

s Place  
The Viola Isabella Learning Center



Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Karen M. Kelly, Kathleen Bordelon, Malinda Polite, & Rep. Jim Himes at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Viola's Place – The Viola Isabella Learning Center at SilverSource

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the SilverSource Inspiring Lives Celebration: our event committee, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests. The event was a powerful reminder of what makes our community special: our shared commitment to our seniors.

That same spirit made another important milestone possible: the opening of Viola's Place – The Viola Isabella Learning Center. Digital skills have become essential for maintaining independence, staying connected to loved ones, accessing services, and navigating the online world. We are excited to offer a space where seniors can learn, explore, and build those skills.

While the needs of older adults continue to evolve, our mission remains the same: to help them live with dignity, stability, and connection.

Thank you for being part of this work.

Warmly,

**Kathleen Bordelon**  
Chief Executive Officer

year before, a staggering 137% increase. While losses among older adults rose 59% across the nation, Connecticut's increase was more than twice that rate.

Last year, investment scams were the costliest fraud category affecting older adults, accounting for more than \$3.5 billion in reported losses nationwide. For retirees on fixed incomes, the consequences can be devastating. Seniors don't have years of future earnings to rebuild lost savings. Money lost to fraud is money intended for housing, healthcare, and groceries.

**Connecticut seniors reported more than \$73 million in fraud losses in 2025, up from about \$31 million in 2024.**

Fraud schemes have become increasingly sophisticated, using technology, impersonation tactics, and emotional manipulation to gain victims' trust. The FBI notes that older adults are often targeted because they have accumulated savings and are more likely to be approached by criminals posing as trusted organizations or individuals.

As more aspects of daily life move online, digital literacy has become an essential part of financial security. That's why we opened *Viola's Place – The Viola Isabella Learning Center*, a new initiative designed to help older adults build digital skills, recognize common scam tactics, and confidently navigate an increasingly online world.

## SilverSource Impact

Year ending Feb 28, 2026

**1,475**  
Seniors reached

**68%**  
of our clients  
were women

**42%**  
lived below the  
federal poverty line  
(household income of  
\$15,960 for a single person)

**76**  
Average age  
of our clients

**8**  
Centenarians

## \$7.7 Billion Stolen from Seniors

In 2025, Americans ages 60 and older lost \$7.7 billion to online fraud, according to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. That's almost 60% more than 2024 and the highest total reported by any age group.

In Connecticut, the increase has been especially steep. Connecticut seniors reported more than \$73 million in fraud losses in 2025, up from about \$31 million the

More than half of adults age 65 and older say new technology makes them feel overwhelmed, and nearly one-third cite a fear of making mistakes.

— National Council on Aging, cited in WorldMetrics, *Elderly and Technology Statistics 2026*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Cheryl

Cheryl joined SilverSource during the pandemic. She was one of the first volunteers to help us begin delivering groceries to seniors whose health or mobility challenges made it impossible for them to get to the grocery store. “I have one lady who uses a wheelchair but lives on the top floor of a high-rise building,” Cheryl says.

What started as a pandemic-era response became a five-year commitment, both for SilverSource and for Cheryl. “All the clients are so appreciative,” she says.

SilverSource is currently updating how we provide nutrition support and redirecting volunteer efforts and resources towards Viola’s Place with the goal of helping older adults gain skills and confidence that promote long-term independence, while also meeting their basic needs.

Just as Cheryl pivoted during the lockdown, she is once again embracing change and is our first volunteer to sign up to help older adults build their digital literacy skills.

## Welcome to Viola’s Place

In May, we cut the ribbon on **Viola’s Place – The Viola Isabella Learning Center at SilverSource**. This new learning initiative, made possible through a generous gift from board member Karen M. Kelly, will empower seniors with the skills they need to stay safe, connected, and confident online.

Viola’s Place will offer small-group classes, giving seniors hands-on support to use technology for everyday tasks such as accessing benefits portals,

“What SilverSource is doing is giving a lot of people their dignity, their sense of self-worth, and the feeling of being competent and capable.”

— Senator Richard Blumenthal

scheduling healthcare appointments, managing accounts, and staying in touch with loved ones.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the launch, including Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressman Jim Himes, Mayor Caroline Simmons, and Malinda Polite from the AARP. Your support shows just how much our community cares about its older residents.



Board Member Karen M. Kelly & Kathleen Bordelon at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Viola’s Place.

## An Evening of Inspiration and Impact



The Granata Family

This June, supporters gathered at the Stamford Yacht Club for **SilverSource’s Inspiring Lives Celebration**, raising critical funds to help older adults in our community access essential services, stay connected, and live safely and independently.

We honored Robert J. Granata, Chairman of First County Bank, with the **Adele Gordon Inspiring Lives Award** for his leadership and commitment to our

community. During his 19 years at First County Bank, Bob was a steadfast champion of SilverSource and our **Ride to Wellness program**. Our partnership with First County Bank and First County Bank Foundation, which has spanned more than two decades, has helped thousands of older adults reach critical medical appointments, maintain their health, and remain independent. As Bob retires, his legacy will continue through every ride provided and every life touched.

