

Summer Newsletter

July 2024

Inspiring confidence

ECS moves into its second century of service to seniors in Southern California with the confidence that is built every day from those who work here and those who call our communities home.

When speaking with residents, I hear how they feel at home at an ECS community, and this confidence is conveyed through their profound commitment to their community, the wealth of activities offered, and the deep connections they develop with others.

Confidence is reflected daily, through the longevity of our residents. The Canterbury in Rancho Palos Verdes has been home to two residents for 20-plus years. In Aliso Viejo, three residents have called The Covington home since it opened its doors in 2004. And 23 residents have lived at MonteCedro in Altadena since its opening in December 2015.

Confidence in ECS is also reflected through the dedication of team members with extraordinary lengths of service. Each of our four life plan and residential communities have staff who can trace their tenure back to the first days of the community.

Our confidence in team members is demonstrated through the support offered through various funds available to them. From the Employee Education Fund, to SAFE, Staff Assistance Fund for Emergencies, and NextGen Education Fund, our support is a living testament to our belief that when you provide a thriving place to work and live, where people are respected and appreciated, confidence thrives.

We are thankful for the continued confidence of current and future residents. It is this confidence that enables ECS to reinvest and expand in creating our exceptional communities and programs.

The names of some of our longest-serving team members are on the back page of this newsletter. And I personally thank everyone who brings their talent and dedication to ECS every day.

James Rothrock
President and CEO



Highlights

This newsletter features stories of confidence throughout our communities.

Twelve Oaks

Giving and learning

The Canterbury

Reflections of long-term residents

MonteCedro

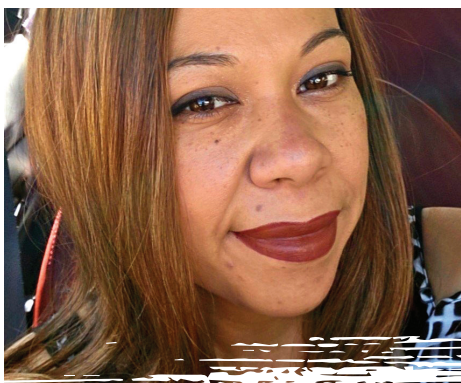
The first one through the doors keeps her door open

The Covington

Actively engaged

Our Stories

Long-serving team members



Twelve Oaks

Giving and learning

Erika Rivera

Erika Rivera has been a valued Twelve Oaks team member since September 2017.

When she first came to the community, she was taken by its location and surroundings. "I fell in love with the grounds, the trees, the setting. I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. It was like a nature retreat in a quiet mountainous setting," she says.

Erika's first role at Twelve Oaks was as a Medication Technician. Then she was offered the role of Business Office Manager before becoming the Creative Living Director. She is grateful for the confidence the organization has shown in her, offering her multiple promotions. In turn, she demonstrates her commitment through dedication to her work and her colleagues. "The team here is great," she says. "We all have the same purpose." Erika is known for stepping in to help, wherever needed. "I love what I do," she says, "and I learn every day."

Her compassion and her support are conveyed by her contagious smile, and the residents appreciate the events and activities she develops as the Creative Living Director. "Some of the residents may not have tried something before, but they discover their abilities are more than they thought," she says.

"Twelve Oaks is a smaller community, so you get to know everyone," she says. Erika appreciates working with the residents, letting them know she is here for them, to help and support them. And in turn, they appreciate the kindness, empathy, and compassion she shares each day.



The Canterbury

Reflections of long-term residents

Carolyn Davis & Betty Dazey

Carolyn Davis has been at The Canterbury since 1999. Originally from New Hampshire, she came to the community from the East Coast to be near her daughter and her two grandchildren. "I was happy to move in. I made friends immediately," she says. "Everyone is so friendly here."

Carolyn especially appreciates all the organized trips from The Canterbury. "We went to Solvang one year. Then Catalina Island. The trips were so well planned." She also enjoys the fitness facilities, studio, and the pool, which she used to recover from two knee operations.

She has always enjoyed sketching. The classes at The Canterbury have allowed Carolyn to try acrylic painting, and currently she is taking a watercolor class. She has also been part of book clubs and book discussions, as well as poetry classes. For anyone considering The Canterbury, she recommends participating in the available activities. "There's so much to do, and it's a great way to meet people."

Betty Dazey has called The Canterbury home for 22 years. A long-time resident of Palos Verdes, she and her husband moved in when she realized that the community would provide him with the support he needed. "I really appreciated the care my husband received."

Once she was a resident, she said it was easy to make friends. "I enjoyed the exercise classes. And I was chair of the landscape committee, which was great," she says.

This September, Betty celebrates a milestone. She will turn 100 years old, surrounded by a wealth of friends at The Canterbury.



MonteCedro

The first one through the door keeps her door open

Katey Frere

Katey Frere walked into the front door of her new home at MonteCedro in December 2015. As the first resident of the new community in Altadena, she found the space a bit quiet initially. But that soon changed.

