



OAKWOOD

# Outlook

*News from Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries*

FALL 2019





# Integrity

At Oakwood our teams work to be transparent and fair and act with honor and respect for residents, their families and our staff. Oakwood staff will advocate for residents and patients and do what is best for them, even if it means exploring a solution outside of Oakwood.



People Thrive Here



# OAKWOOD Outlook

*News from Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries*

## FEATURED ARTICLES



Get On the Bus!

4



Restoring  
A Treasure

22



"I'm Not Old  
Enough!"

28

## *also in this issue:*

- 2 Designing for the Future
- 8 Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
- 10 Board Member Profile: Steve Koch
- 12 Best of Fall Produce
- 14 Staff Spotlights
- 18 The Rise Assisted Living
- 32 Oakwood Chamber Players
- 34 Donor Profile: Tom Pierce
- 36 Gifts Come in Many Forms
- 37 Community Partner Spotlight



# DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

Oakwood Village University Woods  
Prepares to Expand its Campus

## Oakwood has completed a new office space

and grown its sales staff in preparation to accept reservations for new apartment homes on the University Woods campus.

The Oakwood Village Design Center is located at 6411 Mineral Point Road, Suite 200, immediately west of the University Woods Nature Preserve and directly in front of Otto's restaurant. The entrance to the Design Center is only accessible to vehicles heading eastbound on Mineral Point Road (it is not located at an intersection). Those familiar with the neighborhood might know it as "the Strang building."

The Design Center serves as office space for the University Woods presales team and is a place to

meet with residents-in-waiting as well as work with prospective residents as they select their apartment home finishes.

The creation of the Design Center is intended to provide a dedicated, convenient space for those on the University Woods waiting list and the broader community to learn about Oakwood's redevelopment plans, while minimizing traffic and disruption on the University Woods campus.

Those interested in reserving an apartment home in the future at University Woods are encouraged to join the waiting list by submitting an application for residency. Apartment homes will be offered based upon prospective residents' date of application. 🌿

---

▼ *The Design Center serves as an office space for the University Woods presales team, and is where they will meet with members of the waiting list to reserve new apartment homes, as well as work with prospective residents as they select their apartment home finishes.*





# Get On the Bus!

## CONNECTING RESIDENTS TO COMMUNITY

**In 2018, an informal poll** of waiting list members for the University Woods campus asked recipients to choose which amenities were most important to them. The number one answer, selected by 85% of respondents? Transportation. Fortunately for them, Oakwood takes resident transportation seriously.

Between the two campuses, Oakwood has four shuttle buses. The Life Enrichment department on each

campus manages the transportation schedule as well as plans numerous outings.

A regular fixture of each month's Life Enrichment calendar are the shopping trips that each campus offers three times per week. Destinations include nearby shopping malls, grocery stores (including Pick 'n Save, Costco and Trader Joe's), and big-box stores like Target or Walmart. Taking an Oakwood bus trip not only saves residents the time and hassle of

driving and parking, but the buses pick up and drop off residents right at the entrance of their building. Drivers may even help with getting carts and loading bags. It's not just residents who don't drive who take the bus — many residents choose to take the bus because of the convenience.

## More than Shopping

Because of Oakwood's close proximity to downtown Madison, residents of both campuses enjoy bus transport to many quintessential Madison events. While there's plenty to do on the Oakwood campus itself, keeping connected in the community remains critical to residents. The Oakwood shuttles provide that connection, and residents appreciate the door-to-door service that comes with bus rides to popular Madison-area events.

"Any concert — especially in the parks, like the Rennebohm Park series — is very popular," shares Liz Gade-Schara, Life Enrichment Supervisor at Prairie Ridge. "The lectures and documentary series at public libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Museum are a big draw." Steph Burris, Director of Life Enrichment at University Woods, adds that UW Women's Hockey games always have full buses, and the Madison Symphony is a huge attraction.

With wellness a priority for residents, both Prairie Ridge and University Woods provide bus transportation to nearby pools for residents to swim. Prairie Ridge residents can take the six-minute drive to The American Center for warm water classes and swimming, while University Woods residents enjoy an even shorter commute to the UW Aquatic Center at Research Park.

Oakwood's busses also take residents to local culinary hot spots. Prairie Ridge does a monthly 'Dinner on

*"Once people use the bus the first time, then they do it again. They realize how easy it is."*

– STEPHANIE BURRIS  
DIRECTOR OF LIFE ENRICHMENT  
AT UNIVERSITY WOODS



# TRANSPORTATION STATS

Each campus has the capacity to fit about

40

residents between the two buses

2



Oakwood buses  
per campus

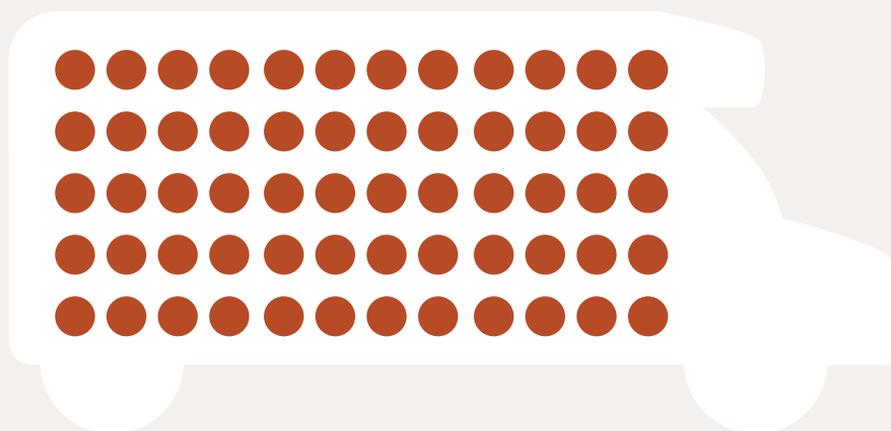


2+

out-of-town bus  
trips per week

60+

residents ride the bus  
in a given week



Shopping trips  
are offered

6

bus drivers on the  
University Woods campus

3

times per week  
at each campus

More than

64

off-campus trips were offered  
at Prairie Ridge during  
summer 2019 (not including  
grocery/store trips)

the Town' that brings residents to area restaurants. University Woods has them more frequently, doing between four and eight per month.

