



The Center at Belvedere Announces Melanie Benjamin as New Executive Director

For Immediate Release

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (Sept. 18, 2023) – The Center at Belvedere, a nationally accredited nonprofit organization creating opportunities for healthy aging, is very pleased to welcome Melanie Benjamin as its new Executive Director. Benjamin, who currently serves as The Center’s Philanthropy Director, was chosen after a national search facilitated by Richmond-based firm The Spark Mill.

An accomplished and forward-thinking leader, Benjamin brings more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit development to The Center. With strategic acumen and exceptional talent for communication and collaboration, she is ideally suited to lead planned growth in outreach, advocacy, and infrastructure.

“Melanie brings together outstanding qualifications and an unwavering commitment to creating healthy aging opportunities for older adults in our community,” says Christine Thalwitz, president of The Center’s Board of Directors and co-chair of the committee tasked with finding a new executive director. “We are thrilled to have someone with her passion, insight, and innovative thinking lead the organization.”

When Benjamin assumes the role on November 1, she will oversee a full spectrum of operations, programming, fundraising, and community initiatives for an organization recognized as a national model for senior health and independence.

“I am excited and humbled to lead this vital community resource dedicated to healthy aging and look forward to working with the Board, my colleagues, community members, and partners to extend healthy life expectancy and quality of life for every older adult,” says Benjamin.

Benjamin succeeds Peter M. Thompson, who has served as Executive Director since 1999. Thompson played a pivotal role in The Center’s growth and achievements during his tenure and the organization extends its gratitude for his remarkable leadership and dedication to healthy aging.

About The Center

Since opening in 1960, originally as the Senior Center, The Center has never stopped growing and evolving to meet the changing needs of older adults. Its mission is to positively impact community by creating opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning.

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