An avid art lover, Katey comments that “people say I live in a gallery.” When she first arrived at MonteCedro, she noticed “the walls in the hallway were bare.” So she took ten works of art from her considerable collection, framed them and had them hung for all to enjoy. This spirit of community has defined her time at MonteCedro.

Her home has frequent guests. “Our doors are open to our neighbors, and people come in and visit every day.” Everyone looks after each other and each other’s pets, which includes Katey’s 16-year-old pug called Miss Puggins.

“I love learning,” she says, and she appreciates the abundance

of classes and outings available at MonteCedro. “It has all the activities you could want. The gym is great, and the pool.” And Katey says that there is every kind of club to join. “If you have something on your bucket list, name it and they’ll try to make it happen.”

The sense of safety, wellness and community are what make MonteCedro so special to Katey. “It’s the only place like it,” she says. “It’s really wonderful. I can’t think of anywhere else I’d rather be.”

The Covington

Actively engaged

Charlene Clark

Charlene Clark grew up in Iowa and moved to California with her husband. He passed away after 52 years of marriage. “After 5 years of living on my own, I thought: There must be an easier way,” she says. She noticed all the chores, from trees that needed pruning to a back porch that needed repairs. She started looking at communities in the area. “I walked into The Covington and it felt like home.”

She moved to The Covington in 2012. “I’m not the first person to say it. You just know. This is the place.” She smiles as she adds, “I no longer have to cook or go grocery shopping. And I’m busier now than I was when I was working and raising our family.”

Charlene is involved in many of the community activities and groups. She has held several offices on resident council and was a representative of The Covington to the Board. Currently, she is involved in the Reader’s Theater, and The Fabulous Follies, a resident-driven evening of performances. In previous years she had an act of her own. This year, she had the vital role of Narrator, performing as a Jester. She is also the resident librarian. “I like to be productive,” she says.

Charlene has been delighted with The Covington and knows she made right choice. “The people are just fantastic: friendly and knowledgeable. They are always willing to share. The size of the community is great. It’s like a big family. You get to know everyone while also making closer circles of friends.” For anyone considering the move, she says, “don’t wait. Come here when you can enjoy it fully.”



Our stories

Long-serving Team Members

We could not offer the services and support to the communities that define ECS without the commitment and dedication of all our team members.

Below and to the right is a list of the longest-serving team members in our organization. We are so grateful they have dedicated their careers to ECS.

ECS Support Services

James Rothrock	21 years
Maleakhi Adi	20 years
Fred Verzo	20 years
Stacie Ocampo	20 years
Robin Gordon	17 years
Jocelyn Dinh	17 years

The Canterbury

Rene Cardoza	34 years
Hector Macuixtle-Sanchez	26 years
Rose Marie Baron	26 years
Marisa Murillo Amezola	26 years
George Bautista	24 years
Martha Cisneros	23 years
Odilia De Leon	23 years
Guendy Cabrera	23 years
Diana Ernandes	21 years
Lucia Maturrano	21 years
Ana Sandoval	19 years
Lisa Jimenez	18 years
Maritza Rios	18 years

Mary Johnson	17 years
Hilda Bonilla	17 years
Richard Madridejos	16 years
Joann Afusia	15 years
Javier Ramirez	15 years
Benito Moran	15 years
Marlon Cayanan	14 years
Arnel Arevalo	14 years
Virginia Guzman	14 years
Lester Pascual	14 years
Kevork Seraidarian	11 years
Ramel Sumang	11 years
Gertrude Rodriguez	10 years

MonteCedro

David Weidert	9 years
Mary Peake	17 years
Bruno Molina	8 years
Bernal Diaz	8 years
Marta Maza	8 years
Maria Ruiz	8 years
Henry Huezo	8 years
Matthew Ross	8 years
Douglas Martinez	8 years
Jackie Stevens	8 years
Troy Villery	8 years
Ronald Marshall	8 years
Saed Crespo Montufar	8 years
Joselita Purificacion	8 years
Pedro Iniguez	8 years
Aquileo Gutierrez	8 years
Vincent Rodriguez Jr	8 years
Ofelia De La Torre	8 years
Rita Calvo	8 years
Dular Rivas	8 years
Celia Trujillo	8 years
Luz Almazar	8 years

The Covington

Williams Marchand	19 years
Sara Nunez	19 years
Andrea Garcia	19 years
Raul Reyna	19 years
Paulino Ruiz	19 years
Mary Ann Tionson	19 years
Mirna Andrade	19 years
Brenda Sanchez De Rivera	19 years
Maria Lewis	19 years
Francisco Diaz	19 years
Shaima Kazempoor	19 years
Tracy Beam	18 years
Taimua Scardina	18 years
Bernardita Joseph	17 years
Daniel Lopez	17 years
Leticia Santillan	17 years

Twelve Oaks

Leticia Manzano	6 years
Erika Rivera	6 years
Asuncion Mendoza	6 years
Maria Cruz	5 years