"Probably 50% of the trip suggestions I receive are for restaurants in the Madison area" says Bob Loeffler, the Transportation Supervisor at University Woods. Bob keeps record of all of the restaurants they visit, with information such as price ranges, which credit cards they take, and how accessible a place is, which helps residents decide if it's something they're interested in.

Other regular trips include plays at the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson, and Concerts on the Square. Residents sign up in advance for bus trips, which allows Life Enrichment to plan how many buses are needed. Bob does all of the planning for bus trips at University Woods.

"I look on the internet, the news, and different publications to find ideas for new outings," Bob says. "We also have a suggestion box by the sign up area. Everything we do is something a resident has suggested," he adds.

In addition to trips in the Madison area, day trips are a very popular outing. "I get charter buses for about 30 residents, and we've gone to LaCrosse, Kohler, Rockford, and Milwaukee for Brewers' games. We do 8-12 charter bus trips during a summer," says Liz. Many charter bus trips take residents from both campuses. Liz shares, "I get the opportunity to learn a lot about residents on the longer trips — even unusual facts! I recently learned that a resident's grandfather and grandmother were magicians on a paddlewheel boat in the late 1800s."

"I have a lot of people tell me 'I saw the Oakwood bus at (you name an event)!' " says Steph, "and I love that. I think it sets Oakwood apart, because I don't see a lot of other transportation at the big events around town."



*Because of their close proximity to downtown Madison, residents of both campuses enjoy Oakwood bus transport to many quintessential Madison events.*

# Christ Memorial Lutheran Church

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A LIFE IN JESUS

### Christ Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

(CMLC) was chartered in 1953, and has been located at 2833 Raritan Road in Fitchburg since 1976. Lead Pastor Jeff Meyer was called in 1998, and two additional pastors, Matt Wipperman and Mike Peters, have joined the roster since. The church has six additional staff members, seven preschool teachers, and an active Leadership Board comprising seven members. In 2009, CMLC changed its name to the Church to reflect their mission to connect people to life in Jesus. Church family members actively try to realize the vision God has given them, namely that “Jesus is leading every one of us to make an impact in our world, 1 person, 1 neighborhood, 1 region at a time until no one is thirsty.”

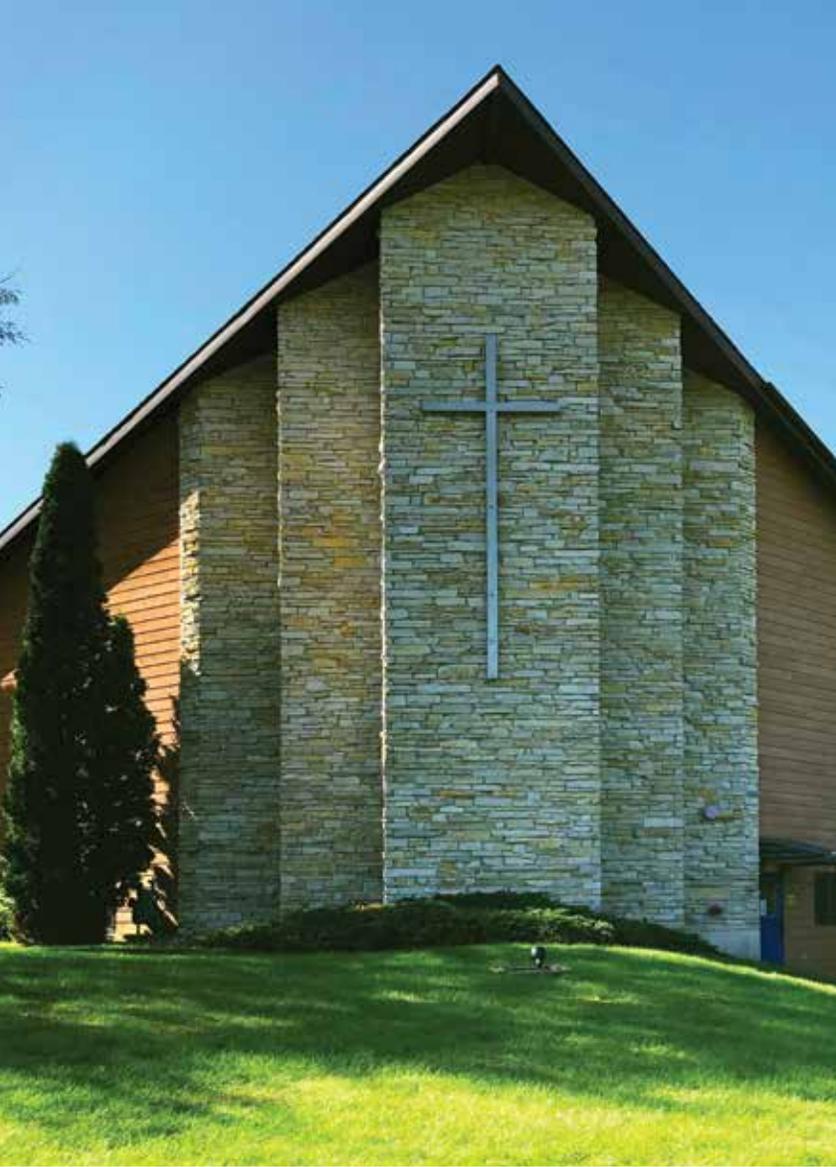
The primary strategies through which the Church pursues this vision are lifeWorship (focusing on Jesus, offering Him praise, and allowing Him the space to speak to us), lifeGroup (meeting weekly in small groups to foster dialogue and relationships), and lifeServe (offering our time, talents, gifts, and abilities to serve God, serve His church, and serve others).

The Church further empowers Jesus followers through its preschool, established in 1967 and one of the first Christian preschools in the nation; youth ministry for children of all ages, a home-centered, church-supported approach to faith development; wellness

offerings and for spiritual growth featuring a variety of Bible-based learning opportunities; prayer ministry; fostering one-to-one discipleship relationships; and several kingdom focus areas. In one such area, Pastor Jeff Meyer shares his gift of visionary planning with other churches across the nation through his consulting work with Auxano. God has also led the Church to a new partnership with Selfless Ambition, a local nonprofit organization that allows the church to help fund and staff three school food pantries in the Madison Metropolitan School District. 🌱



If you have questions about the Church’s ministry, you can call the office at **608-271-2811**, or contact Elsa Gumm (Community Development Coordinator) at [egumm@livelifetogether.com](mailto:egumm@livelifetogether.com).



