

From The Executive Director

Oak Crest continues to respond to the on-going health crisis and take the required steps necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the people who live and work within our community. The disease can be contracted in the space of one encounter, in distances of less than 6 feet and can be spread by individuals who exhibit no symptoms. Please remember the following restrictions are in place to minimize the spread of this highly contagious virus:

BUILDING ENTRY & SCREENING:

- Entry is limited to Oak Crest staff and authorized service providers. Temperature and symptom screenings are completed at time of entry and half-way through each shift.
- To minimize exposure, all staff wear personal protective equipment and all residents are directed to wear masks in common areas.

COVID-19 TESTING:

- Each week all residents in all levels of living are being tested for COVID-19.
- Mandatory staff testing is being conducted twice weekly. Results of these tests are shared in a timely manner with public health officials, residents, responsible family members, staff, and the Board of Trustees.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION:

- Independent and Personal Care residents moving into the community, returning from hospital in-patient or out-patient care, or returning from extended stays (six nights or more) will be directed to self-isolate for 14 days in their apartments. (Situations falling outside these parameters are reviewed by the Director of Nursing)
- Health Center residents returning from a hospital admission will be placed on isolation with staff adhering to required Public Health isolation protocols.
- Under the recommendations/direction of Public Health and the CDC, all quarantines and isolations are monitored by Oak Crest professional staff.

ON-SITE DINING/PROGRAMMING:

- All on-site group dining and programming has been suspended. Following all required safety measures, staff continues to provide Health Center and Personal Care residents with 1:1 interactions, individualized programming, and access to remote visits with family.

LEAVING THE CAMPUS:

- Residents residing in licensed units (including Health Center and Personal Care) may only leave the building for medical appointments. Whenever possible, telehealth services will be utilized. The necessity of any medical appointments will be reviewed by the Nursing Department. To maintain social distance and reduce the risk of exposure, any transportation for medical appointments must be scheduled with TransVac. Personal vehicles should not be used.
- Residents residing in Independent Living apartments are **STRONGLY** discouraged from leaving the building and interacting with people outside the Oak Crest community.

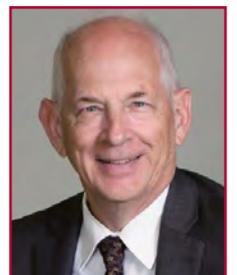
VISITORS:

- In-person visiting on the Oak Crest Campus for all residents, is prohibited. Exceptions would be closed window or balcony visits.

Since the beginning of this health crisis, I have witnessed unbelievable resilience and am reminded that the people who live and work at Oak Crest are some of the most courageous people you will ever meet. Although faced with the unknown, they continue to greet each day with an optimism and passion for life. This attitude alone makes all the difference. They are what makes Oak Crest great.



Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director



Our Mission

Oak Crest 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.

Our Vision

To be an innovative leader in senior adult services.

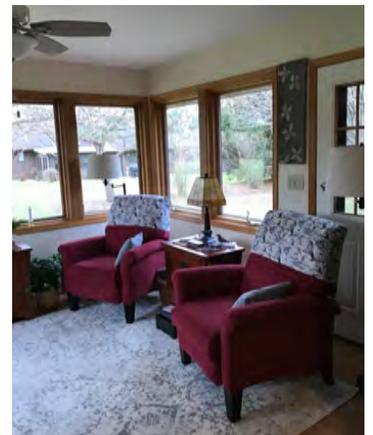
Come see for yourself....

Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality homes and services to the community. Each living unit features a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, garage parking and access to our new onsite 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 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 lhopenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org



1300 Square Foot Plan



Choosing A Retirement Community



Although the current health crisis is a reality, it will not last forever and does not change the fact that people will still need to make decisions that affect their retirement and future care. Ask most seniors where they would prefer to spend their golden years and they will say they would prefer to remain in their own homes. But ask those same seniors and they will tell you they are not sure how they would manage if they could no longer care for themselves or what options are available to them.

For those people planning for tomorrow and the unknowns associated with life, Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) like Oak Crest may offer the best of the best. With options ranging from independent living to 24-hour nursing care, Continuing Care Retirement Communities are the answer for an increasing number of people.

Time and again you hear stories of neighbors or friends who are suddenly faced with the care of a family member or friend. Unexpected, and at times when stress levels run high, the entire process is exhaustive and confusing.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities deliver on the commitment to life care and most offer a wide variety of living accommodations and options. Many communities offer duplex homes and a multitude of apartment living options. Many communities boast fitness centers, stores, cafés, theaters, salons, walking paths and gardens. Diverse programming, special events, educational and entertainment opportunities abound. If retirement living is in your future here are some important steps to aid in the selection process:

Identify your priorities

Make a list of those things that matter most to you. For many people location is a key factor. The average person lives within fifty miles of their birthplace. If you enjoy a rural lifestyle, or if proximity to family is important, or you enjoy the sights of the city or the atmosphere of life in a university town, then add it to your priority list. The list can be as specific as you want but will go a long way in narrowing your search.

