

From The Executive Director



This past six months has been an unsettling time for all affected by the virus. As a community committed to serving and caring for older adults, we have felt first-hand the confusion, frustration, and fear caused by this crisis. We have seen people miss some of life's defining moments and have supported people when their loved ones cannot. We have also witnessed great acts of selflessness and generosity. We have been the recipients of well-wishes and support from residents, families, and friends. We have also seen great understanding, patience, love, and compassion.

During this very difficult time, staff has worked tirelessly to respond to the virus and the mandates and requirements imposed on our organization. Throughout this time, staff has reported to work, been positive, flexible, and caring. They have done everything in their power to ensure the safety and well-being of all who live and work here. Despite all the safety measures in place, Oak Crest has had several confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of course, we are disappointed but remain well-prepared and confident that we can respond to the current situation in the most professional manner possible.

I am proud of the staff and all they have done and continue to do to provide for the physical safety and emotional well-being of everyone who lives and works here. The Oak Crest staff are second to none and I am grateful for their commitment and willingness to serve. These are trying times, but together we will weather the storm.

Having said that, we also know that this crisis will pass. Oak Crest remains a wonderful option for people planning for their future. Oak Crest remains committed to providing a sense of security, care, and service. Things might look a little bit different than they did prior to COVID-19 but the sense of community that defines Oak Crest is alive and well. Throughout this crisis we have heard time and time again how comforting and reassuring it is to live at Oak Crest surrounded by people who truly care. Isn't that what being a part of a community is all about? If your future includes being a part of the Oak Crest Community, I encourage you to reach out and set up a time to discuss all that Oak Crest has to offer.

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.



Christmas is Coming

This year maybe more than any other we need Christmas cheer. Work on outdoor Christmas lighting and displays will begin the first week in November. This is a great opportunity for individuals or clubs seeking service hours.

Come kick off the holiday season with Oak Crest.

Please contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461.

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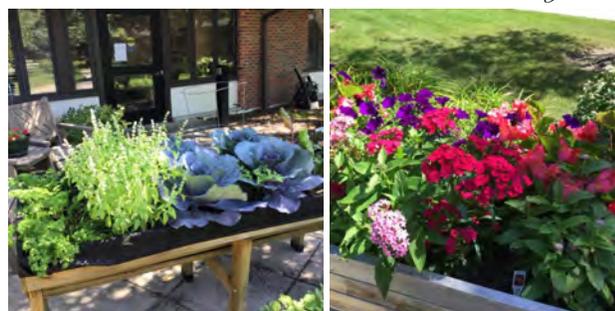
Oak Crest Shoppe



After serving the Oak Crest Community as the volunteer shoppe manager for more than ten years, Liz Meyer has handed over the manager responsibilities to Bob and Linda Daniels. Although her duties have changed and freed her up to pursue her other interests, Liz will still be behind the counter waiting on customers with a warm and welcoming smile. We thank her for her many years of leadership. A big thank you to the resident volunteers who have

continued to operate the Oak Crest Shoppe. Their commitment and willingness to serve is appreciated.

Oak Crest Rotary



Oak Crest garden beds planted and maintained by Rotary Members.

Wedding Memories



Ed & Edna Schramm



Jim and Carol Shawl

Everyone enjoyed two days of wedding photos and memorabilia shared by residents and staff. The walk-through event featured vintage wedding dresses, veils, photos, and slices of decorated wedding cake. The event was a great opportunity to reflect and reminisce.

The Oak Crest Area Rotary Club was formed in March 2018 to bring residents together with community members who are interested in service and the fellowship of belonging to a service club. Although, COVID-19 has limited the ability to meet face-to-face, it has not limited member participation in remote meetings and volunteer opportunities.

Recent meetings have featured speakers Roy Smith of Habitat for Humanity and Jeanine Holcomb of the Egyptian Theater. Rotary members look forward to presentations from Cortney Strohacker of the DeKalb County Convention & Visitors Bureau and Joe Piekarz, Indian Creek Boys Basketball Team.

