



GENEROSITY MATTERS

Your Gifts at Work



Hailey Kammerer is spending this summer as a nurse extern in the Health and Rehabilitation Center thanks to your gifts. Says Hailey, "I have considered working in pediatrics, but after working in the HRC this summer I have a newfound love for rehab nursing."

Creating Opportunities to Learn and Grow at Oakwood

Your gifts improve lives at Oakwood in many different ways. One way you support Oakwood and those who work in our profession is by providing opportunities for nursing students to work in our skilled nursing programs through a "nurse extern" program. This program provides compensation to nursing students for their work on campus.

While the nursing student benefits with an opportunity to receive "real world experience" under the watchful eye of a professional as they complete their nursing degree, Oakwood benefits by having a student nurse on campus, sharing their ideas, energy, and talents with our staff members. The nurse extern program also provides Oakwood with a chance to expose future nurses to the field of aging and long-term care as we continually seek to attract talented caregivers.

Thanks to your gifts, Oakwood is hosting two nurse externs this summer: Hailey Kammerer at Prairie Ridge and Olayemi Okoli at University Woods. We recently had the opportunity to visit with Hailey and asked her to share her story with you, the donors who made her time at Oakwood possible.

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TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

I am from the small town of Juda, which is located in southern Wisconsin, and was very involved in high school extracurricular activities. I was a three-sport varsity athlete (volleyball, basketball, and softball), a band, choir, and musical theater member, and part of several after-school clubs. Outside of school and work, you can probably find me snuggled up with a good book or spending time outdoors.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A NURSE?

Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to go into the healthcare field. My grandfather was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer when I was 8, so I spent a lot of time in the hospital. Every time I would visit, I was always amazed at the compassion and kindness shown by the nursing staff. It was a difficult time for my whole family, especially when we could not always visit. The nurses who cared for my grandpa were such a strong support system for him and my family. I knew that I wanted to be a part of that support system and an advocate for others.

WHERE DO YOU ATTEND SCHOOL? WHERE ARE YOU AT IN YOUR EDUCATION?

I attend Edgewood College where I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing and minoring in Health and Society. This is my fourth year at Edgewood, and I will graduate in May 2022.

WHAT IS A "NURSE EXTERN"?

A nurse extern is a nursing student who works in a healthcare setting to gain clinical experience and develop skills that will be used once they become a licensed nurse.

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER BEEN THIS SUMMER?

I have LOVED my experiences in the HRC thus far. I have had the opportunity to work under several nurses and with many different members of the healthcare team. This opportunity has allowed me to continue to learn and develop important skills such as critical thinking, communication, and leadership. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such amazing people (staff and residents). Initially, I was very nervous to apply for an externship because of the lack of experience I have had the past year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but I am glad I pursued this opportunity and I feel blessed that Oakwood took a chance on me!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO FOLLOWING GRADUATION? WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CAREER TO TAKE YOU?

After graduation I will be taking the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination). The NCLEX is a standardized test that every state uses to determine if a candidate is ready to become licensed as a nurse.

At the moment, I am not sure what area of nursing I would like to pursue. I have considered working in pediatrics, but after working in the HRC this summer I have a newfound love for rehab nursing. Eventually, I would like to work as a travelling nurse to be able to see new places, but that will be in the future after I gain a couple years' experience working as an RN.

Oakwood's participation in the nurse extern program is funded by your gifts to the Oakwood Mission Support Fund. On behalf of Hailey and all student nurses who are able to participate each year in the nurse extern program, thank you for your support.

Your Gifts Solve Problems!

Donors like you provided a lemon when it was needed most.

A University Woods resident used her computer to ask if anyone on campus had a spare lemon to complete a recipe. In no time at all she had six offers, enough to make lemonade!

The Post is solving problems and connecting independent living residents in ways organizers didn't expect.

According to resident Linda Holthaus, the campus Green Committee wanted to help residents communicate about items they had to sell or give away, and were introduced to a group email service.

The annual fee for the service was paid for by the University Woods Life Enrichment Fund. Your gifts to campus life enrichment funds are used to support programs, equipment, and training on each Oakwood campus.

Beyond connecting residents who want to share or borrow items, *The Post* helps remind residents of events and alerts them to visiting wildlife or new flowers spotted in the Nature Preserve.

Linda Holthaus says *The Post* proved its value during COVID-19.



*Green Committee members Linda Holthaus and Dave Pearson led the charge in setting up *The Post*, a group email service new to University Woods residents in 2021.*

“As one participant put it, **‘Thank you for the feeling of community** that *The Post* helps promote at Oakwood.’ This additional opportunity to communicate was a pleasant surprise, and was especially important during the pandemic.”

“We now have 150 participants,” shares Linda. “With two people in some of the households, that probably brings us to well over 200 people who are benefitting from *The Post*.”



I Scream, You Scream...

Approximately 450 residents and employees showed their love for ice cream June 15 when the Vesperman Farms Ice Cream truck visited the University Woods campus.

Employees (left to right) Elena Peters, Patty Cox, and Vicky Graham were among the first to get a cone.

The Life Enrichment team coordinated the event, and this much-deserved summer treat was complimentary to all Oakwood employees and residents thanks to your gifts to the University Woods Life Enrichment Fund!

Thank You Oak Tree Circle Members!

The Oakwood Foundation thanks members of our Oak Tree Circle – donors who have committed to an ongoing monthly gift to the Oakwood Foundation. Supporting the Oakwood Foundation with a monthly gift from your checking account, credit card, or paycheck (Oakwood staff members), is not only convenient, it provides the Foundation with valuable, consistent monthly support.

We invite you to take a moment to meet a few members of the Oak Tree Circle.

MEET OAK TREE CIRCLE MEMBERS JENNY AND HAROLD BITTER

Jenny and Harold moved to Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge in 2016.

“Our experience has been peaceful, safe, and comfortable. Everything is under one roof ... the salon, library, voting, and restaurants. We have hallways for indoor walking and great staff and neighbors. Jenny loves her raised garden and that she doesn’t need to plan and cook meals when the grandchildren visit.”

Harold was looking for a group to play golf with and joined the campus golf league.

“Before we moved in, we had stopped doing activities that involved night driving and were concerned the time would come when we wouldn’t be driving at all. Instead, we have enjoyed theater trips and day trips to interesting places we never knew existed!”

They say the opportunity to walk indoors or out, depending on the weather, is something they particularly appreciate.

Four years ago Harold and Jenny became donors as a tribute to Harold’s mother, who died shortly after their move and was glad they moved to a community with a Lutheran connection.

According to the Bitters, the convenience of becoming Oak Tree Circle members as ongoing monthly donors to the Oakwood Mission Support Fund was attractive because “once you make the decision to donate and the amount, you don’t have to think about it anymore!”



Pharmacist Sarah Shiveler is one of more than 90 employees currently supporting the Oakwood Foundation via payroll deduction. Says Sarah, “I became a regular donor to give back, even if just a little, to the community I serve.”

MEET OAK TREE CIRCLE MEMBER SARAH SHIVELER

Sarah Shiveler is a staff pharmacist entering her third year with the Oakwood Pharmacy. With the recent opening of the Oakwood Pharmacy on the Prairie Ridge campus, Sarah is excited to be meeting residents she once only knew by name.

“Residents at Oakwood are a joy to work with and so appreciative of having a pharmacy and pharmacists they recognize. Everyone who comes down to the pharmacy, whether it was during tours, the grand opening, or coming down to request refills, is delighted we are here for them.”

Because of her positive experience working with Oakwood residents, Sarah decided to do more by joining the Oak Tree Circle.

“I became a regular donor to give back, even if just a little, to the community I serve. Oakwood is a unique place to live and work and I want to continue to see residents and staff benefit from this amazing environment.”

Donors Bring Pickleball to Oakwood!

Pickleball is an increasingly popular game, especially with older adults, that combines aspects of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong.

Your gifts to the Oakwood Mission Support Fund transformed the former Resale Shop, which was being used as a maintenance shed, into the University Woods Recreation Center in 2020.

In addition to pickleball, the center is available for volleyball, badminton, shuffleboard, and basketball.

Chuck and Helen Read, along with a number of other players, enjoy pickleball outside when they can, but appreciate having a climate-controlled option here at Oakwood.

“We’re fortunate to have the Recreation Center — it’s indoors and offers a smooth playing surface, good lighting, air conditioning, and easy access.”

Resident Dave Pearson says the new facility should encourage more people to live at Oakwood, “... especially for the Pickleball courts, which is the fastest-growing sport amongst seniors.”

Senior Director of Facilities Dave Bertsch is thankful the center is available for University Woods residents.

“We couldn’t have done it without the many generous donors who believe in Oakwood. The Rec Center is a shining example of how donor gifts can truly make a difference.”



A group of residents regularly play pickleball in the Recreation Center on Tuesday afternoons.

Your Gifts Bring Training (Almost) to Life!

This spring, your gifts to the BJ Jackson Fund, which supports staff training and education, were used to purchase state-of-the-art training mannequins for each Oakwood campus.

These are not your typical mannequins with a few moving parts. The new mannequins feature ostomy, wound and tracheotomy sites, arms where blood pressure can be taken and IVs and blood draws can be practiced, interchangeable male and female anatomy, removable dentures and hearing aids, skin issues, and the ability to simulate a number of other medical problems experienced by residents.

Dawn Leatherberry, University Woods Nurse Educator and Infection Preventionist, believes “these mannequins will be extremely beneficial in training all levels of clinical staff. Resident Assistants and Certified Nursing

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Assistants will be able to participate in hands-on training on how to provide personal care to residents. Actually being able to perform these tasks in a training environment offers the opportunity for the learner to ask questions and build confidence in their skills.”

“Working with these mannequins also allows the trainer to provide clarification and additional information. The advanced features of ostomy and wound sites, along with the IV/blood draw arm, provide our Licensed Practical and Registered Nurses practice opportunities to hone less often-used skills on the mannequin before providing care to a resident.”

Karen Brennan, Prairie Ridge Nurse Staff Educator, named their mannequin “Gerry” (Gerald or Geraldine). She found the mannequin extremely helpful when it was first used for CNA training in May as the students practiced caring for residents, and sees a number of possibilities for improved training opportunities in the future.

“As we develop more training programs, Gerry will be used to practice blood draws, start IVs, feeding tubes, ostomies, and catheters,” explains Karen. “All of these skills take practice to become proficient at them.”



Thanks to your generosity, “Gerry” is helping caregivers at Prairie Ridge participate in hands-on training and providing opportunities for the learner to ask questions and build confidence in their skills.

“Nurses and other caregivers are always eager to learn,” believes Karen. **“Thanks to funding provided by the Oakwood Foundation, these mannequins provide us with the ability to simulate medical issues and provide consistent, hands-on training to all caregivers.”**



Prairie Ridge resident Ed Gryś, shown here with fellow resident Tag Van Winkle, has been a volunteer rickshaw pilot for the past two years. The rickshaws were brought to Oakwood in 2016 thanks to donor gifts.

Smiles by the Mile!

Prairie Ridge resident Ed Gryś has offered rides to his fellow residents on campus rickshaws since signing on as a volunteer in 2019.

“Being a rickshaw pilot is a more intimate experience than just riding a bike. You are literally connected to the person(s) you are riding with. I always learn something from my riders. Nearly all are talkative and share with me their experiences of where they grew up and what they did throughout their life.”

Prairie Ridge Life Enrichment Specialist Gail Beaver has seen joy on the faces of memory care residents when they ride.

“One particular ride, I recall a resident with memory loss who very much enjoyed nature continually pointed during the ride and found words as we rode... ‘birds, flowers, beautiful!’ **She was engrossed and soaking in the beauty of nature and the campus. The joy on her face was indescribable.**”

Donor gifts brought the Cycling Without Age rickshaws to both Oakwood campuses in 2016.



The Realization of a Dream: *Thank You From the Oakwood Chamber Players!*

It's rare to meet a musician who isn't passionate about chamber music. Small ensembles afford performers a unique opportunity: to work closely with their esteemed colleagues and be their own artistic directors at the same time.

Unfortunately, it is equally rare to meet a musician who has a reliable chamber group with which to perform. More often than not, chamber ensembles are spun up ad hoc for one stand-alone performance, and they dematerialize just as quickly once that performance is over. However, this is not the case at Oakwood.

Thanks to the Oakwood Foundation and our beloved audience members at both Oakwood campuses, our dreams of being chamber musicians have come true. We feel fulfilled as artists because we are able to select the music that we perform. We've gotten to know one another's playing so well that our ensemble runs as smoothly as a well-oiled machine.

We also love feeling like a part of the community here at Oakwood. Over the years, not only have we been able to form strong bonds with one another; we've also had the opportunity to foster a meaningful relationship with our audience. This is a truly special,

once-in-a-lifetime experience for all of us, and we could not be more grateful.

We're grateful to Oakwood for giving us a home, complete with a couple of the most stellar performance spaces in Madison. We're grateful to our audience for making us feel so appreciated at each and every concert.

Most importantly, however, we're grateful to the Oakwood Foundation's donors. Because of you, the Oakwood Foundation has enabled us to pursue excellence through countless hours of rehearsal, perform new and exciting works by a wide variety of composers, build and maintain a full library of music, engage other musicians in the community, and (most remarkably) safely continue performing throughout a global pandemic, which was a great comfort to us and many others.

From the bottom of our hearts: Thank you.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing you all again for our 2021-22 season. As always, we have an imaginative concert series queued up, and we cannot wait to share it with you. Please keep an eye out around Oakwood, on our website, and on our Facebook page for more information as the season unfolds!

YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO OAKWOOD!

IN 2020, YOU AND 1,006 OTHER DONORS LIKE YOU SENT A TOTAL OF 5,868 GIFTS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF OAKWOOD. THANK YOU!

You and your fellow Oakwood donors continue to amaze in 2021; through the first half of this year you and 567 other donors have made 2,442 gifts totaling \$604,790!

We value and appreciate your thoughtful support. This biannual donor newsletter is one way we share how your gifts make a difference.

Donor societies are another way we strive to recognize and thank our donors. There are six societies – three recognizing gifts during a calendar year and three honoring lifetime support.

ANNUAL SOCIETIES

OAK TREE CIRCLE: Recognizes donors giving automatically each month by credit card, payroll deduction, or checking account withdrawal, regardless of the donation amount. *We thank the 125 members of our Oak Tree Circle!*

OAK SOCIETY: Recognizes donors giving \$1,000 to \$4,999 during the calendar year. *We are grateful for 62 members year-to-date!*

GOLDEN OAK SOCIETY: Recognizes donors giving \$5,000 or more in the calendar year. *We are grateful for nine members year-to-date!*

LIFETIME SOCIETIES

OAK LEGACY CIRCLE: Recognizes supporters who notify the Foundation that Oakwood is part of their estate plan or establish a Charitable Gift Annuity. *We sincerely appreciate the 73 members of the Oak Legacy Circle!*

LIFETIME GOLDEN OAK SOCIETY: Recognizes donors who have given \$50,000 to \$99,999. *We celebrate our 45 Lifetime Golden Oak members!*

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE: Recognizes donors who have given \$100,000 or more in their lifetime to support the people of Oakwood. *We thank and honor the 17 members of the President's Circle!*



If you have a question about any of our donor societies or would like to learn more about which society might be the best fit for you, feel free to contact us at (608) 230-4441 or email david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net.