Research

You will be much more up to speed on terms, jargon, and options if you do a little homework before setting out. Many consumers will limit their search to not-for-profit organizations or those with a sponsorship or affiliation. Spend some time visiting with friends and then log on to the Internet. There is a wealth of information available. Most retirement communities have websites and many share photos, list amenities, services, and contact information.

Visit

The retirement decision may be one of the biggest decisions you will make in your life. Take the time to contact the communities, talk with the staff, and understand their current visitation/tour policies. At Oak Crest we can arrange for virtual tours or limited visits utilizing personal protective equipment and social distancing.

Fees

Get a clear understanding of pricing and fees. Most communities have an entrance fee based on the size of the apartment/duplex and offer a refundable portion over a set number of years. The monthly fees vary widely from community to community, level of care and services and amenities. Also, ask for the community's history of fee increases and a copy of their most recent financial audit. A reputable community will have this information readily available and will be more than willing to share it.

What if I outlive my resources?

Oak Crest, as a not-for-profit retirement community, has a charitable fund to provide life care to those who outlive their resources. Other types of retirement housing may discharge an individual when they exhaust their resources or require additional care. Knowing up front what you can expect when the time comes will go a long way in providing you peace of mind and future security.

There is a myriad of retirement living options available to consumers today. Taking the time to research and select the one that best meets your interests today and your needs of tomorrow is time well spent. Our knowledgeable staff is available to help you navigate the process. For more information on choosing a Continuing Care Retirement Community, visit Oak Crest at www.oakcrestdekalb.org or **contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461.**

Oak Crest Receives a 5 Star Quality Rating

Stephen Cichy, Oak Crest Executive Director shared, "With more than 16,000 Medicare certified nursing homes across the nation, the 1-5 star rating system was created to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare nursing homes easily. The reality is that nursing homes vary in the quality of care and services they provide. The government rating system provides information on three critical areas: health inspection results, quality measures and staffing levels. To receive a 5-star rating confirms what residents, staff and families already know – Oak Crest services and care are second to none."

Congratulations to the Board of Trustees, staff, and the many volunteers on this accomplishment especially during these trying times. Oak Crest considers the Five Star Rating a true validation of the standard of excellence in quality and specialized care provided to every resident at Oak Crest. Mr. Cichy recommends consumers use the 5 Star Quality Rating System in conjunction with staff interaction and when possible an onsite visit to facilities under consideration. He added, "Selecting the right nursing home and rehabilitation center for a loved one is an important decision. Making the best decision really begins with complete and concise information. Oak Crest staff is professional, knowledgeable and available to assist in this process."

For more information on choosing a nursing home and rehabilitative facility, you can visit Oak Crest at www.oakcrestdekalb.org or contact Sharon Cox, R.N. at (815)756-8461.



Oak Crest Employees Honored

Annually, Oak Crest recognizes employees for years of service and the impact their service has on the organization and the people they serve. With a cumulative total of 335 years of service, twenty-five employees will be honored. Stephen Cichy said, "This year, maybe more than any other, I have witnessed the tireless commitment and compassion of a group of people who show up every day ready and willing to accept the next challenge. These are people who pour their hearts and talents into the organization. They embrace their responsibilities and recognize that the work they do is perhaps the most important work of all. I am proud to serve with these outstanding individuals."

40 Years:

- Patty Brown - Environmental Services

30 Years:

- Liz Hoppenworth - Administration
- Rhonda Hinkle - Health Services

25 Years

- Cheryl Buehler - Administration

20 years

- Julie Hofbauer - Dining Services
- Pat Lange - Resident Services
- Lana Pearson - Health Services

15 years

- Sonia Vaje - Health Services
- Cynthia Salgado - Health Services
- Lorli McNamara - Dining Services
- Edna Cieslica - Health Services

10 years:

- Rachel Storey - Health Services
- Hector Espiritu - Dining Services
- Nancy Brunk - Dining Services
- Jocelyn Schmidt - Environmental Services
- Anna Taylor - Health Services

5 years

- Jayne Higgins - Administration
- Jacob Dresser - Environmental Services
- Brittany Northcutt - Health Services
- Kaitlin LaForge - Resident Services
- Deena Schell - Health Services
- Tania Salazar - Health Services



Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Dr. DeKalb.

For more information about becoming a part of the Oak Crest community call (815)756-8461 or visit the web at www.oakcrestdekalb.org.

The Door Opens

In Welcome



Top To Bottom:

- Beryl Smith & Cherie Durfee-Smith – DeKalb, IL
- Robert Walters & Lindy Arnett – DeKalb, IL
- John & Wanda Rutter – Naperville, IL
- Perry & Blen Lakin – Maple Park, IL

Donations



(Cabinet donated by Chuck & Ruth Lindhart)

A big thank you to the donors who continue to provide lovely paintings, prints, sculptures, and furniture that grace our corridors and common areas. If you have items that you would like to donate, please contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461.



