

## Oak Crest Awards Employee Grant



Twice a year for the last sixteen years the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees has awarded a grant in the amount of \$300 to a deserving employee to pursue educational or enrichment programming. This grant is in addition to the annual Employee Scholarship designed for employees or their dependents pursuing an accredited undergraduate degree/program of study. The purpose of the grant is to allow additional opportunities for employees to pursue educational goals or enrichment programming.

This year's grant was awarded to Debbie Rennels who has worked in the Oak Crest Beauty Salon since January 2015. Debbie is presently enrolled at Kishwaukee College and will graduate in May of this year with a degree in nursing. In her application she wrote, "This grant will be greatly appreciated and allow me to complete

## Art & Craft Fest



This year's Fest was a roaring success and featured sixteen community vendors. The Oak Crest Crafters filled the Little Theater with their beautiful display of handmade crafts. Thanks to the talents of volunteer bakers, vendor donations, raffles and craft sales, the Fest generated \$1867.04 and benefited the Oak Crest Good Samaritan Fund. A big thank you to all who helped to make this day such a memorable one.

## 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](mailto:scichy@oakcrestdekalb.org)

my studies. I love working with older adults and look forward to a career in the field of long-term care."

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "As a community organization, we strive to provide a positive living and working environment. We continually seek out programming and educational opportunities that support employees in the areas of education and self-improvement."



Recipient Debbie Rennels

## Deck The Halls



Visitors may notice some lovely new art work gracing the halls and common areas of Oak Crest. Many of these items have been generously donated by family and friends. If you have artwork – paintings, prints, or sculptures that you would like to donate, please contact Liz Hoppeworth at (815)756-8461.

## A Resolution You Can Keep



It's that time of year to start making those New Year's resolutions. If you have been thinking about volunteering, why not think about experiencing volunteering the Oak Crest way? Whatever your interests, we have a program that is right for you. At Oak Crest your time and effort is always appreciated. We offer you the opportunity to become involved, so you can feel the fulfillment that comes from giving to others. Come and experience rich and rewarding memories in the making. For more information contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or [jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org](mailto:jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org)

## A Veteran's Day Salute



Residents, staff and friends gathered this past Veteran's Day to recognize and honor forty Oak Crest veterans.



Veterans Dorothy Stoddard and Don Mosher are joined by members of Boy Scout Troop 33

Veteran's Day morning started off with a continental breakfast sponsored by DeKalb County Chapter of VietNow and served by DeKalb Boy Scout Troop 33. The day was highlighted with a service coordinated by Sally Stevens honoring the many veterans who sacrificed so much for so many. She shared a collection of meaningful tributes, and attendees enjoyed the musical talents of Oak Crest resident Barb Grulke. DeKalb Boy Scout Troop 33 presented the colors, and joined residents, friends and family for the Pledge of Allegiance. The program concluded after each veteran's name was called, and branch of service recognized.

### Board of Trustees

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Mary Jo McAdams	<i>Executive Director</i>
Kathy Spears	Stephen Cichy

### Christmas Message



There is no better time than Christmas to gather together and rejoice in the wonderful gifts bestowed on each and every one of us. Join your loved ones and rejoice in the miracle of Christ's birth. Of all those who are part of this season of joy, there is none we treasure more than you. From our home to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with God's love and blessings.

## Calendar of Events

Sun., Dec. 1	7:00 pm	Candlelight Advent Service
Sun., Dec. 8	1-4:30 pm	25th Annual Tree Walk and Open House
Tue., Jan. 14	2:00 pm	Service of Remembrance - Celebrating the lives of Oak Crest Residents who passed away in 2019
Tue., Jan. 28	2:00 pm	Chicago Art Institute "Insights Program"
Sun., Feb. 23	2:00 pm	Centenarian Party

### Trips & Excursions

Wed., Feb. 12	"American In Paris" at Drury Lane
Feb., 16-22	Pre Mardi Gras Week in New Orleans
Mar., 15-19	Spotlight on San Antonio
Wed., Mar. 18	"Guys and Dolls" at the Fireside
Wed., April 8	"My Fair Lady" at Cadillac Palace

*For information Contact Joan Launer at (815)756-8461 or [jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org](mailto:jlauner@oakcrestdekalb.org).*

Non Profit Organization  
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DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER  
 2944 Greenwood Acres Drive  
 DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
 Return Service Requested



## 25th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House



Nothing compares to the sights and sounds of Christmas and what a wonderful way to begin this holiday season by inviting family and friends for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Walk & Open House scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 1-4:30 p.m. “All Dressed Up In Holiday Style,” is the theme and the public is invited to join residents, families and friends for this special Christmas event that will feature sumptuous desserts and seasonal entertainment. The afternoon is filled with music as Oak Crest welcomes the talents of the DeKalb High School Madrigal Singers, Crosswinds Flute Choir, the Euphoria Quartet and the Wild Blue Ukulele Orchestra.

