

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 345 years of service, thirty-one employees will be honored. Stephen Cichy said, "This pandemic has only strengthened the resolve of our staff to put the needs of the residents and their families above all else. As one Oak Crest resident said, "This last year and a half I can't tell you how many times I thanked God for putting me in the right place, at the right time, with the right people to care for me. It's always good when you're in this kind of fight, to have Oak Crest in your corner." Oak Crest employees accept their responsibilities and accept each new challenge with grace and strength of character. I am proud to serve with these outstanding individuals."

40 Years:

- Robert Dorsett – Dining Services

20 years

- Eva Osysko – Dining Services
- Javier Gomez - Dining Services
- Jesus Gamez - Dining Services

15 years

- Heidi Summerfield – Health Services
- Trisha Crittenden – Health Services
- Ashley Jones – Health Services
- Barb Frankenberg – Health Services
- Kim Berlin – Health Services
- Laura Eckert – Environmental Services
- Maria Lopez - Environmental Services
- April Drake - Administration

10 years

- Queency Hebel - Resident Services
- Shalonda Williams - Environmental Services
- Jean Zucker - Resident Services
- Dawn Aves – Health Services
- Brian Villarreal– Health Services
- Christine Warfield – Health Services

5 years

- Tiffany Burnett – Health Services
- Ana Parra - Administration
- Vivian Beltran – Health Services
- Joan Balongag – Health Services
- Cristina Estipona - Environmental Services
- Alanna Sterling – Health Services
- Jill Pottorff - Administration
- Megan Wineberger- Resident Services
- Karina Mora – Health Services
- Brittany Remington – Health Services
- Evelyn Saur – Health Services
- Bridget Stewart - Dining Services
- Ashley Sewall – 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.

Be True to Your School



Autumn means changing leaves, cooler days, and a return to school. Oak Crest staff and residents got in the fun and showed their school spirit by wearing their school colors and their class rings. There was even a back-to-school trivia contest and spelling bee complete with school inspired prizes.

Oak Crest Receives a 5 Star Quality Rating

Oak Crest's Howard and Mildred Eychaner Health Center is one of 15,600 Medicare Certified nursing homes in the United States. The Center for Medicare Services recognized how daunting the search can be for a quality nursing and rehabilitative facility and developed a 1 to 5 star rating system to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare nursing homes. With so many facilities, the government rating system provides information on three critical areas: health inspection results, quality measures and staffing levels. Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "To receive a 5-star rating, especially during these trying times only reinforces and confirms what residents, staff and families already know – Oak Crest's services and care are second to none."

Oak Crest staff 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. This great accomplishment is due to the efforts of the Board of Trustees, staff, and the volunteers. 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"

For more information on choosing a nursing home and rehabilitative facility, you can visit Oak Crest at www.oakcrestdekalb.org or contact Andrea Copple, Director of Nursing at (815)756-8461.

Helping Hands



Oak Crest KnitWits meet weekly to work on individual projects and swap patterns and stories. This last year they have been working together to knit hats for those in need. The idea to knit hats to donate to the Barb Food Mart came out of a desire to make a difference. Member, Marilyn Sjolholm said, "This is just a small way we can reach out to others and show we care. Each hat we make is our way of spreading warmth and love."

Oak Crest Wellness Coordinator



Oak Crest is pleased to announce Samantha Piper, RN, has accepted the role of Oak Crest Wellness Coordinator. Samantha has been employed at Oak Crest for thirteen years, and during this time worked as a certified nursing assistant while pursuing her long-term goals of a nursing degree. Upon completing her degree, she accepted an Oak Crest nursing position and assumed her new responsibilities last month.

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "The Oak Crest Wellness Coordinator plays an important part in the community's continuum of care. This position works closely with residents to increase understanding of modifiable health risks, refer residents to additional services, provide noninvasive

screenings and health education, provides restorative care, while inspiring and motivating residents to achieve optimal health and wellness."

