

Tom Getreuer Takes Helm of SilverSource Board

Q&A with our New Board Chair

Tom Getreuer, DDS, MAGD, has served on the SilverSource Board since 2013, and was elected to serve as Board Chair at our Annual Meeting in June. Tom also serves as Chair of the Stamford Health Commission, and recently retired from a 40-year career as a dentist in Stamford.



Q: What connected you to SilverSource and the Board?

A: My good friend Don Case got me involved with SilverSource. I have been on many Boards over the years and none compare to this one for organization, purpose, and a dedicated CEO and staff who live for what they can do for seniors!

Serving on the Stamford Health Commission, I watched years ago as the City slowly dismantled its social programs including senior services. As the needs of the senior population grew exponentially, SilverSource was on the ground working to fill the void. Due to the foresight of its founders, SilverSource enjoys a solid 112-year history and long-term financial stability. Because of the agency's established reputation, we have earned the position as the "go to" organization for older adult services in the region.

I like the fact that SilverSource is consistently evolving to meet the growing needs of seniors in need. Our Board is made up of the most committed volunteers you could ever find who believe in the mission and understand the intricacies of such an essential human services role.

Q: What impassions you about SilverSource? What do you hope to accomplish?

A: Our Board members are very proud to be a part of an organization that provides a safety net to seniors in need. Without SilverSource, there would be many more older residents in our community who would be unable to keep a roof over their heads, with the heat and lights on, food on the table and access to the medical care they need. We are filling an incredibly vital role.

Covid-19 is the best example of how our organization can switch gears on a dime. Once the pandemic was declared, the needs of our vulnerable population changed overnight. Getting food was suddenly life threatening. Kathleen and volunteers from all over the City began accessing food and delivering groceries to people who could no longer go outside their homes. Some 135,000 meals have been delivered to date! An astounding accomplishment, by so few for so many.

Not a little bit of my passion about SilverSource comes from Kathleen Bordelon who is just such an amazing burst of energy for the organization. I am hoping to create much more political exposure for the agency. As a model organization, we need to continue to increase our visibility and our funding, as the number of seniors is growing, and Connecticut is an expensive place to grow old.

Q: Tell us about your personal life – career, role models, family?

A: I attended Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery. I loved dentistry from day one and never looked back.

My role model in life was my father. He had an extraordinary tale of Holocaust survival at age 17. He was on the run for years, ending up in Shanghai, China until he could secure a visa for the USA. After surviving those horrors he gladly served his new country in the US Navy, but was then denied admission to University because he was a Jew. But he persevered until he gained entrance to NYU through the GI Bill. Some 31 members of his family had perished in the Nazi camps, and he and two cousins were all that was left. Try getting out of bed each day with that on your mind. He pushed on and made a great life for us, his children. He was a most honorable man and believed in truth and justice as a way of life.

I am married to a wonderful woman who has been the light of my life forever. We have two daughters and a grandchild on the way. So life continues to be exciting!