

Lutheran Life Communities Foundation's
INAUGURAL Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 1
JULY 2017



grace-filled

introducing grace-filled

A Message from Vice President of Mission and Ministry, Rev. Steven Reid

Greetings from the Foundation. Welcome to the first issue of the Lutheran Life Communities Foundation newsletter, Grace-Filled. In these pages, you will read about the happenings on our campuses, learn about how your gifts are making a difference, read questions answered by our President and CEO, Roger W. Paulsberg, and get to know two Lutheran Life Communities donors a little better. This edition also features our Donor Honor Roll, which lists the members of all of our Giving Societies. I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural edition of Grace Filled and that you will feel as inspired as I do about the incredible difference that a generous heart can make.



Q&A WITH PRESIDENT & CEO

Roger W. Paulsberg

What does the community's philanthropic support mean to Lutheran Life Communities? It means everything! As a not for profit, Lutheran Life Communities has always relied on the generosity of others. In 1892, an inspired message by Pastor August Reinke focused on the growing needs of the aging members of Chicago area Lutheran congregations which had no family to support them. The message led to what was then a generous gift of 26 cents, and the ministry of Lutheran Life Communities was born. For the past 125 years, that continued philanthropic support has been key to our evolution as one of America's most well regarded senior living organizations.

How is the aging population affecting Lutheran Life Communities? According to recent statistics, 10,000 people are turning 65 every day in the United States and

every 67 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's disease. Also, persons needing surgery are now being discharged from hospitals long before they are ready to return home, so there is a huge and growing need for high quality and compassion care to see them through their recovery.

What are the key changes Lutheran Life Communities is undertaking to adapt to these changes? We have worked hard to renovate our campuses to keep up with changing societal needs and are proud of being at the forefront of developing new and cutting edge treatments and programing. But we will always stay true to our core mission of providing for the spiritual as well as the physical needs of residents. Since our founding, we have never ask a resident to leave one of our communities because they cannot afford the cost of their care.

What role will community support play going forward? From generation to generation, this ministry

has been blessed by the support of generous donors and friends. The same is certainly true today, as Lutheran Life Communities Foundation accepts gifts from a growing number of individuals and families. In addition to funding our mission, that generosity is an inspiration to our leadership and staff - motivating us to make sure we are always faithful stewards of the gifts we receive.



Roger W. Paulsberg, President and CEO

DONOR IMPACT

Songs By Heart Concert Series

Recently, a supporter of the Songs by Heart concerts shared a quote with me from Albert Camus, "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words." This quote rang true for her as she walks the journey alongside her mother who is facing age-related memory issues.

A resident family member recently shared, "We're so grateful for the wonderful programs that Songs by Heart provides and to those who support it. It proves that music transcends dementia and goes straight to the heart and soul. It is the best therapy and always draws my mom out of her silence and puts a smile on her face, and mine as well."

Whether it's our organists who play beloved hymns at Sunday worship

services, special concerts and musical events, or the amazing Songs by Heart performers, music helps to unlock the joy and create the emotional release that our residents may not otherwise be able to experience.

If you would like to learn more about supporting Songs by Heart and other musical opportunities at our communities, please contact Maggie McLaughlin by phone at 847-368-7461.

The Songs by Heart concerts are a natural extension of the current music program at Lutheran Life Communities. Currently, concerts are being held at the Lutheran Home, St. Pauls House and The Arlington of Naples communities. Classically trained vocalists and opera singers perform concerts each week for our MyTapestry memory care residents. Favorite songs are performed and often trigger memories of lyrics and the experiences connected to the music. Resident family members and staff have seen firsthand how this gift of music can be a powerful bridge helping to reach loved ones by focusing on the present musical moment and regaining a connection to others. Residents begin singing along, clapping and tapping their feet, smiling and even a few join in by dancing.