Andrea Cople, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing said, "Samantha's strong clinical skills coupled with her years of hands-on long-term care experience will strengthen the nursing leadership team. She will provide insight and continuity for the individuals as they progress through the levels of care and service. What is most exciting about Samantha, is that she exudes passion and enthusiasm for the well-being of the residents of Oak Crest."

Samantha Piper said, "I am eager to work closely with the other members of the nursing leadership to develop a robust and well-rounded program. Oak Crest is such a unique organization, as we have so many dynamic campus resources at our fingertips. I embrace the opportunity and look forward to collaborating with other departments to see how we can work together to promote a culture of wellness on campus, and in our community."

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Executive Director

Stephen Cichy



Return Service Requested

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DeKalb, Illinois 60115

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From The Executive Director

Since the pandemic began, Oak Crest has continued to respond to all federal, state, and local mandates. To say this last year has been difficult is an understatement. For those working and living in long-term and continuing care retirement communities, each day brings new challenges. At times, we feel the plight of older adults has been forgotten and the fully vaccinated residents of Oak Crest continue to be subjected to mandated quarantines, testing, isolation, and loss of services. While we saw other organizations and industries shut down or work remotely, Oak Crest staff showed up day after day. When the vaccine became available, a large percentage of Oak Crest staff rolled up their sleeves, took the shot and returned to their assignments. With the Federal and State vaccination mandate for health care workers, any Oak Crest staff not previously vaccinated must do so to maintain employment. Oak Crest has and continues to adhere to every mandate, rule, and requirement.

As an organization, our commitment to protect and maintain the health and well-being of those living and working at Oak Crest remains unwavering. For those working directly with older adults we have witnessed first-hand the effects of forced isolation and separation. I am proud of the staff who continue to respond to resident and family frustration with patience and compassion. We continue to do everything we can to remain compliant while continuing to provide the very best care and service.

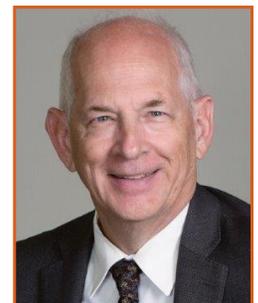
We are hoping that at some point, the State of Illinois recognizes the efforts of long-term care organizations and the safety protocols already in place. We are hopeful that in the weeks to come there is some realization that vaccines and infection control protocols do work and that forced isolation and denial of individual freedoms is not a cure for a virus. One resident said, "I am so glad during this awful pandemic that I live at Oak Crest. After all, who knows better than you how to care for people. You all do this every day."

We look forward to the time when a positive COVID-19 test does not set off a chain reaction that closes every aspect of care and services. We look forward to reopening dining venues, provide opportunities for social engagement and allows increased in-person visits, while following safety protocols already in place that minimize exposure. We remain hopeful that the licensing bodies share our concern for older adults and comprehend the impact isolation has on residents' physical and emotional well-being.

Regardless of the state's response and the unknowns associated with this pandemic, Oak Crest's commitment will not waver from our mission of providing quality service to the people entrusted to our care.

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.

