Reaching 100 Years and Beyond

They’ve seen so much and accomplished great things. They’ve witnessed countless changes and remember living in a simpler time. They’re wise and knowledgeable about the world around them, a world they have lived in for 100 years and counting! Several OPRS residents have reached the 100-year milestone in their lives, and recently, a select few were asked to share their life experiences. Their stories are interesting and moving to say the least. Enjoy this glimpse into the way our residents say life used to be, and join them in embracing each and every day they spend as a part of the OPRS family.

Naomi Beard

Westminster-Thurber Community resident Naomi Beard takes tremendous pride in her heritage. Naomi, who turned 101 on March 28, says, “I was raised in a good family – we weren’t rich, but we were happy!” Naomi remembers how, during her childhood, her father would hitch up the wagon on Sunday mornings, picking up “a whole congregation” of friends and neighbors on their way to church. Her family even owned a pipe organ, and they often socialized with fellow churchgoers at home. Naomi attributes her long and happy life to her good upbringing, loving family (including five siblings) and wonderful husband, Justin, who passed away 10 years ago.

Marion Brant

The first memory Marion Brant can recall is making a roadway for his toy truck when he was 3 years old. Today, at age 100, Marion is still building, inventing and adapting things for the sake of form, function and fun. A Llanfair Retirement Community resident for the past 25 years, Marion spent 37 years of his career as an engineer at Procter & Gamble and has held several patents including the Tee EZ Plus, a device that allows a golfer to tee up a ball without bending over. With all of his professional success, Marion points to creating an 18-hole golf course and founding a kazoo band at Llanfair as two accomplishments of which he is most proud. In addition, Marion is a generous donor and currently serves as Honorary Chair of the Llanfair Capital Campaign. He believes people live long lives nowadays not only because of their genes, but also because of the way they live. Marion says, “Retirement living today emphasizes diet, activities and interaction with other people.”

Gladys Coleman

This past April, Gladys Coleman turned 102 years old and attributes her longevity to heredity – her mother lived to be 108! Gladys says her proudest accomplishments were being married to her late husband George for 42 years and having a son. Except for maybe going to college, Gladys says she wouldn’t do anything in her life differently. She is glad she had the opportunity to take care of her mother for 17 years and her brother for four years. When asked what she thinks has changed the most in the last 100 years, Gladys points to transportation saying, “it used to be horse and buggy, and now we go into space.” Gladys has called Breckenridge Village home for four years and she loves it! She has many friends on her floor.
Debora Dearing

Debora Dearing, who turned 101 on July 6, says that a loving and harmonious family is her proudest accomplishment. “I think that means an awful lot,” she says. She also considers herself part of the caring family at Westminster-Thurber Community, saying “I love it here – it’s home. The staff members have such happy smiles – how lucky I am to be here!” Debora moved to Westminster-Thurber in 1999 along with her sister Mary, who passed away in 2003. Debora attributes her own longevity to her lifelong focus on family, and her role as homemaker and caregiver. She recalls a safer, simpler time growing up, despite the relentless teasing from her three older brothers, which resulted in her becoming a “spitfire”!

Mary “Madge” Frank

Mary “Madge” Frank celebrated her 100th birthday on February 13. According to Madge, the secret to a good long life is “doing all of the wrong things.” She proudly states that she has always been surrounded by friends, loves to laugh and avoids arguments. Madge recalls her first grade year at St. Clemons Catholic School in 1912, and has enjoyed being a devout Catholic all of her life. Of particular note, Madge describes her correspondence with the actor Jimmy Stewart, whom she met in New York City. “We enjoyed our friendship and wrote back and forth, but he already had a girlfriend,” says Madge. “We were just good friends.” Madge has lived at Llanfair Retirement Community since September of 1997, and enjoys visits from her nieces and nephews.

Harriet Hurd

Harriet Hurd, who turned 100 on September 4, is a living testament to the principles of the OPRS mission. She attributes her longevity to living right – eating and sleeping well, and maintaining a strong spiritual faith. Harriet says, “Mama sent us to church as children, and it has stayed with me for a lifetime.” Harriet fondly recalls her days as a married woman: “Things are different now without my husband – we were married a long time.”

Edna K (Kaminski)

Edna K celebrated her 100th birthday on May 8th of this year when her friends and family threw her a big party in the Victorian Dining Room at Swan Creek Retirement Village. Her advice for living longer and better: “Just stay active. Get involved, do something.” Edna has lived at Swan Creek for 15 years; she and her second husband, Al, had invested in the community’s construction and moved in together when it opened in 1992. Edna met her first husband, Yaro Hendricks, while working for a book manufacturer. Edna and Yaro were married for 45 years and had a son, Ray; who comes to visit her every Friday, which he calls “Mother’s Day.” Edna loves to waltz because it’s “so elegant,” and her favorite color is pink, which she happily wore at her birthday party.

Maria Lopez

Maria Lopez, a Senior Independence client in North Canton who turned 101 in May, was born in Spain and came to the U.S. when she was only 9 years old. She recalls being quarantined at Ellis Island because one of her sisters was ill with the measles. Maria was married in Canton; her husband also immigrated to the U.S. from Spain when he was 17. When asked about her proudest accomplishment, Maria describes how, during the Depression when her husband worked in highway construction for the state of New York, she ran a boarding house for the workers, and moved as
the highway progressed. She attributes her longevity to good health, a good life, and helping others along the way.

