



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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GIVING GREEN

Donors help support campus arboretums

Thanks to donors and dedicated residents, **Llanfair Retirement Community** and **Mount Pleasant Retirement Village** are places to live within arboretums, collections of trees and plants for people to study and enjoy.

Mount Pleasant has long cared for nature. In the 1970s, residents formed a nature club and created a small park and nature trail. Resident George Henkle pushed the project further in the 1990s with an arboretum initiative and many tree and plant collections have been developed over the years within the 100-acre campus.

The arboretum tour includes more than 100 species of trees which have been planted in common spaces or residents' yards. An online tour is available.

Stan Kappers, Mount Pleasant's executive director, explained that the variety of

species has not only made for beautiful landscaping for the residents but also a wonderful walking environment.

Plaques identifying the trees have numbers, not names, and there is an annually updated brochure to explain them. That way the engraved plaques themselves don't need to be replaced.

"This started as a dream from a resident which has come to fruition in the last few years," he said. Ongoing arboretum contributions not only maintain and improve the plants and trees, but may someday lead to the addition of sculptures or other features.

Resident Phyllis Schoenberger is a champion of the arboretum project at Llanfair. This arboretum is funded by an endowment to the Llanfair Green Space



Preservation and Beautification Fund and from generous donations.

Long an avid gardener and student of nature, Phyllis' strong belief in Llanfair led her to create the Mark and Phyllis Schoenberger Greenspace Endowment. Her late husband had been a devoted supporter of her green space efforts.

She is enthusiastic about the Llanfair arboretum. "We have such a beautiful campus with old trees that we want to preserve. We also want to plan for the future in replacement of trees for sustainability," she said.

The Arboretum at Llanfair recently received Level I accreditation through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program.

Located in historic College Hill, the collection includes the Spindletree, designated as an Ohio Champion by the Ohio Forestry Association.

"This hidden gem of trees, shrubs and gardens engages residents and visitors throughout the seasons. Llanfair strives to honor our green space history by preserving our mature plantings and planning for replacement and additions for the future," said Phyllis.

We are grateful to all of the donors who have supported these arboretums. ■



ON THE COVER: Thanks to donor support, Mount Pleasant residents can enjoy the beautiful trees and plants that are part of the campus's arboretum.

LEFT: Numbered markers identify the various species of trees and plants that are part of Mount Pleasant's arboretum, which receives support from charitable gifts.

ABOVE: Llanfair's campus boasts many trees and plants as part of its arboretum, which is supported by donor generosity.

Did you know that **you can support important initiatives** like the Mount Pleasant and Llanfair arboretums?

As a donor-centered organization, we strive to honor the gift designations you, our donors, choose.

That means you can support whatever OPRS causes you'd like - just let us know what's important to you by writing in your designation on the enclosed reply envelope when you send your gift. Or call your local gift planning director at the phone number listed on the back cover to learn more.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Employees give back through donations

At OPRS, our employees are among our most faithful donors.

During fiscal year 2015 alone, employees contributed more than \$100,000 to OPRS.

At **Westminster-Thurber Community**, eight managers recently pooled their own money to buy two rechargeable, three-wheeled electric scooters for residents to use around the campus.

Tom Barry, the Westminster-Thurber gift planning director, said residents love the scooters and the senior leadership team members were glad to be able to help the residents, especially by working together.

The Westminster-Thurber staff members who donated to buy the scooters were: Leslie Belfance - executive director; Kelly Clark - administrator; Kristen Collins - director of human resources; Nancy Blake - director

of independent housing; Adam Fait - director of environmental services; Jason Koprivich - culinary and nutritional services director; Jennifer Lees - director of nursing; and Joel Wrobbel - director of marketing.

Over the past year, OPRS employees gave more than \$100,000 in support of our mission!

“They are very generous and passionate about what they do. I believe that being able to do a project together was important to them as a team,” Tom said.

Another employee donor is the Rev. Diane Walker, chaplain for **Rockynol**.

“When the capital campaign for the chapel was restarted shortly after I started working at Rockynol, I knew I was called to give a charitable gift to help build the chapel from my blessings,” she said.

“I gave because I know God has blessed me and I want to give to Rockynol my best effort so that there would be a sacred space for us to share our spiritual journey,” she added.

Many people donate to The Eden Alternative, a program which battles loneliness, helplessness and boredom among elders by promoting contact with plants, animals and children.

Just one of those donors is Jamie Hobson, who is the activities director at Westminster-Thurber, one of the OPRS campuses with a thriving Eden Alternative program.

“I give because it makes sense to support a cause you believe in. By donating either time or money, or both, you support co-workers, reinforcing the importance of one another's work,” Jamie said. She also noted that making a gift in honor of an elder is a great way to remember that person. ■

BEFORE AND AFTER

Donors fund renovations

The donor-financed transformation of **Dorothy Love Retirement Community's** activities room (*pictured at right*) is being enjoyed daily.

The renovation of the space was the gift of Linda and Richard Scott, and Vera Brosnahan. Linda and Vera are sisters of Dorothy Love resident Inez Hugeback.

