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## **Sunnyside Village Welcomes State Rep. James Buchanan**

**SARASOTA, Fla (July 26, 2023)** – Sunnyside Village hosted an educational tour of their community recently for Florida state Rep. James Buchanan. It was an opportunity for Rep. Buchanan to see firsthand the quality of life and care that happens in a Christian mission-oriented senior community, and also understand the threat of soaring costs and lagging funding.

Sunnyside Village residents shared their stories of high-quality care in an environment where everyone is onboard with the mission, and how the caring community has impacted their lives.

“From the moment I stepped inside, I could sense a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The staff were incredibly attentive, compassionate, and respectful towards the residents. They knew each by name and took the time to engage in meaningful conversations with them,” Rep. Buchanan said. “It was evident that they had developed strong relationships with each resident, fostering a sense of trust and comfort. I feel lucky to represent a district with such caring people.”

Nearly 40 percent of Sarasota County's population is over the age of 65. With the existing workforce gap, rapidly inflating costs and decreased revenues, maintaining funding for successful senior communities like Sunnyside Village is essential.

Nursing home sustainability during rapidly rising costs and decreasing reimbursements risks the future of all senior care communities. The conversations with in-tune lawmakers such as Rep. Buchanan help frame the importance of advocating for our seniors and long-term care services.

“As a leader within long term care and aging services, advocating that our future legislative sessions put seniors at the forefront of conversations is crucial,” said Alex Maliwacki, Health Services Administrator at Sunnyside Village. “Adequate workforce and reimbursement drives high quality, and quality care should remain a priority.”

Forward-thinking leaders in our Legislature are advocates for our community's aging population at this critical time.

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***Sunnyside Village*** is a not-for-profit Christian senior living community. Since 1968, Sunnyside's mission has been to honor God by enriching the lives of residents, staff and the community by providing homes, services and programs in a Christian environment. Sunnyside Village offers independent living, assisted living, memory care, short-term rehabilitation, long-term comprehensive care, and palliative care all within our distinctive 35-acre neighborhood. SNF#1535096, AL#0007952 [SunnysideVillage.org](http://SunnysideVillage.org)

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Rep. James Buchanan with Sunnyside Team, Tim Hurley, Alex Maliwacki, Anne LaCharity, Chris McGee, and Lacey Holland



Rep. James Buchanan chats with ALF resident, Rina F.