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick, 101 years old, has vivid memories of growing up on a farm. He fondly recalls everything from milking cows and churning butter, to swimming in the creek on the farm with his six siblings. When Joe became an adult, he went to work as a bricklayer and joined the union. He explains that bricklayers were always in demand, which allowed him to travel all over the country to work in other places. Joe and his wife Mary Helen raised a family. They even raised two of their grandchildren after their daughter was tragically taken from them in an accident. Joe says he thinks that transportation has changed the most over the last 100 years. He remembers riding in buggies pulled by horses, and later, the Model T Ford. Joe, who is also a 32nd degree Mason, says he was one of the first residents to move into the Cape May apartments, and he loves it. Joe has a great sense of humor and a ready smile.

Doris MacDonald

Doris MacDonald, 102, was born in Akron, and her earliest memories include spending Sundays with her father’s extended family, including his 12 brothers and sisters. In high school, Doris spent a summer in Europe with some of her classmates. She earned a degree at the University of Akron, and later moved to Columbus with her husband. Doris lived in Columbus for several years, working as a social worker for a Catholic agency, providing support to foster children of all ages. She is proud of her efforts to help children, in her own words, “go on to greater things.” Her legacy of caring continues at Rockynol, where she enjoys meeting all kinds of people and practicing kindness and consideration wherever she goes.

Ann Minwegen

Ann Minwegen, 103 years old, attributes her long life to two things: being happy no matter where she is or what life brings her way, and lots of dancing! Ann was born in 1903 in Hamburg, Germany, and moved to the U.S. when she was 29 years old. She met her future husband Kurt on the ship that brought her to New York City. She worked as a nanny for a wealthy family, traveling with them and taking care of their only son. Ann has two children of her own – a daughter and a son – who both live in Ohio. Ann is a very active resident of Swan Creek Retirement Village, and takes a walk around the campus almost every day. She also likes to play cards (especially euchre), enjoys field trips to The Butterfly House and attending Toledo Mud Hens home games. Ann loves high heels, and she still wears them, even to the local church she attends every Sunday.

Mary Bibler Morris

Mary Bibler Morris is an exuberant retired elementary school and Sunday school teacher who describes herself as a “go-getter.” Of her 100 years of life, Mary has spent the last 15 at Westminster-Thurber Community, where she enjoys her family, volunteering, an active faith and playing bridge and Scrabble. Mary was raised in Columbus along with her nine siblings, and has maintained a close bond with all of her family throughout the years. “This too shall pass” and “Do unto others” are her favorite mottos. A former Lady Shriner, Mary excelled as a clown and puppeteer. She founded the Red Hat Society at Westminster-Thurber and is a member of Hoge Presbyterian Church.

Helen Gerber Ramsdell

At age 100, Helen Gerber Ramsdell projects enthusiasm and energy everywhere she goes. Teaching private voice lessons to six people per week from her apartment at Mount Pleasant Place is only part of the picture – she keeps a busy social calendar as well! Born on
a farm near Collinsville, Ohio, Helen received a master’s degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory, studied and lived in Milan, Italy and performed internationally as an opera singer. Despite her extraordinary talent, Helen remains down-to-earth and modest. She believes she has the “duty and obligation to witness the glory of God. With all that the Lord has given me, that is the least I can do.” Helen has enjoyed her recent birthday celebrations and is amazed by the outpouring of love and admiration people have shown her.

**Josephine Schumacher**

Llanfair Retirement Community resident Josephine “Jo” Schumacher, who turned 103 on April 11, thinks it’s great to live over a century. When asked about her earliest memory, Jo vividly describes her childhood on her family’s farm in Indiana, shucking wheat alongside her mother, brother and sisters while her baby sibling slept safely in her mother’s washtub. “We had a half day’s work done by dawn,” she says. Jo also recalls walking to work alone in the dark as a young woman and not feeling afraid; “It’s a different world now from back then,” she says. When asked what she thinks has changed the most over her lifetime, she responds, “Women gaining the right to vote – we should have had that right all along.” Jo enjoys her life at Llanfair and taking part in the many activities offered to residents.

**Florence Sayre Shine**

Florence Sayre Shine, who turned 101 on July 5, is part of the founding history of the Dorothy Love Retirement Community. Florence is a cousin of Moses, Martha and Elizabeth Russell, the original donors of the 294 acres of farmland on which the Dorothy Love campus is situated. The gift was made in 1921, in memory of 7-year-old Dorothy Love, daughter of the local Presbyterian minister. Florence recalls the journey, in a horse and buggy, to a dedication at the community, most likely the laying of the cornerstone for Russell Hall in 1922. Florence retired from a long career in nursing, and attributes her longevity to a keen interest in people. She enjoys reading, saying that she is able to “travel anywhere in the world” through her books.

