

The Right Decision



If you are considering a senior living arrangement for your future, you are probably asking yourself, "Where and what is best for me (us)?"

We had lived and worked in the DeKalb community for fifty-six years. Fifty of those years were in one house, in a wonderful neighborhood, with great neighbors. However, the time came when we knew that we needed to consider the next phase of our lives.

We are individuals who like to plan and think ahead. Since several of our friends had already moved to Oak Crest, visiting its campus was a logical part of our process. Thus, we made an appointment to meet with the staff and tour the facility. Everything from the living accommodations, many amenities, social events, and the guarantee of future long-term care made the idea of moving to Oak Crest very appealing. We were thrilled when we were presented with the opportunity to make an Oak Crest duplex our new home. We love all that Oak Crest offers from the provided maintenance-free services, our neighbors, and the peace of mind of future security.

Now, we tell everyone who is contemplating a move and are concerned that they will miss their previous home, that moving to Oak Crest was the best thing that we have done for ourselves and our children.

Larry & Judy Sill
Residents since 2016

Oak Crest Director of Nursing



Oak Crest is pleased to announce Andrea Copple, RN, BSN, has assumed the role of Director of Nursing. Andrea has served the Oak Crest Community for the last five years in her role as an Assistant Director of Nursing. Andrea will continue to drive the success of the nursing department by ensuring exemplary resident care and services. She possesses solid clinical and long-term care experience with a focus on infection prevention, restorative care, staff education and the coordination and management of daily operations.

"Andrea brings a great deal of practical experience to the position, which is incredibly important to our community," said Stephen Cichy, Executive Director. "Quality care and safety are always top priorities. Andrea follows in the footsteps of our former Director of Nursing, Sharon Cox, RN, who developed an exemplary health care program and assembled a nurse leadership team that continually strives to ensure Oak Crest not only meets but exceeds resident and family expectations."

Andrea Copple said, "An important point of contact in any care setting continues to be professional nurses. Daily, nurses connect with and provide care, information and support to residents, and their families. I am proud to be a part of the Oak Crest nursing staff who are committed to maintaining a high level of excellence and a reputation for delivering individualized compassionate care. I look forward to leading the team and being an integral part of the Oak Crest Community."

Board of Trustees

Michael Borden
Julia Fauci
Rev. Joe Gastiger
Jack Goodrich
Richard Katz
Carol Larson
Dave Louis
Roger Maas
Linda Mason
Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Dr. Sujata Morker
Lynn Neeley
Aaron Nevdal
Sue Russell
Dr. Michael Thornton
Ann Tucker
Dave VanBuren
Wendy West

Ex Officio

Rev. Jonathan Crail
Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert

Executive Director

Stephen Cichy



Oak Crest Receives Award

Northern Illinois University's Presidential Commission recognizes that in addition to the students, faculty and staff on campus, the University also relies heavily on campus partners to support the University's efforts for accessibility and disability advocacy. This year Oak Crest was presented the 2021 Exemplary Advocate Award recognizing Oak Crest as an NIU community partner with an outstanding record of service and leadership to persons with disabilities. Oak Crest continues to demonstrate exceptional achievement, integrity, selflessness, leadership, advocacy, and service to the Northern Illinois University community. For more than thirty years Oak Crest leadership and staff have committed their time, energy, and resources in going above and beyond advocating for disability awareness as well as creating opportunities for advancement for persons with disabilities.

In the nomination, Dave Benner, Instructor & Director of the Gerontology Clinical Experience wrote, "While many facilities would have put the partnership on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, Oak Crest worked with the University to accommodate the virtual learning of students and residents. Through virtual outreach, many residents were able to become more comfortable with the role of technology while maintaining and improving on their fitness goals. Without the support of Oak Crest and their administration, this partnership and clinical classroom experience would not be possible. In my opinion, they deserve this award solely for all the years of shared partnership, but especially now more than ever, for being so understanding and flexible during all these uncertain times related to the pandemic."

