



OHIO PRESBYTERIAN  
RETIREMENT SERVICES  
FOUNDATION

Where Donors Make A Lasting Impact

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# mission *in action*

A newsletter for donors and friends of the OPRS Foundation

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# CAMPAIGN SURPASSES GOAL!

## Celebrating success of the Mahoning Valley Lifelong Learning Institute

Donors in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley have made their voices heard in support of lifelong learning.

As part of a recent campaign, these generous donors have given more than \$1 million to establish, endow and house the Mahoning Valley Lifelong Learning Institute on the **Park Vista of Youngstown** campus.

Open to all Mahoning Valley residents, the Institute is designed to challenge the minds and stimulate the intellectual curiosity of those ages 50 and up.

The Institute is the premier entity of its kind in northeast Ohio, with a network of partners representing the foremost cultural, historical and educational organizations in the valley.

The Institute currently hosts two semesters per year, each containing 20-30 professionally-taught collegiate-level courses from four lecture series (three of which are endowed): the Harris Series on History and Political Science, the Gelhaar Series on Arts and Culture, the Kyle Series

on Religion and Spirituality, and the Wellness and Rehabilitation Series.

The capstone of the campaign is the creation of The Gelhaar Center at Park Vista (*rendering below*). It will include state-of-the-art technology to bring course presentations to life, as well as help those with vision or hearing difficulties to participate with ease.



Virtual learning from around the world will be possible. Participants will be able to tour famous museums as near as Pittsburgh and those as distant

as Paris; explore historic sites; and even network with other classrooms - all from the comfort of The Gelhaar Center.

The Gelhaar Center was named to honor the leadership and financial support of the late Charlotte C. Gelhaar, whose vision for the Institute made the campaign a realization. Charlotte was honorary chair of the campaign before she passed away.

The campaign's success was celebrated by campaign donors on March 26; a groundbreaking for The Gelhaar Center is expected in the coming months. ■

## Institute Partners

The Institute is a developing network of partners representing the area's foremost cultural, historical and educational organizations, coming together to bring first-rate learning opportunities to the people of the Mahoning Valley.

**Youngstown**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

 **The Public Library**  
of Youngstown & Mahoning County  
[www.LibraryVisit.org](http://www.LibraryVisit.org)

  
MAHONING · VALLEY  
HISTORICAL · SOCIETY

**ON THE COVER:** Institute and campaign leaders pose with one of the overflowing goal thermometers placed around Park Vista announcing the successful campaign. From left: Lori Shandor, gift planning/campaign director; Marise Sahyoun, institute director; and Brian Kolenich, Park Vista executive director.



## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

**Sarah Moore Community** held its first annual appeal as part of the OPRS system, with the OPRS Foundation handling the program.

Donors continued to show their support to Sarah Moore by responding to the Holiday Circle of Friends appeal.

Following Sarah Moore's tradition, donors sent back small cards (*above*) sharing their name, as well as the name of the person or people they gave in tribute to.

These cards were displayed on a wreath in Sarah Moore's lobby as a visible sign of the belief donors have in the Sarah Moore mission.

According to Executive Director Aric Arnett, proceeds from this year's mailing will be used for entertainment during National Nursing Home Week and Sarah Moore's annual summertime family picnic. ■



# A LASTING LEGACY

## Residents help neighbors, campus through estate gifts

Ed liked to welcome new residents with a homemade pie. Velma put on a sumptuous Thanksgiving spread. And Gail helped her neighbors in many, often unseen ways.

These three generous residents left large estate gifts to **Westminster-Thurber Community**; no surprise to those who knew Edward Smith, Velma Everhart and Gail Becher.

Together, their three estate gifts totaled more than \$650,000.

“We are so lucky that they felt such trust in us,” said Westminster-Thurber Executive Director Leslie Belfance.

Ed and Gail designated their gifts for the Life Care

Commitment, which helps ensure that residents who run out of money, through no fault of their own, will not lose their homes at Westminster-Thurber.

Velma’s gift was earmarked for capital needs, and a portion was used to remodel the fourth floor rehab unit corridors. According to Leslie, Velma’s gift impacts about 500 people a year who use the improved Rehab Studios.

For their generosity, the three donors were named to the OPRS Foundation’s Living Legacy Society, which recognizes those who have made a deferred gift or will bequest.

They are remembered fondly at Westminster-Thurber, not only for the

generous gifts they left behind, but for the many gifts they shared while living.