**Alma Vetter**

At age 103, Llanfair Retirement Community resident Alma Vetter just keeps on going and keeps a good house – her philosophy for living a long and happy life. Born in 1904, Alma can remember events from the first decade of the 20th century. Alma grew up with five sisters and two brothers in the historic Mt. Auburn neighborhood in Cincinnati, home to President William Taft. Alma was especially close to her sisters, and enjoyed frequent visits with them. If she were able to do it all again, Alma says she would pursue an education. She enjoys reading about current events and watching TV. Alma has lived at Llanfair for 27 years and says in all that time she’s never heard a cross word spoken: “Everyone is as nice as can be!”

A special thank you goes out to all of these residents for sharing their life experiences! OPRS joins them, and all of our 100+ residents, in celebrating their longevity!

**Events of 1907**

- President Roosevelt serves 2nd term
- Hoover Vacuum Cleaner was invented
- Albert Einstein postulates E=mc2
- Florenz Ziegfeld introduces his Ziegfeld Follies
- Radiometric Dating finds the earth is 2.2 billion years old
- Rudyard Kipling won the Nobel Prize in Literature
- Color photography was invented
- Katharine Hepburn was born
- A financial panic and depression begins on March 13
- The Hague Conference extended the rules of war and international arbitration procedures
- Good Housekeeping costs $1/year
- The Hershey Kiss was invented
- UPS is founded in Seattle, WA
- Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory become Oklahoma, which is admitted as the 46th U.S. state

**1907 Economy**

- U.S. Population is 87,008,000
- Immigration to the U.S. peaks at 1.2 million in one year
- Unemployment = 2.8%
- 1st Class Stamp = $0.02
- Bacon = $0.20 lb., Butter = $0.33 lb., Eggs = $0.29 dozen
- Teacher’s salary averaged $325/yr
- Average worker makes $12.98 per week for 59 hours
Campus News

Breckenridge Village: A special group of people, the future residents, broke ground for the Brownstone at Northridge. On May 8th, board members, city dignitaries and representatives from the construction firm joined the soon-to-be neighbors for the event. Breckenridge Village Chaplain Don Grauer led the group in prayer and then the residents dug into the dirt using shovels tied with gold ribbon.

Cape May Retirement Village: In early June, Cape May held its second annual “Prelude to Summer” campus-wide picnic. Everyone gathered in the Hogatt Pavilion to celebrate the beauty of the campus. The pavilion was built with a gift from residents Galen and Elizabeth Hoggatt. The residents and staff participated in a potluck, and enjoyed the music of Pam Noah and her swing band. They played many old favorites that delighted and energized the crowd. Everyone loved the event so much that they’ve asked to hold something similar in the fall!

Dorothy Love Retirement Community: Thanks to generous donor support, another high quality living option will soon be available at Dorothy Love! A groundbreaking ceremony for “The Suites at Dorothy Love” was held in late July.

Lake Vista of Cortland: On July 19, 2007, residents and staff members celebrated the one year anniversary of Lake Vista’s in-house television channel (VCTV). Channel 22 is the product of many residents’ contributions – financial, expertise and time! Stan Seagle, Bob Irwin and Naudean Burr are the TV executives at Lake Vista, each with different responsibilities and areas of expertise. In one year, VCTV has grown from 25 “slides” of information to over 80, showing 24/7. Initially, it was the source of information about upcoming events and changes but with time has evolved to include videos of interviews with department managers and profiles of residents and new employees. Occasionally, movies are shown – a great help when the weather is bad and people need to curl up with a good movie at home.
Llanfair Retirement Community: In June, Llanfair participated in the second annual “Gardens of College Hill Tour.” A letter sent to OPRS President and CEO David Kaasa, from the event chairperson, expresses many compliments from people who visited the Llanfair gardens. Several people asked to return for another visit. The letter called attention to the hard work of Llanfair residents Phyllis and Mark Schoenberger. The couple designed, planted and now maintains the Grove Garden! The letter also praised Llanfair for its professional staff and support of the community.

Mount Pleasant Retirement Village: Excitement is in the air at Mount Pleasant. The new Brownstone is now complete and the first residents have moved in! The inside and outside of the Brownstone turned out just as beautiful as anticipated. The Brownstone allows folks a chance to live beyond their imaginations by leaving the worries of a “to-do” list behind. It’s a place where individuals can enjoy freedom from home maintenance and have peace of mind.

Park Vista Retirement Community: Thanks to an ambitious young man, Park Vista’s Therapy Center has a new tool for helping residents! As a project towards becoming an Eagle Scout, Jim Evans (pictured above right with Executive Director Brian Kolenich) designed and constructed two stand-up gardens for the residents. He raised the funds for the project by collecting cans for recycling. Brian Kolenich expressed his appreciation to Jim during a ceremony held in June. The other will be used in the health care center and will present the stuffed animals and said prayers for the Llanfair residents and family members who were to receive them. Llanfair Chaplain Jan Ledford said the teddy bears, also tagged with prayers, were a big hit with residents and very much appreciated.