Songs by Heart Singers and Foundation Staff at Lutheran Home's concert on April 9

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Planning For Your Future

As we delve deeper into such reflections on our own mortality, we naturally think of the loss of our family and that instinctive need to provide for their future wellbeing. After all, this is the core of what estate planning is all about and looking after family always comes first.

However, there are creative, tax efficient ways that you can take care of both your family and your favorite non-profit. If your passion is for supporting a not for profit ministry that provides the very best in senior living care, then Lutheran Life Communities is a worthy recipient and steward of your future estate gift. One in five residents at our six campuses has outlived their resources. And yet every resident, without distinction and regardless of their ability to pay, receives the same loving care.

One of our knowledgeable Foundation Regional Directors can visit with you and your family and discuss various gift planning options, including donor advised funds,

bequests, charitable gift annuities, beneficiary designations for a life insurance policy, or meeting your IRA minimum distribution requirement through a charitable gift. Donors often include gift officers as part of their financial planning team, along with their accountant and lawyer. The gift officer's role on this team is to allow for the maximum realization of the donor's values within the designated philanthropic setting - in this case helping Lutheran Life Communities further its mission of empowering vibrant grace-filled living across all generations at each of its campuses.

We can assure that purposeful planning with your family and financial professionals will have a lasting impact on Lutheran Life Communities commitment to walk life's journey with all its residents, in a spirit of service and love for others. We are happy to help and discuss such matters in the strictest of confidentiality.



honor flight chicago

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures - the men and women who answered our nation's call, especially at times of our greatest need. Lutheran Home and Lutheran Life Communities have been long-time sponsors and friends of Honor Flight Chicago. Honor Flight Chicago's mission is to thank and pay tribute to these heroes. Wittenberg Village and The Arlington have previously had residents aboard Honor Flights, and Lutheran Home Hearthstone resident, Joe Kunst was recently invited on their flight to Washington, D.C. for a day of thanks and remembrance.

[By Carla Khan, Honor Flight Chicago Veteran Interview Volunteer] Joe Kunst's story begins long ago in Romania where he was born in 1928 of German parents. By September 1944, the German troops said that they could not resist the advancing of Russians any longer. As Joe's father did not want to see his son drafted into the German army, they packed their belongings and headed East along with many other refugees who also feared the Russians. They traveled into Austria, where they were treated as refugees and called "Gypsies".

His scholastic career was interrupted when he noticed a large sign in the schoolyard stating that all boys born in 1928 should immediately report to the SS (Hitler's elite corps). Joe and his friends spent their days hiding out in nearby Krems till this city came under heavy allied bombardments. Joe's father, in the meanwhile was drafted by the Germans and forced to serve as an interpreter, German-Hungarian. Joe and his mother lost track of him and when the Russians approached, mother and son escaped with hundreds of other refugees in open freight train cars. The ordeal lasted for two days without any shelter, food, or water. U.S. troops set up refugee camps in Tirol and Joe and his mother were able to reunite with his father through radio reports listing refugee names and their locations.

Fortunately, Joe's grandfather had immigrated to the USA in 1906 and one of Joe's uncles offered to sponsor his relatives. And this is how the Kunst family arrived in October, 1949, in Chicago. It was on a Saturday evening at 7 PM, on a PanAm flight from Munich. They were safe. His long nightmare was over.

Adapting to the American way of life was easy after the hardship they had endured. The first thing to do was to earn enough money to reimburse his uncle the \$1,600 he had advanced for the plane tickets. Joe's father found a job as a janitor and Joe worked as a bricklayer.



Korean War Veteran and Lutheran Home resident, Joe Kunst

A real introduction into the American culture occurred when Joe was drafted in October 1951. Sadly, this was just when his mother became seriously ill and Joe received a draft deferral for one year.

After the 24 weeks of introduction into the US Army, he was given a week's furlough during which he proudly showed off his new, American uniform to the folks back home and used that time to marry his sweetheart, Elisabeth, who also was of Romanian/German descent.