# DO YOU HAVE A DONOR ADVISED FUND?



If you have created a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), it can be the perfect tool to make a gift to your favorite charity. Sending a gift from your DAF to the Oakwood Foundation sometimes requires Oakwood to provide you with additional information. We would be happy to review the process with you.

To learn more or receive required information on the Oakwood Foundation, please contact us at **(608) 230-4441**.

## AT A GLANCE...

**Year Established:** 1952

**Pastors:** Jeff Meyer, Lead Pastor; Matt Wipperman; Mike Peters

**Website:** [www.livelifetogether.com](http://www.livelifetogether.com)

**Phone:** (608) 271-2811

**Address:** 2833 Raritan Road | Fitchburg, WI 53711

**Service times:** Traditional Worship | Sunday at 8:00am; Exalt Worship | Sunday at 10:45am; Last Sunday of the Month at 9:00am

**Number of members:** 300

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

# Steve Koch, Ph.D.

**As the old saying goes,** “if you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life.” Steve Koch’s long career in teaching, school administration, and a family hardware business is a wonderful example of that.

Originally from Reedsburg, Steve grew up helping out at his parents’ hardware store. After earning his undergraduate degree in education at UW-Madison in the early 1960s, he and his new bride, Pat, moved to Watertown for a teaching position. Pat worked as a local banker. A year later, when he was recruited to return to his home town to teach high school, he again worked with his father at the family business and began pursuing his masters’ degree at UW.

A scholarship brought him back to UW full time to complete his doctorate. In 1971, feeling weary from Vietnam War-era unrest on campus, he decided to head back to Reedsburg to buy the family hardware business from his parents.

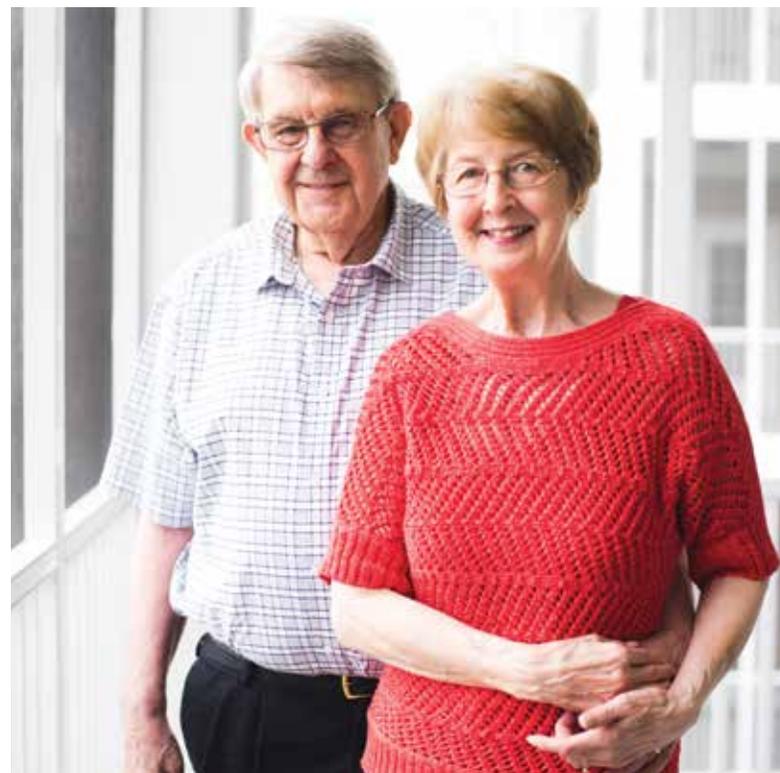
“Pat joined me in the business, and it was great working together, but after 14 years I wanted to return to the educational field. Teaching has always been my passion. We had an opportunity to sell the business, and I returned to education joining Portage Community Schools as the assistant superintendent. This was followed by a move to Pulaski Community Schools as district administrator.”

That role led to the superintendent role in the Middleton-Cross Plains School District, where he also served as president of the Middleton Chamber

of Commerce. Years later, as a professor at Edgewood College, he joined four colleagues in starting a doctorate program for the preparation of school superintendents. Around that time, he was introduced to Oakwood Village.

Steve began volunteering on various boards at Oakwood in 2002, but it was earlier this year when his fondness for Oakwood took on new meaning. He and Pat, who recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary, moved into a new apartment home on the Prairie Ridge campus.

“I always loved the concept of continuing care and Oakwood’s values. The motto ‘People Thrive Here’ is definitely true, and our residents are well served,” he says. “Now that we’ve moved in, I feel like the Board



of Directors' liaison to what's going on here in The Grasslands. The board wants to know what I think of the new apartments and the experience residents are having."

Steve and Pat, who have two adult children and two grandchildren, added their names to the waiting list as the Prairie Ridge campus expansion was beginning.

"We anticipated moving to our new apartment since November of 2017, and watched the building go up during construction. Now that we are here, I have to say it's everything we hoped it would be and more. We have a great place, residents are friendly, the staff is so helpful, and we're set for the future. What's not to love about being here? "

At 78 years old, Steve says the most difficult aspect of the move was downsizing from their longtime home in Middleton.

"We had lots of memories throughout a lot of years. As soon as we made the decision to come here we started selling things. We held an online auction and sold items on Craigslist. The best decision was hiring a company that helps you downsize your house; they unpack and put it all away. They helped pack us up and took care of the moving so we could sleep here the first night."

Now settled in their new apartment home, Steve and Pat are appreciating everything from the chapel to the bistro on the Prairie Ridge campus.

"I've had an opportunity to look at Oakwood from the outside and think about what I hoped it would be. Now, from my experience on the inside, I know it's what a retirement community should be. I'm extremely proud of my connection with Oakwood and even more so since becoming a resident. It's important to know what you've worked on and believed in is really working." 🌱

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries, Inc.