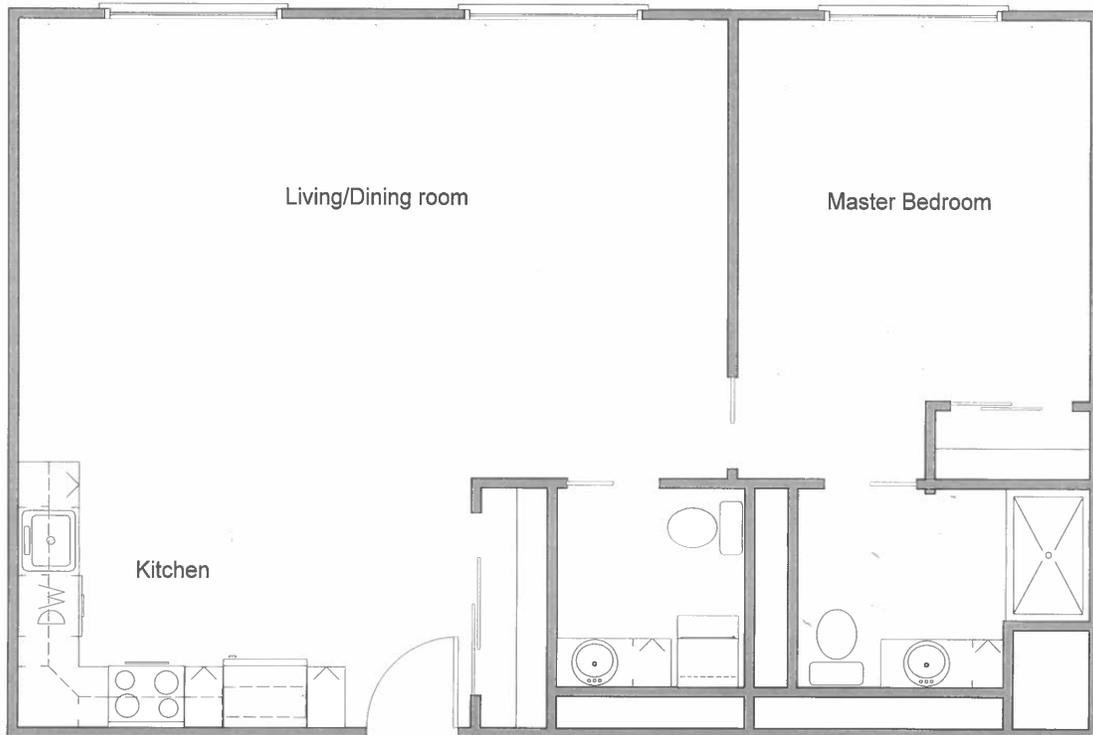
Our Vision

To be an innovative leader in senior adult services.

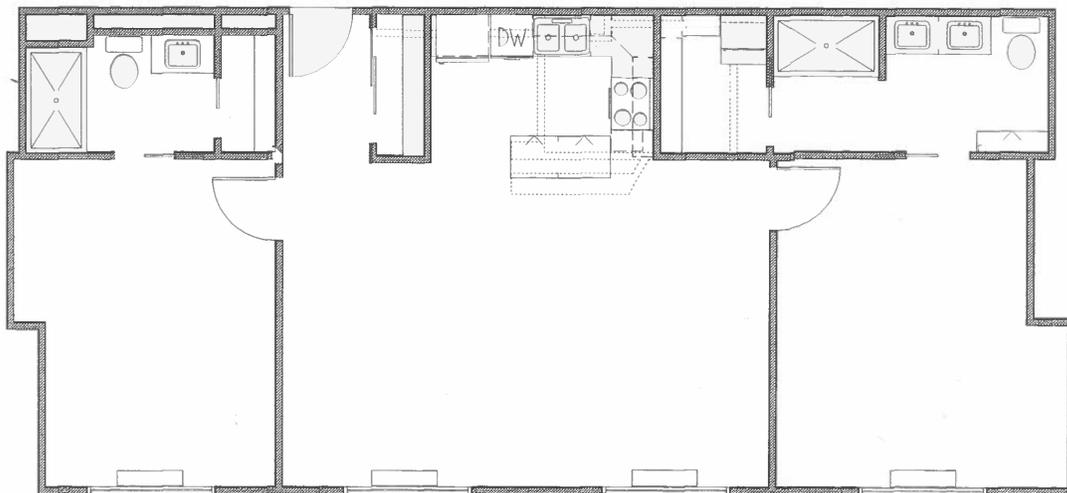
Come see for yourself....

Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality services to the community. Each of these apartment homes features a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, lovely views 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.

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



Oak Crest Unit E227 - One Bedroom 900 sq ft
Not to Scale



DeKalb Area Retirement Center
1200 Sq Ft Unit - W325
Not to Scale

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 five deserving candidates were selected.

