



The
Glenridge

Charitable Foundation

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NEWS

By Marny Stuart, Executive Director

The Glenridge Academy Scholarship Fund Renamed the Nesbit Scholarship Fund

An Honor Well Deserved

Very few people have had the impact on the Glenridge Membership more than Member Mary “Bunny” Nesbit. When she moved to Sarasota and The Glenridge from Alexandria, Virginia, in March 2001, less than five months after The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch opened its doors. Bunny’s desire to propel herself into her new life was evident from the very beginning. Standing a tall 4’ 10,” there is nothing small about Bunny Nesbit. She is often referred to as the “Energizer bunny,” a takeoff on the battery company’s iconic mascot and its long-running, “keeps on going” tagline.

There isn’t anything Bunny would not do for her Glenridge family. From those early days, Bunny was involved with the Member newspaper until she turned the reigns over to someone else to concentrate on helping to promote The Glenridge Academy. Bunny was involved with the Academy from the very beginning. She worked with Member Jackie Pillsbury, the Academy’s visionary and first “learning leader.” Jackie served as its first Dean and held that position for several years. Under her leadership, the committee held its first meetings even before The Glenridge opened in November 2003.

As Dean of The Glenridge Academy, a job she has held since 2010, Bunny is well-known for her passion for learning. Four times a year, she assembles an

Academy catalog consisting of the classes currently being offered. She chooses the curriculum, based on Members’ interests and needs, hires the instructors, handles all the logistics, including where and when, and plans the meals for the “Lunch & Learn” classes. Her committee handles the registration process and works through the stampede of Members jockeying to be first in line to sign up for the courses of their choice. She collects registration fees and authorizes the payment for all the bills.

Thanks to her, Members can choose from any number of classes for a nominal fee or attend free art-related classes funded by the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund. Whether a Member is interested in a history class, learning about iPad/iPhone applications, or information on discovering the latest archeological dig in the middle east, the Academy is sure to please. The Academy committee under Bunny’s leadership works hard to ensure that the class line-up will tempt anyone’s interests.

But that is not all Bunny does:

- She works full-time as a “volunteer” for our community.
- For the past 12 years, she has managed The Glenridge Academy Scholarship Fund, first creating the program in 2010. Since that time, the Scholarship program has awarded 93 scholarships worth \$208,300.
- This year, when the Foundation received a grant from the Pezzillo family, Bunny took on the



management of the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund under the umbrella of the Glenridge Academy. In keeping with the mission of the fund, an additional four (4) art scholarships were awarded totaling \$12,000, for a total of 97 scholarship recipients receiving \$220,300 in financial assistance since the creation of the scholarship program. All the money raised and awarded in scholarships has come from the generosity of our Members.



Bunny Nesbit and Jim Cater

can flourish.

The newly named *Nesbit Scholarship Fund* will continue to support Glenridge’s Academy scholarship program for employees and their children. The Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund will continue under the umbrella of the Academy’s Nesbit Scholarship Fund but function as a separate financial entity.

Through our donors’ generosity, we hope to inspire Glenridge Members to see the value of life-long learning and include this educational fund in their annual giving and estate planning, thereby ensuring the continuance of learning

opportunities for the staff and their children for years to come.

There is a saying that philanthropy is the love of humanity. Through this humanistic tradition, individuals initiate selfless actions for the public good, which focuses on improving the quality of life for others. Isn’t that precisely what Bunny has done all these years at The Glenridge? She has given unselfishly of her time and talent for the benefit of our community. For that, we are truly thankful.

Things You May Not Know About Bunny Nesbit

Bunny loves opera, music, horse racing, fox hunting, is a fan of NASCAR, and enjoys working on computers. She is also an active member of the Church of the Redeemer.

She graduated from Sweet Briar College, a private women’s college established in 1901 in Sweet Briar, Virginia. The college nearly closed its doors in 2015 but was saved by donations and legal actions by alumnae, including Bunny. At the United States Army Data Processing School, she exhibited her keen interest in computers and launched her career in computer programming. She has held the positions as a Senior Software Programmer, Database Administrator, Manager of Database COBOL and FORTRAN Interface, Distributed Network Services, and Executive Staff Consultant to Federal Systems.