Past community projects included building two raised garden beds for the courtyard of the Oak Crest Health Center, purchasing a 20-foot flagpole for display of the US flag on patriotic holidays and also serves as a lighted Christmas tree during the holiday season, and partnering with the DeKalb County Community Gardens to fund a pop-up food pantry.

Rotary members invite you to become part of this community-minded group. Contact club secretary Cliff Golden at cliffgolden@yahoo.com or call 815-758-5424 to learn more about the club and Rotary International.

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 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



Oak Crest Awards \$20,000 in Scholarships

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 to two people, who while they lived at Oak Crest, experienced the compassion and care of a truly dedicated group of people. To be eligible employees must work a minimum of two years and have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours each of the last two years. Applicants must demonstrate acceptance into an undergraduate college or program of study prior to final approval. The scholarship program is overseen by the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees. They are charged with the review and selection of candidates and this year eight deserving candidates were selected.

They are:



Renee Collins is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount \$1500. Renee is an Oak Crest employee, working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in the Health Center. With this scholarship, Renee plans to further her healthcare education and pursue a nursing degree at Kishwaukee College. Renee hopes to someday become a nurse at Oak Crest and continue providing care to the Oak Crest community that she has come to love. Renee is no stranger to hard work. This is Renee's second period of employment at Oak Crest. After an auto accident, Renee was told that she would never walk again. After extensive rehabilitation Renee proudly walked back into Oak Crest and in 2017 rejoined the Oak Crest Health Services Department. In her scholarship essay Renee said, "If there is one thing I took from my car accident, it was how it feels to go through therapy and miss the people you love and have to depend on help from others. The experience changed my outlook and filled me with understanding and compassion for people."



Jordan Dobberstein received a scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Jordan is the son of Maintenance Worker, Robert Dobberstein. Jordan is a recent graduate of Rochelle Township High School where he developed a passion for politics and has immersed himself in political events, policy research, and presidential rallies. Jordan is a first-generation college student attending Kishwaukee College and studying Political Science. Jordan hopes to one day run for political office to continue fostering community engagement with government. He is an accomplished trumpet player and had the unique honor of travelling to our nation's capital to perform in honor of the 75th anniversary of WWII. Jordan is also actively involved in the Royal Rangers ministry program, taking on a leadership role with younger members. Jordan says "I have always aspired to attend college on the path of political science. My goal is to be a voice and make a change for constituents in my community... It would be life changing."



Aubrey Villarreal is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount \$2000. Aubrey is the daughter of Certified Nursing Assistant, Brian Villarreal. Aubrey, a previous scholarship awardee, is a student at Kishwaukee College interested in pursuing a degree in 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 is currently employed at Kishwaukee Hospital as a Patient Care Technician and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Society of Leadership and Success and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. In her scholarship essay she wrote, "I am passionate about my studies and love to learn new things every day that help me achieve my dream."



Liliana Peterson was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Lily is the daughter of Oak Crest nurse Laura Peterson and a previous scholarship recipient. Lily is pursuing a degree in Public Health at Augustana College. Her long-term career objectives include working with underprivileged women of color faced with single parenthood and reproductive health obstacles. In her first year of college, she achieved a 4.0 GPA and is an active participant in numerous campus organizations, including the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) chapter and the campus newspaper. In her scholarship essay Lily wrote, "So many people helped me and my family...and to them, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. 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."



Justin Pottorff received a scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Justin is a past recipient and is the son of Bookkeeping/Office Assistant, Jill Pottorff. Justin is a transfer junior at Iowa State University where he is majoring in Chemical Engineering. Justin is looking forward to applying his chemical engineering degree to a career in the automotive industry. During his first two years studying at University of South Carolina, Justin joined the Carolina Mountaineering Club, spending weekends traveling to caves, mountains, and national parks. Justin looks forward to continuing his campus involvement as he transitions to Iowa State. During his scholarship interview Justin thanked the Board for their past support and added, "This award would have a major impact on my future and would allow me to continue my studies where I would feel most at home and ready to excel in applying everything that I've learned so far."