They are:



Liliana Peterson was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$3000. 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 with a minor in women, gender, and sexuality studies. In her scholarship essay Lily wrote, "Every class I take, every professor who passes on priceless knowledge to me, and every student I meet that gives me hope for our future gets me one step closer to fully actualizing the public health professional I want to be."



Justin Pottorff received a scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Justin is a past recipient and is the son of Bookkeeping/Office Assistant, Jill Pottorff. Justin is studying chemical engineering at Iowa State University. His future plan is to pursue an engineering career in the food industry. During his scholarship interview Justin thanked the Board for their past support and added, "This award will have a major impact on my future and support me in my chosen field. Iowa State University has a superior engineering program, and I am so glad I chose the right school and the right field of study."



Katherine Sherman received a scholarship in the amount of \$4000. Katie is a previous recipient, an Oak Crest employee, and the daughter of Linda Sherman, Director of Resident Programming. Katie is a senior at the University of Illinois seeking a bachelor's degree in Clinical/Community Psychology. Katie's plan is to pursue a career in a clinical setting and work with patients battling mental health issues. In her scholarship application, Katie wrote, "I've learned how much I value my education and the path I am on; with the support of this scholarship, I can achieve great things."



Josephine Hoppenworth is the recipient of a scholarship in the amount of \$5000. Josephine is the daughter of employees Liz and Joel Hoppenworth. 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 maintains a 4.0 GPA. Josie spent last summer working as a full-time engineering intern and in her scholarship essay wrote, "I see myself researching and developing solutions to the world's need for clean water and looking at ways of reducing our demand on limited natural resources. I would like to see my contributions benefit the world in which we live."



Alanna Sterling was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$5000. Alanna has been employed at Oak Crest since December of 2015. While attending college, she worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and completed an associate degree in nursing. Upon graduation, she accepted a nursing position at Oak Crest and is now working toward her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Purdue University. Alanna's long-term goal is to expand her experiences in an emergency room setting. During the scholarship interview, Alanna said, "I would love to use this award to continue my studies, become more knowledgeable, and further develop my skills."

Making The Move



Since 1989, I have enjoyed working with and for a wonderful group of people. So, when my own parents were considering a move from their home of fifty-nine years, Oak Crest was the logical choice. After all, of their twelve children who better than their “favorite” to guide them on this journey. My dad and mom chose Oak Crest as their forever home, moved in, and quickly acclimated to their new surroundings.

When Dad’s health deteriorated, he received the care and support he needed while Mom was able to relinquish her role as caregiver and embrace her true calling as a loving wife. After Dad’s death, Mom immersed herself in the Oak Crest community and has enjoyed her many new friendships and her beautiful apartment.

An added benefit is that her “favorite” works down the hall. I understand that most people may not have a favorite daughter or son with long-term care experience, prepared to advise and assist. For those people, the process can be confusing and daunting.

With so many choices it is not always easy to separate fact from fiction. This is where Oak Crest excels. You can be confident that providing you with the information you need to make this decision is just one of the many things we do well. If you think a retirement community may be in your future, it is important to understand the options available and choose a community that is right for you.

Oak Crest’s goal is to enhance independence, while providing the peace of mind that comes from knowing your future health care needs can be accommodated on site. Our duplex and apartment homes are spacious and comfortable. Just think, gone are the worries of home maintenance and the services and amenities are second to none. As a result, Oak Crest residents have more time and freedom to enjoy the activities and past times they value.

An added benefit to moving to Oak Crest, is that you may just find yourself living down the hall from my mom’s “favorite.”

To learn more about retirement community living call (815)756-8461 or e-mail lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Hoppenworth
Director of Resident Services



Circle of Care

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 \$58,456 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 Door Opens

In Welcome



Top To Bottom:

Wayne & Sharon Fesler

– DeKalb, IL

Dennis & Wanda Sabin

– DeKalb, IL

Wish List

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 or

lhoppenworth@oakcrestdekalb.org