


A photograph of a woman with short brown hair and glasses, smiling and looking to the right. She is wearing a dark turtleneck sweater. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient.

**THE
CENTER**
AT BELVEDERE



**One of Charlottesville's
hidden gems, the
Senior Center is a
testament to the power
of healthy aging.
Now, the organization
is poised for a new,
multigenerational
setting: The Center
at Belvedere.**

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As a “third space” to foster interaction and civic engagement, The Center at Belvedere will serve our community’s health priority of increasing well-being across the lifespan.



Connections are life-giving

Since 1990, the senior population in Albemarle County and Charlottesville has nearly doubled; by 2030, more than one in five residents will be over 65. Many will live another 20 years or more. Research proves that older adults who maintain active lifestyles and social connections incur lower health care costs, make fewer demands on social services, support family members as caregivers, and give back to community as volunteers. At any age, people need to be able to contribute. At every age, people need connection.

Uniquely qualified

Long recognized nationally as a leading resource for senior health and independence, the Center holds an indispensable position in our region. With more than 100,000 visits per year, the Center’s culture engages members in pursuits from Tai Chi to travel, from poker to book club, from computers to painting—all fostering an enduring sense of community.

Opportunities to stay active and involved are essential for well-being. Program evaluations and surveys show that people who participate at the Center have a more positive outlook on life, have stronger connections in their community, and feel better physically and mentally.

Our mission, programs, and expertise align with community health priorities. We are engaged in regional efforts to promote successful aging and to help our community position itself for success.



A transforming venue

The current Center serves more than 8,000 area residents a year with more than 100 programs every week, but is limited by a facility built before much of the research on healthy aging emerged. Our programming has grown to embrace multiple dimensions of wellness, from physical health to social, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

With indoor and outdoor spaces appropriate to the activities that science says we all need to age well, The Center at Belvedere will meet the needs of a growing population. As a community asset, it will expand our capacity for partnerships and broaden our impact across the region. When completed, it will be one of the finest senior community centers in the nation.

Conveniently located in the Belvedere neighborhood, the new Center will prioritize accessibility through design, proximity to public transit, and scholarships for those who have a need. A Greenberry's café and a Sentara Martha Jefferson Primary Care Clinic on site will draw multiple generations. The Center at Belvedere will be a modern, vibrant community hub.

Contemporary, non-institutional architecture provides open spaces and connectivity. Universal design ensures accessibility to programs and resources for people of all ages and abilities.



“I live in my home, but the Center is where I really live my life. And as a substitute for close family, it’s brought companionship to my life.”

— **James Walker**

Jimmy joined at age 72 to pursue tennis and swing dancing. Twenty years later he participates in chair yoga, current affairs, bridge, and writing for pleasure.

“I give my time and money because I believe that healthy aging requires community, connection, physical and mental stimulation, and challenge; a place to use and grow skills to benefit others, and a place to just relax and have fun.” — **Rene Bond**

Rene rediscovered her love of music with two Center bands and the chorus. She also hikes, serves on the board of directors, and is a bereavement counselor for Hospice of the Piedmont.

“It’s such a positive thing that at a time of life when choices and skills seem to be narrowing, the Center offers so many options and opportunities for growth, expansion, and enrichment. Neither mind nor body are neglected.” — **Peggy Slez**

Peggy recently relocated from Wisconsin. A former attorney and art teacher, she volunteers at the Center and at other community nonprofits.

A critical moment

Thanks to the generosity of many who share the vision of a healthier future for us all, we are closing in on making The Center at Belvedere a reality. With community investment, we seek to open our new location by early 2020.

At this critical moment, your gift can make a decisive difference. Will you help champion The Center at Belvedere?



**The Center
at Belvedere
will transform
community
interaction and
engagement for
years to come.**



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