

From The Executive Director

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate the ever-changing regulations and limitations imposed on us by the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the DeKalb County Health Department. Although it has been an arduous journey, based on directives effective November 24, 2021, from the Illinois Department of Public Health, we are hopeful these new guidelines will allow for more open visitation, while complying with the mandated infection control protocols:

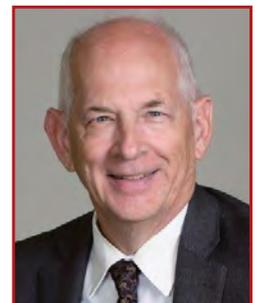
- Appointments are not required. However, residents must approve any visits. To streamline visits and minimize wait times, visits can be scheduled in advance. Residents will be contacted upon visitor's arrival to allow entry.
- Anyone entering the facility must be screened, meet entrance requirements, and sign receipt of the Oak Crest COVID-19 guidelines.
- Public Health/CDC guidelines state that visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, will not be allowed access to the facility.
- The ages and number of visitors in a private living unit is not limited. However, whenever possible, residents, staff, and visitors should maintain physical distancing at least six feet between people. (Oak Crest staff reserves the right to determine room occupancy levels)
- To minimize potential risk to others, visits and visitors must be limited to individual living units. Visits and visitors are not permitted in common areas, dining rooms or any areas where other residents may be present.
- Visitors may dine with residents in the resident's individual living unit. However, the visitor must remain masked if not actively eating or drinking.

We acknowledge that there are still risks associated with visitation and COVID-19. However, the risks are reduced by adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. Furthermore, we more than anyone, understand that residents have the right to make choices, that are significant to them. Visitors, residents, or their representative should be aware of the potential risk of visiting and adhere to all facility precautions.

The balance between maintaining the safety and well-being of a compromised population and allowing for more social contact is something Oak Crest will continue to address. Mask wearing, hand washing, vaccination, and social distancing will continue to be key factors in limiting exposure and maintaining the safety and well-being of all who live and work here. As an organization, we remain committed to providing a safe living and working environment. For the health and safety of those entrusted to our care and those who care for them, we will continue to do our very best. Thank you for your support.

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.

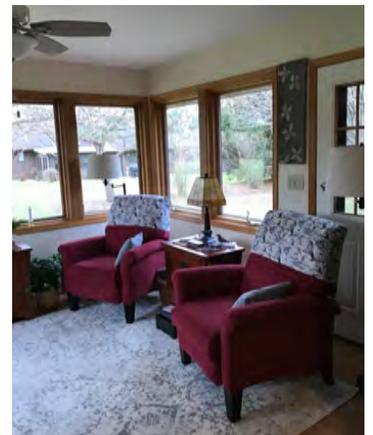
Come see for yourself....

Since opening in 1980 Oak Crest has enjoyed a wonderful history of providing quality homes and services to the community. Each living unit features a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, garage parking, and access to our on-site dining venues, 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 duplex 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



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

This Christmas season is upon us, and we are looking forward to celebrating the holidays here at Oak Crest. Although COVID-19 has made it impossible to invite our many families and friends into the community, Oak Crest residents and staff will be enjoying all the sights and sounds associated with this festive time of the year. Already, in-house volunteers under the guidance of Residents Bob and Linda Daniel have assembled teams, planned decorations, and scheduled the setting up of outside Christmas displays. Inside, the Christmas trees, ornaments, wreaths, and bows have been unpacked and volunteers are busily decorating the community. Again, this year residents are encouraged to participate in a "Deck the Halls" competition. The goal is for every apartment door and hallway to be dressed in holiday style. Resident families and friends can get in on the fun and tip the scales by providing decorations that may be mailed or dropped off at Door #4. This year staff and volunteers will be working hard to provide safe gatherings and programs that will include corridor and dining room concerts, Christmas sales, Secret Santa exchanges, holiday buffets and celebrations on the go. This year more than any other we are looking forward to a healthy and happy holiday season.

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. This year in support of this fund, more than \$65,000 was donated by friends and families. A heartfelt thank you to all the donors and to our Silver Acorn Members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Oak Crest Community.

2021 Silver Acorn Members: Stephen & Evelina Cichy, Bob & Linda Daniel, Shirl Johnson, Richard & Kathy Katz, Frank & Linda Kulesa, Lou Jean Moyer, Jane Ovitz, John & Wanda Rutter, Scott & Kathy Schroeder, Larry & Judy Sill, and Nadine Zimmerman.

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.

Oak Crest Awards Employee Grant

Twice a year since 1997 the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees has awarded grants in the amount of \$300 to deserving employees 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.



RECIPIENTS

Joan Balongag

Abby Baumbach

This year's grants were awarded to Joan Balongag and Abby Baumbach. Joan has worked as an Oak Crest certified nursing assistant since November 2015. She is presently enrolled in the nursing program at Kishwaukee College. In her application Joan wrote, "I would like to make a difference and help my community when I become a nurse. If selected for this grant, I will continue to apply the same diligence and good work ethic and making education my priority." Abby began her career during an NIU internship, enjoyed the experience, applied for, and was hired as a Resident Services Assistant. Abby is enrolled in the NIU Graduate Program for Leadership in Aging. Abby will apply her grant to a course that focuses on issues in aging. Abby said, "These courses help me to grow in my professional leadership and I am able to apply much of what I am learning to everyday experiences here at Oak Crest."

Stephen Cichy, Executive Director said, "Oak Crest's commitment to the people who live and work here is to provide a positive living and working environment. Continually, we seek out and encourage opportunities that support employees in the areas of education and self-improvement."