Royal Surprise



Oak Crest King and Queen, Harry and Marilyn Berg are still busy making public appearances, albeit close to home. They have surprised residents and staff by showing up throughout the building wearing their crowns and leaving behind candy hugs and kisses. Marilyn said, "We wanted to continue our duties and felt what better way than sharing a sweet treat and a kind word."

A Winter Wonderland

Nothing compares to the sights and sounds of Christmas. Although COVID-19 has made it impossible to gather with family and friends, be assured that the holiday season will be celebrated here at Oak Crest. Before Thanksgiving, a dedicated group of volunteers began the task of setting up the outside Christmas displays and stringing lights. Inside, the Christmas trees, ornaments, wreaths, and bows have been unpacked and volunteers have been busy decorating the community. This year residents are encouraged to participate in a "Deck the Halls" competition. The goal is for every apartment door and hallway to be dressed in holiday style. Resident families and friends can get in on the fun and tip the scales by providing decorations that may be mailed or dropped off at Door #4. Although this year may prove more challenging, our featured events over the holidays will include corridor concerts, white elephant Christmas sales, Secret Santa exchanges, holiday buffets and celebrations on the go. COVID-19 may clip our wings, but it will not dampen our holiday spirit.

Circle of Care Silver Acorns

Over the years you may have noticed that residents, staff, and friends are sporting acorn lapel pins. These pins signify their participation in the Oak Crest Silver Acorn program. The program began in 2005 to recognize those individuals contributing \$2500 or more to the Annual Circle of Care Campaign. This year in support of this fund, more than \$71,885 was donated by friends and families. A heartfelt thank you to all the donors and to our Silver Acorn Members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Oak Crest Community.

2020 Silver Acorn Members: Stephen & Evelina Cichy, Joyce Gardner, Shirl Johnson, Frank & Linda Kulesa, Richard & Kathy Katz, Tom & Jeanette Michels, Lou Jean Moyer, Jane Ovitz, John Rey, Evelyn Sanderson, Merle Sawyer, Scott & Kathy Schroeder, Larry & Judy Sill, Stan Trail and Nadine Zimmerman.

For additional information concerning the Circle of Care Campaign or to become a member of the Silver Acorns, please contact Liz Hoppenworth, Director of Resident Services at (815) 756-8461

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Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert

Executive Director
Stephen Cichy



Charitable Giving

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all our supporters who make this an organization of which to be proud. Through the generosity of local organizations and individuals, the Center continues to thrive and is recognized as one of the outstanding life care communities in the field of long-term care and services.

Undoubtedly, as we approach the end of 2020 you will receive appeals from a variety of charities. For many organizations, tax saving is a primary incentive and the theme of many of these appeals. As a not-for-profit organization we too recognize the tax saving advantages to the donor. However, besides these obvious advantages we find people give to Oak Crest because they support and believe in the organization's mission, vision, and values and in a very individual way wish to make a difference.

We all know those special people who currently play an active role in our lives or whose memory we wish to honor. Whether a family member, a friend, or a business associate; a gift to Oak Crest can be a wonderful way to salute those individuals. General memorial gifts range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 and will be honored with a plaque recognizing the selected individuals. Memorial gifts of greater amounts from \$5,000 and more can be recognized at specific sites throughout the community. For example, a gift of \$10,000 may be recognized at an elevator; a \$25,000 gift may be recognized in the massage therapy area, while a gift of \$100,000 or more may be recognized in the Bistro or as part of the pool, fitness center, dining room or theater. Gifts to the Center may be cash contributions, securities, tangible property, and real estate. Each offers a varying degree of tax advantages to the donor and at the same time provides important financial support to Oak Crest. Gifts to the Center are always appreciated, but to take advantage of the tax savings for this year, contributions must be made by December 31, 2020.

For more information on giving please feel free to contact Stephen P. Cichy at (815)756-8461 or scichy@oakcrestdekalb.org

Oak Crest Awards 2020 Employee Grant



Sue Lippmann

Twice a year for the last sixteen years the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees has awarded grants in the amount of \$300 to deserving employees pursuing educational or enrichment programming.

This year's grants were awarded to Sue Lippmann and Megan Weinberger. Sue has worked in the Environmental Services Department since November of 2016. In her free time Sue enjoys photography and the grant will be used to purchase additional camera equipment. Her long-range plan is to take her passion for photography to the next level by opening her own photography business. Oak Crest residents and staff look forward to Sue's next nature and wildlife photo display.

Megan has been employed as a Resident Services Assistant since March of 2016. Megan is currently a full-time student at the University of Iowa, an environmental science major and a member of the University Marching Band. Megan will apply the Oak Crest grant toward books and fees for the upcoming semester.

Both individuals were well-deserving of the grant and Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "Oak Crest is a community committed to providing a positive living and working environment. The employees who live the Oak Crest mission through word and deed are our greatest asset. There is no better way to promote their success than by supporting their education and interests."



Megan Weinberger

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

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