Joe found himself on a troop transport Liberty ship on his way to Bremen where he joined the 14th Armored Cavalry. Although the unit specialized in light and medium tanks, Joe, with his fluency of the German language was asked to serve as an interpreter. When there was friction between American soldiers and the German law, Joe would assist during court sessions. In 1953, the Regiment was relocated to Fulda-Hessen near Frankfurt. This was a main Army Base often visited by high-ranking Generals. Joe, with his perfect service records, had the honor of being the flag-bearer during many welcoming parades.

In October 1953, Joe, was discharged and returned home where he served for another 6 years in the Army Reserve. The day after he came back, he set out to find a job. He started out as a bricklayer, soon moved on to foreman, and completed his 37-year career as superintendent. Joe and his wife were married for 52 years, raised 3 children and today he is enjoying his 6 grandchildren.

Still, when he now sees or hears stories about refugees, he deeply identifies with them. His main observation was that refugees never complain because they are too busy to survive, just like he and his parents did. He very much appreciates living in the USA.

On May 10, Joe and 109 other senior war heroes were welcomed aboard the 77th Honor Flight from Chicago to Washington, D.C. Thank you for your service!



Wittenberg Village residents and community members joined together to celebrate the dedication of the new Crown of Life Chapel At Wittenberg Village on Sunday, April 30, 2017.



Golfers enjoyed a day on the greens to support compassionate care at Lutheran Life Communities' annual Golf Classic at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove on Monday, June 12, 2017.

FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENTS

Recent Highlights

St. Pauls House held its annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 6, 2017 with over 175 guests in attendance. Guests turned out in their best Kentucky Derby attire for the appropriately themed Running for the Roses event.



In April, The Arlington hosted a weekend of music provided by Songs By Heart. Residents enjoyed a variety of performances that celebrated the launch of the Songs By Heart program at The Arlington.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Lutheran Home Donor Recognition Dinner and Paulsberg Service Leadership Awards
July 27, 2017

125th Anniversary Kick Off Gala at Chicago History Museum
Lutheran Life Communities Fundraiser
September 23, 2017

For more information contact foundation@lulife.org or visit our website at www.lutheranlifecommunities.org



DONORS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Proctor Story

Ed and Nancy Proctor moved to Luther Oaks a year ago. In doing so, they began a new lifestyle and joined the larger Lutheran Life Communities family.

When Ed and Nancy made the choice, or as Ed would tell you Nancy made the choice, and he agreed, they made the choice as they wanted. They made the choice on their terms and when they felt they needed to make the move. They now say “we are home and enjoying life here, this place is great and great for us.” Their only regret they say is maybe gaining a few pounds.

Ed and Nancy are both retirees from State Farm and have a history of supporting their community. When they learned about the Lutheran Life Communities Foundation, they wanted to hear more. Working with their Foundation Regional Director, the Proctors made the choice to become Generations Society members by including Lutheran Life Communities in their updated Estate Plans.

“It was easy to do, we met with our attorney and he made the changes, it was as simple as that” said Nancy. Ed added, “We have always wanted to make a difference and saw the value of supporting benevolent care here at Luther Oaks. We have grown to know and enjoy our

neighbors and hope our small action will benefit them or other residents in need.”

Since its founding in 1892, no resident of a Lutheran Life Community has ever been asked to leave because they could no longer afford the cost of their care. As Generations Society members, Nancy and Ed are now a part of that long tradition of generosity.

While the Proctors say they are still “the new kids on the block,” they have been quick to get involved. From serving on the food committee to playing piano at campus gatherings, they have embraced their new lifestyle. With their kind remembrance, they will be helping their fellow residents for years to come.



Ed and Nancy Proctor, Luther Oaks Residents

meet the foundation

The Foundation Team is a dedicated and experienced group of professionals who love their work and believe in our mission. The names and titles of each team member are listed here. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions you may have or assistance you may need.

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