Rockynol Retirement Community: For the second time, Rockynol was voted “#1 Assisted Living/Nursing Home” by the readers of the Akron Beacon Journal. In celebration, Rockynol hosted a “Beacon’s Best Party” for residents, their families and staff. Pianist Guyatona Parks entertained the approximately 150 people in attendance, who sipped champagne and enjoyed appetizers. Congratulations to all of Rockynol’s staff for such a wonderful accomplishment! (Pictured below left to right, residents Betty Oliver and Blonnie Cabe.)
Rockynol resident Hugh Porter Jr. (pictured below) was honored this past Memorial Day at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum in Pittsburgh. Hugh, who is a Carnegie Mellon University graduate and a retired employee of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was recognized for saving two injured men from another unit during the push through Germany in 1945. Hugh noticed them hunkered down in the midst of enemy fire, so he jumped in a nearby jeep, rescued them and transported them two miles to an aid station. Hugh’s noble act of bravery earned him a Silver Star!

Swan Creek Retirement Village: AOPHA, The Advocate of Not-For-Profit Services for Older Ohioans, has taken notice of a special practice that has become part of the culture at Swan Creek. The community’s “Dignity in Dying Team” will receive AOPHA’s 2007 Award for Excellence in Service (Best Practice) for Nursing Facilities. The team, which was recruited by Swan Creek Chaplain Bill Barnard, fulfills a purpose that is twofold: to ensure that each resident is accorded full dignity and respect at the end of his or her life, and to give employees a chance to fulfill relationships with those for whom they cared. Congratulations team!

The Vineyard on Catawba: If golf enthusiasts at The Vineyard have seen an improvement in their putting skills recently, they have resident Frances “Starr” Carsten to thank! Starr, 98, moved to The Vineyard two years ago from Naples, Florida where she lived on a golf course. This avid golfer, who is a proud award recipient for making a hole-in-one, felt the community could use a putting green for the residents. Residents now enjoy the beautiful 450 square foot artificial putting green complete with four holes. Starr is delighted and practices on the new green frequently, which keeps her up on her game for when she flies back to Naples each April to serve as a sponsor at a tournament held at her former home course!

Westminster-Thurber Community: Each year during Administrative Professionals Week, Westminster-Thurber and Senior Independence recognize the exceptional work of church administrative assistants during an annual luncheon. This year’s event featured a new element: the Spirit Award. Local churches were given the chance to nominate their workers, paid or volunteer, for the honor. Fifteen nominations came in, and Lorie Ellett (pictured below with Westminster-Thurber Marketing Director Joel Wrobbel), from Overbrook Presbyterian Church, was selected as the winner!

Did you know that May is Teacher Appreciation Month? The staff at Westminster-Thurber Community celebrates each year by holding a “Meet the Teacher” night. Several people who worked in the education field have chosen Westminster-Thurber as their home – approximately 55 teachers live in Thurber Towers! Resident Doris Wipert started the event years ago, and with the support of the community, it has continued to grow.
around the state

Senior Independence News

**Akron/Canton Region:**
The Adult Day Center located in the Westminster Presbyterian Church recently celebrated “25 Years of Caring” with a wonderful luncheon. The Senior Independence staff deserves to be recognized for their hard work in making it a special day for Senior Independence Adult Day Center clients. Attendees enjoyed food, drink and raffle prizes. Everyone appreciated the efforts of the staff that baked, cooked, decorated, attended and cleaned up! A special thank you to Westminster Presbyterian Church for providing decorations for the event from their Vacation Bible School, the enjoyable fellowship hall and maintenance crew.

**Greater Cleveland Region:**
The Senior Independence Adult Day Center at Breckenridge kicked off the summer by firing up the grill! A traditional cookout was held in the courtyard, and the Club Members prepared everything on the menu. Some of the men gathered around the grill to cook the hot dogs and reminisce, all while enjoying a cold drink. Others made homemade lemonade and ice cream for all to enjoy. The fun afternoon ended with a sing along!

**Mahoning Valley Region:**
The Mahoning County Senior Center opened its doors to a very special speaker on April 17. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland was on hand to promote his new proposal, the Homestead Act. Governor Strickland described the Homestead exemption as a valuable tool to help older Ohioans reduce their tax liability. Senior Independence Executive Director Karen Ambrose said, “We were honored to give Governor Strickland a forum for this important issue. It was thought-provoking and our members appreciated being part of the discussion.”

**Southwest Region:**
Staff members from Senior Independence, Llanfair and Mount Pleasant were recently joined by board members and community leaders for an appreciative inquiry retreat. An appreciative inquiry is a facilitation method that brings participants together to build a shared vision for their future based on their strengths. This retreat, which was led by Joan Punch Fleming, Senior Independence executive director, focused on forming a group vision for hospice. The retreat was very well received, with over 50 people in attendance.

(Pictured above left to right, Senior Independence Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Nancy King, Senior Independence Executive Director Karen Ambrose and Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.)

(Pictured above co-facilitators left to right, Senior Independence Executive Director Joan Punch Fleming and Rev. Vicki Hammel, United Church of Christ, Boston, MA.)
It's History in the Making!

The early support of so many people across the state has prompted the OPRS Foundation to announce a statewide goal of $50 million for The Mission, The Vision, The Promise Capital Campaign. To date, $46 million has been committed toward this goal, which is the largest campaign in OPRS history.