Joyce Bromley, Chair  
Brett Armstrong, Vice Chair  
Tom Hanson, Treasurer  
Calvin Williams, Secretary  
Robert Cole, Barbara Gessner, Eric Halverson (Ex-Officio),  
Steve Koch, Peder Moren, Marje Murray,  
Tom Rivers, Dan Stein, Clifford Strelow, Stan York

### Oakwood Village University Woods Homes, Inc.

Joyce Bromley, Chair  
Calvin Williams, Vice Chair  
Tom Hanson, Treasurer  
Richard Rossmiller, Secretary  
Brett Armstrong, Stan York

### Oakwood Village University Woods Apartments, Inc.

Joyce Bromley, Chair  
Peder Moren, Vice Chair  
Robert Cole, Treasurer  
Pastor Jon Enslin, Secretary  
Stan Inhorn

### Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge Homes, Inc.

Joyce Bromley, Chair  
Marje Murray, Vice Chair  
David Bohlman, Treasurer  
Martha Jo Church, Secretary  
Barbara Gessner, Tom Rivers

### Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge Apartments, Inc.

Joyce Bromley, Chair  
Cliff Strelow, Vice Chair  
Michael Carr, Treasurer  
Steve Koch, Secretary  
Lois Schulz, Dan Stein

### Oakwood Foundation, Inc.

Eric Halverson, Chair  
Sarah Kruger, Vice Chair  
Ed Young, Treasurer  
Lori Werbeckes, Secretary  
Joyce Bromley (Ex-Officio), Mary Gulbrandsen, Phil Hardacre,  
Sue Ullsvik, Donna Ulteig

# Best of Fall Produce

WITH DINING SERVICES DIRECTOR,  
JOHN KAAGE

**Fall Farmer's Market season is here!** One of the best offerings of the fall season is winter squash, in-season from September to October. A few popular types of winter squash include acorn, butternut, buttercup, Hubbard, and spaghetti. One of the key nutrients in winter squash is Vitamin A, which aids with vision, healthy skin and resistance to infection.

Be sure to store your squash uncut in a cool, dry place — it should not be stored in the refrigerator. When properly stored, they can keep up to three months.

Not only are winter squash pretty to look at, but they're delicious to eat, a good source of Vitamin A + C, potassium, and fiber. A key step in using squash is the preparation. Step one is to wash dirt off of skin with cold water. To roast, halve squash lengthwise and scoop out the seeds and strings (seeds can also be removed after baking). For large squash, cut into bite-sized pieces. Some types of winter squash can be difficult to cut, so be sure to use a heavy knife. Place squash cut side down, pour ¼ inch of water into pan, cover and bake until squash feels tender when pierced with a knife. For squash that is difficult to cut, pierce with a fork several times and cook until tender. Serve steamed, baked or added to soups or stews.

Here is one of my favorite ways to eat acorn squash — enjoy! 🍂





## ACORN SQUASH WITH CHEDDAR AND TOMATOES

Makes 4 servings

2 acorn squash, halved and seeded

1 ½ cups ripe tomato, chopped

3 scallions, thinly chopped

1 tsp fresh sage, chopped, or ½ tsp dried sage

Salt and pepper to taste

4 Tbsp water

1 cup cheddar cheese cut into small cubes

Preheat oven to 400° F. Place squash halves in a roasting pan, cut side up. Add about a ¼ inch of water to the bottom of the pan. Combine tomatoes and scallions, and season with sage, salt and pepper to taste. Mix together well and divide the mixture evenly among the squash halves. Spoon 1 Tbsp of water over each and cover loosely with aluminum foil. Cook for 1–1 ½ hours. Divide cheese cubes evenly over the top of squash halves, cook 5 more minutes or until cheese is melted, and serve.

PRAIRIE RIDGE

---

# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

*Catch up with a few Oakwood employees  
who have developed new skills, shared their  
talents, and grown their careers.*

---



# CARA MANNING

Chances are if you've visited Prairie Ridge, you'd recognize Cara Manning. For over 10 years, she greeted residents and visitors with a bright smile at the front desk of the Community Center as a campus receptionist. This year, she had the opportunity to take on a new role within Oakwood, and now serves as the Volunteer Services Coordinator for Prairie Ridge.

When asked why she's stayed at Oakwood, she responds as many of her peers do. "It's the people. The residents and staff are what I love most about Oakwood."

"My favorite place on campus is the Mercantile. I am enjoying getting to know all of the volunteers that work there and appreciate the opportunity to visit with residents as they shop," Cara says.

When she's not working, Cara stays active. She bikes, runs, does yoga, and likes to cook and try new recipes!

# ZEONE SALZWEDEL

Another familiar face and Prairie Ridge front desk alum is Zeone Salzwedel. Although she was very visible in her receptionist role, she has worn many hats during her time with Oakwood. Zeone started at Prairie Ridge in 2001 as an Assistant Manager in the Silver Shears Salon. In 2005, she started working as a Resident Assistant with Health and Wellness in addition to her duties in the salon.

She started working as a Receptionist at the front desk in 2006, and in 2014 gave up her duties in the salon and started as a Human Resources Assistant, while also providing clerical support to other departments. In 2019, Zeone took a full-time position as a Human Resources Assistant.

Clearly, Oakwood has benefitted from Zeone's many talents. "When I came to Oakwood, I had been a hairdresser for 25 years. It was hard on my back and I knew that I would need to find another type of

work at some point. While working here, I was able to see other positions that became available and realized that there were things I would be able to learn and thrive at. Starting out as a receptionist at the front desk was a really great fit for me, and eventually working part-time in the human resources department helped me develop the skills to take on this full-time position."

Of her long career with Oakwood, Zeone says, "I have stayed at Oakwood mostly because of all the caring staff and residents who are here. It's such a pleasant place to work and, honestly, everyone here is like family to me."

Outside of Oakwood, Zeone plays softball and enjoys biking, kayaking, sewing, floating in her pool, taking care of her flowers, and spending time with her grandkids.

# BENSAINT JOHNSON

Bensaint (aka “Ben”) Johnson has worked for Oakwood for nearly five years, and he has advanced quickly in that time. Starting on the University Woods campus as a dishwasher and server, Ben has also been a shift lead, Dining Room Coordinator, and in August was promoted to Catering Coordinator.

“My career with Oakwood has helped me grow as a leader. I have developed my skills and knowledge in terms of customer service and leadership,” says Ben.

