

Continued from Scholarships

• **Tania Salazar** is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 and has worked at Oak Crest as a CNA since May of 2015. Tania is a nursing student at Kishwaukee College and hopes to continue her studies and pursue a career in pediatric care. She is a first generation college student and credits her parents with providing her the support and encouragement to follow her dreams and make a better life for herself and her family. In her essay application she wrote, "As I have completed my first year of nursing school, I have become even more convinced that nursing is not only a career, but a calling for me. I am determined to be the best nurse I can, in order to provide my patients with the best quality care."

• **Briana Williams** was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$5000. Brianna has worked at Oak Crest since June of 2016 in the house-keeping/laundry department. Briana has completed her studies at Kishwaukee College and will continue as a student at NIU where she will major in Accounting. Briana embraces the field of accounting and has a particular interest in Leadership, first as a participant and later as a facilitator in Illinois Leadership Seminars. During her scholarship interview she shared her future plans by saying, "My career goal is to complete a Master's Degree and pursue employment with an accounting firm that allows me to harness my potential, grow as a person, and most importantly help those around me."

The Board of Trustees, residents and staff congratulate these individuals on their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavors. Donations to the Center are tax deductible and more importantly provide the donor an opportunity to truly impact the lives of others. For additional information about creating a Legacy of Giving contact the Center at (815) 756-8461 or e-mail hoppennorth@oakcrestdekalb.org

Christmas Tree Walk

The 25th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House is planned for Sunday, December 8th, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. The Christmas season at Oak Crest is a very special time as we decorate and prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. This year's Walk will again feature beautiful trees, decorations, music and festivities. Mark your calendar, invite your family and friends and join us for an Oak Crest Christmas celebration.

Volunteers are encouraged to join us as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas season. Work on outdoor lights and displays will begin the first week in November with inside decorating beginning the second week. This is a great opportunity for individuals or clubs seeking service hours. Please contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461.

Calling All Crafters

If you have a love of crafting and want to spend an enjoyable afternoon with good friends, then join us every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in our Craft Studio. This group is made up of residents and community volunteers with a goal of creating and working on projects for our annual Arts and Craft Fest. We provide the supplies and sewing machine. You provide the ideas, talent and creativity. For more information contact Joan Launer at phone number (815) 756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org

Artwork

Visitors and residents often comment on the lovely decorations and variety of art displayed throughout the community. Many of these items have been given to Oak Crest by family and friends. If you have artwork – paintings, prints or sculptures that you would like to donate, please contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461.

Arts & Craft Fest

Mark your calendars and join your friends for the 9th Annual Oak Crest Arts & Craft Fest planned for Saturday, October 12th from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. This event serves as a warm welcome to autumn and serves as a fundraiser to benefit the Oak Crest Good Samaritan Fund. Each week residents and volunteers have been busy creating various crafts for this special event. Local community crafters and artists will also be featured and this is the perfect time to do some early holiday shopping or pick up that one-of-a-kind gift. The Fest will offer a wide variety of jewelry, glass sculptures, baby items, Christmas ornaments, and handmade cards, raffles, a "Kit n Kaboodle" table, "Grandma's Attic" and much more. To satisfy your sweet tooth Fest attendees won't want to miss out on the Bake Sale featuring homemade baked goods, snacks and applesauce donuts.

After spending a morning browsing the craft offerings, stop by our very own café and enjoy a delicious bowl of chili and homemade corn bread.

Volunteers, crafters and artists are encouraged to contact Joan Launer, Community Events Coordinator at phone number (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org

Fall For Volunteering

Fall is autumn colors, pumpkin patches, apple cider and the start of school. It is also the perfect time to explore the many volunteer opportunities at Oak Crest. Bring a family member or friend and join us on Saturday, September 21, 2:00 p.m. for an informational program and tea. Oak Crest volunteers make a difference each day as they assist with daily activities, shoppe or library duties, crafts and special events, etc. Whatever your interests or skills, Oak Crest volunteer opportunities are endless. Call 815-756-8461 to make your reservation for this special tea.

Board of Trustees

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- Rev. Jonathan Crail
- Rev. R. Brian Gilbert
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- Stephen Cichy

Mission Statement

The DeKalb Area Retirement Center is a faith based not-for-profit community serving people 62 years and older through a continuum of services enhancing an individual's quality of life.

