EARN & LEARN

**W**hen COVID-19 struck in 2020, no one knew how long-lasting and far-reaching the pandemic would be – or how battered it would leave the healthcare industry in terms of hiring high-quality staff.

When existing training programs closed and certified nursing assistants became scarce, Abernethy Laurels sought to address the shortage. We took advantage of CMS-authorized emergency certifications, taught independent living residents to help feed nursing home patients, and certified everyone from the Executive Director to department heads to fill the gaps. Even so, it was clear that further measures were needed.

Intent on creating solutions, the leadership team strategically designed the **Earn & Learn** program to generate a steady supply of trained CNA professionals and provide residents with the care they need. The State of North Carolina-approved program delivers classroom and clinical training and prepares students to sit for the State's written and skills tests.

Abernethy Laurels' Recruitment & Retention Committee helped generate key points of the program, which pays student employees to be in class and take the certification tests. Once a student employee becomes certified, their hourly wage increases. As long as they continue to work at Abernethy Laurels for at least a year, there is no cost to them for having enrolled in the program.

Earn & Learn has been a game changer for both the retirement community and student employees because it allows students to build relationships with the residents who will be receiving their assistance. The program also introduces students to other team members and to the layout and operations of the facility itself, which streamlines new employee orientation.

Most important to students, Earn & Learn makes it possible to pursue or transition to a career in the field of long-term care. With many traditional programs, students can't maintain an existing job and pay for new educational courses at the same time. Abernethy Laurels removes that challenge with its paid-to-learn curriculum. A student no longer must choose between working or getting trained and certified.

To date, the Earn & Learn program has graduated 10 classes of CNAs, and the students come from manufacturing and food-service jobs, from other health care fields, and even from within the organization itself. During FY 2022, we have trained 125 new employees and are continuing to offer monthly classes that encourage community members to build new careers and deliver optimal care to residents throughout all areas of Abernethy Laurels.



# Smith Leaves \$383,000 Legacy Gift



Catherine S. Smith, a 15-year resident at Abernethy Laurels, was always sensitive to the needs of people less fortunate than herself. She was also firm in her desire to direct a generous measure of her good fortune to improving residents' quality of life within her beloved community.

With that goal in mind, she chose to leave a legacy gift to the overall community, the staff, and particularly her neighbors and residents in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing. As a member of EveryAge's Julius Society (a group that furthers the organization's mission through commitments to charitable giving), Catherine attended every annual gathering to celebrate the members who had already left legacy gifts.

After her passing, Catherine's family proudly honored their mother's wish to leave a legacy gift to the EveryAge Foundation in benefit of Abernethy Laurels. The gift will be divided equally between the Catherine S. Smith Family Fund and the Catherine S. Smith Family Endowment, with annual disbursements from each account supporting spiritual life and benevolent care.

The EveryAge Foundation uplifts people in need and provides funding for programs that enrich the lives of the entire EveryAge family, which includes three continuing care retirement communities, two PACE programs, a child-care ministry, a home care service, and seven affordable housing communities. The Foundation grows and manages a variety of funds devoted to benevolence, innovation, campus enrichment, employee assistance, employee education, spiritual life, and more.

For more information, visit [everyage.org/foundation](http://everyage.org/foundation).

## welcome NEW RESIDENTS

SINCE JUNE 1, 2022

### **Bill Bauer**

*Grand Rapids, MN*

### **Ted & Judy Bernhard**

*Naperville, IL*

### **Dale & Helen BeVier**

*Granite Falls, NC*

### **Bill Borchardt**

*Hickory, NC*

### **Barb Brewster**

*Muncie, IN*

### **Sherri Femrite**

*Riner, VA*

### **David & Diane Fields**

*Hickory, NC*

### **Pam Gregory**

*Statesville, NC*

### **Jan Jones**

*Statesville, NC*

### **Nancy Jones**

*Sherrills Ford, NC*

### **Betty McGee**

*Newton, NC*

### **Wanda Morris**

*Ripley, TN*

### **Anne Richards**

*Hickory, NC*

### **Bob Sauer**

*Hickory, NC*

### **Sheila Wahoski**

*Phoenix, AZ*

### **Mary Williams**

*St. Petersburg, FL*

### **Jewell Wooten**

*Fountain Inn, SC*

## Did you know?

EveryAge is a sustaining partner of Adult Children of Aging Parents (ACAP), a community-based organization founded in Hickory, NC, in 2012. The nonprofit has chapters throughout North Carolina and Pennsylvania and is expanding both west and south to other states.

ACAP hosts educational programs that offer information, resources, support, and community for adult-children as they care for their aging parents and themselves. Programs are both in-person and virtual, and the Foothills NC chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Newton Library (115 West C Street), just a few minutes down the road from Abernethy Laurels.

All of the programs are free and open to the public. They address topics like driving and aging, advance care planning, falls prevention, caregiver fatigue, residential options for seniors, and practical tips for caregivers. Online videos, podcasts, and articles are available as well.

To view an events calendar or to learn more, visit [www.acapcommunity.org](http://www.acapcommunity.org), email [info@acaphickory.org](mailto:info@acaphickory.org) or call 828.610.5741. Lisa Union, director of admissions, and Greg Rossidivito, director of life enrichment, are also members of ACAP's leadership team.





**Abernethy  
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102 Leonard Ave  
Newton, NC 28658

[www.abernethylaurels.org](http://www.abernethylaurels.org)

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*You're invited!*  
**SPRING  
LUNCH & LEARN**

**Thursday, March 23  
11:30 am**  
Community Center

Spring is here! And, at Abernethy Laurels that means flowers are budding, birds are chirping, and gardens will soon be planted. Abernethy Laurels invites you to learn more about our vibrant continuing care community where engaging opportunities and possibilities to venture are limitless. Greg Rossidivito, director of life enrichment, will share his passion to keep residents active and purpose-filled. Bring a friend and enjoy a delightful soup and salad lunch.

Reservations are required. Please register your attendance before March 17 by calling Lisa Lackey Stewart at 828.465.8552 or [llackey@everyage.org](mailto:llackey@everyage.org).



**Directions:** From I-40, take Exit 132 (Thornburg Dr/Hwy 16). Go south approximately five miles; then turn left onto Hwy 16 South. Abernethy Laurels is approximately ½ mile on the left.