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Lawmakers Urge Support for Older Adults at Mystic Valley Elder Services

Mystic Valley Elder Services (Mystic Valley) convened state legislators and community leaders on March 31 for a powerful Legislative Breakfast highlighting the importance of programs for older adults and people with disabilities.

CEO Lisa Gurgone underscored Mystic Valley's legislative priorities, including key bills supporting in-home assistance, caregiver support and the Hospital to Home program, which helps patients transition from nursing facilities back to the community.

Legislative Co-Hosts this year were MA Representative Jeffrey Turco and Mary Ann Nay, District Director for MA Senator Bruce Tarr. Representative Turco delivered a moving reflection on his family's own caregiving journey, describing how Mystic Valley supported his mother-in-law in remaining at home. He urged attendees to "be fierce advocates" for families who depend on strong community-based programs.

Nay cited the importance of leadership working with organizations like Mystic Valley Elder Services to empower people to live safely and independently in their communities.

Attendees also heard a compelling story of love and resilience from Colleen Molloy and her husband Frank Ouellette, who contacted Mystic Valley after Colleen had a major stroke at age 51. The couple described Colleen's extended stay in a nursing facility, her struggle to recover, and the vital role Mystic Valley played in helping them transition to a safer home with support for both.

Mystic Valley extends its thanks to the leaders who shared their perspectives and reinforced the urgent need for investment in services that support aging adults and people with disabilities, including: MA Senator Sal DiDomenico, MA Senator Pat Jehlen, Em Sheeran from the Office of MA Senator Jason Lewis, MA Representative Christine Barber, MA Representative Paul Donato, MA Representative Richard Haggerty, MA Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian, staff for MA Representative Brad Jones, MA Representative Joe McGonagle, MA Representative Steve Ultrino, Everett Mayor Robert Van Campen, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson, Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Melrose Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis, and North Reading Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto.

Established in 1975, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency that provides a wide range of resources and care for older adults and adults with disabilities. It serves 11 communities in Greater Boston. For more information, please call 781-324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.