

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.

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Good Samaritan Nominations

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus shared an example of loving those who may not be our friends or unknown to us. Jesus was asked to confirm what he meant by the word "neighbor." Jesus calls on each of us to love everyone, even those we do not know. Each year Oak Crest presents the Good Samaritan Award to an individual who provides outstanding ministry to human need, who cares for others beyond normal compassion, and is the quiet unseen Good Samaritan. Currently, nominations are being accepted. You are encouraged to nominate someone who exemplifies the high standards of the Good Samaritan. To request an application form contact Oak Crest by calling (815)756-8461 or email cbuehler@oakcrestdekalb.org. The deadline for nominations is Friday, August 6.

Return Service Requested

DEKALB AREA RETIREMENT CENTER
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115



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



The Door Opens In Welcome



Top to Bottom:

Myrtie Thompson - Rotonda West, FL
Patsy Lundberg - DeKalb, IL
Donna Clark - DeKalb, IL
Norma Hopkins - Malta, IL

News of Interest to the Oak Crest Community and Friends

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From The Executive Director

This last year has been described by others as a marathon with a finish line that continues to move. Those of us involved in the field of long-term care concur. This last year has turned our lives upside down. Perhaps no one has been more affected by this pandemic than those individuals living and working in long-term care. While we see other industries, businesses, travel, and schools reopening and returning to a state of normalcy we remain under strict regulations and protocols that continue to limit and isolate those living in older adult communities.

Please know, we remain sympathetic to the plight of those entrusted to our care. As an organization our staff has worked tirelessly to protect and maintain the health and well-being of those living and working at Oak Crest. We have witnessed first-hand the effects of forced isolation and separation. Our requests for clarification and consideration for the people living at Oak Crest to again participate in life outside of Oak Crest has fallen on deaf ears. Through all of this, the staff has patiently answered and responded to frustrated and concerned residents and families. We have altered the way we provide care and adapted to the best of our abilities to the changing requirements from those licensing bodies governing our industry. To the best of our abilities, we have remained compliant while continuing to provide the very best care and service.

We are hoping that in the weeks and months to come we see the continued movement to re-open long-term care, restore families, and allow residents to reclaim freedoms that have been limited for more than a year. We are hopeful as we are allowed to reopen dining venues, provide opportunities for social engagement, and allow for increased visitation, the healing process can begin. We remain hopeful that the licensing bodies share our concern for older adults and comprehend the role they play in perpetuating fear and unrest. As we move forward, we do see the light at the end of the tunnel and will continue to move toward the finish line. Over the next weeks and months, we are more committed than ever to working harder, remaining positive, flexible, and caring. I am proud of all the staff has accomplished and continue to do to ensure the physical safety and emotional well-being of everyone who lives and works here. We will remain professional, prepared, and poised to respond to any situation as it arises.

Having said that, we also are encouraged that each incremental improvement is another step toward the finish line. So much has changed this last year and yet what has remained consistent is the foundation of Oak Crest firmly built on the security, care and service afforded to residents and families. Earlier this week a resident stopped me in the hall and said, "I know this has been a tough year and I wouldn't have wanted to be in your shoes. But I want you to know, that during it all I always felt safe and cared for." I thanked her for her kind words, and it reminded me that providing for those entrusted to our care is what we do better than anyone else.

Stephen P. Cichy
Executive Director

Stephen P. Cichy



Perspectives: Oak Crest, Our Home



Our first real encounter with Oak Crest began in 2000 when Bob's parents moved to the "new" addition at Oak Crest. At that time, we were thrilled with their decision to relocate to Oak Crest and enjoyed many happy visits with them in their new home. During this time, we found the staff very professional, caring, and considerate. We were also very impressed with the activities, events, and the exceptional meals.

Fast forward to late 2017 when we decided to investigate the Oak Crest we remembered from years earlier. During that visit we were impressed with the physical changes that included the addition of the Oaks, a new fitness center, pool, Bistro, and updated apartments. What had not changed was the many wonderful activities and social opportunities coupled with the smiling faces of some of the same staff we knew from the past. Revisiting Oak Crest after all those years felt more like coming home than touring a retirement community. That first day we knew that Oak Crest was a perfect fit and in early 2018 we moved into our newly renovated apartment.

Why Oak Crest? The obvious reasons are that the concerns of home ownership are now gone, replaced by new opportunities. We have enjoyed meeting new friends and the many and varied volunteer opportunities means our days are full and we could not be happier. Maybe more than any other, this last year and the pandemic simply reconfirmed our decision. Throughout these trying times we lived comfortably and safely at Oak Crest surrounded by caring people best prepared to respond to any crisis. Every day, we congratulate ourselves on our decision and our foresight in knowing that Oak Crest would be so much more than a place to live, for us Oak Crest is home.

Bob & Linda Daniel
Residents since April 2018.



Circle of Care

Oak Crest's Annual Giving Campaign to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund is well underway with donations amounting to nearly \$41,000. With a goal of \$70,000, we are again looking to our friends in the community for support. This fund benefits those who outlive their financial resources and 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 donation is welcomed and appreciated.

Letters were sent out to previous and prospective donors and 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 contact Stephen Cichy at (815)756-8461. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your support.

Many Thanks,

Dave VanBuren
Community Relations



The Oak Crest Chapel's stained glass window depicting the Good Samaritan

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, lovely views and access to our facilities and amenities including an on-site Pub, fitness center and pool. More importantly we are building friendships and memories. We offer the guarantee of future care and peace of mind.

Schedule a visit and see what all the excitement is about. Oak Crest is located at 2944 Greenwood Acres Drive, DeKalb. Individuals interested in hearing more about Oak Crest should contact Liz Hoppenworth at (815)756-8461 or lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org



DeKalb Area Retirement Center
The Oaks - Unit 3130 - 1600 Sq Ft with Balcony
Not to Scale



DeKalb Area Retirement Center
900 Sq Ft Unit - N316
Not to Scale