

'CALENDAR GIRLS' | RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS 'BARE IT ALL' IN PIN-UPS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

"The model of joy is what we want," said Deb Driscoll of their goal. "The model of laughter and joy."

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DALLAS — Susan Delarios had an idea. And the first reaction to that idea apparently did not go all that well.

"Well, I did talk to the executive director and almost caused a heart attack. But besides that...," she said with a smile.

The idea, as a resident of the retirement community Presbyterian Village North, came after she and a few other residents watched a movie, the 2003 film Calendar Girls, where a group of British women, of a certain age, decide to raise money for charity in the best way they knew possible: posing semi-nude for their very own calendar.

"Whose fault is this?" I asked when Delarios and six other female PVN residents agreed to sit down for an interview.

"Mine," Susan said as all the others laughed and pointed at her.

"And then later I thought. Well, why not? Why not? Let's do it," Delarios said.

So, over the course of a year, Delarios recruited 25 more retirement home residents to become "PVN Calendar Pin-ups."

82-year-old Carol Cress said no — twice.

"It only took her three times to get me," Cress said.

Celine Hubler agreed just to help with paperwork.

"So long as I was behind the scenes, I didn't care," she said.

"And yet she's in a picture," said Delarios

"Prosecco helps," Hubler said of the liquid courage each lady had in hand during our interview.

And sometimes with that liquid courage in hand, photo shoots popped up all over the Presbyterian Village North campus. And the result: a 2026 calendar called "Timeless Beauties - Barely Seasoned and Fabulous." It features women, tastefully posed (not actually naked but appearing to be — Delarios wanted to point out) for a skinny dip in the fitness center swimming pool, a little naked Mah Jongg in the game room, a lightly-clothed happy hour, a sunny day at the outdoor pond, a day with a few friends at the dog park, a few laughs on the pickleball court and a good semi-nude read in the library.

"Are you celebrities now?" I asked.

"No...we hope to be," Delarios said.

Celebrities or not, they are raising money for a charity of their own: the <u>T. Boone Pickens Hospice</u> program at <u>Forefront Living</u>, while also sending a not-so-thinly-disguised message.

"That we have fun," Delarios said.

"Age doesn't define you," said Debbie Driscoll.

"And aging is not to be feared," said Hubler.

"We hope we inspired them to get up every day and embrace life. Embrace the joy of living," added Sara Gilliam.

A week ago, the PVN Pin-Ups held a calendar reveal party for the residents of Presbyterian Village North. Their surprise was immediate.

"They're buying them already," Delarios exclaimed as the men of PVN lined up to pay \$20 each for a calendar of their own.

And a PVN resident named Duke Thornton answered their next question: would the men of PVN ever be brave enough to attempt this, too?

"Well, they don't have to be naked to be sexy," he said. "So what do you think?" he said to a friend, "Should I get some men together and we do the Full Monty?" he said with a laugh.

Until then, if you're in need of a 2026 calendar with a group of ladies age 59 to 92 enjoying a New Year's Eve Party bus in the buff or appearing to partake in a semi-nude tour of the PVN campus on a golf cart, this may be the calendar for you.

"We finally have no responsibilities. So we can be kids," Delarios said of the fun the calendar and photo shoots brought them.

"The model of joy is what we want," said Driscoll of their goal. "The model of laughter and joy."

Calendars, with proceeds going to the T. Boone Pickens Hospice Program at Forefront Living, can be <u>purchased at this address</u>.