Ben started working at Oakwood at the recommendation of his aunt, who works in the Hebron Oaks kitchen. Though he hadn’t worked in

dining prior to Oakwood, he loves to cook and has had an interest in hospitality since high school. He is originally from Zambales in the Philippines, and loves making Filipino dishes, including lumpia (egg roll), pasta carbonara, sinigang (sour pork stew) and adobo.

Helping others is his passion, which is one of the many reasons he’s stayed at Oakwood. “Oakwood to me is like a library. Each resident has their own different stories to tell, and each story has different concepts that help me understand how life can be so meaningful — from the saddest moment to the fairytale end of it.”

# JULIO GUEVARA

“Oakwood has given me the opportunity to take new positions and given me the training I needed for each of the roles I’ve had,” says Julio Guevara. He has been with Oakwood more than 17 years, and in that time he has served Oakwood in floor care in the housekeeping department, as a dietary aide, a resident assistant, and is now serving as a Facility Services Technician.

Julio enjoys working closely with residents, and helping residents when they need it most. “This job allows me to do what I do best while helping a community I have a lot of respect for.”

Julio enjoys sports, and his favorite teams are the Dallas Cowboys and Real Madrid. He is originally from Mexico City and his favorite food is mole. He enjoys running, and has a dog named Ellie.

Julio’s favorite things about working at Oakwood are his coworkers and the residents, “The Oakwood team is my family, and Oakwood is my home away from home.” 🌱





UNIVERSITY WOODS

---

# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

*Catch up with a few Oakwood employees who have developed new skills, shared their talents, and grown their careers.*

---



# THE RISE ASSISTED LIVING

## Oakwood Strengthens Its Commitment to Supporting Aging In Place

**With the multiyear expansion** project at Prairie Ridge in its final stages, campus leadership is preparing for the opening of its brand new assisted living building, The Rise.

“The Rise is a unique project for Oakwood Village, and also for the Madison community” says Bryan Bee, Administrator of the Health and Rehab Center and Assisted Living at Prairie Ridge. “The one-bedroom apartments are a great size at about 500 square feet, and the small neighborhood concepts with just 11 apartments per floor will ensure that residents feel connected to a community, but still have the privacy they desire.”

The Rise offers 33 well-appointed one-bedroom assisted living apartments, a first for the Prairie Ridge campus. The apartments have one bathroom, with a zero-threshold shower, and feature a kitchenette as well.

### Putting Together the Right Team

In addition to making sure the building is attractive and welcoming for new residents and staff, Bryan

and his team have been focused on making sure the clinical team is prepared to provide exceptional care for new residents. To this end, the Clinical Leadership Team was created. “We have created a new position, Assisted Living Nursing Director, who will oversee the clinical components of all the assisted living programs on the Prairie Ridge campus,” shares Bryan.

Stepping into this important new role is Lynnette White, RN. Lynnette has been with Oakwood for twenty years, with most of her time previously being on the University Woods campus. For the last four years, she’s been the Assisted Living Nurse Manager at Prairie Ridge. “The retirement industry is focusing more on assisted living, and that’s really where a lot of demand is. We will be welcoming many new residents now that we’ll have a total of 93 assisted living accommodations on campus, and we want to make sure that we have the nursing staff in place to provide the great quality of care that Oakwood is known for,” says Lynnette.

“This Clinical Leadership Team will provide clinical direction under the leadership of a nursing director, similar to that of a skilled nursing facility, like our



*“The Rise is a unique project for Oakwood Village, and also for the Madison community.”*

– BRYAN BEE



*Photo credit: Peter McCullough*

Health and Rehabilitation Center,” says Bryan. “The team is made up of RNs, LPNs and a respiratory therapist that will provide clinical oversight for residents, and provide direction to our caregivers so that we can deliver high-quality care and service as we move forward into the future.”

The creation of this team adds two RN positions to the Assisted Living and Memory Care team. Sarah Raemisch, LPN, is a new member of Oakwood’s team, and is in the role of Day Shift Supervisor. She comes to Oakwood with 10 years of experience in nursing. Oakwood is in the process of recruiting for the position of Night Shift Supervisor. The Overnight Supervisor is Vicki Gouldthorp, a respiratory therapist, who has been with Oakwood for three years. Sandi Rodriguez was also recently hired to join Oakwood’s clinical team. She is an RN with over 40 years’ experience, and works with residents who

are transitioning between levels of care, as well as supporting residents as they move into Oakwood’s assisted living programs.

## A Vision for the Future

“This will be an opportunity for residents to truly ‘age in place’ at Oakwood in the assisted living setting,” shares Lynnette. “With the exception of residents with dementia-related health concerns, who require a more supportive and secure environment, residents will be able to add on services if and when their health dictates. Residents in The Rise should not have to transition between levels of care, because we have set up our program to increase care when they are ready. This required not only a structural and environmental change from what we already had on campus, but different staffing structures and framework, as well.” 🌱



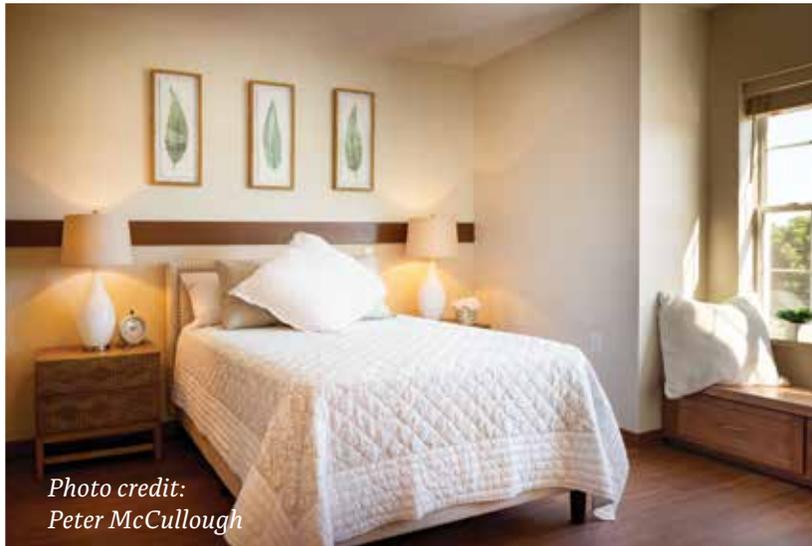
Prairie Ridge is looking for Certified Nursing Assistants to join its team! Visit [www.oakwoodvillage.net/careers](http://www.oakwoodvillage.net/careers) for more information.



