

YOUR IMPACT in the

IONA COMMUNITY

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A Shared Commitment to Aging Well

Dear Friends,

A bank teller in the District noticed that one of his regular customers was struggling. The woman, whom we'll call Ms. Rose, had been coming in to withdraw large sums of cash, and each time she seemed disoriented.

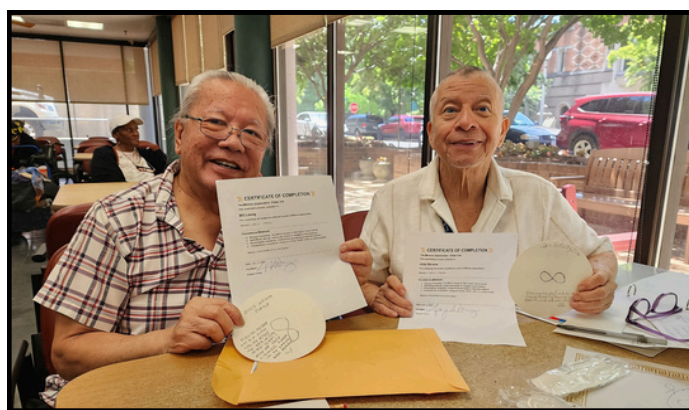
What most people wouldn't have known is that Ms. Rose was facing eviction and memory loss, living alone with no clear idea of where to turn. This was especially hard for someone who had spent their years working as an interpreter, helping other people find their way through unfamiliar situations.

Now, she needed someone in her corner.

The teller called Iona. Within weeks Ms. Rose had an Iona social worker, a lawyer, a plan for the back rent, and a path to long-term care. "I'm so glad I have help," she said. "I had no idea what to do."

Iona exists to make sure someone is looking out for people like Ms. Rose. Our social workers know the system well enough to move through it quickly, which is exactly what she needed.

Beyond that kind of immediate response, we also provide ongoing support. Our adult day health centers in Wards 3 and 8 give older adults living with dementia a full day of care, while giving their caregivers a full day to see a doctor, run errands, or simply rest.



Iona's Memory Appreciation class participants proudly display their Certificates of Completion after finishing the course.

Ms. Rose found help because a bank teller happened to pay attention. Not everyone has someone who notices. That is what pushes us to think bigger about how our city cares for people as they age.

So this summer, I called for the creation of a Dignity Fund, a permanent and protected commitment to older Washingtonians, one that reaches people before a crisis.

Until that fund exists, your generosity is what keeps meals arriving, caregivers supported, and a social worker available when someone needs one.

Ms. Rose said it better than I can. She had no idea what to do. Now she does, and she is not alone.

With gratitude,



Joon Bang

Joon Bang

CEO, Iona Senior Services

Meet Iona's Newest Board Members

Iona Senior Services is delighted to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. Their expertise, leadership, and shared commitment to older adults and caregivers will strengthen Iona's work to help everyone age with dignity, independence, and connection.



Robyn I. Stone, DrPH

A nationally recognized leader in aging services, Robyn Stone founded the LeadingAge Center for Applied Research in 1999 and served as its co-director and as senior vice president of research at LeadingAge until her retirement in 2026. With more than 40 years of experience, Robyn has dedicated her career to improving the care and quality of life of older adults and their families. Outside of work, Robyn enjoys traveling, theater, staying active, and spending time with her granddaughters.



Edwin L. Walker

With more than 40 years of experience advocating for older adults, Edwin Walker previously led the Administration on Aging within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, helping advance programs that support older adults in aging with dignity and independence. Though he ended his federal service in 2024, Edwin says he is not “retired, but rewired,” and continues to lend his expertise to numerous organizations advancing aging services and policy.

Special thanks to Iona's Board Executive Committee, as they step into FY27 leadership roles:

Mary Frances McGuinness, President
BB Otero, Vice President

Judith Kozlowski, Secretary
Ralph Bazilio, Treasurer

Visit www.iona.org to see our full Board of Directors, read their bios, and learn more about Iona's leadership.