This year’s event will feature forty-four uniquely inspired trees individually decorated and adorned with many handmade ornaments crafted by resident and community volunteers. Oak Crest King & Queen Bob & Linda Daniel will be on hand to welcome guests and invite one and all to stroll through the building and enjoy the beautiful collection of trees “dressed up” for the Christmas Season. This year’s trees include: a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Silver Bell”, “American Pride”, “Silent Night, Holy Night”, “Christmas Love”, “Candyland”, “The Night Before Christmas”, “Rudolph Goes to Dinner”, “A Magical Christmas”, “Star of the East”, “Little Drummer Boy”, “A Charles Dickens Christmas”, “Natures Splendor”, “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”, “Ho, Ho, Ho,” and many

more. This year we will also feature a Giving Tree and you are invited to donate a gift to benefit a local charity.

Oak Crest welcomes the Letheby Family from Wisconsin who travels “over the river and through the woods” to join us again this year to share their family train collection. Train fans young and old alike are invited to don an engineer’s cap, take the controls and ride the rails of this fully operational model train display.

No Christmas would be complete without a trip to the North Pole and a visit with Santa. Parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to

listen in on whispered wishes and to capture the moment with a picture or two. Stop by and visit Santa and then enjoy a holiday treat and browse through Mrs. Claus’ Kitchen and Gift Shoppe.

Welcome the spirit of Christmas in your heart and join your good friends at Oak Crest for a Christmas you will never forget. Mark your calendars and join us in making a Christmas at Oak Crest one of your favorite Christmas traditions.

***Valet parking will be available at Door #4 and shuttle service from our friends at Resource Bank will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m.***



*The Door Opens  
In Welcome*



**Top to bottom:**

Dennis & Sue Stelling – DeKalb, IL  
Gary & Anita Wells – DeKalb, IL  
Terry & Madeline O’Brien – DeKalb, IL  
Marilyn Montzka – Sycamore, IL

# Featured Floor Plans

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 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 lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org



1300 Square Foot Plan

## *25th Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Open House*

*“All Dressed Up In Holiday Style”  
Sunday, December 8th, 1:00-4:30 PM*

## 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. Each year, Silver Acorn members are acknowledged at a luncheon attended by staff and Board Committee members. This year's luncheon was a great success and provided an opportunity to thank donors for their continued support. This year in support of this fund, more than \$64,880 was donated by friends and families. 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.

**2019 Silver Acorn Members: Bee Bue, Stephen & Evelina Cichy, Joyce Gardner, Norm & Marion Gilbert, Shirl Johnson, Richard & Kathy Katz, Tom & Jeanette Michels, Lou Jean Moyer, Jane Ovitz, Larry & Judy Sill, Stan Trail and Nadine Zimmerman.**

## From The Executive Director



Each year I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters who make this an organization of which to be proud. I also remind our many friends near and far of the important role charitable giving plays in the success of Oak Crest. Through the generosity of local organizations and individuals the Center continues to grow 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 2019 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. General memorial gifts range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 and will be acknowledged with a plaque recognizing the selected individuals. Memorial gifts of greater amounts can be recognized at specific sites throughout the community. 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, 2019.

For more information on giving please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen P. Cichy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephen P. Cichy  
Executive Director

## Choosing A Retirement Community

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 aren't sure how they would manage if they could no longer care for themselves or what are the options 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 visit the communities, talk with the staff, take a tour, and meet the residents. Many of the communities offer educational/entertainment programs open to the public. This is a great way to experience the community first-hand.

### **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](http://www.oakcrestdekalb.org) or contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461.



## **The gift that keeps giving...**



Sometimes it's difficult to pick out just the right gift for a friend or a family member. If you are like us, you've probably stood in line at a store with an item in your hand and wondered if it would be the right size or color. Sometimes, you even leave the store empty-handed because they just didn't have that perfect gift that conveys how much you care. When it came time to move, and we made the decision to make Oak Crest our home, we really saw it as a gift to ourselves. After all, a beautiful home in a community near our family with the guarantee of future care and services was the perfect fit. Add to that, everything we need – church, banking, medical care and shopping all within one mile. Then it hit us. Maintaining

our independence and making our own decisions is a part of who we are and moving to Oak Crest when we did was God's perfect timing. We enjoy all that Oak Crest has to offer and will never place our family and friends in the position of caregivers. As far as we're concerned Oak Crest has it all wrapped up in one beautiful package. Talk about the gift that keeps giving.

**Ed and Martha Gillespie**

**Residents since January 2013**

## *Join The Parade*



This year's Sycamore Pumpkin Fest Parade featured two Oak Crest entries. Our very own Oak Crest King and Queen Bob & Linda Daniels and members of the Oak Crest Rotary Club braved the fall day and the festivities.



*Oak Crest King and Queen Bob and Linda Daniels*



*Rotary Parade Float*