



For Immediate Release

Contact: Lisa Sherman-Cohen
(347) 539-7382
ls Shermanpr@aol.com

SEVEN NEW MEMBERS JOIN SENIOR SERVICES OF STAMFORD'S BOARD TO HELP LEAD CHANGE

Agency Prepares to Address Needs of Growing Baby Boomer Population

Stamford, CT – December 11, 2014 - As the percentage of older adults in Stamford is on the rise, [Senior Services of Stamford](#), a nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of support services to seniors in the Greater Stamford area, is making strategic adjustments that begin with the addition of seven esteemed community members to its Board of Trustees. The new board members are current and former corporate and nonprofit leaders who share the organization's commitment to helping seniors live more secure, independent and fulfilled lives. They include: **Jerome Berkman, Kristella Garcia, Robert James, Kari Pollak, Mary Lou Rinaldi, Samuel J. Starks, and Patricia Squires.**

"In anticipation of our city's shifting demographics, we have been having strategic conversations with national and regional councils on aging, civic and community leaders, agency administrators and our clients to assess the role of our organization going forward," said Board Chair Dr. Donald Case. "We welcome the knowledge and dedication of our new board members to help us implement necessary changes to better serve seniors from all walks of life in a spirit of personal caring and concern."

Under the leadership of Executive Director Kathleen Bordelon, Senior Services of Stamford expects to announce the results of its research and the implications for the organization in early 2015. "As the need for reliable information and guidance is expected to increase dramatically, we are positioned to be the go-to resource for older adults - their families and care givers - particularly on matters like aging in place, home healthcare decisions and coaching through life transitions," said Bordelon. "Each of our board members brings expertise we need at this significant time for the agency."

Joining the organization's existing roster of 13 Trustees, the new board member's terms began September 23, 2014 and will run through June 2017.

About Senior Services of Stamford

Senior Services of Stamford, founded in 1908, is an independent, nonprofit agency that facilitates the expedited delivery of individual assistance, financial support, and other services that positively improve quality of life while serving as a resource center and referral source for issues facing seniors and related support programs. Senior Services of Stamford is located at 2009 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905. More information is available on the organization's website: www.seniorservicesofstamford.org.

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Biographical information about the new Board members is below:

Jerome Berkman, Esq., is an attorney with Day Pitney, LLP in Stamford, CT. He has specialized in commercial real estate for more than 40 years. He represented the sole urban renewal redeveloper of Stamford, CT in the construction, financing, and leasing of multitenant office buildings, single-tenant office buildings, a hotel, and a major downtown shopping mall. Through the years, he has represented landlords and tenants in millions of square feet of commercial leases as well as developers in thousands of units of multifamily rental housing in the Northeast. He has also represented borrowers of long-term secure loans for properties ranging from residential to hotels to office parks to unimproved land.

Kristella Garcia is an executive and monument consultant at Bosak Funeral Home. She has a long history of service to the Greater Stamford community. She was awarded the “2003 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year” for the State of Connecticut and in 2004 she was invited to facilitate a workshop on Entrepreneurship and Education sponsored by the CT Department of Labor. She has been teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) to immigrants primarily of Hispanic decent and is collaborating with community organizations to provide the students with access to services such as childcare, job training and development as well as other community resources. She serves on the Finance Council at St. Benedict, Our Lady of Montserrat Church and as Commissioner for the Stamford Housing Authority Commission.

Robert James is an entrepreneur and a former/retired AT&T and IBM executive with more than 40 years of experience as a senior executive and entrepreneur. His expertise in technology solutions and his commitment to community issues is longstanding. James has many outstanding achievements during his career and is known for his systems approach to consulting and sales development and data. At IBM he started the network consulting group and was named to the Chairman’s task force for industry specialization and later appointed Vice President Telecommunications Industry. He has served on many for-profit and non-profit Boards and has taught self-sufficiency and health awareness in the Black and Hispanic communities. James is the former Board Chair of the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut and a member of the 100 Black Men of Stamford.

Kari Pollak has served as the Special Events Manager for Stamford Hospital Foundation since 2007. She runs many events each year including work on the *Dream Ball*, annual Golf outing, and the *Hope in Motion* walk/ride/run event. She was named the 2011 Employee of the Year. As an entrepreneur, she founded and operated the pottery shop, Hand Painted on Bedford Street for nine years, which she subsequently sold. Her prior experience includes serving as the Director, Youth Services at the Stamford Jewish Center. Kari serves on the Board of the Stamford YMCA and previously served on advisory committees for the Bartlett Arboretum and Inspirica.

Mary Lou Rinaldi is a former HR executive at GE Capital where she was employed for 20 years in a variety of roles, including talent identification and development in the 49 countries where GE does business. For the past 35 years, she has been involved in a broad range of public and community service in the Stamford area. She was elected to eight consecutive terms on Stamford’s Board of Representatives and four consecutive

terms on the Board of Finance. Her peers have elected Rinaldi as President of the Board of Representatives and Chairperson of the Board of Finance – the only person in the history of the City of Stamford to hold both leadership positions. In 1998, Rinaldi was selected to join the Advisory Committee for Management Education of INSEAD, the European Institute of Business Administration. In 2000, Rinaldi was the recipient of GE’s prestigious Philippe Award, in recognition of her Outstanding Community Leadership. Rinaldi is a Director of the Classified Employees Pension Fund and the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Boards of the City of Stamford. She is also a member of the Board of Corporators of First County Bank.

Samuel J. Starks is an attorney with a private practice in Stamford, CT. He practices primarily in the fields of probate law and estate planning, elder law and health care law. He has been in practice in Fairfield County since 1987. Prior to forming his private practice, he was employed by the Health Care Financing Administration and the Office of the Inspector General, both of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Elder Law and Probate sections of the Connecticut Bar Association. He serves or has served on the Board of Directors of the Smith House Health Care Center, the Southwestern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging and the Stamford Senior Center, and as an adjunct professor at Pace University Law School and Sacred Heart University.

Patricia Squires is the Executive Director of Stamford Emergency Medical Services, Inc. Her experience includes service as President of the Access Ambulance Company, Inc. Her legal career includes serving as an associate at Robinson & Cole, LLP, where she practiced administrative law with an emphasis on health care, involving managed care, contracting, licensing, and certificate of need, professional disciplinary matters, risk management and corporate compliance. As an associate at Pullman & Comley, LLC, she practiced health care law, representing health care clients including hospitals, nursing homes, medical groups, medical equipment providers and health care professionals. In addition, Ms. Squires received a BS in nursing from the University of Bridgeport and worked as a Case Manager and as a Staff Nurse, in the ER at Norwalk Hospital.

Trustees are selected to serve two consecutive three-year terms. The new members join the organization’s current Board of Trustees now including:

Chair	Donald J. Case, D.M.D
Secretary	Judy Heft
Vice Chairs	Tracey Alston, Kate Mulvany
Asst. Secretary	Gerald Fox Jr. Esq.
Treasurer	Michael G. Mezzapelle
Asst. Treasurer	John Louizos, Esq.
	Jerome Berkman, Esq.
	Barry Coutant
	Thomas R. Getreuer, DDS
	Kristella Garcia
	Adele Gordon
	Robert James
	Karen M. Kelly
	Diana Lenkowsky
	Mary Maarbjerg
	Kari Pollak
	Mary Lou Rinaldi
	Patricia Squires
	Samuel J. Starks, Esq.