Elizabeth Hoppenworth, Oak Crest Resident Services Administrator said, "The on-going relationship between Oak Crest and the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education has enhanced the lives of Oak Crest residents in so many ways. The individualized personal training and group classes are some of the most popular programs at Oak Crest. Residents comment on the benefits of individualized training, and both the residents and students enjoy the interactions and opportunity to connect intergenerationally. Oak Crest is honored to receive this award and is proud of the partnership and the positive outcomes for students and residents alike."



Oak Crest Good Samaritan

Each year Oak Crest presents an award to someone in the community 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.

This year Oak Crest acknowledged the efforts of Reva Jungst as the 2020 Oak Crest Good Samaritan. Reva has spent a lifetime quietly volunteering and her giving spirit has touched the lives of so many. As a neighbor of Lincoln Elementary School, Reva volunteered several hours a day, most days of the week at the library resource center aiding students and teachers. As a member of the First United Methodist Church of DeKalb, she has served many years on the Women's Board, and has been chair and long-time treasurer of her church circle. Raising a family means that she is no stranger to a kitchen and before COVID-19 prevented her, Reva prepared and served food for Hope Haven and hosted church hospitality hour. For years, Reva supported the Family Service Agency by volunteering and clerking at the Country Store on Lincoln Highway. When her beloved husband Dale required care at the DeKalb County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Reva visited him each day and at the end of her visits stayed to operate the Ice Cream Shop. After his passing, she continued her service each day for nine years operating the shop, assisting residents with meals, and comforting and visiting the sick. In 2015 Reva made the move to Oak Crest where she quickly settled into her new home, and without skipping a beat dove into volunteering. She spends most afternoons working in the Oak Crest Shoppe waiting on customers, delivering groceries and supplies, and sharing a gentle smile and a reassuring hand. Her volunteer duties do not end there. She also can be called on to mentor new residents, deliver mail, winds the grandfather clock, posts notices and schedules, and performs clerical work. When asked to help, you can count on a big smile and a resounding, "Yes!"



Some who do not know Reva may wonder how she does all she does, and some may even think at ninety-years young she is taking on too much responsibility. Reva's response is always, "I don't have time to sit around. There is plenty to do and I plan on doing as much as I can, for as long as I can."

Reva does so much for so many without fanfare and shies away from accolades and recognition. Her life is truly one of service and her tireless energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve make her a valued member of any community. Like any true Good Samaritan who puts others before self, Reva would probably tell you there are so many others who have given more and are more deserving. She may also refer to the gospel of Luke and the parable of the Good Samaritan 10:37 and simply say, "Go and do likewise."

Return Service Requested

2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER



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



From The Executive Director

It has been more than a full year since Oak Crest was required to close our facility to visitors, restrict resident movement, discontinue communal dining and all group gatherings and programs. This has been an exhausting year spent responding to confusing and often contradictory information from the CDC and State and Local Health departments. While other organizations, agencies and governing bodies sheltered at home, Oak Crest staff continued to report for work each day, ready to meet each new challenge and provide uninterrupted care and services. Oak Crest residents and staff have been subjected to twice weekly COVID testing, mandated mask-wearing, and quarantines.

Without question, the most difficult aspect of this last year has been for the residents and families who have been faced with the harsh realities of forced separation and isolation. Despite all of this, through it all, I have been impressed by the resilience and optimism of the people who live and work here.

Each time I hear from a resident or family member the positive impact Oak Crest has had on their lives or the lives of loved ones, I am reminded how unique the Oak Crest community truly is. Oak Crest was founded by a group of individuals who wanted to insure that older adults who wanted to remain in the DeKalb/Sycamore community could do so in a place that afforded them with wonderful apartment and duplex homes, amenities, support and the guarantee of future care and services.

As an organization, we continually strive to improve our services and understand that there are any number of living options available for today's older adults. We also recognize that our continued success is reliant on the efforts of a staff made up of a people who are committed to and supportive of the mission of this organization. This last year has been, as one staff member described, a marathon with a finish line that continues to move.

In spite of this, we will continue to respond to the pandemic and the ever-changing regulations and requirements that are in place to protect the most vulnerable. We will respond in a professional and compassionate manner to the residents and families expressing dissatisfaction with the quarantine regulations and limitations imposed on us by the state of Illinois. We recognize the frustration and confusion caused by the pandemic and want to assure all those affected that Oak Crest staff are very aware of the effects of isolation on the people residing at Oak Crest. We also remain committed to doing our very best to keep people safe while providing the very best care possible.