Photo credit: Peter McCullough

*“This will be an opportunity  
for residents to truly ‘age  
in place’ at Oakwood in  
the assisted living setting.”*

– LYNNETTE WHITE



*Photo credit:  
Peter McCullough*

**The Rise** is now accepting applications for new residents in need of assisted living support. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call **(608) 230-4580** or visit [www.oakwoodvillage.net/prairie-ridge/assisted-living](http://www.oakwoodvillage.net/prairie-ridge/assisted-living)

# RESTORING A TREASURE

*The Prairie Caretakers Bring Experience and Passion to Their Preservation Efforts*

Ask residents of Oakwood Village University Woods what they appreciate most about their community, and you'll hear some common themes — The continuum of care and services. It's location and longevity in Madison. The well-known Center for Arts and Education.

But one aspect of the campus that truly makes University Woods unique is the Oakwood Nature Preserve. The lushly-wooded nine-acre Nature Preserve is located on the west side of the campus between The Oaks building and Otto's Restaurant. Although the Oakwood community was established in 1948, records of the land go back to 1835. At that time the area was mostly native prairie, punctuated by the occasional oak tree. This ecosystem was maintained by the fires that periodically swept through the area, killing all the tree seedlings except those of the fire-resistant oaks. After the area was farmed and the local fires suppressed, the area became home to a wide variety of trees. It is home to many birds, mammals and amphibians, and has been made more accessible





to residents and the public with the addition of walking paths throughout.

Bob Greenler, a resident of The Oaks since 2002, has been involved with the Nature Preserve since moving to Oakwood. He believes strongly that the preserve sets Oakwood apart. "If you want to identify something that makes Oakwood stand out among other retirement communities, you have to put the nature preserve at the top of the list."

He says that one of the earliest parts of a management plan for the Preserve was to deal with the presence of a dense stand of invasive trees in the northwest corner of the preserve that was brought to this country from northern Europe. The Norway maple is widely planted along city streets, but when it moved into the Nature preserve it formed a heavy shade that was slowly crowding out all of the native trees and plants. The decision was made to cut down a few of the trees each year, and as the cut-down area received enough sunlight, to restore some of the area to the prairie that had once been there.

A number of prairie plants that were planted in the cleared land were quickly engulfed by the chest-high mixture of non-native plants that moved into the sunlit space. It was very difficult for volunteers to identify the small prairie plants amongst the tall overgrowth and many of the prairie plants were lost.

Four years ago, Bob came up with a new plan to help grow the prairie. He recruited a number of people who formed a group called the Prairie Caretakers. They cleared the land of all brush and plants and divided it up into smaller plots. Each volunteer picked a plot for which they would be responsible. A total of 400 plants comprising 41 different species of prairie plants were ordered for a spring planting. Each volunteer was given a scale drawing of the plot showing the location



*"These small prairie plots gave me a chance to continue my involvement, but I was able to scale down to a more manageable piece of land relative to what I used to be part of."*

– MARV BEATTY

*“If you want to identify something that makes Oakwood stand out among other retirement communities, you have to put the nature preserve at the top of the list.”*

– BOB GREENLER





for each plant, and was instructed to mark the plant by a stake on one side and a label identifying the plant on the other. The volunteers' job for the coming year was to remove any plant that was not marked by a stake and a label. The volunteers may not have started out being able to identify prairie plants from others, but by the end of the season they were learning. The Prairie Caretakers continued honing their skills over the next few years by sharing their answers to the "is this a prairie plant or weed?" question with the others. After the first year, new plants started to appear from self-seeding and root propagation.

In the following years new plots were cleared and new caretakers recruited. Bob says that they've now reached the planned extent of the restored prairie, and the Prairie Caretakers continue to plant, weed, label, and learn together.

Dave and Gretchen Pearson, who became involved as Prairie Caretakers before moving in to Oakwood earlier this year, were excited to be a part of the project. "We fell in love with Oakwood before we even decided to live here," shares Gretchen. "The best part about living here is the preserve and all the beautiful plantings throughout the campus."

Marv Beatty, Oakwood resident since 2015 and a Prairie Caretaker, says "One of the things that I enjoy about this project is the opportunity to learn how to identify more prairie flowers." After his retirement from UW-Madison as a Professor of Soil Science, Marv began volunteering with the Dane County Parks department. He was involved with planting prairies, removing invasive weeds, periodic prairie burning, and collecting and processing the seeds so the process could be repeated.



*“The best part about living here is the preserve and all the beautiful plantings throughout the campus.”*

– GRETCHEN PEARSON

“These small prairie plots gave me a chance to continue my involvement, but I was able to scale down to a more manageable piece of land relative to what I used to be part of,” said Marv.

Although the Caretakers are learning through their involvement with the Oakwood Nature Preserve, some caretakers — like Marv — had some background in working with planting or restoring prairies. Glenn Chambliss and Diane Derouen moved to Oakwood in 2018, but still own property where they are working to restore nearly 50 acres of prairie. As a nature photographer, Glenn takes a special interest in the outdoors in general, but especially the wildlife that uses the preserve and the prairie as their habitat. “I enjoy this work because it provides habitat for lots of creatures — birds, bees, lizards, and all kinds of other things.”

The Prairie Caretakers try to get together once a week in summertime for an “unofficial” working event and for the past two years they have hosted an annual “Open House on the Prairie” event to celebrate their work and show off the prairie to residents and staff. The prairie continues to become more beautiful each year. Bob claims that the expertise and dedication of the Caretakers ensures that the prairie will continue to prosper in the coming years.

The Nature Preserve has been evolving for generations. While each Prairie Caretaker has a different background and involvement with the preserve, all agree the Nature Preserve is a treasure.

The Prairie Caretakers are looking for additional volunteers to help with the prairie plots. Interested? Contact Bob Greenler at (608) 230-3014. 🌱

## RESIDENT PROFILE

# “I’m Not Old Enough!”

## Oakwood Resident Writes About Moving to a Retirement Community in a New Book

**For 47 years, Hilde and Julius Adler lived** in their home in Madison’s Shorewood Hills neighborhood with no intention of leaving it. That is until Hilde began to notice the house and yardwork took a little longer than it used to. At 85, she began to think it was time to make a change.

