

## The 2020 Business of Aging: Our Most Successful Event to Date



After the keynote address, our panelists discussed the future of housing, healthcare, and technology for older people.

The 2020 Business of Aging was the most attended Business of Aging in St. Mary's history. More than 500 people registered for our free event this year, and our virtual delivery allowed people from around the world to attend. That coupled with our insightful contributors and research-driven content made this year's event a huge success. If you missed the event, you can still watch it on our website at [www.StMaryDevelopment.org/business-of-aging](http://www.StMaryDevelopment.org/business-of-aging).

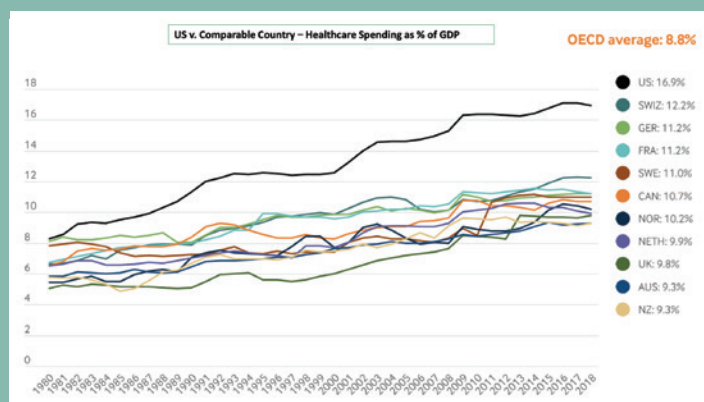
The event kicked off with an address from our keynote speaker Dominic Endicott, a partner at the venture capital firm, Nauta Capital. In the research he presented, Dominic discussed that health conditions disproportionately impact both racial minority groups and people living below the poverty line, and argued that the primary contributor to that disparity is America's dependence on automobiles. He noted that urban living environments reduce dependence on cars and thus also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase an individual's healthy movement, and are overall more affordable for residents.



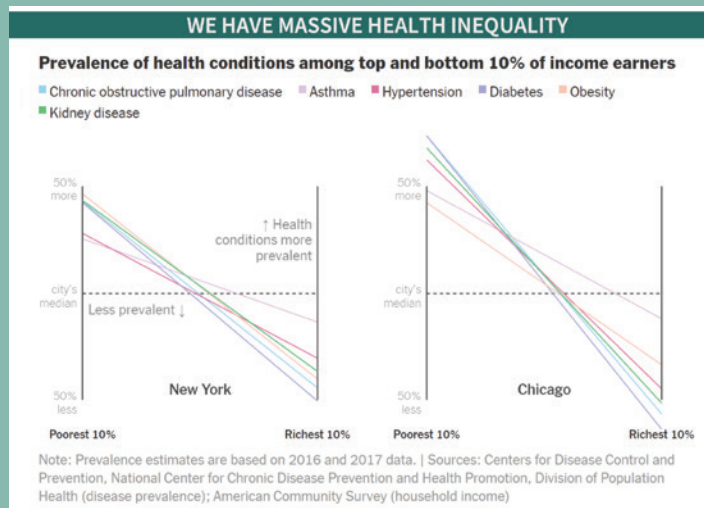
***"Every decade for the last 7 or 8 decades, there has been a decline in the quality of health [in America]."***

– Dominic Endicott, Business of Aging Keynote Speaker and Partner at Nauta Capital

He submitted that turning cities and towns into talent magnets – places for healthy living and aging – is a solution for better supporting our aging populations. He said these kinds of neighborhoods – citing examples like Copenhagen, New Orleans, and San Antonio – better support positive health outcomes and thus provide more healthy, more enjoyable, and longer-lasting lives for aging populations and young people alike.



Despite spending more on healthcare than most other first-world countries, more Americans suffer from obesity than any European country. To watch Dominic's full presentation, visit [www.stmarydevelopment.org/business-of-aging](http://www.stmarydevelopment.org/business-of-aging).



People with low incomes are significantly more likely to suffer from major health conditions like diabetes and obesity. To download Dominic's full deck, visit [www.stmarydevelopment.org/business-of-aging](http://www.stmarydevelopment.org/business-of-aging).

### Help Support Our Mission

St. Mary Development Corporation is a faith-based non-profit organization called by God to improve the quality of life for seniors. We create sustainable, affordable housing for those in need, and connect seniors to healthcare and other services. We work toward the day when all seniors – especially the economically disadvantaged – have a decent, affordable place to live and access to services. We are interested in creative ideas and opportunities for older people in our communities. Do you want to build a partnership with us? If so, please reach out to:

#### President:

Tim Bete  
P: 937-277-8149, ext. 210  
Email: [tbete@smdcd.org](mailto:tbete@smdcd.org)

#### V.P. Strategic Partnerships:

Cathy Campbell  
P: 937-277-8149, ext. 208  
Email: [ccampbell@smdcd.org](mailto:ccampbell@smdcd.org)

#### Make a gift

We depend on donors like you to help our low-income seniors continue to live independently. Your donation supports our St. Mary Connect service coordination. St. Mary Development Corporation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization; your charitable donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

#### Please make checks payable to:

St. Mary Development Corporation  
Attn: Cathy Campbell  
V.P. Strategic Partnerships  
2160 E. Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45403

**Make a secure online donation at:**  
**[www.StMaryDevelopment.org](http://www.StMaryDevelopment.org)**

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Later in our panel discussion, our panelists considered how telehealth, access to technology, and COVID-19 are impacting older people's health outcomes and access to health services. To watch the full presentation and panel discussion, visit [www.StMaryDevelopment.org/business-of-aging](http://www.StMaryDevelopment.org/business-of-aging).