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Rockford, Illinois
PERMIT NO. 2495

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, September 17, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Shoe Sale
- Saturday, September 21, 2:00 p.m. Volunteer Tea
- Tuesday, September 24, 2:00 p.m. Chicago Art Institute Insights program "All that Glitters"
- Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Annual Art and Craft Fest
- Sunday, December 1, 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Advent Service
- Sunday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 25th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House

Trips and Excursions

- October 8-10 Cranberry Autumn Harvest in Wisconsin
- October 16 The Wright Tour (Madison, Wisconsin.)
- November 4-8 Branson Holiday Show Extravaganza
- November 30 Chicago Shopping Trip
- December 28 Phantom of the Opera (Cadillac Palace)
- February 16-22 New Orleans
- April 8 My Fair Lady (Cadillac Palace)

For information Contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org.

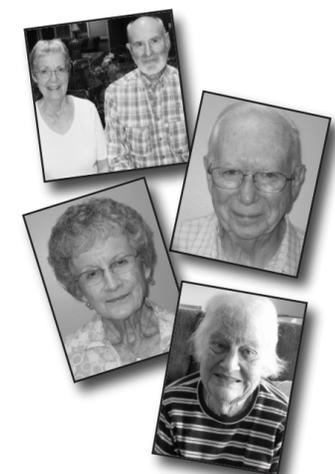
Return Service Requested

2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER



The Door Opens In Welcome



Top to bottom:
Paul & Florence Butler – Malta, IL
John Peterson – DeKalb, IL
Janet Porter – Lisle, IL
Janice Larson – DeKalb, IL

News of Interest to the Oak Crest Community and Friends

Fall 2019 • Volume 40 • Number 3

2019 Oak Crest Good Samaritan

Since 1977 it has been a tradition for the DeKalb Area Retirement Center-Oak Crest to name a community Good Samaritan. A Good Samaritan is a person who cares for others beyond the normal compassion of most people; a person who actively participates in various community organizations and combines community service with personal caring; a person who works quietly to better the lives of others. Over the years outstanding individuals, couples, and siblings have been selected for this very special award. This year Oak Crest residents, Trustees, and friends gathered to honor a resident Good Samaritan.

Following the opening comments made by Stephen Cichy, Oak Crest's Executive Director, a very meaningful keynote address was given by Rev. Jonathan Crail of the DeKalb United Methodist Church. Oak Crest Board Member, Joe Gastiger made the presentation of the 2019 Good Samaritan award to DiAnne Schmitt.

As a resident of the Oak Crest Community, DiAnne is a familiar face but her involvement at Oak Crest and within the larger community spans a lifetime. DiAnne's earliest memories of volunteering and community leadership go back to World War II when as a young girl her 4-H Club collected scrap metal and rubber tires to aid in the war effort. She was bitten by the volunteer bug and has spent her entire life in service to the community. For the last 50 years community organizations like the Kishwaukee Hospital Board, the Oak Crest Board of Trustees, Oak Crest Volunteer Service Corps, Jacob Haish Foundation Board, DeKalb Women's Club, DeKalb Drama and Arts Club, PTA, DeKalb United Methodist Foundation, Administrative Council and Methodist Women's Board have benefited from DiAnne's leadership.

DiAnne never seems to tire and her energy, enthusiasm and willingness to serve make her a valued member of any committee or service club. For the many people who make their home at Oak Crest, it was under DiAnne's leadership during her time as President, that the Oak Crest East addition was constructed. So, when it came time for DiAnne to plan her own retirement, she moved into that same addition and has called Oak Crest her official home since July of 2015. Oak Crest has been and continues to be the recipient of her generous spirit. She volunteers on committees, hosts events, works at the East reception desk greeting visitors and assisting with administrative tasks and she serves as a resident mentor. When someone is making the move to the Oak Crest community it is often DiAnne's welcoming smile, helpful direction and on-going support that makes the transition such a smooth one.