Charitable Giving

Oak Crest owes a huge debt of gratitude to all of you who continue to support the organization through volunteering and charitable giving. Because of the generosity of local organizations and individuals, Oak Crest continues to thrive 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 2021 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. Whether a family member, a friend, or a business associate; a gift to Oak Crest can be a wonderful way to salute those individuals. General memorial gifts range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 and will be honored with a plaque recognizing the selected individuals. Memorial gifts of greater amounts from \$5,000 and more can be recognized at specific sites throughout the community. For example, a gift of \$10,000 may be recognized at an elevator; a \$25,000 gift may be recognized in the massage therapy area, while a gift of \$100,000 or more may be recognized in the Bistro or as part of the pool, fitness center, dining room or theater. 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, 2021.

For more information on giving please feel free to contact Stephen P. Cichy at (815)756-8461 or scichy@oakcrestdekalb.org

The Artists Among Us

A big thank you to Resident artists Renie Breskin Adams and Frank Kulesa for donating their own artwork to grace the walls of the Oak Crest Gallery. Both accomplished artists and retired NIU educators, Frank's original geometric paintings compliment a collection of his colorful handmade pottery and ceramics. Renie Adams' shared prints feature real and imagined facts that come in dreamy musings about daily life. Together they offer Oak Crest art-lovers a chance to explore and enjoy the creativity of two very talented art professionals.



Renie Breskin Adams

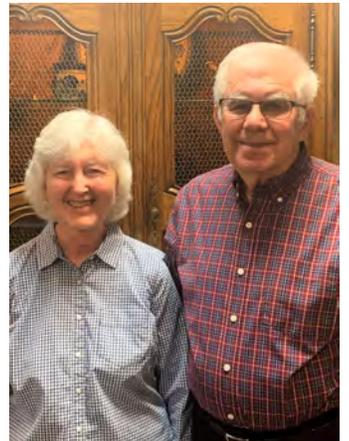


Frank Kulesa



The Door Opens

In Welcome



Top To Bottom:

Kathy Stucker

- Genoa, IL

Ralph & Helen Hannon

- DeKalb, IL

Gerald & Mary Anne Roberts

- Malta, IL

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

Oak Crest Receives OSHA / SHARP Recognition

The field of long-term care and services is one of the highest regulated fields in the nation. In 2003, Oak Crest leadership staff explored the possibility of entering a voluntary program offered through OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). The program entitled SHARP (Safety Health Awareness and Recognition Program) is a program that encourages communication and cooperation between businesses and the state. The purpose of the program is to improve the overall safety policies, procedures and practices in an industry often plagued with health-related accidents and injuries. A multi-faceted process, the program when successfully completed would result in certification as a SHARP community.

To retain OSHA/SHARP certification a renewal process must be completed every three years. OSHA representatives again visited the Center and through the efforts of a dedicated staff Oak Crest has once again received OSHA/SHARP recognition. This makes Oak Crest one of thirty-seven businesses in the state and the first and only continuing care retirement community to receive this recognition.

The Director of the Illinois OSHA On-site Consultation Program acknowledged Oak Crest's efforts in a written statement. "Oak Crest received SHARP certification due to the dedication and commitment of the company in providing a safe workplace, as well as the participation of the employees who make it happen. I want to commend Oak Crest leadership and staff in going the extra mile in making this one of the safest places to work." Oak Crest Executive Director, Stephen Cichy said, "Oak Crest is known for many things. Perhaps, most importantly we are best known for our commitment to the people who live and work here. OSHA/SHARP certification confirms and supports this. Here at Oak Crest, we put people's safety and well-being above all else."

Choosing a Retirement Community



Although COVID-19 continues to affect every aspect of our lives, the crisis will not last forever and does not change the fact that people still need to make decisions that affect their retirement and future care. The reality is that people continue to age and the same issues and concerns that they experienced before the pandemic still exist today. After working in this industry for the better part of forty years, I recognize that most older adults will say they would prefer to spend their golden years in their own homes. But ask those same people, and they will tell you they are not sure how they would manage if they could no longer care for themselves, or fully understand the options available to them.

I can't begin to count the number of times I have personally spoken with people who when faced with an unexpected health concern or injury and are at a loss for what to do. Sometimes it is the family, friends or neighbors who are trying to manage care. It's at these times when stress levels run high and the entire process can be exhaustive and confusing.

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.

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, cafes, 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 and all levels of care must be under one roof. For my own parents, living in one large building meant that as their needs increased, they would still be able to see each other day or night. If you enjoy a rural lifestyle, 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

Most retirement communities have websites and many share photos, list amenities, services, and contact information. I also encourage people to contact perspective communities and email or speak to a marketing representative. This can help to limit your search and answer many of your questions from the comfort of your own home. My best advice if you have friends residing in a particular community, is to reach out to them and spend some time getting to know the community from their vantage point. So many people living at Oak Crest came because a good friend or family member enjoyed a positive experience at Oak Crest.

Visit

The retirement decision may be one of the biggest decisions you will make in your life. Take the time to contact the communities, talk with the staff, and understand their current visitation/tour policies. At Oak Crest we can arrange for virtual tours or limited visits utilizing personal protective equipment and social distancing.

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

Parade Royalty



This year's Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade featured Oak Crest King and Queen, Harry and Marilyn Berg and the Oak Crest Rotary Club joined by members of the DeKalb Boy Scout Troop 33. The entire day and the festivities were enjoyed by all.

Board of Trustees

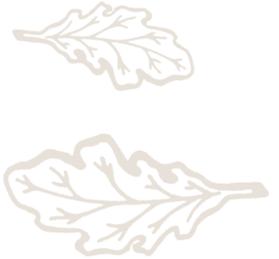
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Executive Director

Stephen Cichy



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