For more information, please feel free to contact me.

Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director

Stephen P Cichy



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 services to the community. Each of these apartment homes feature a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, two bedrooms, and access to our facilities and amenities including an 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 apartments 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 lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org



DeKalb Area Retirement Center
1200 Sq Ft Unit - NE203

Q & A



Serving the Oak Crest community for thirty years has afforded me a wealth of experience and perspective. This last year has also proven challenging as we navigate through the pandemic and adapting to a new “norm.” Although change has been a constant, it has not affected our ability to provide a supportive and safe environment for those seeking long-term retirement in a community that encourages independence, while guaranteeing future care and services. As I meet new people and assist them in their retirement decisions, I have noted that people tend to ask very similar questions as it relates to Oak Crest and retirement. I am including the five most asked questions and my responses.

- Q:** I’m doing fine in my home now and with the current health crisis, why should I even consider a move to Oak Crest before I really need it?
- A:** The time to make decisions concerning your future is now. It is so important that you make choices while they are yours to make. Two things that I have found Oak Crest residents share, is a fierce desire to make their own decisions and secondly, to remain independent. COVID has not changed the fact that Oak Crest is a retirement community designed to offer independent living to active older adults and are probably best prepared for crisis situations. One resident said, “Thank goodness I chose Oak Crest as my home. Here I am safe, cared for and have everything I need. The world is a pretty scary place when you are out there on your own.”

- Q:** I’m pretty used to being independent, and if I come here will I lose that?
- A:** Living at Oak Crest you have all the same opportunities you had at home and much more; the main differences being, Oak Crest offers the guarantee of security and future care without the worry. You remain as independent as you were before. For the protection of everyone living and working at Oak Crest, COVID-19 has affected the way we enter and leave the building, has limited some of the amenities and opportunities we normally enjoy, but also has afforded individuals with more testing opportunities, information and on-site care and services.
- Q:** If I am interested in coming to Oak Crest will I have to sign over all my assets?
- A:** No. Applicants must complete a financial statement disclosing assets and income. This information is kept in strict confidence and is used to determine someone’s eligibility as it pertains to financial obligations should they be accepted to Oak Crest.
- Q:** If I am responsible with my assets and still run out of money will I have to find another place to live?
- A:** No. Oak Crest’s commitment to its residents is one that guarantees if they outlive their financial resources and have not in any way divested themselves, they would be provided a home here. This is accomplished through the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Q:** Some places really pressure you when you call with questions or stop by. What should I do if I would like some information about Oak Crest but don’t want a sales pitch?
- A:** Part of Oak Crest’s philosophy deals with community awareness and education. When someone calls with a question, we respond in a timely manner and provide complete and concise information. We hope that people never feel “pressured.” We pride ourselves on being approachable, cooperative, and informative. Most people comment that a visit at Oak Crest is like a visit with an old friend.

I hope the above information has answered some of your questions and given you some facts in black and white. Now, I invite you to come and experience, in living color, all that Oak Crest has to offer.

Liz Hoppenworth
Director of Resident Services



Circle of Care

Oak Crest’s Annual Giving Campaign to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund begins May 1, 2021. We are again looking to our friends in the community for support. This fund benefits those who outlive their financial resources. In past years Oak Crest residents have used more than \$200,000 from this fund. This rate of utilization continues to increase to accommodate the growing number of residents requiring assistance. The Good Samaritan Fund is supported solely through contributions and donations. All proceeds generated by the Circle of Care Campaign directly benefit the Good Samaritan Fund.

At the time of our 25th Anniversary we established the Silver Acorn Donor Program. Supporters of this program have donated or pledged to the Circle of Care Campaign in the amount of \$2,500 or more. A number of people are already participating, and we wish to thank them again for their continued support and invite you to join them. Of course, each and every donation is welcomed and appreciated.

Letters will be sent to previous and prospective donors. These letters will tell you more about the Circle of Care Campaign. Please consider donating. Your generosity will ensure that the Good Samaritan Fund continues.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information on the Circle of Care Campaign, the Good Samaritan Fund, or Oak Crest please call Stephen Cichy at (815)756-8461. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your support.