“Iona Should Be the Third One” Sharon's Inspiration to Give

Long before Sharon Smith became an Iona donor, volunteer and Board President, she had a special place in her heart for older adults.

As a financial advisor in Washington, DC, Sharon worked with many older women who had built independent lives but lacked something equally important: connection. “They had money, but not community,” she remembers.

A friend who was serving on Iona's Board of Directors at that time introduced Sharon to the organization. Soon, she joined the Board and began delivering meals to older adults on weekends.

Sharon quickly learned that the visits offered much more than food.

“They were dependent not only on the food, but on the contact,” Sharon says.

During one delivery, an older woman invited Sharon inside to share family photographs. As they talked, the woman admitted she was becoming too frail to continue living alone. Then she asked, “Do you think Iona can help me?” Sharon made the referral.



Celebrate With Us!

Iona's Fall Cocktail Party

Join us on Thursday, October 29, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. for the Iona Fall Cocktail Party on the rooftop of the Crescendo at City Ridge.

This special evening brings together friends, supporters, and members of the Iona community to celebrate the impact we've made together over the past year. Your generosity helps Iona provide vital programs, resources, and support to older adults and caregivers throughout our community, and we look forward to celebrating all that you make possible.

Enjoy cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a silent auction featuring exciting items and experiences, all while connecting with others who share a commitment to Iona's mission and want to learn more about our impact.

Visit www.iona.org/special-events to purchase tickets by October 15.

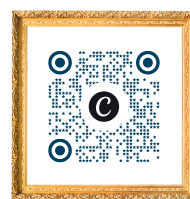
We hope you'll join us for an evening of connection, celebration, and community!

Fall Cocktail Party

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
6 - 8 PM

★★★★★

Rooftop of Crescendo at City Ridge
20 Ridge Sq NW



Scan to purchase tickets
by October 15.

That moment showed her how a simple interaction could open the door to much-needed support. As Sharon's involvement grew, eventually leading her to serve as Board President, so did her appreciation for Iona.

"The more programs I learned about, the more amazed I was with the breadth of services that we provide," she says.

Those experiences inspired Sharon to make Iona a priority in her charitable giving, including through a multi-year commitment and her estate plans.

Years ago, Sharon heard that people often choose a few organizations to support meaningfully: their school, their faith community and one other cause close to their heart.

Her thought was simple: "Iona should be the third one."

Today, Sharon hopes others will join her. "Every gift makes a difference," Sharon says. "Larger gifts are always good, but every gift matters."

Join Sharon in supporting Iona and helping ensure older adults and caregivers have the connection, resources and community they need to age well. Visit www.iona.org/ways-to-give/ to learn more about giving options.



Longtime Iona supporter, donor, and former Board President Sharon Smith celebrates with her partner at Iona's 50th Anniversary Celebration last fall.



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Supported by the D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living.



Make a Difference: Volunteer with Iona

Looking for a meaningful way to give back? Iona welcomes volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels. Whether you have a special talent to share or simply enjoy connecting with others, we'll help you find an opportunity that fits your interests and schedule.

Spend time with participants in our Adult Day Health programs. Help deliver meals at a Community Dining site. Lead a fitness, arts, or educational class through Around Town DC, or provide companionship as a Friendly Visitor. Volunteers can also support special events, fundraising, administrative projects, and more.

A few hours of your time can create connection, joy, and a stronger community for older adults and caregivers.

Ready to get involved? Email volunteer@iona.org or call (202) 895-9419.



Subscribe to our eNewsletter for the latest:
www.iona.org/enews

DONOR-ADVISED FUND DAY IS OCTOBER 8!

This national day of giving brings together donors, nonprofits, and donor-advised fund (DAF) providers to inspire generosity and amplify the impact of charitable giving.

If you have a DAF, consider recommending a grant to Iona Senior Services and help us continue supporting older adults and caregivers throughout our community.



Scan the QR Code to support Iona through your Donor-Advised Fund today!