

A Time of Service,

A Time of Need

SENIOR LIVING FOUNDATION of the American Foreign Service

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FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

March 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ~



Thanks to your strong support, the Senior Living Foundation (SLF) of the American Foreign Service continues to meet its most important mission: "taking care of our own."

Your ongoing, generous contributions made it possible for the Foundation to have an even stronger impact in the Foreign Service community. In 2016, SLF received over \$620,000 in individual donations, corporate gifts, and bequests. Examples of what SLF achieved include providing assistance to retired Foreign Service personnel and their spouses by defraying the costs of home health care services, senior housing, long term care, and so many other services.

Beyond SLF's assistance to those in need, the Foundation moved forward with several projects in 2016. We hosted our 7th Planning for Change (PFC) seminar in September. The successful event featured ten guest speakers with expertise in a variety of areas. Participants learned about new medicines coming to market, the challenge of increasing resistance to antibiotic drugs, and estate planning. SLF also continued to capture stories from the Foundation's beginnings through the Oral History Project. These testimonials and recordings have been added to the SLF website, *www.slfoundation.org*. You can also read more about PFC and the Oral History project inside this newsletter. Our SLF Facebook page has grown to nearly 200 fans since launching in 2015. Our effort to create an online community to share ideas has been effective and worthwhile. Thank you to those who took the time to join the conversation.

I am sorry to report the passing of John P. Shumate, an SLF Board Member and one of the founders of the Foundation. He died on August 15, 2016, at the age of 81. He joined the Foreign Service in 1957 and had a valued career at the State Department. After retiring from public service, John became the Executive Vice President of the American Foreign Service Protective Association, SLF's sponsor. As one of the founders of SLF, he helped define the strong work of the Foundation. We honor his memory by continuing the efforts that he and others began. Learn more about John P. Shumate's life on the back cover of this newsletter.

We cannot fulfill our mission without your ongoing generosity. I thank you for your dedication to the Foundation. I hope we can count on you again this year. It is your contributions that make it possible for SLF to continue "taking care of our own."

Sincerely, Marc Grossman

OVERVIEW

he Senior Living Foundation (SLF) continually strives to meet the needs of the Foreign Service family. In 2016, SLF provided assistance in many forms. Our Resource Center supported those who needed guidance in planning for the next stage in their lives. Also, active duty colleagues, especially those serving overseas who needed help making decisions for aging family members, called the Foundation for advice. Lastly, SLF defrayed the cost of utility bills, basic living expenses, prescriptions, medically necessary dental work, and care management services. All this is possible because of your financial support. Thank you for your generosity.

As mentioned, the Foundation has achieved great success from your ongoing contributions. But it also thrives because of the strong leadership given by SLF's distinguished Board of Directors. This year, we added three new members to the board. SLF would like to welcome Amb. Robert Blake, Jr., Amb. James Gadsden, and Gretchen Gerwe Welch. They served many years in the Foreign Service and bring a wealth of experience to the SLF Board. We are grateful for their involvement and their willingness to serve.

SLF has been busy with various outreach efforts this past year. To begin, SLF's leadership visited the State Department's Retirement

Office (RET) to share information on the purpose and the work of the Foundation. We appreciate the support and cooperation of the RET counselors in their interaction with clients. Also, for the first time, SLF joined AFSA and DACOR in cosponsoring the 2016 Foreign Affairs Day. SLF hosted an information table at the event to allow active duty and retired Foreign Service colleagues to learn more about the Foundation's work. In addition, SLF held its 7th Planning for Change Seminar. It featured a variety of speakers to prepare the audience for their next stage of life decisions.Read more and see pictures from all three of these events on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

There are other noteworthy SLF initiatives to highlight. The Oral History Project, which started in 2015, continues to expand. Please take the time to listen to the new recordings on SLF's website. The personal written testimony of the late John P. Shumate also is housed on this web page. Finally, SLF's Facebook community keeps growing. We share posts aimed at seniors and their caregivers. The content focuses on health, diet, exercise, safety, self-care, and more. If you haven't joined yet, please like SLF's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/seniorlivingfoundation.