Hilde put their names on the waiting list at University Woods, where her mother had lived many years before. But it wasn’t an easy decision.

“I loved our house, the neighborhood, and the neighbors, but I didn’t want to spend that much time on the housework anymore,” Hilde says.

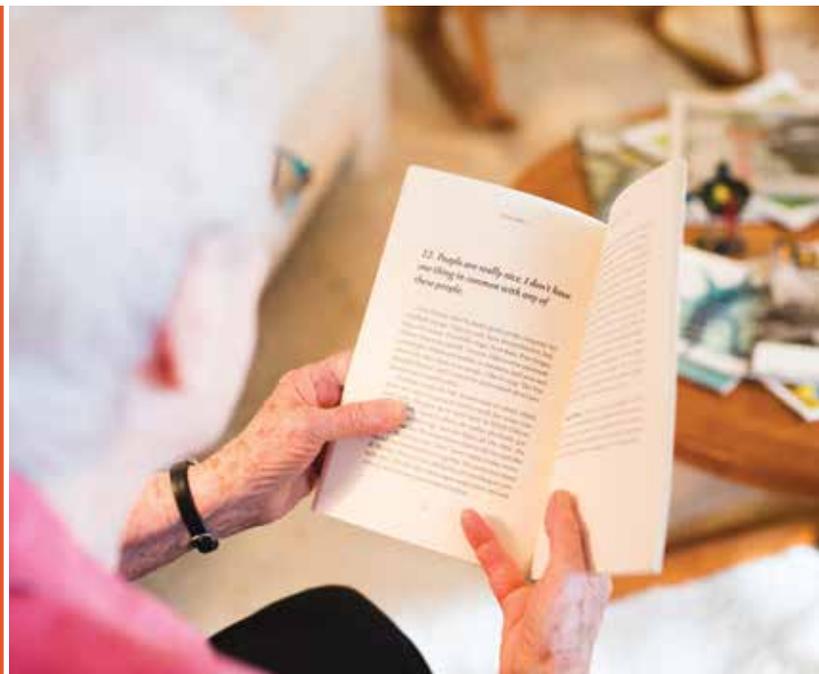
Julius, on the other hand, wanted nothing to do with moving. Still very much engaged as a UW-Madison Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, Julius wasn’t ready for a “senior apartment.” Hilde had her own reservations about leaving the home where they raised their son and daughter.

“Even at 85 I thought, ‘I’m not old enough for a retirement community!’ I don’t want to live around all those old people!”

But as time went on, an apartment home that fit their wishes became available, and the move was on.

*“Even at 85 I thought,  
‘I’m not old enough for a  
retirement community!’  
I don’t want to live around  
all those old people!”*

– HILDE ADLER





## HILDE'S STAGES OF ADJUSTMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS INCLUDE:

### STAGE 1

**I'm not moving anywhere.**

"When you finally get your apartment, you think it's ridiculous. You tell yourself you're going to give it back, because what you're doing is admitting you're getting older, and that's hard to do."

### STAGE 10

**They have endless social events here. I'm never going to any of them.**

"When we moved in, I told myself I would never get involved or make friends or take the bus to an event. I convinced myself we were just going to use our place at Oakwood as a condo. But once you let go of all of that, you start doing all of the things you swore you'd never do, like eating in the dining room or participating in activities."

### STAGE 20

**I took the bus.**

"I drive, so why would I ever want to take the bus to an event? And then we took the bus to the symphony one day because it was snowing, and I discovered they drop you off and pick you up at the door! I thought, 'What an idiot? Why would you drive when you can take the bus?!'"

"We signed a contract in July of 2014, but they dug up the street we lived on, so we couldn't move until November. That was ok with me," Hilde recalls.

Once into their Heritage Oaks apartment, they quickly arranged their furnishings to match the vibe of their house, and Julius liked it immediately.

"It took him one minute to love it. He liked that he could have something to eat whenever he wanted to. I was getting tired of cooking, so my dinners were getting a little questionable for a few years there," Hilde says with a laugh.

Hilde, meanwhile, was still having mixed feelings, and ultimately decided to write a short book about what she was experiencing.

The book, entitled "I'm Not Old Enough! The Twenty-seven Stages of Adjustment to Living in a Retirement Community", was self-published in April of 2019. In

it Hilde briefly, and humorously, details "27 stages" she says she experienced throughout the process of moving to Oakwood. With wit and grace, Hilde recounts her experience of feeling overwhelmed by the idea of downsizing from a home they'd lived in for nearly 50 years. More important were the connections to neighborhood friends and fond memories.

In the book's preface, Hilde notes that it is her personal story. She points out there are some universal ideas and questions and doubts, but everyone's experience is not the same. Hilde says she recognizes that not everyone moving into a retirement community loved their neighborhood or their neighbors like she loved hers, but she hopes all readers can relate to at least some of the feelings she expresses in the book.

"Moving to a retirement community is a big deal. You do go through different stages. You think you don't



need more friends, but then you make new friends despite yourself. The people at Oakwood are amazing! So many of them have led such amazing lives, which you find out when you allow yourself to get to know them.”

Nowadays, Hilde and Julius are fond of their apartment home and enjoy the community at the University Woods campus. Julius still goes to the office most days, and Hilde, at age 90, is deeply involved in Oakwood programs, including a role in a recent series of old radio program skits. Hilde advises new residents that participating is the secret to feeling that you belong, that you’re really a member of the community.

Early indications are that her book has been well-received. Initial data from Amazon.com sales showed 172 books were sold in April alone. The Oakleaf gift shop, which orders a dozen or so books at a time, has sold out at least three times.

Hilde lends and gives the helpful, entertaining book to friends and to the library. She says some of her friends have ordered ten at a time to give to others as a gift.

“I priced it as \$7.99 because I want it to be accessible. It’s like an enhanced greeting card. It’s a little gift for people.”

Hilde says based on feedback from those who have purchased her book, her story is resonating with readers because it helps take the fear out of moving to a retirement community.

“It’s a major life change and an adjustment, but it’s worth it.” 🌱

# YOU MAY NOT BE OLD ENOUGH...



You may not qualify yet to use your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to make a direct gift to your favorite charities like the Oakwood Foundation. But, if you are 70½ or older, you can tell the financial institution managing your IRA you want to send some or all of your Minimum Required Distribution to charity as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. As always, please consult your tax advisor on what works best for you.