We're already preparing for the 2021 Business of Aging and are looking for speakers and panelists. If you have innovative information on senior housing, healthcare, and technology that could be of value to our audience, reach out to Cathy Campbell at [ccampbell@smdcd.org](mailto:ccampbell@smdcd.org).

**Thank you to our  
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RiverHills Bank, and Kettering Health Network



## Mobile Grocery Partnership Gives Residents Access to Food Without Fear

St. Mary has partnered with a mobile grocer to give our residents access to food without having to use transportation or go to a grocery store. As many of our residents are at risk of suffering more severe consequences if they contract COVID-19, this partnership helps them purchase groceries without the fear that comes with entering crowded public spaces.



## "We're All in This Together"

You might be shocked to know that a 66-year-old man with a heart condition and a history of strokes has found beauty in a pandemic that's left him mostly confined to his apartment. But if you grew to know Michael Thurman and saw his innate resiliency, that shock would wear off.

Mr. Thurman is a seven-year resident of Biltmore Towers. He's typically an outdoorsy person who, before he retired, worked for the City of Dayton as an aquatics specialist training lifeguards. While he enjoys getting out of the building to spend time in nature and be active, even before COVID he wasn't able to get out much.

Mr. Thurman lost his left leg in a motorcycle accident, and his three strokes since then have left him mostly bound to a wheelchair. Later, he developed angina, adding another health complication and mobility limitation.

Because of these mobility issues, Mr. Thurman uses public services – like an Area Agency on Aging transportation service – to do everyday errands like getting groceries and going to medical appointments. Those services are coordinated with the help of his St. Mary Service Coordinator, Elicia, someone who has been instrumental in helping Mr. Thurman during his time at Biltmore Towers.

"All social workers don't live by the same principles. Some are just in it for the paycheck, and their primary interest isn't the resident. But not here."

Mr. Thurman said his St. Mary community has helped him feel a sense of purpose and belonging – two things that have helped him get through COVID.

"Living in Biltmore Towers gives me a sense of purpose. I found that as long as I was needed by someone else, it made me feel more vibrant."

So vibrant, in fact, that he's been able to stay grateful and optimistic during some of the most secluded months of his life.

"This pandemic happened for a reason: to pull mankind together so we realized we're all in the same boat. We're all in this together. There's a lot of beauty in the tragedy."



*St. Mary Resident Finds Beauty in COVID-19 to Get Through Hard Times*

## St. Mary Development Housing Updates



### Restoring the Historic Biltmore Towers

St. Mary Development is underway with renovations to restore this historic Dayton hotel. We're renovating the building's individual units, making mechanical updates, upgrading the building's elevators, and adding new laundry equipment. Residents will enjoy not only a beautiful building but a highly functional living community with quality furnishings. The renovation will provide 230 Dayton-area seniors with a new home and is scheduled for completion in December of 2021.



### Upgrades to Facilities and Services at Jaycee Towers

This past summer, St. Mary began providing service coordination to residents at Jaycee Towers. The building's 204 residents have been connected to resources like flu shots and benefits programs more than 1,800 times this year. This property is also undergoing renovations to upgrade the building.



### New Property Opens in Riverside, Ohio

St. Mary Development Corporation opened the doors of RiverWorks Lofts in April. RiverWorks is a family affordable housing community and occupancy of this property exceeded our expectations as it filled to capacity soon after opening. This shows just how much there is a need for affordable housing and the important work we are doing to serve the housing needs of our community.

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## A Note from St. Mary's President

When Dick McBride and Sr. Rose Wildenhaus started St. Mary Development, they challenged the status quo of what getting older meant. They focused on residents' quality of life and not just the creation of new affordable apartment communities. Through our annual Business of Aging event, we continue to challenge the status quo of aging. While our work is extremely effective and our residents tell us they are happy, there's more to do. One large question is how will technology help us as we get older? That was the focus of this year's Business of Aging event.

Whether it is using telehealth to talk with your doctor, using Facetime to talk with grandchildren, checking out ebooks from the library, or using a medical device to monitor your health, technology is clearly here to stay and improve our lives. Our 2019 research study showed that our residents' lack of access to the internet was keeping them from taking advantage of many new technologies. Through several generous donors, we're in the process of adding free Wi-Fi to our apartment communities and also providing Amazon Echo devices.

If you'd like to watch the video of our Business of Aging event, it can be found on our website: [www.StMaryDevelopment.org](http://www.StMaryDevelopment.org). And look for future stories in this newsletter about how our residents are using technology!

May God bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Bete".

Tim Bete  
President