Dave VanBuren
Community Relations

Board of Trustees

In 1978 a voluntary Board of Trustees was established for the governance, fiscal responsibility, and strategic direction of the DeKalb Area Retirement Center. Members represent surrounding communities and are selected for their ability and willingness to contribute in various ways to the success of the organization.

This spring Oak Crest recognized members completing their terms of service and welcomed new members. Board President, Joe Gastiger said, "Dr. Jason Friedrichs, Michelle Bringas and Kathy Spears through their commitment and leadership, have served the community well. Oak Crest has benefitted from the extensive knowledge and experience of these very community-minded leaders. It has been an honor to serve with them. In recognition of their service, this spring oak trees will be planted in their honor, as a reminder that the seeds we sow today are for the benefit of the generations to follow."

New members inducted to the Board of Trustees are Julia Fauci, Dr. Jennifer McCormick and Dr. Michael Thornton.

Julia Fauci of DeKalb is a retired book designer and county board member. Julie counts several Oak Crest residents as friends and has volunteered her singing talents at several campus events. She will serve as a member of the Building and Community Relations Committees. Julia is an active volunteer and devotes much of her time and talents to two of her life's passions, the Friends of the DeKalb Public Library and Steward for DeKalb County Forest Preserve. Julia and her husband Dominick have one son, and she enjoys time spent with family and her art. She strongly believes in applying her talent, making the world and her community a more beautiful place.

Dr. Jennifer McCormick, MD of DeKalb is a retired physician with many years of providing care and service to members of DeKalb and the surrounding areas. After retiring, her volunteer experiences took her around the world on international medical missions. She and her husband, Charles are parents to four children, and they enjoy time spent with them and their six grandchildren. In her spare time Jennifer enjoys gardening, photography, travel, and outdoor activities. She will serve on both the Health Care and Community Relations Committees where her experiences will prove invaluable.

Dr. Michael Thornton, MD is a Family Medicine Specialist with over thirty-nine years of experience in the medical field. He is a resident of Sycamore, IL and a physician with Edward Medical Group, Sycamore, IL. Michael will serve as a member of the Health Care Committee. He is an active member of the Crossview Evangelical Free Church of America. He and his wife Jennifer have four children and two grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys wood splitting and board games.

2021 New Board of Trustees Members



Dr. Michael Thornton, MD



Dr. Jennifer McCormick, MD



Julia Fauci

Centenarian Celebration

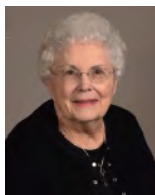
This year Oak Crest staff and residents will recognize eight resident centenarians with a walk-through photo display. Oak Crest Resident, Don Mosher probably summed it up best as he made his daily walk to pick up his mail and visit with friends, "I'm not sure how I am supposed to act at the age of 104. I've never been this old before."



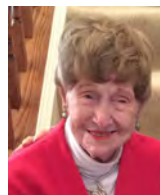
Violet Challand



Shirley Johnson



Marguerite Key



Donna Marsh



Don Mosher



Merle Sawyer



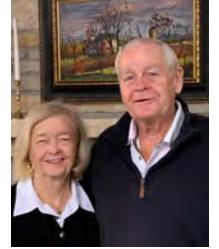
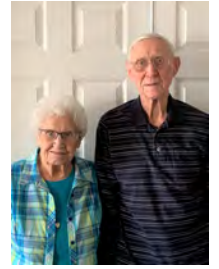
Roy Talbot



Ellis King

The Door Opens

In Welcome



Top To Bottom:

Donn & June Smith

– DeKalb, IL

Babe & Dorothy Knudson

– DeKalb, IL

Richard Clausen

– Sycamore, IL

James & Bonnie Ward

– Sycamore, IL

Wish List

Artwork

Oak Crest residents and visitors alike enjoy the large variety of artwork that graces the many corridors and common areas. Many of these items are donated by family and friends and we are currently accepting new donations. If you have artwork, paintings, sculptures, or prints, please contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461 or lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org

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