The campaign projects will change the face of many OPRS communities, bringing many new buildings, renovations and services. These additions will not only provide innovative amenities and programs for those we serve, but in many cases will give a facelift to the communities, readying them for prospective residents in the decades to come.

Interestingly, the campaign has also changed the face of the typical OPRS donor. New donors have come forward to support our efforts; longtime friends have stepped up their level of giving; and many have made commitments to fund projects that they know they may never see in their own lifetimes.

Statewide Honorary Co-Chairs Judy McCormick and Sue Mooney agree that donor engagement and momentum are higher than ever, a wonderful testimony to the compassion and professionalism of OPRS staff around the state.

The campaign officially ends June 30, 2008, and we need continued support to reach our goal. We hope to give everyone an opportunity to participate in the campaign for his or her campus, adding new legacies for others to follow.
The following campaign projects are scheduled to break ground this fiscal year. Below are early renderings of campaign projects. Some details may change before project completion.

A new cultural center at Breckenridge Village linking the Osborne Community Plaza and Shafer-Schweitzer House apartments

A new chapel and wellness center at Llanfair Retirement Community

A new chapel for Mount Pleasant Retirement Village

The new front entryway at Dorothy Love Retirement Community, the first campaign project to break ground, was completed over a year ago. Several other ambitious projects are planned at Breckenridge Village, Park Vista Retirement Community, Rockynol Retirement Community, Swan Creek Retirement Village and Westminster-Thurber Community, and we look forward to sharing those with you later in the year.
Retirement Hasn’t Hindered Reverend’s Service to Rockynol

With his friendly smile and kind words, Rockynol’s Rev. Tom Heinlein has been a long-time treasure to the residents and staff at the community.

Tom served as Rockynol’s Chaplain for 16 years before retiring in 1997. An expert in his field, Tom is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He also holds a master’s degree in pastoral care and counseling, as well as a graduate certificate in gerontology from The University of Akron. Before joining the OPRS family, Tom served as a Presbyterian minister in Indiana for 24 years. Tom first learned about OPRS while reading a Presbyterian minister’s publication in the early ’70s and he was thrilled when he was hired as the chaplain at Rockynol. He considers his time at the community to be the best years of his ministry.

Because those years were so rewarding, Tom decided to return to Rockynol as a volunteer shortly after retirement. His duties have included eight years as education director, being Eileen Narraway’s “right hand” in the training office and assisting with functions involving the Long Term Care Network. Most recently, Tom has taken to transporting residents back and forth from the health care center to the hair salon, and he chats with them along the way. Tom is also an essential member of Rockynol’s Advisory Board, serving as Chairman of the Board’s Program Committee.

In his “spare” time, Tom also volunteers to fill in for ministers at area churches.

Rockynol is truly blessed by the presence of Rev. Tom Heinlein! Thank you Tom, for your many years of service!
John F. Schoedinger had a character all too uncommon in this world. Known as a talented businessman who was resolute in his values, exceptionally ethical and kind, John would help anyone he felt he could. Because of this, Westminster-Thurber Community will always remember him as one of its closest friends.

The retired fourth generation president of Schoedinger Funeral Services, John F. Schoedinger passed away on June 23rd at age 93.

A 1935 graduate of Cornell University with a degree in mechanical engineering, John refused an initial job offer in Venezuela because it interfered with his plans to settle down with Juliet, whom he first met in seventh grade and married in 1938. He went to work instead for the family business of Schoedinger Funeral Homes, earning $15 a week while planning a future for himself and the company.

In the 60 years until his retirement in 1995, he worked with his brother, Bob, to expand the Schoedinger business from one facility in downtown Columbus to nine facilities in and around the Columbus area; he welcomed two sons and two grandsons into the company; and he established a business and philanthropic reputation consistent with the more than 150 year history of the company.

During the same time, Juliet, a physician, established a geriatric medical practice, caring for patients until she retired in 1980. By the time she died in 1994, both she and John had developed a common interest in the dignity and well-being of the elderly.

The nature of John’s business gave him a great deal of exposure to residential communities for older adults, and much of what he saw in the early days of his business career was not to his liking. He deplored the cramped, grimy conditions in which many older people were forced to live at that time, and he took up their cause long before elder issues were a major community concern.

His early interest led him to what was then the Westminster Terrace Community. There he found a well-managed facility providing clean living conditions and reputable care, and he accepted an invitation to serve on the Board.

In the 30 years that followed, John dedicated a large part of his time to Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services, accepting various board and committee posts for not only Westminster-Thurber, but also for OPR S and the OPRS Foundation. He was the treasurer of the original OPRS Foundation Board, serving on the Foundation’s Investment Committee; honorary co-chair of the Westminster-Thurber Capital Campaign of 1994; and served as a committee member for both the Westminster-Thurber Community endowment campaign committee and its philanthropy committee.

During the past two years, John served as an honorary co-chair of The Mission, The Vision, The Promise Capital Campaign at Westminster-Thurber Community, lending his name and expertise to the largest and most ambitious fundraising initiative at the campus to date. And his affinity for Westminster-Thurber led him to become a resident of the campus last year as well.

John donated over $1 million to the needs of those served by Westminster-Thurber Community during his decades of involvement, making him the most generous donor to the campus in its history.

“John was not only a supporter but also a great friend to Westminster-Thurber,” says Tom Hofmann, President of the OPRS Foundation. “He has helped so many, both personally and financially, and I only hope that we were able to give him as much friendship and respect in return.”
In previous issues of Mission in Focus, the services provided to older Ohioans by Senior Independence have been highlighted. Details have been given about everything from in-home care and health services, to adult day centers and hospice.

In this issue, the goal is to illustrate the profound impact that Senior Independence has on the lives of its thousands of clients. Senior Independence clients are given the opportunity to fill out recognition forms to honor their caregivers. The response is overwhelming and touching. “We know that clients and their families are the best judges of the quality care we provide,” says Sally Huston, Senior Independence Clinical Director. “Our employees do a great job caring for our clients, and mostly work by themselves in clients’ homes, so they don’t get daily feedback from co-workers or their supervisors. The clients appreciate being able to remain at home with our care. They often want to repay our caring workers by letting us know how they feel about them.” The following are just a handful of the kind words written by Senior Independence clients, which confirm that the Senior Independence vision to be Ohio’s premier provider of home and community-based services is being carried out every day.

“I love my caregiver! She is a real sweetheart. She is always on time and is very competent. She brings the right amount of everything. She is concerned, compassionate, patient and always has a big smile!”

“My aide is a wonderful compassionate lady who has talks with me. She comforted me when my brother passed away. She sent me flowers and a card. She also has taken the time to go get my prescriptions when no one else was available. She is a truly wonderful gal.”

“My Senior Independence worker does an outstanding job and has never missed a day, even in the snow and rain.”

“My health aide has so much feeling for the sick and ailing. If she doesn’t get things done, she sometimes stays overtime. I have learned to love her dearly.”

“The Senior Independence worker who visits my home is very compassionate and does everything she possibly can to help me and make me comfortable. She is very dependable and is always on time. She always comes with a smile and an uplifting spirit. I feel she goes above and beyond her call of duty.”

“Lasting Impression”

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I would like to see my caregiver honored. She does my grocery shopping, but doesn't stop there. If Kroger doesn't have an item, she will go elsewhere to find it. She is willing to do side errands. She is sensitive to my woes when I have them. She is positive and cheery. I look forward to her visit each week."

"The gentleman who delivers my meals really cares about my well-being. He is exceptionally cheerful and it is a pleasure to see him each day."

"My health aide tops all other health aides I've ever had. She is honest, sincere, and has high standards and ethics. She is very dependable and trustworthy. I truly feel that she cares for my comfort and me. I would be lost without her. She is a gem and deserves to be honored for her daily performance."

"My caregiver has really helped me when I really needed it. She saved my life with her kind words and information. She deserves to be recognized."

Senior Independence has been training staff from all over the state in a nationally recognized program called “Respecting Choices.”

The program educates the public on making health care choices before a crisis occurs and how to effectively communicate those choices to family members and loved ones. Many times when a health crisis occurs, family members are left to make major health care decisions for their loved ones. If they are not aware of their loved ones' wishes it can be an agonizing and stressful time.

The “Respecting Choices” program gives Senior Independence the tools to teach the public about advance planning (making choices regarding future health care decisions). It is a significant opportunity to bring attention to the issues surrounding older adults.

Senior Independence is currently awaiting CEU approval so classes and other professional training can be offered to social workers and nurses, as well as the general public. The last two-day training session was in July and included the Senior Independence marketing staff, administrators, executive directors and church visitation directors. Those who attended felt that it gave them tools and language to use effectively when speaking to seniors and their families.

Additionally, two booklets are being provided as companion pieces to the educational sessions. These booklets include actual advance directives and directions for filling them out, and a document to guide conversation and make wishes known. Senior Independence feels strongly in pursuing a path of public education on aging issues with “Respecting Choices” as our first step.
Technology Trends

What’s new in Technology? Two OPRS Web sites of course! Both OPRS and the OPRS Foundation have launched redesigned Web sites over the summer. You’ll find them at www.oprs.org and www.oprsfoundation.org. Both sites illustrate the vitality, enthusiasm and warmth of our people and our organization.

On www.oprs.org, you’ll find information about our continuum of care, our history, our commitment to wellness and spiritual life programs, our mission, employment opportunities, current OPRS headlines and so much more.

Additionally, each OPRS community has its own home page on this site, and is searchable on the Internet. Floor plans have been added to these community pages, aerial views will soon be posted and online campus “tours” are planned for the future.

Updates to these sites are an ongoing priority; if you have feedback to share about our sites, please do not hesitate to let us know!

Jean Morgan
Jean Morgan has taken over the role of executive director at Swan Creek Retirement Village. Jean has 25 years of experience in the not-for-profit retirement community field. Most recently, she served as the director of support services for Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester, Indiana. Before that, she worked for OPRS for 19 years! Welcome back to OPRS Jean!

M. Brad Reynolds
OPRS Chief Executive Officer and President Dave Kaasa recently announced Brad Reynolds as the new chief human resources officer and vice president. In 1990, Brad joined the OPRS family as manager of compensation and Benefits and most recently held the title of vice president, corporate human resources. Brad received his B.A. and M.A. from The Ohio State University and also holds the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification. His prior experience includes human resource experience in utilities, banking and government. Congratulations Brad.
Dana Ullom-Vucelich

Having been with OPRS for seven years as the associate vice president for human resources, Dana was promoted to vice president for human resources and ethics and compliance officer. She has a B.A. from Kent State University and an M.A. from Webster University. At a recent Board of Directors meeting Dana shared, “I feel encouraged to be a member of a group of employees that live the mission with integrity every day. I look forward to educating about ethics and compliance while promoting the culture of serving in an ethical and moral community.”

Corporate Splashes

Employees L. Candice (Candy) Hawkins, associate vice president for education and organizational development and M. Brad Reynolds, vice president and chief human resources officer, were interviewed and quoted in the May/June issue of FutureAge – a publication of the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (AAHSA). The feature titled, “Release the Leaders in Your Staff,” discusses the ways OPRS strives to cultivate leadership in staff at all levels. The article also featured cover page pictures and inserts of Westminster-Thurber Community employees and residents. Brad shared one of the communication successes is “the daily huddle” which is the opportunity for all employees throughout the OPRS family to gather for five minutes each day to hear a message that sets the tone for the workday – Huddle examples include: tales of mission in action; facts about benefits and policies; general updates; OPRS facts past and present; and employee recognition such as accomplishments, birthdays and anniversaries. Brad was quoted as saying, “It may be brief, but the daily huddle serves as a reminder of OPRS’ culture, expressed by the slogan, ‘the power of one, the value of many.’ The underlying message is, each person is a leader for everyone he or she touches on a daily basis.” Additionally, Candy communicated how OPRS tries to recognize employees living out the mission by noting their accomplishments on a “Power of One” card by citing, “We focus on best practices and when employees show leadership qualities, we celebrate that!”

Congratulations to Connie Dullin, who was recently promoted to vice president, nursing services and clinical operations for OPRS corporate.

Campus Splashes

The following Mount Pleasant Retirement Village employees recently received a “Power of One” award for their outstanding customer service and for making a difference in the community: Elaine Austin, Megan Beckett, Kari Burke, Barb Cassity, Rick Click, Kami Cofer, Kelsi Cofer, Stacie Cole, Stacy Faulkner, Brittany Foley, Sam Gibson, Nicole Goodpastor, Jennifer Henry, Tina Hester, Joyce Hollon, Andrea Isenburg, Pam Jivoin, Stan Kappers, Tom Kirkwood, Sue Kofer, Mike McIntosh, Shawn Meeker, Robyn Oberer, Missie Osterman, Vicki Pettus, Abby Rose, Debbie South, and Sandy Stacy.

Congratulations to Amy Dallis, director of human resources for Mount Pleasant Retirement Village and Cape May Retirement Village, for being selected by the AOPHA Scholarship Selection Committee to receive a scholarship for pursuing her bachelor’s in human resource management at Franklin University.

A family member of one of Mount Pleasant’s residents was there every day to take care of his beloved wife, who had dementia. His love and devotion to her endeared him to everyone in the health care center, especially the staff on Hyde II, where she lived. One Friday evening he wasn’t feeling well and so the nurse called the squad and he was transferred to the local hospital. Staff who were on duty at the time called other staff at home to let them know he was in the emergency room. Two long-time staff members left their homes and went on their own time to the hospital to be with their dear resident’s husband. They lived Mount Pleasant’s mission that night, unselfishly giving of their time to care for the resident’s husband, and their friend.

Congratulations to Steven C. LeMoine, executive director of Westminster-Thurber Community, who recently received his MBA from Franklin University in Columbus.
LeMone's research and colloquium focused on methods for implementing culture change in long-term care, promoting an environment in which residents' care is centered around their own individual needs and preferences.

Also at Westminster-T hurber is Jennifer Heston, assisted living coordinator, who, with the help of others wrote an eight-hour training curriculum called World Makers, which all employees have completed and all new employees will be offered. The training is a condensed version of the Eden Alternative training, dementia training, and the general philosophical beliefs of Westminster-T hurber.

Congratulations to ST NA's Haley Chilcote and Sylvia Burch, both Westminster-T hurber employees, who just graduated from nursing school and hope to soon join the LPN staff.

At Llanfair R etirement Community we wish to congratulate Julie Durham, home health aide, for making the dean's list for spring quarter 2006-07 and winter quarter 2006-07 at the University of Cincinnati for her nursing classes. Good job!

**Senior Independence Splashes**

Director of Marketing, Southwest Region, Ann Munafo, received the 2006 Andree Bognar Award given by the Ohio Association of Adult Day Care.

Kim Beckman, administrator of the Miami Valley Region, graduated with her master's degree in nursing.

Lakkia Patrick, Senior Independence billing accountant, graduated from Franklin University with her bachelor's degree in accounting.

Heather Elsner, Senior Independence director of health information obtained a certification in OASIS assessments and has numerous credentials in diagnostic coding!

The first Senior Independence Staff R etreat was held with recognition for all locations throughout the state. In the report of “Looking ahead to fiscal year 2008,” EVP/COO Nancy King outlined the following key areas:

**Growth:** Continue to grow by serving people in the place they call home. In addition to senior living communities, this year Senior Independence will focus on serving residents of condos.

**Standardization:** Continue to standardize more of our operation to enable growth, efficiency and staff training.

**Community Relations:** Focus on community relations gaining the confidence of the influential community members and organizations.

**Hospice:** Open hospice care in the Southwest and the Miami Valley Regions this fiscal year. Planning will be underway for hospice in Akron/C anton.

**Continuing to Care:** Go to the next step in customer service with all stakeholders to better understand and address needs.

“Why Do You Stay at OPRS?”

In our 2007 employee opinion survey, employees were asked the question, “why do you stay?” A few of the great many heart-warming comments that emerged:

“In all the years I have worked for this company have always felt that I have made a difference.”

“The elders are why I am here. I care about them and want to assure their days are rewarding, meaningful and fun.”

“I stay because it feels like home.”

“I choose to live the Christian mission at home and enjoy the same atmosphere at work.”

“I believe in the mission statement. OPRS gives me an opportunity to learn and grow in my area. OPRS is my extended family.”

Thank you to all of the employees within the OPRS family. We appreciate the daily contributions offered, the ones understated and not as obvious, and the ones gloriously evident!

**Mission in Action**

Senior Independence Hospice of Central Ohio helped a client celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary by obtaining a lobster dinner from Red Lobster and serving the dinner in their home. The dinner music added a memorable touch as a hospice volunteer played the violin for the family.

It was truly a night to remember and an example of our team making someone's wish come true.
Tom Hofmann Receives Award of Honor

OPRS Foundation President Tom Hofmann has been selected to receive this year’s Leadership Award of Honor from AOPHA, the Advocate of Not-for-Profit Services for Older Ohioans, and OPRS’ state association. This is the most prestigious award bestowed by AOPHA, to be presented during their annual conference.

Tom has worked for OPRS for over 25 years. During his tenure, the OPRS Foundation has raised over $150 million in support of OPRS. As a result of Tom’s pioneering and proactive approach to fundraising, the OPRS Foundation has provided inspiration and guidance to many long-term care organizations across the country. Tom has personally visited or hosted over 65 organizations from 25 different states to help improve their fundraising programs.

The most notable achievement of Tom’s career was bringing long-term care fundraising to a national stage. In 1998, he and three colleagues developed the Long-Term Care Network, enabling long-term care fundraisers across the country to access educational programming that was previously unavailable.

Most importantly, Tom uses his position to promote ethical fundraising practices and proper stewardship of donated funds. The rights and interests of donors are at the heart of Tom’s professional values.

OPRS is proud to have Tom’s partnership, dedication and passion. Please join us in congratulating Tom on this well-deserved award!

Carrying Out the OPRS Mission with Humility

In a matter of seconds, a teenage employee at Swan Creek Retirement Village became a hero. Back in April, dining room worker Brandon Lee (pictured below) saved the life of resident Mary Jane Sulier, 91 (pictured below). Consistent with the modesty often found in heroes, Brandon doesn’t quite agree with the praise – he says he was just doing his job.

Two bites into her dinner, Mary Jane began choking. “I couldn’t get any air down my lungs at all,” she said. Brandon, 17, was quick to react and applied the Heimlich maneuver, which he learned in health class. Brandon said the maneuver is quick and easy to do, and doesn’t really involve heroics.

Mary Jane and her fellow residents recognized the high school senior with a standing ovation, and a congratulatory card during a Sunday buffet.

The community took notice of Brandon’s actions as well. The local ABC affiliate aired a news story about him, and The Toledo Journal wrote a feature article about the day Mary Jane says he became a hero.
Choose Your Ohio Location

- Mount Pleasant Retirement Village*
  - Monroe
  - (513) 539-7391

- Park Vista Retirement Community*
  - Youngstown
  - (330) 746-2944

- Rockynol Retirement Community*
  - Akron
  - (330) 867-2150

- Swan Creek Retirement Village*
  - Toledo
  - (419) 865-4445

- The Vineyard on Catawba
  - Port Clinton
  - (419) 797-3100

- Westminster-Thurber Community*
  - Columbus
  - (614) 228-8888

- Dorothy Love Retirement Community*
  - Sidney
  - (937) 498-2391

- Lake Vista of Cortland
  - Cortland
  - (330) 638-2420

- Llanfair Retirement Community*
  - Cincinnati
  - (513) 681-4230

- Breckenridge Village*
  - Willoughby
  - (440) 942-4342

- Cape May Retirement Village
  - Wilmington
  - (937) 382-2995

- The Vineyard on Catawba
  - Port Clinton
  - (419) 797-3100

*Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) - Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCACC) of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA).

For more information
Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services and the OPRS Foundation
1001 Kingsmill Parkway
Columbus, Ohio 43229
(614) 888-7800 or (800) 686-7800.

Senior Independence
Home and Community Based Services in 38 Ohio counties,
(800) 686-7800.