Bunny is originally from Upperville, Virginia, and has one daughter.

- Working with the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Committee as its Advisor, she oversaw an appreciation dinner for current and past Glenridge artists and everyone who works behind the scenes to create Glenridge’s annual art shows.
- Bunny was also instrumental in the success of the Kay Pezzillo Art Show held this past July to honor Kay and her artwork. This event featured over 150 pieces of Kay’s artwork and attracted Members, neighbors, friends, and staff during the three-day exhibit. The show also produced \$6,875.00 in donations to the fund.
- Bunny is the Glenridge Member Advisory Council (GMAC) secretary and currently serves as a Glenridge Ambassador, serves on the Glenridge Charitable Foundation Executive Committee, is a Trustee, and is on the Kitty Committee.
- She has also served on the Glenridge Performing Arts Center (GPAC) Committee, served as the chair of the Social Committee, and the Social Accountability Committee, the forerunner to the Foundation.

In honor of her commitment to The Glenridge and in recognition of her encouragement to life-long learning, the Executive Committee of The Glenridge Charitable Foundation voted to honor Bunny Nesbit by renaming *The Glenridge Academy Scholarship Fund* to the *Nesbit Scholarship Fund*. Learning never goes out of style and if we have learned anything from Bunny, it is learning helps to keep us young. It feeds our minds and inspires our souls. By honoring Bunny in this way, we are recognizing her past accomplishments and her inspiration and engagement in enhancing the quality of life here at The Glenridge, where everyone



#GIVINGTUESDAY

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Is Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Before you know it, the holidays will be upon us, and The Glenridge Charitable Foundation will be swamped with end-of-the-year donation distribution requests. #GivingTuesday is often referred to as the beginning of the holiday charitable gift-giving season. It falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and in between those two days is **Black Friday**, which is designated as the beginning of the holiday purchasing season; **Small Business Saturday**, which is an American holiday which encourages patrons to shop their small local businesses; and **Cyber Monday**, which has been tagged as the largest online shopping day of the year featuring exceptional bargains.

#GivingTuesday joined this group of special designated shopping events in 2012. It is globally recognized as a significant milestone in the end-of-the-year giving season. Millions of people around the world are inspired to donate to the causes they believe in and support.

Although we do not have an online donation program, the Foundation did not want the day to pass without participating in a day designed for the sole purpose of making a difference in our communities through philanthropy and volunteerism. **#GivingTuesday** gives you an opportunity to harness the power of the day and build support for your Foundation and your in-house charities. By making your donation to and through the Foundation, we hope to lighten your holiday workload.

During our last **#GivingTuesday** event, Members generously donated over \$110,000 to charitable causes. As a reminder, when considering your gift giving this holiday season, please consider your six Glenridge sponsored charities that need your continued support. They are - the Academy Scholarship Fund, the Benevolence Fund, the Compassion Fund, the Endowment Fund (GPAC), the Six Keys Fund, and the Team Member Emergency Assistance Fund. Please help us make a difference in our community this holiday season by supporting The Glenridge Charitable Foundation.



As you may have heard, The Glenridge Charitable Foundation can be supported by shopping with AmazonSmile. This program provides an excellent option to donate to The Glenridge Charitable Foundation (GCF) at no cost to you.

Members will find new deals every day with the same convenient shopping experience as Amazon. This unique program allows you to buy with confidence and support our community without leaving The Glenridge. Your donations will support programs such as our Six Keys Fund and the Team Member Emergency Assistance Fund with no administrative fees from Amazon.

Upon visiting AmazonSmile for the first time, Members will be prompted to select from a list of charitable foundations. You must first choose "Glenridge Charitable Foundation Inc." to ensure your purchase fulfills your donation preference. Then you may shop as you usually would, knowing the donation is taken care of by the SmileAmazon team.

The advantage of this shopping option is that AmazonSmile, a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon, will donate 0.5% of your qualified purchases to the GCF once you select it as your designated charity. Members may use an existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile, or if you don't already have one, you may create a new account at smile.amazon.com.

We hope this will inspire you to support the GCF and maximize your donation when you shop with AmazonSmile this holiday season.