Ed’s friends and neighbors remember fondly how he loved to discuss politics.

Gail was appreciated for helping her neighbors with daily kindnesses, like picking up prescriptions or taking care of pets and plants while their owners were away.

And Velma was known as someone who worked hard and lived frugally so that she could help others, embodying the adage she lived by: The more you give, the more you receive. ■

Would you like to continue to support your favorite OPRS community or program after your lifetime? You can, by remembering OPRS in your will or trust.

To find out more, call your local gift planning director (listed on the back cover), fill out the enclosed reply card or visit our planned giving website:

[oprsfoundation.planningyourlegacy.org](https://oprsfoundation.planningyourlegacy.org)

# GRANTING HELP

## Walmart gift to help older adults with basic needs

**Senior Independence** in the Southwest Ohio region has received a \$25,000 grant from Walmart to help low-income seniors pay for basic needs.

The grant money will help clients at four Ohio apartment locations that are served by Senior Independence.

“We are thrilled to receive this generous grant from the Walmart Foundation,” said Rich Boyson, Senior Independence president. “In the HUD-subsidized apartments where we provide individualized aging support and referral services, residents often struggle to make ends meet.”



“Sometimes, the best way we can help someone is to help provide for their basic needs. This funding from Walmart gives us the resources to help these seniors when needed with groceries, prescriptions, copays, hygiene items, transportation and more,” Boyson explained.

Tim Moore, Walmart market manager, said that Walmart and the Walmart Foundation strive to make a difference in local communities by supporting organizations like Senior Independence.

“These grants will provide essential support to seniors who wish to live independently but too often are faced with difficult choices to make ends meet,” Moore stated. ■

**ABOVE:** Thanks to a grant from the Walmart Foundation, Senior Independence is able to help clients at four locations in southwest Ohio pay for basic needs like groceries, prescriptions, transportation and more.



Some of the more than 300 clients served have had to choose between buying groceries or prescriptions. They often miss doctor’s appointments because they can’t afford the gasoline to get there. Many who had been helped by family members have lost this assistance as loved ones have fallen on hard times themselves.

Senior Independence has used charitable donations to help those who are struggling, but the need has greatly exceeded the funds available.

# PUTTING THE "FUN" IN FUNDING

## Resident's gifts bring joy to neighbors

Thanks to resident Leo Winger, those who call **Lake Vista of Cortland**'s health care center home frequently enjoy toe-tapping music and other various events, with an emphasis on fun.

Leo's financial support of the activity department began years ago when his wife was a resident and he was just a visitor.

Leo continued to be involved at Lake Vista after his wife died, and as the years went on he decided to make the campus his home.

Now a resident of the health care center himself, Leo is able to experience the benefits of his giving firsthand.

The activity budget only goes so far, but Leo's monthly donations have really helped stretch the fun.

Leo's gifts have paid for many enjoyable moments, including special entertainment events like concerts – which are second only to bingo in popularity!

But Leo's support hasn't stopped there; he's been more than happy to step in and help out wherever he sees a need.

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***The activity budget only goes so far – Leo's donations have really helped to stretch the fun.***

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When the activity department was given a vintage record collection, Leo bought a record player so residents could enjoy the special music.

He paid for a keyboard when a fellow resident who was a pianist couldn't get to the campus's existing piano.

Leo even purchased two TVs for the dining rooms so his neighbors could enjoy the campus's closed-circuit TV system's music channel while they were eating.

"He's a wonderful, generous man," said Amy McCollum, Lake Vista's activity director.

Fun is the obvious result of all these events, but the benefits to the residents are many.

As Amy explained, the social interaction between residents can help build emotional well-being.

"Everyone needs some bright spot in their day, a reason to come out of their rooms. We can be that bright spot," she said about why these events make a difference and why Leo's support has helped to bring forth many smiles at Lake Vista. ■



# BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

## OPRS Foundation's real estate program exceeds expectations

In the midst of the housing crisis of the late 2000s, the OPRS Foundation formulated a plan that would ultimately help dozens of people avoid the hassle of selling their homes in a lagging real estate market.

By extending its charitable gift annuity (CGA) program to include real estate as a giving option, the Foundation allowed people to donate their property and in turn receive fixed payments for life.

Now, eight years later, the Foundation has accepted its 20th property, having already turned 19 homes into revenue for their former owners and charitable support for the OPRS mission.

To date, more than \$2 million has been committed through the real estate program. Thanks to donors, these funds will provide future support for Life Care Endowment and other programs.

