

# MEET THE TEAM

## Introducing The Centers at St. Camillus Recreation Services



**Mary Ellen Steele, BS, CTRS – Director of Recreation Services**

Mary Ellen Steele has been the Director of the Recreation Services Department at St. Camillus for 20 years. She has a BS degree in Therapeutic Recreation and has worked with older adults in long term care since she graduated from Hudson Valley Community College, and SUNY Brockport in 1978. In 2010, Mary Ellen was presented with the NYAHS Professional of the Year Award, and was recognized for creating an outstanding intergenerational program entitled *Back to School* that facilitates positive connections between generations within the community. Mary Ellen and her staff strive to plan and coordinate creative and interesting programs, and find new ways to tailor recreation programs to the needs, interests, and desires of the residents at The Centers at St. Camillus.

**Sue Mulligan – Recreation Leader**

Sue first joined St. Camillus in May, 1990, as a CNA. She later worked with registrants in the Adult Day Health Program where she enjoyed planning and carrying out various recreation activities and programs. In November of 2003, Sue became part of the Recreation Services Department and now oversees activities on the B Unit. She's often seen with camera in hand, capturing many of the residents enjoying their favorite activities. Sue is very patriotic, having had many family members serve in the military. Because of this, she is actively involved in the St. Camillus Veterans' Club, helping to plan in-house meetings, as well as outings for the Vets to attend in the community. Sue wears red, white and blue every Friday in support of our troops and in honor of our veterans.



**Amanda Mayne, BS, CTRS – Certified Therapeutic Recreation Therapist**

Amanda Mayne has been a member of the Recreation Department at St. Camillus for 10 years. While completing her internship, she alternated between Adult Day Health and Long Term Care, and spent additional time on the Brain Injury Unit. After graduating from Utica College in 2001 with a BS degree in Therapeutic Recreation, Amanda became employed as the Recreation Therapist for the 3rd floor. Amanda utilizes recreational programs and one-to-one interventions to help improve residents' overall health and well-being. In cooperation with Keryn Cordon, Amanda also serves as co-leader of the very popular Red Hat Society. This group allows female residents to socialize with each other, participate in community service projects, and learn more about resources in our community.

**Danielle Luibrand, BA – Recreation Leader**

Danielle has been employed at St. Camillus since March 2010 and works as the Recreation Leader on the D Unit. She holds a BA degree in Sociology from SUNY Cortland and has 14 years prior experience as a recreation leader at Rosewood Heights. Danielle has implemented a book club program at St. Camillus, through which residents who are avid readers enjoy discussing and lending books to one another. As a special treat, she brings in her two wonderful lap dogs, Louie and Tobie, who bring much joy to the residents they visit.



**Keryn Cordon, BA – Recreation Leader**

Keryn has been employed by St. Camillus since March of 2003. She is a graduate of SUNY Oswego with a BA in Psychology. You can find her on the C Unit conducting various group activities, decorating, and assisting the residents and unit as needed. Keryn is in charge of the Red Hat Society, with the help of her fellow co-worker, Amanda Mayne, preparing and implementing in-house and community events for the "Red Hat Mamma" members. She may best be known as the "mother of Jessica," who visits St. Camillus on a regular basis, bringing cheer and smiles to the staff and residents alike, and bridging the generations.

## **Christopher "CJ" Sierotnik, BS – Recreation Therapist**

C.J. received his BS degree in Recreation from SUNY Cortland in 2007. He worked as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist for two years prior to coming to St. Camillus in 2009. C.J. currently works as a Recreation Therapist for the Adult Day Health Program, and has found it to be quite different from a long-term care setting. "Working with such a diverse population is challenging and fun; I enjoy seeing how the different personalities and interests mesh. The staff at St. Camillus is very compassionate, and the registrants are amazing. In doing this type of work I can see the benefits of therapeutic recreation."



## **Annette Havens, BA, MA, CTRS – Therapeutic Recreation Specialist**

Annette has been employed by St. Camillus since September 2007. She graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1995 with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech and Language, and received her Master's degree in 2006 from SUNY Cortland in Therapeutic Recreation. Annette works on the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, providing one-to-one recreation services with the patients. She helps patients improve their functional abilities, gain new skills, and pursue their leisure interests.

## **Laurie Parker – Recreation Leader**

Laurie has been a member of the St. Camillus staff since October, 1996. She's seen many changes over the years, but one thing has remained constant – her love for her job. She brings cheer and enjoyment to all the residents on the 2nd floor, where you can regularly hear laughter as Laurie facilitates activities with the residents. She's responsible for developing the *Candid Camera* and *Younger Generation* groups. "It's great working with a diverse group of people – people of all ages and cultures. The 2nd floor is like a second family to one another and we continue to learn new things from one another."



## **Brian Gibbons, AS – Therapeutic Recreation Assistant**

Brian has an AS degree from Morrisville College and completed additional recreation studies at SUNY Cortland. He worked for years in the Adult Day Health Program and Continuing Care, and now oversees recreation services for the KB Unit, working with patients in need of short-term physical rehabilitation. He helps patients adapt to physical and cognitive activities, encouraging participation in group and independent leisure activities. He also leads the bi-monthly Chi Kung classes for patients and residents. As patients return to their homes, Brian helps them remain active by providing various recreation ideas and encourages a social connection with other patients to share ideas, goals, and challenges.

## **Recreation Services works in conjunction with The Cognitive Health Services Team:**

### **Ellen Somers, MA, LMHC – Coordinator, Cognitive Health Services**

Ellen is responsible for developing new programs and services that enhance the quality of life for persons with cognitive impairment who are served by St. Camillus' programs. In addition, Ellen works with older adults who want to learn how to maintain their brain health. She has a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology, a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, and is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Over the last 25 years, Ellen has worked with a number of different populations, but her primary focus since 1994, and her true passion, has been working with persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.



## **Cheryl Hylton, RN – Cognitive Health Specialist**

Cheryl has worn many hats since coming to St. Camillus in 1995. She was the CNA Program Coordinator and primary instructor, training over 500 nurse's aides. She also worked in Staff Education orienting nursing staff, and served for five years as the President of the Area Gerontological Educators (AGE). After two years in Home Care as a Nursing Team Leader, she joined Alzheimer's Services (now Cognitive Health Services). Cheryl teaches *Serper* classes, *Memory Academy*, *Powerful Tools for Caregivers*, and *Hands-on Workshops for Caregivers*, CPR, and other community based programs for brain health. Her favorite quote? "The little things are the big things."