For those of you who have served with DiAnne and for those of you who have benefited from her willingness to step in and lend a hand, a comforting embrace or words of encouragement you know all too well that DiAnne is more than deserving of this honor. When she was notified of this award her response was one of surprise. She said, "Why me? I don't deserve this recognition. Surely there are others who have done more and given more." DiAnne's response was, I am sure, what one would expect from a Good Samaritan. You see as DiAnne travels down life's road she always stops along the way, reaches out a helping hand and makes the difference in the lives of others.

Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Dr. DeKalb. For additional information contact the Center at (815)756-8461 or visit the web at www.oakcrestdekalb.org.



DiAnne Schmitt pictured with Board Member Rev. Joe Gastiger

Featured Home

Come see for yourself... (floor plan 1300' duplex)

Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality services to the community. Each duplex home features a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, two bedrooms, garage, full basement and access to our facilities and amenities including our new on-site Bistro, fitness center and pool. More importantly we are building friendships and memories. We offer the guarantee of future care and peace of mind.



Come visit one of our featured 1300' duplex homes and see what all the excitement is about. Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Drive, DeKalb. Individuals interested in hearing more about this next chapter in Oak Crest history should contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461 or e-mail her at lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org

Oak Crest Rotary Club

The Oak Crest Area Rotary Club was formed in March 2018 to bring residents together with community members who are interested in community service and the fellowship of belonging to a service club.

Projects have included building two raised garden beds for the courtyard of the Oak Crest Health Center, purchasing a 20-foot flagpole, which serves as a lighted Christmas tree during the holiday season for the same courtyard, partnering with the DeKalb County Community Gardens to fund a pop-up food pantry, working with Network of Nations to bring foreign students attending NIU into contact with the community, and hold joint social events, and building a float for the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival for two years now.

The club meets to hear programs of interest two times a month at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays at Oak Crest. Contact club secretary Cliff Golden at cliffgolden@yahoo.com or call 815-758-5424 to learn more about the club and Rotary International.

Dear Friends,

As chairperson of the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees, I take this opportunity to thank all of you who graciously continue to support the Good Samaritan Fund.

This year, in support of those individuals who have outlived their financial resources, the Circle of Care Campaign has generated \$54,000 in cash contributions and pledges! If you have not already made your contribution, please consider it now. We look forward to hearing from you.

Truly, it is through your continued generosity and support that Oak Crest's commitment of quality care and service continues.

Many thanks,
Joe Gastiger
Community Relations Chair

From The Executive Director



For many people, autumn is a favorite time of year. Some people enjoy fall sporting events and the excitement of returning to school. Others, savor relief from the hot days of summer and the vibrant colors of the changing seasons. Still others enjoy participating in the various community events and festivals. At Oak Crest, our fall calendar is dedicated to our upcoming Arts & Craft Fest, Thanksgiving and plans for our upcoming Tree Walk.

These types of community festivities are a celebration of good fortune. They are usually an opportunity to show appreciation for the cycle of nature and the harvest of the growing season. However, successful harvests, like successful lives, are rarely the result of good fortune alone. Instead they are the result of good planning and hard work.

Each celebration of community, while being a social event, is also the acknowledgment that summer is ending and it is time to prepare for the

coming winter. Through experience, we know that preparing for winter is serious business. Like the changing seasons, there are many cycles in our lives. There are times of joy and sorrow and many decisions and preparations that should be made for our future. We could all learn something from these seasonal celebrations and start planning for our tomorrow today.

If your future plans include Oak Crest, I encourage you to reach out and set up a time to discuss all that Oak Crest has to offer. There really is no better time or season.

Stephen P Cichy
Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director

Truck

Oak Crest is looking for a full-sized pick-up truck for donation or purchase. Please contact Steve Cichy at (815)756-8461 or scichy@oakcrestdekalb.org

\$20,000 In Scholarships Awarded

In 2006 the Oak Crest Employee Scholarship Program began with a generous gift from the estate of former Oak Crest resident Jack Boyle. Later, former resident Guyla Winebrener added to the fund through a generous gift from her estate. Both Jack and Guyla saw the scholarship as an opportunity to create a legacy for future generations. The legacy took the form of an employee scholarship that would assist recipients in defraying the costs of tuition, fees, and textbooks. The scholarship was established to encourage and assist employees and their dependents in the pursuit of an accredited undergraduate degree or equivalent program of study. The scholarship is a fitting tribute

They are:

- **Aubrey Villarreal** is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount \$1000. Aubrey is the daughter of Certified Nursing Assistant, Brian Villarreal. Aubrey is a graduate of Sycamore High School. While completing her high school studies, Aubrey has been taking an evening CNA course at Kishwaukee College with a goal of furthering her education at Kishwaukee in the field of nursing. Her long-range goals are to complete her nursing degree and then move on to a university to pursue her studies and one day serve her community as a Nurse practitioner. Aubrey has already completed some required courses at Kishwaukee College, is an accom-



pictured back l-r Mark Hoppenworth, Josephine Hoppenworth & Katie Sherman front row l-r Justin Pottorff, Aubrey Villarreal and Tania Salazar) not pictured: Lilly Peterson & Briana Williams

plished clarinetist and volunteers at the hospital where she works closely with patients and staff. In her scholarship essay she wrote, "My volunteer experience in the health care field has allowed me to see the different roles played and how they all must work together. I have witnessed the value of teamwork, patience and hard work. I know that college is the best option for me to gain the education I want and to attain my dreams."

- **Mark Hoppenworth** is the recipient of an award in the amount of \$1000. Mark is the son of Oak Crest employees Liz and Joel Hoppenworth and

this year will be attending NIU as a junior where he will be majoring in Biology. Mark's scholarship application read, "College is a means to an end. With a college education, I will be able to take my interests and channel them into a career that I will find rewarding and productive. The best advice I ever received, stop thinking in terms of majors and courses and start thinking in terms of problems and solutions. What is the problem you want to solve? Figure out the problem and college will help you navigate your way to the solution." Mark plans on pursuing a career in the field of medical microbiology and hoping to work in a field that prevents and diagnoses infectious diseases and work to improve the lives of others.

- **Justin Pottorff** received a scholarship in the amount of \$1500. Justin is a past recipient and is the son of Bookkeeping/Office Assistant, Jill Pottorff. Justin will be a sophomore at the University of South Carolina where he is majoring in Chemical Engineering. His first year of college was a success and this next year he is looking forward to becoming more involved in university clubs and intramural sports. Justin still finds time to serve others and in June traveled with a mission team to Puerto Rico to assist with hurricane relief. During his scholarship interview Justin thanked the Board for their past support and added, "There is no question that I am going to have to work hard to get through college. Without a doubt, receiving an award would reduce my student debt and allow me to focus on my course work."

- **Josephine Hoppenworth** is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount of \$1500. Josephine is the daughter of employees Liz and Joel Hoppenworth. Josie is a graduate of DeKalb High School where she graduated in the top 10 of her class, was an Illinois State Scholar and member of the National Honor Society. Josie will be attending the University of Illinois where she will major in Civil Environmental Engineer-

ing. Josephine wrote in her scholarship essay, "With the condition of the existing environment, I feel confident in my decision to explore the field of environmental engineering. I have to believe that a well-educated, experienced University graduate can make a real difference in the world. In fact someone once said, you may not have broken this world; you just need to fix it. After all, if we don't work together to accept responsibility for the stewardship of this planet, who will?"

- **Katherine Sherman** was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Katie is a previous recipient and the daughter of Linda Sherman, Director of Resident Programming, and will be a sophomore at Kishwaukee College in the fall with a goal of a bachelor's degree in psychology. While balancing a rigorous college schedule, part-time job and volunteering at the local middle school and Oak Crest. During her scholarship interview, Katie said, "I am very interested in the field of psychology and specifically psychotherapy. Mental health is often overlooked and misunderstood in modern society; a perception that I want to help change."

- **Lilly Peterson** received a scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Lilly is the daughter of Oak Crest nurse Laura Peterson and is a recent graduate of DeKalb High School. Lilly will be attending Augustana College where she will pursue a degree in Public Health or social work. Her long-term objective is a master's degree and would like to focus her studies on working with underprivileged women of color faced with single parenthood. In her scholarship essay Lilly wrote, "My own childhood and life experiences have lead me to this career path. During my life, I have been the recipient of others' generosity. So many people helped my family and to them I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. These events shaped me into the person I am today. It taught me how to rely on myself, but more importantly, it taught me how essential the helpers of the world are, and how I knew I wanted to be one."