Breckenridge Village Gift Planning Director Jim Hickey, who serves as the Foundation's real estate manager, has seen the benefits of the program firsthand.

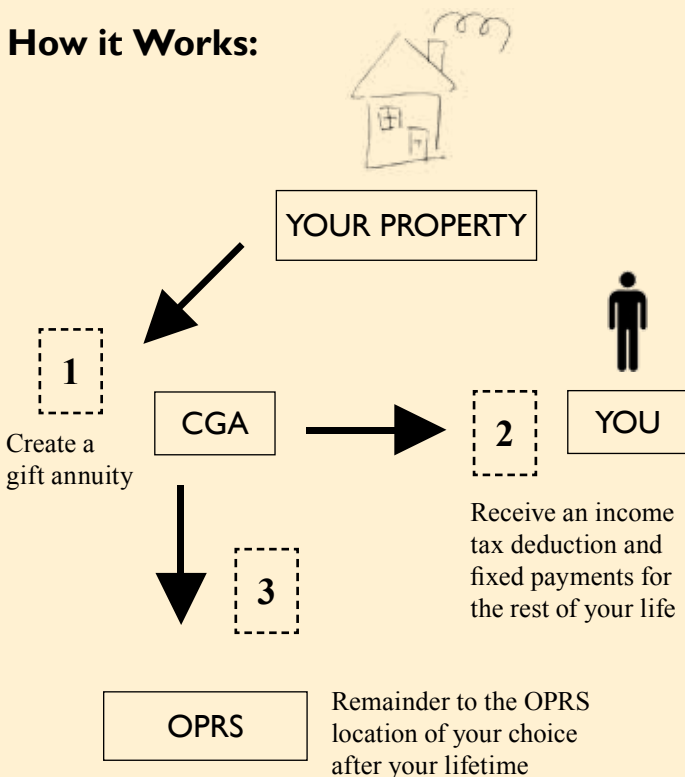
"The donors seem to be so relieved once their house has transferred to the Foundation. They get to hand over the keys while handing over the whole selling process - it takes a heavy load from their shoulders," Jim shared.

Residents Kent and Judy Smith echoed those sentiments, saying that donating their house was a "win-win" that helped them and OPRS.

"We no longer had the worry of selling our old home and we could be supportive of this organization that we value so highly," the Smiths explained, adding that "the quarterly distribution from the annuity is also most welcome!"

The real estate program has indeed been a "win-win" for donors, but it has been equally beneficial for the Foundation. The gifts that have been generated are, of course, greatly appreciated, but knowing that the program has provided donors with peace of mind is priceless. ■

### How it Works:







**OHIO PRESBYTERIAN  
RETIREMENT SERVICES  
FOUNDATION**

*Where Donors Make A Lasting Impact*

Our mission...  
is to partner with donors  
to provide charitable support  
for the people, projects  
and programs of OPRS.

Please contact us if you have any questions about  
charitable giving to OPRS.

**1-800-686-7800**

**[www.oprsfoundation.org](http://www.oprsfoundation.org)**

## **BOARD BIO: Get to know who's representing you**

**name:** Kathryn Gonser Eloff

**board position:** I have served on the Planning & Communications Committee, and now serve on the Fundraising Advisory Committee.

**hometown:** I was born and raised in Michigan.

**education:** I earned my A.B. and M.A. from the University of Michigan and my J.D. from Case Western Reserve University.

**career:** Although I enjoyed my years as a ninth grade English teacher, I decided to enter the legal profession in my 30s. In

private practice from the start (mainly in the area of elder law), I also served as an assistant law director for Cleveland Heights for 12 years. I practice ecclesiastical law in the various levels of courts in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**hobbies & interests:** My husband and I identify ourselves as grandparents first, with other interests (our entire family, sailing, the Cleveland Indians and travel) a little further down the list.

**relationship with OPRS:** I came to know and respect Breckenridge Village through my clients. My appreciation for the organization grew as I served on the Breckenridge Board, the OPRS Operations Committee and now the OPRS Foundation Board. I am particularly honored to work with OPRS Foundation President Tom Hofmann, whose energy, optimism and integrity inspire us all.

**my message to donors:** Add a charitable child to your family. If you have three children, divide your estate into four parts – the fourth part going to charities that are special to you. In this era of cuts in funding, our giving, big and small, will help keep the special programs healthy well into the future. ■

**[www.oprsfoundation.org](http://www.oprsfoundation.org)**