Josephine Hoppenworth is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount of \$2500. Josephine is the daughter of employees Liz and Joel Hoppenworth and an Oak Crest employee. Josie is a past recipient and attends the University of Illinois where she is continuing her studies in Civil Environmental Engineering. Josephine is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. While maintaining her academic coursework, Josie also worked two part-time jobs this past Spring. Josephine's college coursework thus far has led her to a specific interest in water purification and improved air quality. Josephine wrote in her scholarship essay, "There are so many ways environmental engineers can positively affect our world and the overall quality of life...I see myself driven toward success and would like to play a part in making the world a better place for the generations that will follow."



Katherine Sherman received a scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Katie is a previous recipient, an Oak Crest employee, and the daughter of Linda Sherman, Director of Resident Programming. She is a junior at University of Illinois seeking a bachelor's degree in Psychology. As she finished her courses at Kishwaukee College in Spring of 2020, Katie was honored with an invitation to the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Katie is a volunteer in the local community, giving her time and guidance to a local middle school dance team. Katie came on board as an Oak Crest employee in March of 2020 in the role of receptionist. Of her plan to eventually pursue psychotherapy work with adolescents, Katie said, "The future of my career has left me excited and hopeful as my interest has shaped into this path."



Haleigh Schell was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$5000. Haleigh is the daughter of Oak Crest Certified Nursing Assistant, Deena Schell. Haleigh is a recent graduate of Hiawatha High School. In 2015 a tornado struck her home, resulting in a total loss. That did not stop Haleigh from doing well in school and she ultimately graduated as president of student council, a member of National Honors Society, a student athlete, and with a 3.9 GPA. Haleigh is a student at Northern Illinois University majoring in Family Social Services. Haleigh hopes to pursue a career that allows her to work with disadvantaged children. During her scholarship interview, she said, "It is because of my personal experiences and struggles, I have chosen a career path that will allow me to help others. I want to help other kids, just like the counselor who helped me through these tough experiences... I always try to dedicate my life to helping others and want to continue doing so."

Making Things Happen



I always said when I was ready for retirement Oak Crest would be the place for me, but I wasn't sure if it would fit in my budget. So, I was pleasantly surprised to find that life at Oak Crest was more affordable than I imagined. Oak Crest has it all. With beautiful surroundings, great people, and the security of knowing care is available when I need it, I feel right at home. I know you are sitting there right now thinking you could put off a decision of this magnitude for another month maybe even another year or two. Just remember, while you are busy waiting, the clock is ticking.

You have heard that old saying that there are two kinds of people, those who wait for things to happen and those who make things happen. I have always been independent and deciding on life at Oak Crest means I am still making things happen. Oak Crest affords me the opportunity to maintain my independence while securing my future. Why wait?

Marilyn Sjöholm
Resident since May 2012

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 \$71,585 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,
Dave VanBuren
Community Relations Chair

The Language of Flowers



2019-2020 Oak Crest's own Bob Gommel, farmer and artist created and donated lovely sunflower and tulip yard sculptures to brighten the Oak Crest Health Center courtyard. The metal sculptures are a wonderful addition to the garden and provide a splash of color. Bob wanted to make sure the Health Center Residents had flowers to remind them that they are always in our thoughts, though we cannot be together. Thank you to Bob for brightening our day.

The Door Opens

In Welcome



Top To Bottom:

Dolores Thiel – Sun City, AZ
Virginia McMillion – Sycamore, IL
Sharon Skala – DeKalb, IL
Norm & Marion Gilbert – DeKalb, IL

Parking Lot Concert Series



COVID-19 may have changed the way we interact and gather, but it cannot stop the music. Residents have been enjoying several fresh air concerts thanks to the efforts of the Oak Crest Boys and the Vander Bleek singers. The evening events have been enjoyed by all and we look forward to more in the series.

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.

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