



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mary's Place by the Sea Appoints Dawn Edwards as New Board Chair,  
Welcomes Monte Edwards as New Trustee**

*Board of Trustees and Leadership Team Recognize Contributions of Outgoing Chair  
Mary Ann LaSardo, Who Moves into Secretary Role, after Nine Years Guiding the Board*

**OCEAN GROVE, N.J., JUNE 12, 2026** – [Mary's Place by the Sea](#), a New Jersey non-profit organization that offers wellness retreats and services for women with cancer, announced today leadership changes on its Board of Trustees and the addition of a new Trustee, following its Annual Meeting.

Dawn Edwards, who joined the Board in 2024 and currently serves as Secretary, assumes the role of Board Chair, effective today. Mary Ann LaSardo served as Board Chair since 2017 and as Trustee since 2015; she will remain on the Board as Secretary for the 2026-2027 Board year, supporting Dawn Edwards during her transition. In addition, the Board of Trustees also welcomes Monte Edwards as a new Trustee. Monte Edwards is Dawn Edwards' spouse.

Founded in 2009, Mary's Place by the Sea has served over 17,000 women with cancer, offering complimentary overnight stays and day visits that include personalized services for the mind, body and soul, including oncology massage, counseling, Reiki, and much more at its custom-built home in Ocean Grove, N.J. Virtual services are also available before and after cancer treatment. All services are provided at no cost to guests.

"I am deeply grateful to Mary Ann for her remarkable nine years as Board Chair and her unwavering commitment to the women we serve, beginning from her time as a volunteer," said Michele Gannon, Mary's Place by the Sea Founder and Executive Director. "Watching Dawn grow from a guest who found healing at our home to the leader of our Board is one of the most meaningful things I've witnessed in our organization's history. We also welcome Monte, who brings to the Trustee role both professional excellence and a personal understanding of the impact of a cancer journey on a family. I look forward to their contributions as the Board guides Mary's Place toward our future goals and growth in support of our mission."

Dawn Edwards was first introduced to Mary's Place by the Sea as a guest in 2020. She has remained deeply involved as an active house volunteer in addition to her service as a Trustee.

"As a past guest of Mary's Place by the Sea, I was able to experience firsthand the support provided. I have been honored to serve as a Board member for this amazing organization, and remain equally humbled as I take on the Board Chair role," she said.

Additional Board updates include that Trustee Linda Roma is ending her service and will continue to support Mary's Place by the Sea mission as a weekly Reiki practitioner. Mary's Place by the Sea is thankful for her guidance and impact since she joined the Board in 2024. Dr.

Alison Ankiewicz remains Vice Chair for a second term, while Trustee Beth Fitzgerald assumes the role of Treasurer.

**About Dawn Edwards**

Dawn Edwards of Oceanport, N.J., has worked at International Flavors and Fragrances for 27+ years across multiple roles, and most recently as Project Management Consultant. She grew up in Monmouth County and continues to be an active member in her local community. Dawn received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

**About Monte Edwards**

Monte Edwards of Oceanport, N.J., is Managing Director, Senior Portfolio Manager at Center Street Capital Advisors, in Chatham, N.J. He has 29 years of experience in private client relationships. He is currently on the Board of Directors of YMCA of the Jersey Shore, is a member of the steering committee for St. Dorothea's Food Pantry in Eatontown, N.J., and is active within his faith community at Church of the Precious Blood in Monmouth Beach, N.J. He brings valuable experience in community and local government leadership.

**About Mary's Place by the Sea**

Mary's Place by the Sea is a nonprofit that supports women with cancer through their healing journey. Located in Ocean Grove, N.J., the organization allows guests to step away from their daily responsibilities to experience wellness retreats and integrative services that nourish the mind, body and soul at NO COST. Mary's Place by the Sea offers two-night retreats, day retreats and virtual services that include individual counseling, nutrition education, oncology massage and more. Mary's Place by the Sea has served over 17,000 women with cancer since opening its doors in 2009. Learn more: [www.marysplacebythesea.org](http://www.marysplacebythesea.org). Connect with Mary's Place by the Sea on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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