As you can see, SLF remains committed to our mission of "taking care of our own." Thanks to your continued support, we were able to assist the many Foreign Service colleagues who turned to SLF for help. A few of their touching stories are shared on the following page.

SLF Mission Statement

The mission of the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service is to provide support to retired Foreign Service personnel and their spouses (including surviving or divorced spouses) and, on the basis of need, to defray the cost of home health care services, senior housing, long term care insurance, or other senior services that contribute to the health and security of the retired Foreign Service family.

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GRANT GIVING & RESOURCE CENTER

A recent widow of a retired FSO contacted SLF. Over the last decade, the real estate market had an adverse effect on the couple's investments. She had quit her job several months before to care for her ailing husband before his passing. With no income, children still in school, and mortgage payments due, she turned to SLF.

* We provided emergency grants to assist her until she received her survivor annuity and life insurance settlement.

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A retired FSO diagnosed with dementia and his wife moved in with their adult child and family for care support. When the retiree passed, there was a need for a companion aide for his widow.

* SLF provided three emergency grants to pay for the aide until the survivor annuity was processed.

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The family of an FS widow contacted the Foundation regarding help with an aide. The widow needed accompaniment on errands and medical appointments. Given some medical issues, the alternative would be for the widow to reside in a care facility.

* SLF provides a monthly grant for companion care several times a week, resulting in an improvement in the widow's overall health and quality of life.

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The divorced spouse of an FSO has received assistance from SLF for several years. Some health issues limit her mobility and make living independently difficult.

SLF pays for a Medigap policy to assist with medical expenses and provides a monthly grant to help with basic living expenses.

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A retired FSO with a degenerative disease resides in a long term care facility but recently took a turn for the worse. His wife contacted the Foundation for guidance on the steps to take when he passed.

The Resource Center provided her with the necessary information to contact the State Department. The spouse knows she can contact SLF for other assistance, if needed.



A family member of an FSO with dementia contacted the Foundation. SLF had helped arrange for care management services several years ago. This time, there was a need for assistance managing finances for the retiree.

SLF's Resource Center provided the family member with a list of attorneys in her area who are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the number for the Alzheimer Association's hotline. We assured her of SLF's continued availability for future assistance.

A retired FSO with dementia resides in a memory care unit but has outlived her savings. Her family members contacted SLF for help.

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* SLF provides a monthly grant which allows the retiree to remain in her current facility.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



A few years ago, the Senior Living Foundation (SLF) started on a journey to preserve our memories and tell our stories. The Oral History Project gathers information from individuals who were there in the early stages of SLF. Using an interview format, their voices serve as records from the people who participated in SLF's beginnings. The late John P. Shumate gave his story in a written format.

The Oral History Project strives to obtain information from different perspectives. The result is a collection of words from those who helped mold this thriving organization. These are the people who saw the need and took action. In 2016, new participants were included in SLF's Oral History Project. We added Jill Chobanian, SLF's first

> Social Work Consultant; Amb. Thomas R. Pickering and Amb. Sheldon J. Krys, SLF Board Members; and John P. Shumate, a founder and past Executive Director.

> There are nearly ten testimonies available on SLF's website presently. Visit *www.SLFoundation.org*, under the "Our Stories" tab, to experience these personal accounts for yourself. It will reveal and confirm that SLF has built a proud tradition of "taking care of our own."

RET LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION

On February 26, 2016, SLF's leadership visited the State Department's Retirement Office (RET). A lunchtime presentation was given to share the great accomplishments of SLF. The RET staff listened to SLF's mission and purpose as well as SLF's most impactful cases. At the same time, the SLF leadership heard the kind of matters that the RET staff encounter every day. The Foundation values the relationship that exists with the Retirement Office in DC and the HRSC in Charleston, SC. They are able to refer seniors for SLF's services and SLF can educate Foreign Service seniors on the benefits offered by the RET offices. These periodic meetings help identify how SLF and the Retirement Office can continue to best support each other.



FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAY





SLF participated in Foreign Affairs Day at the State Department on May 6, 2016. The event honors retired Foreign and Civil Service employees and serves as an annual homecoming celebration. This year, SLF joined AFSA and DACOR in cosponsoring the event. SLF hosted an information table, along with other organizations that serve the Foreign Service community. It was a great opportunity to share the work of the Foundation with others and to let them know SLF is available to assist.

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7th PLANNING FOR CHANGE SEMINAR

On September 15, 2016, the Senior Living Foundation (SLF) held its biennial Planning for Change Seminar. The goal of the event is to inform attendees and help them prepare for various challenges they may face as they age. SLF Chairman Marc Grossman welcomed attendees and introduced a diverse group of speakers before turning the program over to moderator Jim Eden, Chairman of the Eden Group.

Dr. Steve Miller, Chief Medical Officer of Express Scripts Inc., discussed the rising costs of prescriptions drugs and what innovations can be expected in drug therapies in upcoming years. He also provided useful information about the increase in antibiotic resistance and what can be done to combat it. (Hint: Wash hands.)

Dorothy Briggs, Director of Clinical Health Services at Aetna, and David Fortuna, a medical social worker at Sibley Memorial Hospital, provided information on what resources are available to patients during hospital confinement and when discharged from the hospital. Ms. Briggs discussed case management services provided by insurance carriers to assist in coordinating care in the hospital and during any necessary rehabilitation and therapy. Mr. Fortuna talked about the role of the discharge planning staff in arranging for follow-up care when a patient leaves the hospital. Following their brief presentations, they engaged with the audience in a discussion moderated by SLF Social Work Consultant Kate Aubert.

Dr. Charles Rosenfarb, Medical Director for the Bureau of Medical Services (MED) in the Department of State, is a trained gerontologist and presented on nutrition and digestive health for seniors. He concluded his presentation with an overview of changes at MED in recent years.

The day ended with presentations by Jeffrey Mounts, Managing Director for Global Compensation in the Office of the Comptroller/ Global Financial Services at the Department of State, and Jonathan Kinney of the law firm Bean, Kinney & Korman. Mr. Mounts discussed annuities and the process for accessing the online system. Mr. Kinney provided an in-depth discussion of wills, trusts, and estate planning.

Thank you to all who attended and participated in this year's seminar. As this educational event takes place every two years, SLF plans to hold its next Planning for Change Seminar in 2018.



EXPRESSION OF THANKS

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LOSS OF A FOUNDER

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that John P. Shumate passed away on Monday, August 15, 2016 at his home in Pittsboro, North Carolina. He was 81.

John joined the Foreign Service in 1957. Overseas assignments included Lima, Peru; Canberra, Australia; and Quito, Ecuador. Washington assignments included the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Foreign Service Institute (management studies), the Bureau of European Affairs (United Kingdom). He also worked at the Bureau of Cultural Affairs in ICA/USIA, the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, and the Bureau of Administration where he served as executive director.

Following his retirement from the Foreign Service, John became the Executive Vice President of the American Foreign Service Protective Association in 1985. He served in that capacity for almost 25 years.

In 1988, John founded the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service. The Senior Living Foundation was born out of his concern for retired colleagues. What was only a dream has become a vital part of the support system for the Foreign Service family. He will be remembered for his vision and dedication to our mission of "taking care of our own."

The Senior Living Foundation is grateful to have received bequests from:

- Mr. Norman Achilles Ms. Lois Clark Ms. Helenann Clarke Ms. Louise Fohl
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The Foundation thanks you for remembering us in your will. Your legacy will live beyond the years that you served your country.

These individuals believed in our mission of "taking care of our own." Their bequests will make an immense difference in the Foundation's ability to assist Foreign Service colleagues.

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