The evening featured wonderful live music, delicious food, beautiful waterfront views, and even a surprise video greeting from UConn’s men’s basketball coach Dan Hurley. But the true highlight was the spirit of generosity in the room. Friends reunited, new connections were made, and supporters, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners came together with a shared commitment to caring for our older neighbors. It was a joyful celebration of compassion, community, and the difference we can make together.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

## Community Learning Series *From Overwhelmed to Overjoyed*

**When:** Wed, October 28, 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Harry Bennett Branch of  
The Ferguson Library  
115 Vine Road, Stamford

SilverSource is launching a free Community Learning Series created for older adults and their families. Our first presentation, **From Overwhelmed to Overjoyed**, will offer practical strategies, expert guidance, and helpful tips for navigating the downsizing process. Participants will receive a checklist of essential documents and helpful tips.

## Improving Pathways to Behavioral Health Care

In April, the **Vita Health and Wellness Partnership** (VHWP) hosted its Behavioral Health Symposium for Older Adults at the Tully Health Center. As a member of the group's Steering Committee, Kathleen Bordelon spearheaded the event, convening community partners to advocate for stronger behavioral health support and clearer pathways to care for older adults.

The VHWP links Stamford-area health systems, community organizations, and municipal leaders to strengthen coordination and close gaps in services. The group is developing a comprehensive mental health resource guide for seniors and expanding connections among providers to make it easier for older adults and their families to find the support they need.

Dr. Marco Michael moderated the panel featuring Dr. Tichianaa Armah, SilverSource Board Member Roni Lang, LCSW, Dr. Allison McElhone, and SilverSource Chief Program Officer Alison Heim, LCSW.



## Growing to Meet the Need

The number of older adults in Stamford is rising, and so is the demand for services that help them remain safe and independent. To strengthen our response, SilverSource has hired Rebecca Blanton, LMSW, as our newest social worker.

A Connecticut native and graduate of the Columbia University School of Social Work, Rebecca has always felt called to support older adults. She was inspired to join the field by her close relationship with her grandparents, and later by her grandfather's struggles with dementia. Rebecca believes deeply in honoring our seniors.

"It's a demographic that is often overlooked, but older adults have so much wisdom and have taught us all so much. They deserve to live with dignity," she says.

Rebecca brings experience from senior centers, hospice programs, and community-based organizations serving older adults.

## Volunteers with Heart

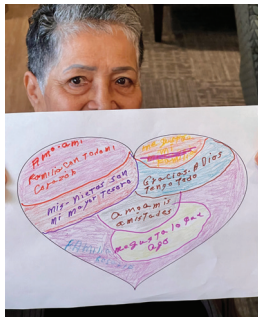
In June, SilverSource and Genworth volunteers enjoyed an afternoon of connection, creativity, and storytelling with seniors at Harboursite.

Residents created vibrant "Maps of the Heart," illustrating the people, places, and memories that mean the most to them.

Next came bingo, snacks, and cheerful competition. The room was full of the kind of easy conversation that helps build belonging, something all seniors deserve.

These shared moments matter deeply: nearly 25% of older adults are socially isolated, and a third of all adults over 50 reports feeling lonely. For seniors, isolation isn't just emotional. It's linked to higher risks of depression, heart disease, and even dementia.

We are deeply grateful for Genworth's ongoing generosity and partnership. Their annual support, and the genuine kindness their volunteers bring, help SilverSource create moments that brighten the lives of local seniors and strengthen the social bonds that protect their health.



## Giving Guidance and Compassion

Every day, SilverSource helps seniors and their caregivers facing unexpected crises regain stability, dignity, and hope when they need it most. When Blanca's husband, Roberto, suffered a devastating

brain injury after falling from a ladder at work, their lives changed overnight. Roberto required around-the-clock care, forcing Blanca to leave her job to become his full-time caregiver. Without family nearby and with no income, the couple quickly fell behind on rent, utilities, and groceries. "We were in a very dark situation," Blanca recalls.

SilverSource stepped in with emergency financial assistance and connected Blanca with Isabel, a bilingual social worker who became a steady source of guidance and compassion.

After Roberto passed away, Isabel continued to help Blanca through her grief and the difficult transition that followed. "When I met Isabel, I felt I had a family. She is my angel."



**"SilverSource was such a blessing. They helped pay for my utilities, supported me. They gave me so much financial and emotional support."**

**- Blanca, client**



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SilverSource advances the dignity, independence, and quality of life of older adults by providing guidance for families and supportive services to those in need, engaging in community partnerships, and advocating for sound public policies.



*Join Us*  
**Monday | 10.05.26**

**Rockrimmon Country Club**



For sponsorship, ticket info, and event details, visit [SilverSource.org](http://SilverSource.org)

SilverSource, a 501(c)(3) public charity, serves as a lifeline and resource for older adults—providing critical support to help seniors stay safe, healthy, and independent. Federal Tax ID #99-1895904

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