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CONTACT: Catherine Harris, Marketing Director
Phone: 262-321-7151
Email: charris@stmonicasseniorliving.com



A Statement from St. Monica's Senior Living Gallery Premier of The Passions Project

*Exhibit tells the story of living your passion even during a pandemic;
changes conversation around aging*

RACINE, WI – April 8, 2021 – St. Monica's Senior Living announced today that The Passions Project Gallery will premiere on May 18, 2021, in the north wing of the campus. The portrait series includes photographs of St. Monica's residents by nationally recognized Colorado photographer and Racine native, Heidi Wagner. Wagner returned home to Wisconsin in September of 2020, to photograph 20 St. Monica's residents pursuing their passions even during a pandemic. This event is part of St. Monica's 50th Jubilee Celebration. St. Monica's was founded by the passions of 4 Sisters of St. Rita and 50 years later their passion lives on effecting so many individuals.

Wagner founded The Passions Project in 2013, as a way to start changing the conversation around aging. Her photographs capture the essence of older adults doing what they love with vitality, independence and meaning. Instead of looking back at life as something that's passed, she looks at life as an exciting time where each day has purpose.

"People's eyes light up when they talk about their favorite activities," said Wagner, photographer and creator of The Passions Project. "When you see someone doing what they love to do, you no longer see their age, you see their passion."

Wagner spend time getting to know each resident she photographed by asking questions and listening to their stories. The portraits on display at St. Monica's will show residents living out their passions and even finding new passions, including painting, woodworking, photography, beading, bird watching and more.

"We are so thankful that Heidi brought The Passions Project home to Racine," said Loretta Baxter, St. Monica's Executive Director. "Even in the middle of the pandemic, our residents continued to live passionate, active lives. Our team worked hard, pioneering ways to keep everyone's spirits up and help them continue pursuing their passions through our person-centered care philosophy. Heidi's photographs show our seniors doing what they love and tells the story of the importance of living your passion no matter what is going on in the world around you."

St. Monica's Senior Living will host a Gallery Premier on May 18. The public can see a virtual tour of this exhibit on the St. Monica's Facebook page or their website after May 18, 2021.

About St. Monica's Senior Living

St. Monica's Senior Living is an award winning, nonprofit Assisted Living and Memory Care with strong roots in the Racine community for the past 50 years, founded by The Sisters of St. Rita and managed by a local, volunteer Board of Directors. St. Monica's was titled, "Best Senior Community" in Racine County for 4 consecutive years, is home to over 100 residents and employs over 120 workforce heroes who are dedicated to treating every resident like family. Website: www.stmonicasseniorliving.com

About Heidi Wagner

For 25 years, Colorado based photographer Heidi Wagner has used her camera to look closely at extraordinary people of all ages. Since 2013, Heidi Wagner has made The Passions Project the central focus of her creative work. Through The Passions Project, Wagner finds a platform to share the beauty and vitality she sees in people living with passion and purpose.

For information on The Passions Project visit: <http://www.thepassionsproject.com/>.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Catherine Harris, please contact her at 262-321-7151 or email: charris@stmonicasseniorliving.com