The room was gutted then rebuilt with new cherry cabinets. There is more space to use and more storage for games and supplies.

Activities Director Laura Burden said the renovation is much appreciated. "We are very excited about the renovations. The room is much more spacious and has a more homelike feel to it now," she said.

The room also features new appliances and furniture, courtesy of three other donors: Dick Adams, and Dwayne and Margaret Prasuhn.

The space is being used for many events and functions. "This room is utilized for family gatherings and we hold our birthday parties, socials and men's club in here. We are very grateful for the generosity of our donors and their acknowledgment of such a need for our residents and families," Laura said. ■



FAMILY MEMBERS PAY IT FORWARD

Generous donors have paid for an extended patio and raised gardening beds to make daily life more enjoyable for the residents of **Swan Creek Retirement Village**.

When Dale and Betsy Nelson visited her father in the assisted living area, they noticed the popularity of the small outside space near the entrance.

“Residents would be there in their wheelchairs, on their walkers or just in chairs. The area was very congested at times but you can’t blame them for wanting to be outside during the very nice days,” said Betsy.

Thanks to the Nelsons’ generosity, the crowded conditions are gone and there is now a spacious extended patio.

Making a donation to help Swan Creek was a loving gesture for the Nelsons.

“My family has been involved with Swan Creek since its inception. My aunt, Nancy Fairhurst, was chairman of the Board in 1992 and my uncle, Tom Fairhurst, and dad, William Fairhurst, were instrumental in a major fundraising project,” said Betsy.

The Nelsons told Gift Planning Director Nancy Hamilton that they would cover the total cost to extend the patio, purchase all the furniture and landscape the surrounding area. “It is very enjoyable for



ABOVE: *Through a charitable gift, the patio outside Swan Creek's assisted living area has been extended, allowing more residents to enjoy the space. New furniture and landscaping were also added.*

us to see the residents and Swan Creek staff use and enjoy the patio,” said Betsy.

“We have always been blessed and feel that donating funds to projects like the Swan Creek patio is a small way of showing our gratitude,” she added.

Susan Pontius and her mother, Barbara Walker, loved gardening together.

In tribute to her mother, a former Swan Creek resident, Susan donated the funds for two raised garden beds, soil and two flats of annuals for an area outside of Swan Creek’s Memory Enhancement Center.

Through this special gift, those who can no longer spend time on their hands and knees have been able to enjoy gardening once again thanks to the raised beds, designed so a seated person can sit or roll



up and work. Long-handled tools make the plants even more accessible.

“I learned quite a bit when researching the raised beds, finding that many are designed for wheelchair-bound gardeners with slanted sides in a v-shape,” Susan explained.

Growing things had brought great joy to Barbara. Her pride was the hydrangeas

with blue flowers, and the 20-year-old wisteria that she had started from seed.

One of Susan’s favorite memories is the sight of her mom enjoying her flowers and her dog as she sat on her porch every day. “I am so glad that mom was able to do a bit of gardening during her last summer, and hope many more residents of the memory center will be able to enjoy the commune with nature thanks to the raised beds,” said Susan. ■

LEFT: In tribute to her mother, an avid gardener, Susan Pontius made a gift to create raised garden beds outside of Swan Creek's Memory Enhancement Center. The beds are specially designed so a person can work while seated, as opposed to on their hands and knees.

EXHIBITING GREATNESS

Resident art on display thanks to grant for special program

Mount Pleasant Retirement Village recently held a gallery exhibition with resident masterpieces from the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program.

The exhibition showcased the artists’ accomplishments while educating the public about the creative capacities of people living with dementia.

Because of donor support, the OMA program is able to promote social engagement, autonomy and dignity through self-expression.

The program is implemented in group sessions where up to 12 people with dementia work on a one-to-one basis with the assistance of trained volunteers.

“We would like to thank the Middletown Community Foundation for its generous donation that made this program possible. This precious gift allowed us to interact with our residents in a personal and creative way while also allowing them to communicate through another form of expression,” said a Mount Pleasant spokesperson. ■



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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

BOARD BIO: Get to know who's representing you

name: Richard B. Uhle, Jr.

board position: I'm a member of the Fundraising Advisory Committee of the Board and also serve on the OPRS Foundation's Campus Fundraising Council

hometown: Wyoming, Ohio

career: I practice law with my wife, Dee Dee, in a small suburban firm outside Cincinnati. We handle family law, estate planning and administration, real estate, business and civil litigation issues.

education: I earned my B.S. from Wittenberg University and my J.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

hobbies & interests: Golf, fitness, reading and coaching rugby.

my message to donors: OPRS has passed the test of time and quality. A donation to OPRS is a great investment in a first-class organization. Thank you for your support! ■

relationship with OPRS: My father, Richard B. Uhle, Sr., was President of Ohio Presbyterian Homes in the 1970s and early 1980s, and started The Vineyard on Catawba. I volunteered at Llanfair as a teenager and worked in the corporate office for the summer of 1973. OPRS has been a part of my family for more than 40 years.

