



REFRAMING AGING SINCE 1960

For Immediate Release

The Center at Belvedere Celebrates 65 Years of Community and Healthy Aging

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (January 2025) – On February 14, 2025, The Center at Belvedere will celebrate its 65th anniversary, marking more than six decades of providing healthy aging opportunities for older adults in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the surrounding region. A special event will take place from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at The Center, honoring this milestone and recognizing the people and programs that have shaped the organization’s legacy.

Originally known as the Senior Center, the organization was founded following a University League (now the Junior League of Charlottesville) survey to determine unmet community needs. Their discovery: that adults in Charlottesville and the surrounding area are often “put out to pasture” at age 65, despite the fact that they have much more to contribute to society.

Since opening its doors to 25 members on February 14, 1960, The Center has evolved from a small gathering space into a nationally accredited leader in promoting healthy aging, serving thousands of individuals each year. Through expanded programming and ongoing community engagement, The Center continues to adapt to the ever-evolving needs of older adults.

“Our 65th anniversary is a testament to the enduring impact of this nonprofit community resource and the vital role it plays in the lives of so many,” said Melanie Benjamin, Executive Director of The Center. “We know better than anyone that turning 65 is not a sign of slowing down, but a chance to embrace new opportunities. As we celebrate this milestone, we are also looking ahead to the future, ensuring The Center remains a place where people can stay engaged, active, and connected for generations to come.”

As part of its anniversary year, The Center will launch new initiatives to further its mission, including a pilot program to expand healthy aging programs into the broader community and an outreach effort to enhance awareness of available resources. Additionally, a new strategic plan will take shape, guided by community input, to ensure The Center continues to meet the growing needs and numbers of older adults in our region.

The anniversary event on February 14 will be the first of many opportunities throughout the year to reflect on The Center’s past, celebrate its present, and plan for its future. Community members, supporters, and longtime participants are invited to join in the celebration.

For more information about the 65th anniversary celebration and The Center’s ongoing initiatives, please visit thecentercville.org.

About The Center at Belvedere

The Center at Belvedere is a nationally accredited, award-winning nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning.