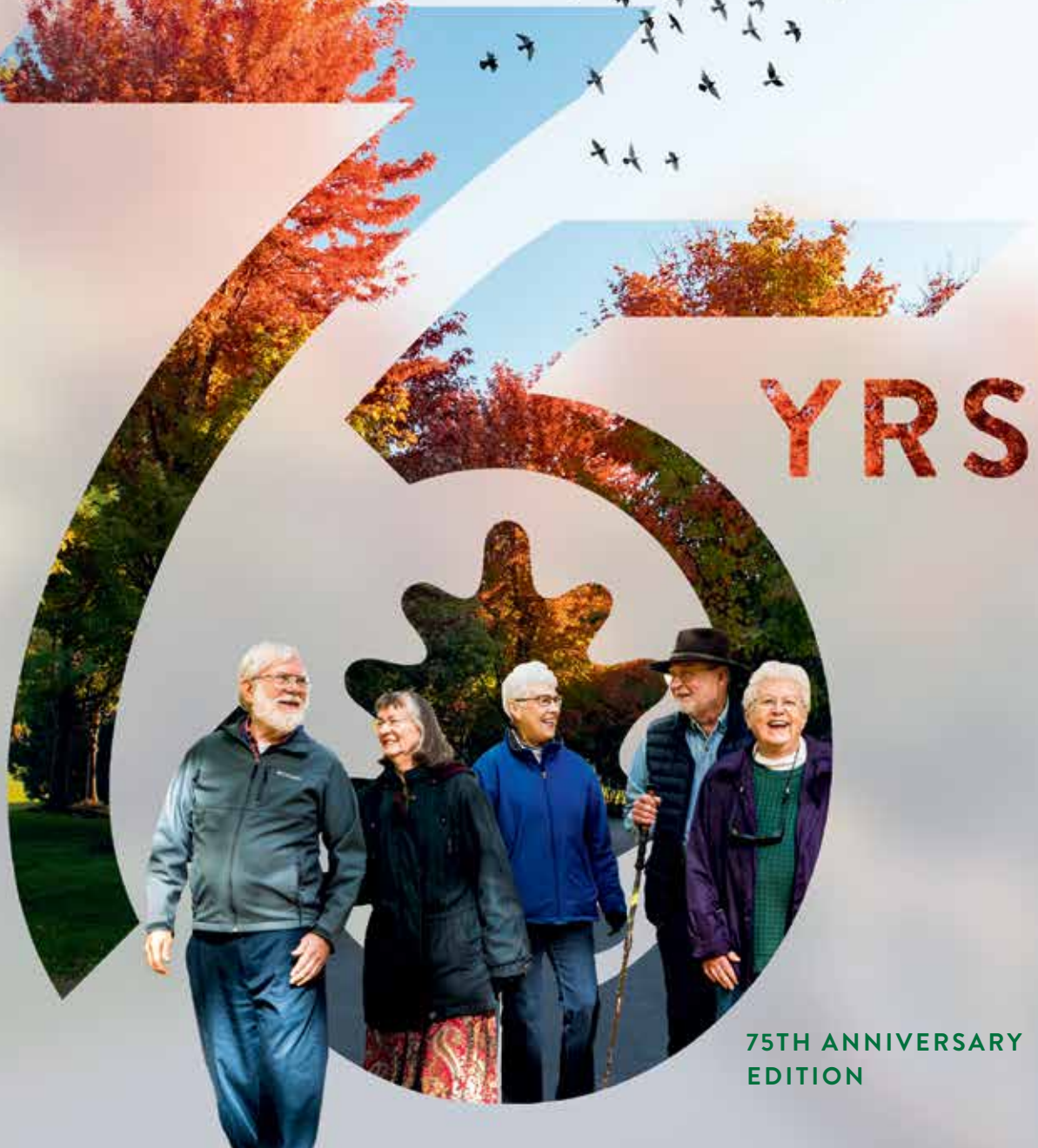


2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW

# Outlook



YRS

75TH ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

## Keeping the Oaks in Oakwood

*Residents Restore  
Nature Preserve*

## Traveling in Place

*Virtual Reality Comes  
to Prairie Ridge*

## Outstanding Service Awards

*Recognizing Top  
Contributors*

1948

OAKWOOD  
LUTHERAN HOMES  
HOME FOR AGED



## Founded In Faith

### Oakwood Gets Its Start

Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association was founded in Madison, modeled after a home in Fond du Lac that was operated by local Lutheran congregations.

#### QUICK FACTS: IN THE BEGINNING

- Oakwood's "founding fathers" included Otto Wilke, Rev. Carl Becker, and Rupert Steinhauer.
- Campus featured six original cottages.
- The original Tabor Lodge building dated back to the 1920s.

1950s



## A New Leaf

### Change for the Better

In the face of low funding, the Board hired Rev. Gerhardt Reiff as Oakwood's first superintendent, who introduced much-needed structure and dramatically improved occupancy. Rev. Reiff departed at the end of the decade, leaving Oakwood as a financially sound and thriving part of the Lutheran community.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 1950s

- The Oakwood Auxiliary, a group of volunteers organized by the Board, filled the labor gap by providing countless hours of service to those in need.

1960s



## Standing Out

### Breaking Ground

Oakwood's second superintendent, Harold Frey, prioritized renovation. He established a 3-phase campus improvement plan, completing the first 2 phases—an addition to Hebron Hall and renovations to Tabor Lodge and the cottages—in 1968.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 1960s

- Oakwood was annexed by the City of Madison in 1961, gaining access to garbage disposal, city sewers and water, and police and fire protection.
- Management renamed The Infirmary and The Annex to Hebron Hall and Tabor Lodge, respectively.

1970s



## Weathering the Storm

### Oakwood Overcomes

Despite a range of exciting new projects that included an apartment complex, buildings filled up slowly. The low occupancy rate nearly caused Oakwood to go bankrupt in 1977. In 1978, Oakwood sold 40 acres to Parkwood Realty, demonstrating the fortitude required to make difficult decisions.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 1970s

- The Board renamed the entire campus "Oakwood Village" in 1974.
- Not wanting a repeat of low occupancy, Oakwood made marketing a priority.

1980s



## Deepening Our Roots

### A Foundation is Formed

In 1981, Oakwood finally addressed the perennial problem of a consistent approach to raising funds by forming the Oakwood Foundation "to receive, administer, and allocate gifts and grants made on behalf of the nursing home and retirement apartments." The Foundation created the Continuing Care Endowment Fund.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 1980s

- The Oakwood Chamber Players began performing in 1985.
- Hebron Oaks received an addition in 1984, and the Oakwood Pharmacy opened there in 1987.

1990s



## Growing Our Faith

### New Ways to Serve

In 1990, four of the original six cottages on campus were demolished in order to accommodate the construction of a new assisted living building called Tabor Oaks. The 60-bed assisted living facility opened in 1992. Later that decade, Oakwood conceived and built Covenant Oaks, a nationally recognized memory care facility.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 1990s

- Verona's Case Organ Company built a unique 354-pipe organ for Oakwood in 1994.

2000s



## Branching Out

### New Campus

Plans for a second Oakwood campus finally came to fruition, which addressed requests from sponsoring congregations that did not feel well-served by the west side location. Oakwood East opened in 2000 with an original one building of 103 independent living apartment homes, adding another independent living building, Settlers Ridge, in 2001, plus Oakwood Seasons, Oakwood Knoll, and the Tree of Life Chapel.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 2000s

- Oakwood West removed the last of its two original cottages to make way for construction of Heritage Oaks, which opened in 2006.

2010s



## Thriving Under Our Canopy

### What's in a Name?

In 2011, Oakwood completed a branding exercise, renaming Oakwood Village West as "Oakwood Village University Woods", and Oakwood Village East as "Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge." This change stemmed from a desire to differentiate the campuses by their core personality as opposed to merely physical location.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 2010s

- Oakwood's 2017 redevelopment of Prairie Ridge included a new 71-unit independent living apartment home project, the Grasslands, plus a 33-unit assisted living facility, The Rise.

2020s



## Reaching Our Boughs

### Community Perseveres

The COVID-19 pandemic put safety measures into high gear. The "new normal" for staff included delivering groceries and having temperatures logged at the start of shifts. Life Enrichment offered remote programming to help residents participate from the safety of their apartments.

#### QUICK FACTS: THE 2020s

- Oakwood Preferred Services is launched. Its comprehensive service model bringing Home Health, Supportive Services and Hospice to residents.
- A brand new state-of-the-art Hebron Oaks Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center was built.



# GROUND & GROWING

Like the rings on a tree, each season of life stays with us and shapes how we grow into the next one. For Oakwood, the year 2023 marked 75 years of service to Madison-area seniors. While we look toward the future with excitement and anticipation, we take this opportunity to pause and reflect on our journey.

Every year we've grown in a new way. Much like the people we serve, we've discovered that aging isn't the end of growth and learning. It's just the beginning.

Walk with us from 1948 to today as we take a look at the history that grounds us, and the ways we're continuing to grow.



*Oakwood Village received its corporate charter from the State of Wisconsin on July 8, 1948, "for the purpose of operating a home for, and caring for, the aged and infirmed."*



# Compassion

Oakwood's staff care deeply about the people they serve and work with on a daily basis. Residents develop strong friendships quickly and this community of caring individuals pull together through partnerships, volunteering, and charity to help one another.

 **75 YRS** People Thrive Here

# Outlook

*News from Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries*

1	Investing in Our Own	17	Resident Profile: Connie Burmeister	33	St. John's Lutheran Church
3	A New Canopy of Care	24	2023 Outstanding Service Award Winners	37	Life: Enriched
5	Keeping the Oaks in Oakwood	27	Traveling in Place	38	Community Partners
9	The Fabric of Community	29	Bringing Dreams to Life	39	Giving Opportunities
13	Board Member Profile: Curt Bush	31	Back to School: Spanish for Leaders	40	Donor Acknowledgment
				46	Then & Now



## KEEPING THE OAKS IN OAKWOOD

Residents Restore  
Nature Preserve

5

## THE FABRIC OF COMMUNITY

Quilts for Hospice  
Patients Express  
Respect and Support

9



## FLUENT IN LIFE

Resident Profile:  
Connie Burmeister

17

# Investing in Our Own

*Hebron Oaks Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center  
Serves Residents Better Than Ever Before*

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After breaking ground at the end of 2021, the project that Oakwood has waited for has finally come to fruition. The brand-new Hebron Oaks Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center opened its doors in March of 2023. A fitting way to celebrate 75 years of service, this project marked another investment in providing Oakwood seniors with a complete continuum of care.

Skilled nursing is at the heart of Oakwood's mission, and was where Oakwood got its start; this project has recognized that history while embodying Oakwood's vision for the future.

The building offers 60 thoughtfully appointed resident suites in Hebron, which is a major step forward for skilled nursing on the campus. Bedrooms in the suites, as well as bathrooms, are designed to accommodate lifts and residents requiring extra assistance. Showers are nearly zero entry: low enough for residents to easily get in and out of the shower while keeping water in. Hebron also has four bariatric suites.

In addition to the 48 short-term rehabilitation suites are 12 suites in Oakwood's first-ever inpatient hospice wing. Hospice patients need not be Oakwood residents prior to admission, as the suites are also open to members of the greater Madison community. Hospice services are available through Oakwood Preferred Services' hospice program, another addition to Oakwood's continuum of care that launched in Oakwood's 75th year. Having a dedicated hospice team built into the fabric of the Oakwood community will hopefully give additional peace of mind to residents and their loved ones, as well as medical providers.

Throughout the Hebron Oaks building is a nurse call system similar to those used in hospitals. Built into the wall at the head of each bed are hookups for suction and piped oxygen, allowing Oakwood to serve a number of complex medical diagnoses. It will also reduce the need for oxygen tanks throughout the building.

A spa and salon, along with a spacious therapy gym and a beautiful Serenity Room, welcome residents and staff on the first floor of the building.

Visitors can't miss the new dining destination for the University Woods campus, located in Hebron Oaks: the Hilltop Cafe. Coffee and espresso drinks are served alongside and rotating entrée specials, and housemade grab-and-go items.

Inside Hebron Oaks are features that are an essential part of the University Woods campus, including a new central kitchen to serve the health care programs; a transportation bay where residents can be safely

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dropped off and picked up without being subject to inclement Wisconsin weather; an indoor walkway connecting the building to the rest of campus; a new loading dock; and a new, larger space for the Oakwood Pharmacy.

University Woods Executive Director Maddie Wiger sees the new Hebron Oaks as a resident-first investment.

“Rehabilitation centers like this are not being built in the community anymore,” Maddie explains. “We have taken the opportunity to really change how we want residents to receive care here—that means better, more innovative care from the hardworking, dedicated professionals that help make Oakwood the special place it is.”

*If you're interested in learning more about rehabilitation at Hebron Oaks, call 608.230.4620. 📞*

## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

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 Tom Hanson, *Treasurer*  
 Dan Stein, *Secretary*  
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 Kevin Hayden, Sarah Kruger (*Ex-Officio*),  
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# A NEW CANOPY OF CARE

## *Oakwood Preferred Services Offers Residents Additional Support Throughout Their Healthcare Journey*

**Oakwood is proud to celebrate its first full year of operation for Oakwood Preferred Services**, our newest line of care. The combination of Supportive Services, Home Health and Hospice has allowed Oakwood to offer a wider range of health care right here within our own campuses, meeting countless resident needs as our new canopy of care continues to grow.

The expansion of care has brought a handful of new faces to Oakwood. Paula Darrow joined Oakwood with extensive hospice and management experience, making for a natural transition to her new role as Preferred Services Outreach Manager.

“I already worked with a lot of Oakwood residents as hospice patients,” Paula explains. “And I really enjoyed those relationships.”

While Preferred Services also includes Home Health and non-medical Supportive Services, the close relationships make a particularly large difference when it comes to the quality of hospice care. Whether it’s seeing familiar faces from their existing care team, or getting to remain in their own apartment or a dedicated on-campus suite, residents are better cared for and feel more at home.

“Everything is right here,” Paula says. “We can see you right away, and your community is present.”

Preferred Hospice was built from the ground up to offer the Oakwood experience to residents and their families at the end of life. That means nurse practitioners are integrated into the hospice team; skilled nursing is individualized; pharmacy access is immediate; many hospice volunteers are themselves Oakwood residents, and social and spiritual care are readily available.



Plans for the new Hebron Oaks on the University Woods campus were made with Preferred Hospice in mind. The building features a 12-suite hospice wing that meets the latest standards in accessibility while providing comfort and peace by way of its beautiful design.

Preferred Services also includes the Home Health program, which utilizes Oakwood's therapy department to deliver at-home rehab. This offers a smooth transition from a rehab stay to home. Home Health also offers other services as ordered by your provider, including wound care, skilled nursing, and Home Health Aide services.

Paula would like to spread the word about Supportive Services private pay program, which offers a helping hand with non-medical tasks not already encompassed by the Preferred Services canopy. Included amongst the dozens of supportive services are companionship, transportation, bathing, and grooming. All services are offered on an hourly basis.

While seemingly minor, supportive services can play a large role in helping residents remain independent.

According to Paula, residents initially have some resistance to supportive services, but quickly open up to the idea of a helping hand.

"People enjoy the break they receive," Paula explains. "Even if they are at first hesitant about having someone in their home, they realize that it really is a nice added feature."

Looking to the year ahead for Preferred Services, Oakwood expects continued growth in the interest of serving residents.

"What's wonderful about Oakwood is that there are multiple continuums of care," Paula says. "Preferred Services is an added layer of care that residents will benefit from." 🌱



# Keeping the Oaks in Oakwood

## RESIDENTS RESTORE NATURE PRESERVE

**Bob Greenler spends much of his time plotting the removal of Norway Maple trees.**

It's not quite what it sounds like. The University Woods resident has a love for all things in nature. But when it comes to the campus's Nature Preserve that he cares for, the presence of this particular invasive species commands his attention. Norway Maples were introduced to the streets of Madison as shade trees about 20 years ago, and quickly found their way onto the Oakwood grounds, providing so much coverage in the Preserve that no understory shrubs or ground plants could survive.

"It was clear that if we did not intervene, it would slowly take over our Preserve," Bob explains.

Sensitive to his fellow residents' perception of cutting down trees, Bob made it clear what the efforts were all about: 'Let's keep the oaks in Oakwood.'

"We had already heard complaints when we first talked about taking down the Norway Maples," Bob recalls. "If this is a Nature Preserve, why don't we let nature take its course rather than cutting down perfectly good trees?" Using the slogan helped us explain what we were trying to accomplish."

Bob and others planted oak saplings that then flourished after part of the obstructive Norway Maple canopy was removed. It's because of this effort and many more that Bob is known as the 'grandfather' of the preserve.

The group of stewards is now known as the Nature Preserve Committee. It's a serious venture conducted by members with expert experience. They include Bob, renowned nature photographer Glenn Chambliss, and former UW-Madison soil scientist Marv Beatty. The Committee makes thoughtful and strategic decisions to keep the Preserve healthy—not just for the sake of the land itself, but also for the residents who find peace from a little forest bathing.

Committee member Glenn Chambliss knows just how thorny the issue of invasive species eradication can be. It's a never-ending battle against plants like honeysuckle, garlic mustard, common buckthorn, and many others. Virginia stick seed, while not technically an invasive species, is very aggressive in its bid to populate the preserve.

“When you touch them with your clothing, they stick to you and get transported,” Glenn explains. “They stick to wild animals, such as deer or squirrels or whatever. And then they fall off and the seeds have spread.”



*“It was clear that if we didn't intervene, the Norway Maples would slowly take over our Preserve.”*

– BOB GREENLER



It's not just about removing the invasive species, but also re-planting native ones. According to Bob Greenler, the Nature Preserve was once an oak savannah, ripe with prairie plants and groups of oak trees. European settlers halted the many land management practices of Indigenous Americans that kept prairies intact, which led to the emergence of more invasive species that changed the landscape. Since 2003, the Nature Preserve Committee has been returning the land to its roots, including planting a handful of oak saplings each year. After several years of this practice, Bob had already noticed the payoff, and recorded as much in his journal in 2018.

◀ (Left page) Glenn Chambliss leads residents on a nature walk through the Preserve. (Top) Residents take in the fall colors. (Left) Bob Greenler makes his way through the woods.

"I realize the time has come when it is no longer necessary to envision a future prairie," Bob writes. "Though it will improve with each passing year, this prairie is a glorious scene, right here, right now!"

It doesn't take a green thumb to appreciate the beauty of the Nature Preserve. Oakwood residents venture along its walking paths and rest on its benches year-round, taking in what Bob calls "an ecological gem." The Preserve offers a kind of serendipity not found elsewhere on campus. As a photographer, Glenn Chambliss has his lens attuned to all kinds of wonder.

"In 2021, I just happened to discover this bumblebee: the only bumblebee that's on the U.S. Endangered Species List," Glenn recalls. "And to have it in our Nature Preserve I felt was wonderful. There it was! And I was just so excited."

Even in the less novel moments, the Preserve offers a reprieve that's just steps away from living spaces—a unique attraction for those considering joining the Oakwood community.

"Residents take pride and ownership over the Preserve," Monique Banas, Corporate Marketing Manager, says. "For some, it's a large part of the decision, if not the reason, they decide to come here."

The Nature Preserve Committee's strategic plan serves as yet another example of residents' commitment to the common good. When people put community first, they create a canopy under which everyone can thrive. 🌱

*"I just happened to discover the only bumblebee that's on the U.S. Endangered Species List. And to have it in our Nature Preserve I felt was wonderful."*

– GLENN CHAMBLISS



### **Vision of the Nature Preserve Committee**

To restore the ecosystem that existed here before European settlement resulted in suppression of periodic wildfires and the introduction of invasive plants and animals. We will do this by continuing the past practices of nudging the plant and animal communities it contains toward an ecosystem of open oak-hickory woodland similar to the one early European settlers encountered upon their arrival.

# HOW ARE WE DOING?

Word of mouth is always our biggest referral source—happy residents and happy family members help bring in more happy residents!

A great way to share your positive Oakwood experience with others is to leave us a review! Search for “Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge” or “Oakwood Village University Woods” on Google, click on the reviews and leave your feedback!

PRAIRIE  
RIDGE



UNIVERSITY  
WOODS



# THE FABRIC OF COMMUNITY

## *Quilts for Hospice Residents Express Respect and Support*

**One by one, Mary Jane Getlinger constructed the quilts in her University Woods apartment, stitching them with the large, 24-inch longarm sewing machine on a 12-foot frame that occupies most of her primary bedroom.**

Fellow residents designed and sewed the top layers and then brought them to Mary Jane, who holds a masters degree in clothing and textiles. She added a decorative stitch to combine the batting (also known as insulating material) and backing material with the top layer, before finishing the edges with a complementary binding. The result: nine beautiful quilts—each measuring 54 by 96 inches—created over the course of dozens of hours.

The extensive efforts are all part of a project to create unique quilts for hospice residents who have passed on the Oakwood campuses. The quilts are draped over the body as its taken off campus, during which they are honored by way of a ceremony called a procession. This ceremony brings special meaning to deceased residents, according to Oakwood Chaplain Nicole Espe.

“Processionals are as old as humanity—it’s a practice whereby we transition out of life,” Nicole explains.

“We wanted to make sure we had a way for residents to be acknowledged as significant.”

Historically, quilts have been created to express appreciation for contributions that loved ones have made to society. Quilts commemorate births, weddings, graduations and retirements. Similarly, Mary Jane underscores the large role that the quilts play when recognizing the end of life.

“Having a quilt is comforting,” Mary Jane says, “It acts as a ‘dignified draping.’”

The project was initiated by Oakwood Preferred Hospice Volunteer Coordinator Alison Resch, who wanted the quilts to have the Oakwood touch. She started by connecting Prairie Ridge and University Woods residents who had quilting experience and were interested in the project. The groups

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► *(Top) Mary Jane Getlinger assembles the quilts in her University Woods apartment. (Bottom) Oakwood Preferred Hospice Volunteer Coordinator Alison Resch initiated the quilt project.*





*“The whole project was a really beautiful thing in that both campuses came together to make the quilts. There are a lot of elements to these that make them really great.”*

– ALISON RESCH



collaborated regularly beginning this past March, and completed the nine quilts at the end of June.

A blessing ceremony was then held, where Nicole set the intention for the quilts.

According to Alison, the Oakwood community showed its strength in bringing this project through the finish line.

“The whole project was a really beautiful thing in that both campuses came together to make the quilts,” Alison states. “There are a lot of elements to these that make them really great.”

Each quilt boasts its own unique theme, including America the Beautiful, On Wisconsin, and Beyond the Sea. Hospice nurses work closely with families to select a quilt that holds meaning for their loved one. While seemingly small, this gesture provides a sense of dignity.

“The quilts allow for someone’s character and values to be present in a visible way,” Nicole offers. “These things are how we shape the world around us, and they are held up for all to see.”

Oakwood resident Pat Paska pieced one of the nine quilts, *Collaboration ~ In Honor of Ron*, to commemorate her late husband, who shared her passion for the craft.

“Ron was very creative and supportive of my quilting efforts,” Pat explains. “I often asked for his opinion as I selected fabrics for projects and as I made decisions about quilt block placement.”

For Pat—who was not aware of the hospice quilt tradition when her own family members passed away—the project offers a new way to connect with others.

“My hope is that families will find comfort in knowing that their loved one is wrapped in love as they leave campus,” Pat says.



Mary Jane has observed how her work has been received in the community.

“It makes somebody else’s hard time a little better,” Mary Jane states. “Quilting is an art form—something I’m passionate about—that has a good purpose.”

Oakwood residents continue to underscore their valued role in the community, while also demonstrating their commitment to upholding the fabric of that community. When it comes to Preferred Hospice, these efforts couldn’t be more welcome.

“Having hospice on campus gives residents even greater agency in supporting others,” Nicole says. “It’s supposed to be localized and unique to each area, like the corner drug store. The quilts really epitomize that. They show that Oakwood is here for Oakwood.” 🌱

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▲ *Pat Paska (left) and Mary Jane Getlinger (right) with the Collaboration quilt.*

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

## Curt Bush

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**Though born in Indiana, Curt Bush's career has taken him all over the country.** He went to school in Indiana at DePauw University and went on to Indiana University for his medical training. From there, he and his wife, Sheri, went to Seattle as part of the University of Washington for his internship.

While in Seattle, Curt was drafted for the Vietnam War. Basic training brought Curt to Wichita Falls, Texas. He was then stationed in the Air Force in Duluth, Minnesota. While stationed in Duluth, Curt and Sheri would make long drives along with their three children back to Indiana to visit family.

As is customary with long car trips, Curt and his family made many stops along the way. One place they found themselves regularly stopping happened to be Madison, Wisconsin.

"The kids would always need a place to run and play and Madison was one of those places," Curt recalls. "We'd always really liked it."

Once his tour of duty was done, Curt entered the residency program at the University of Wisconsin. In fact, he was in the University's second residency class of family medicine.

After graduating, Curt practiced in Beaver Dam for close to a quarter of a century.

"I was delivering lots of babies and taking care of grandmas and watching the kids I took care of grow up," Curt explains. "It was a very good fit for me."

An opportunity came up for Curt within the Department of Family Medicine as part of the University of Wisconsin's Primary Care Initiative. This brought the Bushes to Monona, where they settled in for the next 22 years.

When Curt and Sheri decided the stairs in their home were too much for them, they started considering what their next chapter would look like. One objective was clear for them, however: they wanted to be in a continuing care community. They considered options around the Madison area and found that Oakwood was the best fit for them.

"The fact that Oakwood is a faith-based community is important to us," Curt says. "It has also survived 75 years of ups and downs, and that tells me that Oakwood has confronted and overcome almost all the problems that can arise for a business. That longevity was impressive to me."

Just six years ago, the Bushes moved into their apartment overlooking the sprawling eight-acre nature preserve Oakwood is known for.

"When we decided to come to Oakwood, it was August, and the Nature Preserve was full of green leaves," Curt recalls. "It was like being in a forest; it was just what we needed."

Curt's career was dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of others, and he's continued those efforts since moving to Oakwood. He and Sheri enjoy



*“Oakwood has survived 75 years of ups and downs. That longevity is impressive to me.”*

– CURT BUSH

the many musical performances on campus, and Curt works with the community durable medical equipment loan closet. He is even participating in a play for the first time!

In 2022, Curt was appointed to Oakwood’s Board of Directors. He now serves on the Quality and Compliance Council as well. The Council overlooks state surveys of Oakwood’s healthcare programs.

Curt’s medical background has prepared him well for this role, as he’s dealt with many of the same situations in his practice.

With his medical expertise and dedication to serving others, Curt is a great fit for Oakwood and its Board. Fortunately for Oakwood, Curt feels the same.

“This is the right place for us. We are indeed thriving.” 🌱

# Award-Winning Year

## Best of Madison

In our 75th year, Oakwood continues to shine! We are proud to have won gold for Best Assisted Living and silver for Best Retirement Community as voted by the Madison community in Madison Magazine's annual Best of Madison awards!

In addition to those awards, two assisted living programs at Prairie Ridge were recognized with honors.



Best Retirement Community



Best Assisted Living

## WCCEAL Award

As a participant in the Wisconsin Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living (WCCEAL), as part of our membership with LeadingAge Wisconsin, Oakwood displays its commitment to delivering the highest levels of care in its assisted living households.

In 2023, the Heather Bruemmer Provider Achievement Award for Assisted Living Quality was awarded to providers who exemplify the way its namesake, Heather Bruemmer, demonstrated consistent delivery of quality care. The providers selected for this award showed examples of how they exceeded quality improvement initiatives in WCCEAL.

Only ten WCCEAL participants maintained Gold Star membership consistently through every quarter of the three years of the pandemic. Although faced with numerous challenges as an industry, these 10 participants managed to uphold their commitment to WCCEAL and to excellence in assisted living.

Of these 10 participants, two of them are Oakwood Village programs: Oakwood Knoll and Oakwood Meadows! Oakwood Knoll is the memory care program on the Prairie Ridge campus, and Oakwood Meadows is the advanced assisted living program at Prairie Ridge.

These awards are a tribute to the hard work and relentless dedication the staff of these programs demonstrate day in and day out.

*To learn more about these award-winning programs and how they can support your loved one, call 608.230.4580.*



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you are considering including the Oakwood Foundation as a beneficiary, for a bequest, or in your trust, it matters what name you use.

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It's important to use our legal name, address, and tax identification number to be sure your gift goes where you want it to go.

**Name:** Oakwood Foundation, Inc.

**Address:** 6201 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, WI 53705

**Tax ID #:** 39-1398037

If you want to specify which fund at the Foundation your gift supports, please contact [david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net) or call the office at (608) 230-4285.



# FLUENT IN LIFE

*Prairie Ridge resident Connie Burmeister speaks the language of passion in everything she does*

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## “Beurre de cacahuètes.”

Connie Burmeister’s Danish father didn’t learn much of the French language while stationed in France during World War II, but he did learn the French word for peanut butter.

“I never knew a French person to eat it, but my dad loved peanut butter,” Connie recalls.

She credits her father and his time in France with sparking her interest in the language—one that would become the basis of her career.

## Formative Family

Connie was born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin. Home to one of the largest Danish populations in the country, Racine became home for Connie’s parents, Bernard and Lillian, both Danish immigrants. Her parents spoke Danish in the home “only when they didn’t want us to understand,” Connie explains, so she was familiar with the language, but not fluent.

Bernard was a mason, having done his apprenticeship in bricklaying. In fact, he was working on the Johnson Wax building when a man came along and asked Bernard’s opinion of the building. He replied honestly, ‘Well, I think there’s going to be a lot of problems.’ It turns out Connie’s father was speaking to none other than the building’s architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

And Bernard was correct: the things he predicted, did, in fact, go wrong. Despite later getting into trouble with his boss for his candidness, Bernard’s honesty was rewarded with a standing contract with Johnson Wax.

## Journeys and Destinations

Connie is the oldest of four, with two younger sisters and a brother. Her love of the Northwoods stems from childhood, where the family spent three weeks every summer in Woodruff, Wisconsin.

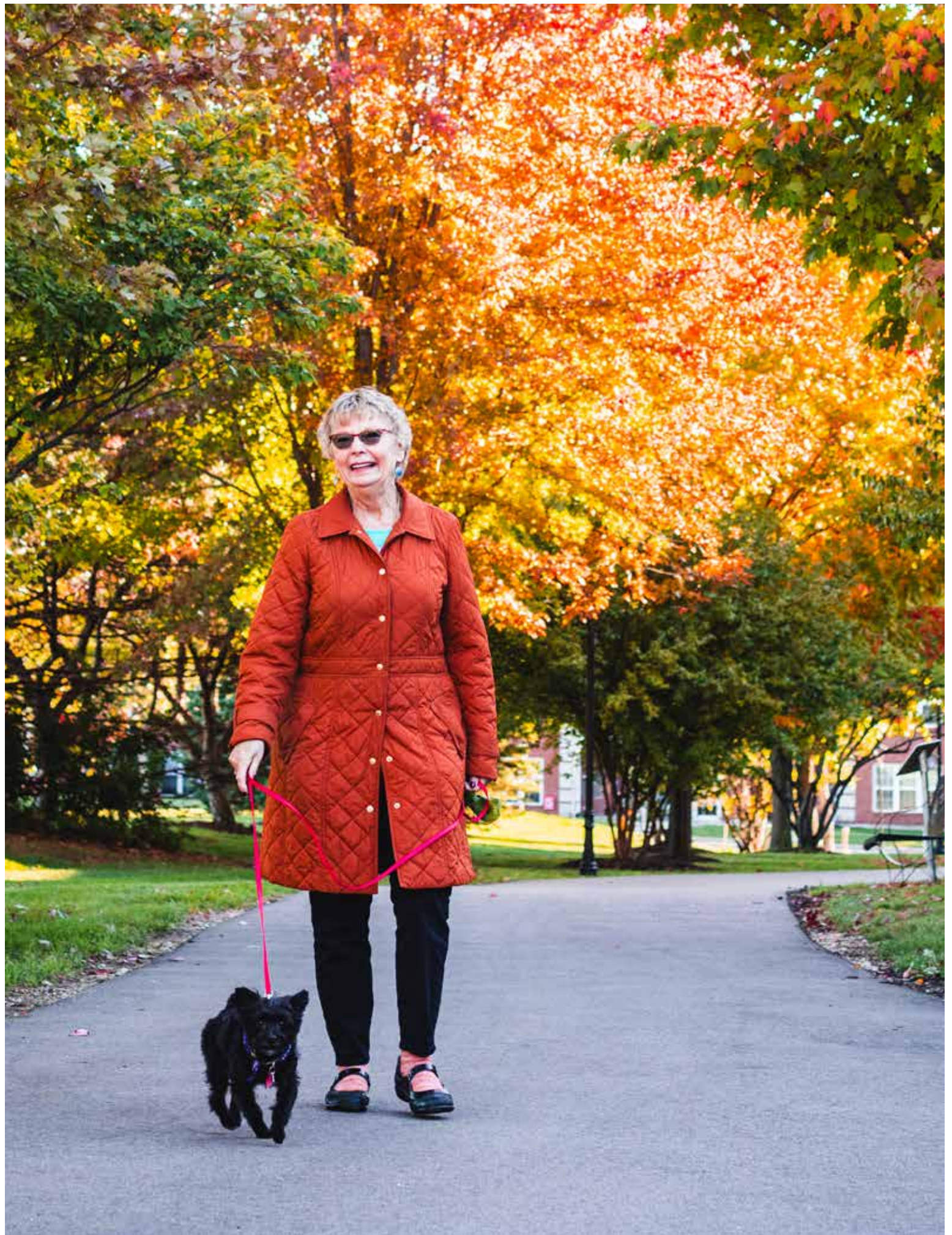
Exposed to different languages from a young age, Connie knew growing up that she wanted to be a translator. When it was time to choose a college, Connie didn’t think she wanted to attend a large school. However, being already advanced in her French studies, she found herself moving to Madison at 17 years old to attend the University of Wisconsin. She graduated with a French teaching major and a Spanish teaching minor.

After college, Connie started teaching French at Sun Prairie High School. Upon having her first baby with her husband, Wayne, she “retired” to stay home with her daughter and welcomed a second daughter a couple of years later.

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► *Connie walking her dog, Benji, around the Prairie Ridge campus.*







Retirement didn't last long. A few years later, Connie took a job at Madison East High School. From there she went back to Sun Prairie to teach, where she worked until her second retirement.

It wasn't until after her second year of teaching that Connie made her first trip abroad, as it wasn't yet a requirement for students pursuing foreign language teaching degrees. That trip would be the first of many for Connie, who would go on to travel often with student groups, and travel with Wayne as well.

"I took students frequently, and they loved it," Connie explains. "We always went in the spring as part of spring break. I wouldn't have given up my time in the summer because that was for being up north with my family."

Those treasured summers up north inspired Connie and Wayne to purchase a home in Minocqua in 1984 so they could create memories with their daughters in their special place. Summers served as designated up-north time for the Burmeister crew.



"I would pack up all my summer schoolwork—boxes and boxes of materials—and I'd work sometimes 14 hours a day in Minocqua," Connie recalls. "Wayne would be on the floor playing with the girls night after night—they called him their jungle gym—while I was at my desk working."

Connie took her second retirement at the same time Wayne retired from American Family Insurance to take care of their grandchild.

### Joining the Oakwood Family

When Connie's father passed away, Connie's mother, Lillian, had to decide which of her children she was going to live near. Since Connie was already retired, Lillian made the decision to move to Madison. Lillian got onto Oakwood's waiting list while still living in Racine, learning of Oakwood through her church. She moved into Prairie Ridge independent living in 2003, just a few years after the campus had opened.

If you ask Connie when she knew that she, too, wanted to live at Oakwood, she answers without hesitation.

"The day mom moved in. I thought this place was fabulous and I knew right away I wanted to live here!"

When the Prairie Ridge expansion was announced, Connie and Wayne were one of the first to put down their deposit on the new Grasslands apartments. Connie told her mom she was going to have her over for a lobster dinner when she and Wayne moved in. Sadly, Lillian passed away a year before they would move in.

In June of 2019, Connie and Wayne moved into their new apartment and started their life at Oakwood. However, Wayne passed away six months after making the move.

"When Wayne passed, I was really glad that I lived here," Connie says. "I'd already made friends and I never ever felt alone."

Shortly after Wayne's passing, Connie adopted a dog, Benji, who has been her loyal companion.

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▼ *Benji keeps Connie company at home in their apartment*

*"When Wayne passed,  
I was really glad that I  
lived here. I'd already  
made friends and I  
never ever felt alone."*

– CONNIE BURMEISTER





*“No matter how difficult a pattern I chose, my grandma always assured me that I could do it.”*

– CONNIE BURMEISTER

### **Finding Creative Outlets**

Benji keeps Connie busy, as do her numerous involvements at Oakwood. She’s been a passionate knitter her whole life, and has been on the board of the Madison Knitters Guild. She also served as the vice president and president for the guild. At one point, it was the largest knitters group in the country.

Connie’s passion for knitting can be seen throughout her apartment at Oakwood. From her vast collection of yarn whose colors span the rainbow, to finished pieces that adorn her walls and her wardrobe, to current projects, knitting is a big creative outlet for Connie. She has been knitting since she was a young girl. She learned from her grandmother, and she has passed on the craft to her own daughters and two of her

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grandchildren. Thus far, no one has carried on with the craft, but Connie is hopeful they may one day!

Connie has found fluency not just in language, but in knitting as well.

“No matter how difficult a pattern I chose, my grandma always assured me that I could do it.”

At Oakwood, Connie has immersed herself in the community. She delivers meals to residents in The Grasslands apartments who may be unable to pick them up on their own due to illness or mobility challenges. She’s a regular participant in the daily coffee gathering in The Crossings with her neighbors. Connie has found strength—literally—through her regular workouts with personal Trainer Savanna

Anderson in the The Acorn Club onsite, which she says has had a huge positive impact on her. Connie is also the Vice President of the Prairie Ridge Resident Association.

It’s fair to say that no matter what language Connie Burmeister is speaking, she communicates with the intention of building connections with others. And Oakwood is a better place for it. 🌱

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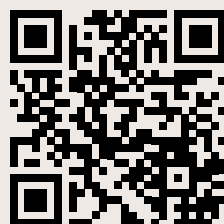
▲ *Connie skillfully works on a sock she’s knitting.*



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Join the  
Oakwood team!



[OAKWOODVILLAGE.NET/CAREERS](https://oakwoodvillage.net/careers)

# 2023 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

## *Prairie Ridge & University Woods*

**Oakwood has selected an Outstanding Service Award recipient every year (except two) since 1979.**

The first winners were George and Erna Vogel, who donated the land that today houses the University Woods campus. Since then, 60 community members have been honored for their gifts of time, talent, and energy for the people of Oakwood.

With the 2023 class of Outstanding Service Award, that number of honorees increases to 64.

Outstanding Service Award Winners for the past 5 years (no winners in 2021 due to COVID) were awarded to:

- 2022 Donna Anderson —  
Both Prairie Ridge and University Woods
- 2020 Janet Coe — Prairie Ridge  
Glenda Sweet — University Woods
- 2019 Ginny Baker — Prairie Ridge  
Barb Gessner — University Woods
- 2018 Carol Murphy — Prairie Ridge  
Glenn & Eleanor Sather — University Woods
- 2017 Helen Marsh — Prairie Ridge  
Florence Cole — University Woods

*“This is about the residents. When they say thank you, it makes up for all the trials and tribulations that goes into running a shop. They put smiles on our faces.”*

– KITTY YOUNGQUIST



# PRAIRIE RIDGE

Ann Smith

*“I’ve volunteered pretty much my whole life, wherever I have been. It’s just in my nature.”*

– ANN SMITH



## Giving Back is in My Blood

“I’ve volunteered pretty much my whole life, wherever I have been. It started in elementary school; I volunteered in hospitals and did things at church and for other service organizations. It’s just in my nature.”

Prairie Ridge independent living resident, Ann Smith, is the 2023 Outstanding Service Award recipient.

In naming Ann as this year’s winner, Volunteer Service Coordinator Emily Lueloff says that Smith is being honored for the variety of tasks she’s done over the past 10 years.

“Ann is easy to work with and willing to help out as needed,” Emily observes. “She’s a true example of how Oakwood residents work together for the good of each other.”

Ann’s volunteer mantra is “service with a smile.” One of her favorite roles is when she gives assisted living residents rides to the salon.

“They are thrilled to go over to the salon and get their hair done. Even the gentlemen enjoy it. It was always a happy thing to do.”

Prairie Ridge Chaplain Wayne Shannon has seen Smith’s work up close.

“Ann has added to life here at Prairie Ridge in a very quiet way,” Wayne explains. “She took on the Bazaar/Trash and Treasure sale and reshaped it. In that reshaping it was more profitable than past years. I give thanks to God for Ann’s willingness to invest herself in the community of Prairie Ridge.”



# UNIVERSITY WOODS

Carol Ross • Kitty Youngquist • Mary Lou Leslie



## 80 Years of Service and Counting

"The people, the residents who come in (to the shop), and my co-managers make this a very pleasant place to be."

For Carol Ross and her coworkers Mary Lou Leslie and Kitty Youngquist, it's only fitting that they are sharing the 2023 Outstanding Service Award on the University Woods campus. The trio has been working together in the Oakleaf Shoppe for the past 20 years.

Mary Lou and Kitty joined the Oakleaf Shoppe in its first year, 1992, when it was located in Tabor Oaks. Carol became a volunteer in 2003, when she coordinated the Hanging of the Greens (Oakwood's annual holiday decoration days) and helped in the shop.

Mary Lou says that after 30 years of serving the people of Oakwood, she still enjoys the experience.

"We get happy responses from residents," Mary Lou says. "They thank us for being here. Sometimes, we might be sitting here with nothing going on, and a resident will come in, look around, and maybe buy a card and thank us."

Former Foundation Director Sue Ullsvik and Development Director Lori Werbeckes, who now serve as volunteer members for the Oakwood Foundation board, recall establishing the original Oakleaf Shoppe with these three volunteers as a highlight of their careers at Oakwood.

For Kitty, this recognition is for all the volunteers who ran and continue to run the Oakleaf Shoppe.

"This honor means a lot to me and my family," Kitty says. "I'm surprised and delighted. This is about the residents. When they say thank you, it makes up for all the trials and tribulations that goes into running a shop. They put smiles on our faces." 🌿

# Traveling in Place

## *Virtual Reality Comes to Prairie Ridge*

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**Thanks to generous gifts to the campus Life Enrichment fund,** Oakwood recently purchased four pairs of virtual reality (VR) goggles. The goggles make it possible for independent living residents at Prairie Ridge and individuals requiring more care to travel the world while their feet are planted on campus.

Oakwood resident Lynn Molis, who lives in an apartment with her husband, recently wore goggles for a trip to exotic locations.

“It’s fun and a good way to travel when you’re old.”

Campus Life Enrichment Supervisor Goldie Nelson notes that assisted living residents used the devices for a kayaking adventure, canoe trip, and swimming with dolphins in one morning.

“Our virtual reality systems allow residents to go on unique experiences they probably wouldn’t be able to have anymore.”

The realistic feeling of the experience creates a real impact, according to Goldie.

“You can see the smiles. You can see facial expressions behind the goggles showing a sense of wonder, like, ‘wow, I’m here.’ They can go to the Sistine Chapel and the Grand Canyon. You see happiness, the effects of endorphins, even for residents in memory care, where they may not remember where they went, but they still have those positive chemicals in their brain.”

Residents Steve and Cynda Lewis signed up for a 30-minute trip that included stops in Canada and Europe.

“I can’t walk a long distance anymore, so we don’t do much traveling,” Steve says. “I enjoyed this.”

Your philanthropic investment is being used at every level of Oakwood’s continuum of care. According to Goldie, the Life Enrichment team says it is thankful to have this new tool.

“We are utilizing this in independent living, in the Health and Rehabilitation Center, and in all of assisted living at least twice a month. It’s an incredible opportunity for us.”

Resident Chris McGee said her first experience with virtual reality travel was fun.

“You see things you otherwise wouldn’t on an average day—it’s fun to see the architecture and the way people dress in different countries. I liked the park with butterflies, the forest, and seeing waves again, like you’re on an ocean beach.”

In addition to immersive travel experiences, viewers can participate in virtual scavenger hunts, play games and take part in live events. The new technology is gaining fans; the Lewises plan to do it again.

“Wherever you’re going, we’ll be there.” 🌍

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▶ *Steve and Cynda Lewis take a trip using Oakwood’s new virtual reality headsets.*



*“Wherever  
you're going,  
we'll be there.”*

– STEVE AND  
CYNDA LEWIS

# BRINGING DREAMS TO LIFE

## *Your Gifts Provide Funding for CNA Training*

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**“My motivation comes from the memory of my mother who raised me to treat everyone I meet in an empathetic and respectful way.** Although God only gave us a short time together, she taught me how important it is to help your community and the joy you find in helping someone who is unable to help themselves.”

Vincent Beyer, a Resident Assistant (RA), is one of many Oakwood employees in an entry-level position eager to move up the ladder.

Your gifts provide an incentive through Oakwood’s Human Resources department which offers the opportunity for interested employees to get the education they need to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA).

Resident Assistants can learn to provide needed care in many areas of campus, but Oakwood’s goal is to have as many CNAs as possible, according to Human Resources Talent Development Director Mary Bjorklund.

“The CNA training, and the higher acuity levels we see with residents shows that the extra training is

a bonus,” Mary says. “If someone wants to become a Registered Nurse, they need CNA certification first. If someone wants to be a nurse, a good way to start the process is by becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.”

Oakwood worked with Madison College to set up classes for interested employees. Oakwood pays the cost of education for eligible employees, helps with the exam fee, and incentivizes them with a bonus for passing the CNA exam. That’s worth more than the approximately \$1,000 it would cost students out-of-pocket to take the course. Vincent says that is a big deal.

“Oakwood donors allow me to focus on my education instead of having to worry about the financial burden of taking that first step.” Vincent says. “I am very fortunate because my supervisor Jordan Silvis and staffing coordinator Brigitte Weber worked around all my classes, labs and clinicals. Without their flexibility, taking this accelerated program while working full-time would have been a tremendous undertaking.”



*“Oakwood donors allow me to focus on my education instead of having to worry about the financial burden of taking that first step.”*

– VINCENT BEYER

Vincent, one of seven Oakwood employees in the most recent class, sees this as the next step on his career path with an eventual goal of becoming a Chief Nursing Officer.

“To become an effective leader, you need to understand how the work is done and how it impacts clients and their families as well as the larger community,” Vincent explains. “This program has allowed me to grow and begin to understand clinical responsibility from the ground up.”

You aren’t just providing employees with new opportunities; you are helping Oakwood’s efforts to recruit and retain employees. Ultimately, your gifts help residents as they are cared for by people with more training.

“People who go through the program are super excited,” Mary explains. “You come in as an RA and you have a certain wage, then you complete this program and you see a significant increase, that makes everybody feel good. I’ve heard positive feedback from everyone who’s gone through it because they really enjoy it and often say that without Oakwood helping, they would never be able to afford this.”

Your gifts provide up to 32 class positions a year, while a Worker Advancement Training grant provides additional funds through Madison College. Oakwood’s seventh CNA class begins in the fall, which has drawn interest in employees ranging in age from the 20s into 50s.

Donor gifts to the Oakwood Mission Support Fund provided funding for this program. 🌱

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Mary Bjorklund says that since CNA classes were first offered for employees, 35 employees have taken the class, and more than 30 of them are now working at Oakwood as CNAs. Mary calls the program a great recruitment tool.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## *Spanish for Leaders*

### **Your gifts recently sent several Oakwood team members back to school.**

Shayla Gitter, a Human Resources Generalist based at the Prairie Ridge campus, says she took Spanish in high school and college, but didn't remember much that was useful in the workplace. That's where your support came in, as Oakwood teamed up with Ramona Field and her business, Inspired Language Solutions.

"Learning someone else's language is arguably one of the most considerate and welcoming actions that one can take," Ramona explains. "As a leader in an organization, being able to communicate with employees in their native language is key, not only as an inclusive practice, but also as a way to lay the foundation of effective and efficient communication."

Shayla says she had a great experience.

"I wanted to build a base of Spanish vocabulary that would allow me to have a better level of comfort conversing with someone who only speaks Spanish or is primarily a Spanish-speaker," Shayla says. "I knew I wouldn't become fluent by any means, but I want to have some interactions verbally, and show that effort to potential candidates and/or employees."

The 18-week course alternated between virtual classroom sessions with online homework.

Mary Bjorklund, Talent Development and Human Resources Director at University Woods, says the idea came from supervisors.

"I had leaders come to me and say, 'it'd be nice to communicate with my staff, even if it's simply saying good morning or hello,'" Mary says.

While Shayla isn't ready yet to do an entire phone interview in Spanish, her written communication and short conversations are improving.

"I think it will help with recruiting efforts and create goodwill with employees who are primarily Spanish speakers," Shayla says. "In the past, bringing on a team member who primarily spoke Spanish was difficult because of language barriers, but I'm feeling more comfortable now thanks to what we learned from Ramona."

Mary hopes this program will become an ongoing offering.

"It was something we've wanted to do so we asked the Foundation for support," Mary states. "Hopefully

it will give Spanish-speaking employees a greater sense of community and build a bridge of better communication.”

Oakwood Preferred Hospice Director Sue Husom had only a minimal exposure to Spanish prior to the class.

“The goal of this class was to kick-start learning a second language,” Sue says. “I will continue to incorporate learning into my everyday life. Learning a second language will not only improve leadership skills, but will also allow me to be a better coworker to those who speak Spanish.”

Your gifts supporting Spanish for Leaders puts Oakwood Village out front, according to Ramona.

“This kind of fully customized language training for the workplace is not yet a widespread concept, even though so many organizations could greatly benefit from this service,” Ramona says. “Apart from the Spanish for Leaders course at Oakwood Village, I have customized courses and taught classes at a handful of local businesses, primarily within the manufacturing industry.” 🌱



*“I knew I wouldn't become fluent by any means, but I wanted to show that effort to employees and candidates.”*

– SHAYLA GITTER

# St. John's Lutheran Church

*You Are Welcome Here*

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**St. John's Lutheran Church, just a few steps from the Capitol building, is Madison's oldest Lutheran church.** Founded in 1856 by German Lutherans, the church has seen its fair share of changes, not only in the surrounding area, but within the church itself.

The vision held by the 17 founding immigrants was to establish a congregation in Madison near their homes. Strong religious and cultural ties were integral to the founding of the church, as well as in the German school whose founding preceded the church. Church services were administered entirely in the German language for many years. In 1912, only two English services were scheduled for the summer months!

St. John's has a history of valuing the importance of lay people in its decision-making, leadership roles and worship. This can be seen in the congregation's care and support for each other and the larger community.

## **A Home for the Aging**

In 1946, St. John's Pastors Otto Wilke and Carl Becker met with church members Rupert Steinhauer, George Vogel and Floyd McBurney to plan for a Christian home for the aging. The result of this planning? Oakwood Village.

The idea for Oakwood came from many churches, but it was these key figures from St. John's who helped bring the idea to fruition. Through the years, members of St. John's have served as board members, volunteers, and provided other guidance to Oakwood.



*"Our mission is to be  
a welcoming presence  
in the heart of the  
city serving others."*

– PASTOR PETER BEESON





## A Welcoming Presence

Describing the church, Peter Beeson, lead pastor at St. John's, says, "Our mission is to be a welcoming presence in the heart of the city serving others."

Primary ministries of the church include ministry with the homeless, marginally housed, and current or formerly incarcerated individuals; it offers space to Off the Square Club, Porchlight DIGS program, and Backyard Mosaic Women's Project.

"St. John's is unique in that we've routinely changed this building for the sake of mission and ministry," Peter shares.

This willingness to change for the community has led to the current big project. The church will be torn down and replaced by a 10-story building with 110 units of affordable housing. On the ground floor will be the new space for St. John's, including worship and community space. The congregation will still own the parcel, and a property management company will manage the apartments.



This fall, the church moved to its temporary space in an ecumenical student center on the University of Wisconsin campus. Construction is expected to last a year and a half, after which the church will move back to the original site and into the new building.

Before leaving the current building, members gathered to save some items to bring into their new space. Peter anticipated parts of the stained glass windows will be saved and reused, as well as parts of the altar and pulpit. Wood from the pews will be repurposed in the new space, but will not be used for pews.

“We’ve always been really focused on our elder members,” Peter says. “It’s fascinating to look back through photo directories because that’s always been true. While there are elder members who come in, seniors have always been a large part of our membership.”



*“I recently learned  
that these quilts  
often end up being  
used not for warmth,  
but for shelter and  
to provide shade,”*

– PASTOR PETER BEESON

## Outreach

A primary ministry of St. John's is its Emergency Outreach Program. This fund gives more than \$40,000 away every year in small-dollar increments to people with unexpected needs. The program is intended to help people with "the little things" they need in order to get by. This could be assistance with local transportation (in the form of gas vouchers or bus tickets), child care-related needs, first month's rent, utilities, work boots, or prescriptions.

"But what's really unique is that it's a matching fund program," Peter explains. "Our Emergency Fund Director received substantial support from our congregation here, and solicits funds from neighboring congregations who support the fund."

St. John's Blanket Workshop is another primary ministry. The group consists primarily of women who gather several times per month to create quilts that are sent to parts of the world experiencing natural disasters. The finished quilts measure 60" by 80" and are made from fabrics such as lightweight drapes or sheets found at St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, estate sales, or fabric stores.

"I recently learned that these quilts often end up being used not for warmth, but for shelter and to provide shade," Peter shares.

The group, which formed in the 1970s, recently completed its 5,000th quilt!

While services are now administered in English, many other things have remained the same since the very beginning of St. John's. Most importantly: keeping community at the forefront. 🌱



## AT A GLANCE

### Name

St. John's Lutheran Church

### Year Established

1856

### Pastor

Peter Beeson

### Website

[stjohnsmadison.org](http://stjohnsmadison.org)

### Contact Info

608.256.2337

### Address

322 East Washington Ave,  
Madison, WI 53703

### Service Times

Sundays at 9:30  
In-person and on Zoom

### Number of Members

110



# Life: Enriched

Every day, Oakwood residents discover new connections—with each other and with the natural landscapes that are integrated into each campus.

One of Oakwood's core values is integrity. That means we act with honor and respect for residents, their families, and our staff. We do what's best for them, and we understand that access to nature improves the quality of life for everyone. We won't waver in that commitment, and we will hold sacred the beauty of the natural surroundings our communities are blessed with.



▶ *A few photos from the Oakwood archives, paired with more recent Oakwood images, highlight the treasured relationship between Oakwood and nature. Walks through the Nature Preserve (above) and gardening (below) are hallmarks of life at Oakwood for many residents.*



*“Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better.”*

– ALBERT EINSTEIN



# 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

It is an honor to partner with these outstanding businesses as partners in 2023. Their support and cooperation make all the difference.

## Gold Partner

Giving at the \$10,000 level



## Silver Partner

Giving at the \$5,000 level



## Community Partner

Giving at the \$1,500 level

Alliant Energy

Ayres Painting Company

The Boelter Companies

Coyle Carpet One

Cricket Design Works, Inc

CTW Abbey Carpet and Floor

Econoprint

EUA

First Business Bank

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North American Mechanical, Inc

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VRI

If your company wants to learn more about Oakwood Community Partners or you have a suggestion for a potential partner, contact the Oakwood Foundation at (608) 230-4285.

# CONSIDER A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

**Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA)** are gifts that return regular payments to the donor guaranteed for life. It is also eligible for a tax deduction. CGA rates are based on life expectancy: the older they are, the higher the payment.

Because payments are guaranteed, a CGA may be a good fit for donors looking for reliable regular payments. Payout rates for CGAs have increased three times in the past year.

For the first time, donors may use up to \$50,000 of a Qualified Charitable Distribution to create a CGA.

With IRS discount rates rising, this may mean a higher potential tax deduction for donors. It could mean that more of the annual CGA payment will be taxable than in years past.

*To learn what a Charitable Gift Annuity might look like for you, contact Oakwood Foundation Executive Director David Mossner, CFRE at (608) 230-4441 or email [david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net).*

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The Oakwood Foundation does not give tax advice; consult your professional advisor about your financial situation.

# Thanks for Your Generous Support in 2022

You are powerful when you join others in supporting the people of Oakwood. The Oakwood Foundation is honored to recognize donors whose generous support qualifies them as members of the Oak, Golden Oak, and lifetime giving societies.

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*The Oakwood Foundation recognizes those who supported Oakwood in 2022. Thanks to thoughtful gifts from generous donors, Oakwood is able to provide exceptional care and housing, enhance our programming and facilities, and continue to care for those who have outlived their financial resources. Your support is meaningful and makes a difference in lives of our residents.*

**We are pleased to recognize below those organizations and individuals whose contributions were received between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.**

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Alliant Energy Corporation	First Business Bank	Oimoen Electric, Inc.
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AVI System	Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care	Schwab Charitable Fund
Ayres Painting Co.	Hooper Foundation	State Farm Companies Foundation
Blackbaud Giving Fund	Husch Blackwell LLP	The Boelter Companies, Inc
CLA	JP Cullen	Theracore Management Group
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Coyle Carpet One	Kwik Trip, Inc.	UnitedHeartland
Cress Funeral and Cremation Service	M3 Insurance	Vanguard Charitable
Cricket Design Works, Inc.	Madison Community Foundation	Vogel Bros. Building Co.
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CUNA Mutual Group	Margaret A Lindberg Foundation	VRI
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EUA	National Philanthropic Trust	
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	North American Mechanical, Inc.	

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Bethel Lutheran Church  
Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation  
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
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Dave Bohlman  
Kathy Borner  
Marylin Boyer  
Joyce A. Bringe  
Curt and Sherri Bush  
William & Judith Busse  
Arlen and Judy Christenson  
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Donna B. Fox  
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Margaret Hickman

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Mary Molstad  
Ruth K. Moore  
Peder and Jeanne Moren  
Jon Muchmore & Thomas Freeman  
Marje Murray  
Beth Murley  
Jerome and Carol Murphy  
Dean and Esther Nelson  
Kay Nelson  
Loy Kay Nelson  
Bob Nicholson  
Dr. Norman & Nancy Jensen  
Nancy Okey  
John & Marlene Olson  
Richard & Mary Ann Olson  
Irene Oster  
Susan C. Paddock  
Thomas Pasic & Sharon Fry Pasic  
Patricia Paska  
Sally Patti



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Chuck and Helen Read	Rochelle B. Sincox	Carol Uglow	William Werner
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George Rueckert	Richard & Elayne Steeves	Val and Tag Van Winkle	Stanley and Emily York
Warren & Peg Schmidt	Steve Stern & Florencia Mallon		George & Dorothy Zograf

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Meghann Bandt	Mrs. Sheri Bradshaw	Louis Chosy	Joseph Durkin
James Banks		Jack Christian	Winifred Durkin

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Liz Murray  
Marje Murray  
Susan Myers  
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Jack Naughton  
Philip Neis  
Lori Nepstad  
Eleanor Neumann  
David Newby and Kathleen McElroy  
Thelma Newman  
Namgyal Ngodup  
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Ellie Ninemeier  
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Linda and Brian Pankow  
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Sally Patti  
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Elena Peters  
Ms. Karen Peterson  
Gloria Pettersen  
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Virginia Steeper Preston  
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Mary Lou and John Rashke  
Miriam Ratner  
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Herman Reschke  
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Rebecca Rogers  
Ann Rogers  
Ruth Rosen  
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Donna Rossi  
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Mary Schmeling  
Mrs. Betty Schmidt  
Warren and Peg Schmidt  
Jenny Schmitz  
Sue Schneider  
Darlene Schneider  
Yvonne Schofer  
Harold and Judy Schofield  
Les Schramm  
Karen Schroeder  
Jim and Elissa Schuhart  
Myra Schultz  
Patricia Schulz  
Susan Schwarm  
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Dale and Rhoda Sharpee	Mr. Roger Sunde	Jayne Vivian	Carolyn L. White
Ron and Deb Sharpee	Eileen and Tom Sutula	Betty Viviani	Haseena Whittaker
Marilyn Shepard	Clifford Swann	Carol Viviani	Neil F. Wienke
Kat Shepard	Rev. Marsha Swenson	Rebecca Voelker	Carolyn Wilcox
Sarah Shivelor	Dajah Swift	Jennifer Vosen	Michael and Diane Wilcox
Jeanie and Jerry Sieling	Mrs. Judith Taylor	Walter and Judy Wagener	Doyle and Betty Wilke
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Rochelle Sincox	Don Tessmer	Alex Wagner	Sarah Williams-Racette
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Todd Smith and Jill Bradshaw	Kris and Tom Thommesen	Estelle Walker	Joseph and Susan Wolters
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Alice Spencer	William and Betsy Tishler	Dianna Watters	Bob and Beverly Zimmerman
Sherri Jo St. John	Robert and Elsie Todd	Brigitte Weber	Terri Zimmerman
David and Bonnie Stanley	Donna Todd	John Webster	George and Dorothy Zograf
Ms. RoseMary Stassi	Robert and Jeanne Topel	Karl and Mary Janet Wellensiek	Alan Zuckerman
Marion Steele	Georgiana and Jim Tracy	Marlene Welton	Margie and Keith Zutter
Richard and Elyane Steeves	Ms. Mary Trewartha		

## IN MEMORIAM

Anonymous (7)	Phyllis Guggemos	Renate Madsen	Jean Sherman
George R. Barry	Suzanne Hodgman	Joyce Russell	Betty St. John
Mike Bodden	Donald Kasper	Jeanne Saiki	
Joan Burns	Robert G. Kauffman	Joan Shands	

*If you are wondering how close you are to qualifying for a society, or want more information, please call Executive Director David Mossner (608) 230-4441 or email [david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:david.mossner@oakwoodvillage.net).*



# THEN & NOW

*A lot changes over the course of 75 years. But when it comes down to it, we've found that our residents find fulfillment in much the same way they did when we started. Gardening. Weaving. Walking through nature. No matter what decade it is, we know that turning to communal activities sustains us.*





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SENIOR MINISTRIES

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OAKWOOD  
**Outlook**

*News from Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries*

75TH ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION



**Keeping the Oaks  
in Oakwood**

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Residents Restore Nature Preserve

▶ [READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 5](#)