If you have questions about IRA distributions, please contact Dave Mossner at **(608) 230-4441**.



OAKWOOD CHAMBER PLAYERS PRESENT

# PANORAMA

Join the Oakwood Chamber Players for their 2019–2020 concert series, PANORAMA. Join us to hear the familiar or to discover composers or works new to you...in small samplings.

# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

SUN, DECEMBER 7, 2019 | 7 PM  
SUN, DECEMBER 8, 2019 | 2 PM

**Jon Deak**      *The Passion of Scrooge* featuring  
vocal artist Robert Goderich  
and conductor Kyle Knox

SAT, JANUARY 11, 2020 | 7 PM  
SUN, JANUARY 12, 2020 | 2 PM

**W.A. Mozart**      *Adagio in F major* for bassoon,  
violin, viola, cello

**Cecilia McDowall**      *Y Deryn Pur* for oboe, violin,  
viola, cello

**Jean Françaix**      *L'heure du Berger* for woodwind  
quintet and piano

**Igor Stravinsky**      *Pastorale* for violin, clarinet,  
bassoon, oboe, horn

**Kenji Bunch**      *Ralph's Old Records* for flute,  
clarinet, violin, cello, piano

SAT, MARCH 21, 2020 | 7 PM  
SUN, MARCH 22, 2020 | 2 PM

**Michael Haydn**      *Flute Quartet in D major*  
for flute, violin, viola, cello

**Daniel S. Godfrey**      *From a Dream of Russia* for  
clarinet, violin, piano

**George Enescu**      *Aubade* for violin, viola, cello

**Caroline Shaw**      *Limestone and Felt* for viola  
and cello

SAT, MAY 16, 2020 | 7 PM  
SUN, MAY 17, 2020 | 2 PM

**W.A. Mozart**      *Quintet in E flat* for oboe,  
clarinet, horn, bassoon  
and piano

**Charles Villiers  
Stanford**      *Serenade in F major* for  
nine instruments

**Antonín Dvořák**      *Bagatelles* for woodwind  
quintet and string quartet

All concerts will be held at the Oakwood Village Center for Arts and Education, located at 6209 Mineral Point Road.

The Oakwood Chamber Players is a group of Madison-area professional musicians who have rehearsed and performed at Oakwood Village for over 30 years. They are proudly supported by Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries and the Oakwood Foundation.

Tickets available at the door: Senior \$20 • Adult \$25 • Student \$5



OAKWOODCHAMBERPLAYERS.COM • (608) 230-4316

# Tom Pierce

## DONOR PROFILE

---

### The day Tom Pierce moved to the Prairie Ridge

campus, he made the decision to list the Oakwood Foundation as a beneficiary of his life lease refund.

“I thought it was the appropriate thing to do. I like that Oakwood takes care of residents who run out of money through no fault of their own and can no longer pay for their care. I have things squared away and my family is taken care of so I thought, let’s do this.”

Tom named the Oakwood Foundation and another charity as the beneficiaries of the 90% refund of his Life Lease entry fee.

Oakwood Foundation Executive Director Keith VanLanduyt says legacy gifts like Tom’s not only make a big difference for the Oakwood community, but give individuals who want to support the Foundation peace of mind that they themselves can pay for their care if needed.

“Many residents want to express their appreciation and support for our community, but want to be sure they are able to provide for their own care needs while at Oakwood,” explains Keith. “Naming Oakwood in their will or trust means resources remain available to the donor during their lifetime if they need it, and if their financial circumstances change, the donor can change their estate plans. This is especially easy to do for those who designate a portion of their life lease refund to the Oakwood Foundation.”

Tom is a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, where he also served on the Joint Council of the church. His experience at Bethel is why he allows his gifts to be used where needed most.

“Some people like to restrict gifts for one purpose or another, and that’s okay. I know that sometimes needs change, so I figured by leaving an unrestricted gift, the board can decide what is important to the organization at the time.”

While ‘donor’ belongs on his business card, it is just one thing he loves to do. Tom is a man of many interests and hobbies.

“Cemeterian is a generic word, from my perspective, it just means somebody who likes to poke around or work in old cemeteries. I volunteer for an organization called “Find a Grave,” which locates gravestones. I also clean markers, especially veterans’, following National Park Service protocols on how to clean a stone.”

Tom moved into his new apartment home in the Grasslands with two four-drawer file cabinets filled with documents about his heritage. “I have gotten the farthest on my dad’s mother’s side, all the way back to the 1700s in Norway. I haven’t traced my wife’s line as far, but it goes back to Norway, too.” Tom and Caye were married 42 years before her passing in 2016.

Another of Tom’s pastimes is what he calls “playing radio.” He helps area charities with their fundraising bike rides by volunteering as a Ham Radio Operator.

*“I like that Oakwood takes care of residents who run out of money through no fault of their own... I have things squared away and my family is taken care of so I thought, let’s do this.”*

– TOM PIERCE



“I don’t ride bikes,” says Tom. “I don’t run, so I ride with the bikers vicariously through my Ham radio. Like the t-shirt says, ‘he who sits at a Ham Radio in the shade also serves.’”

The longtime Madison and Sun Prairie resident spent most of his working life as a purchasing manager. A move to Oakwood was one he had not expected to make for several years. But as neighbors and others started talking about Oakwood, he looked into the Prairie Ridge campus expansion plans.

Keith was struck by Tom’s generosity, noting that most members of Oakwood’s Oak Legacy Circle — individuals who have named the Foundation in their will or estate — experience the benefits of

living at Oakwood for several years before naming Oakwood in their estate plans. The fact that Tom named Oakwood as a beneficiary of his life lease refund the day he moved in was particularly inspiring.

Tom is glad he made the move, and is proud to support the Oakwood Foundation. While his move into a project called ‘The Grasslands’ happens to be a pleasant coincidence, the prairie enthusiast believes he is going to be very happy at Oakwood for many years to come. 🌳

# PARIC Corporation

## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

---

**The Oakwood Foundation** would like to recognize PARIC Corporation for their support of Oakwood through our 2019 Community Partner Program. PARIC supported the program as Gold Partner in 2018, giving at the \$10,000 level, and renewed their support again this year.

Oakwood has selected PARIC as the general contractor for its multi-year University Woods campus redevelopment effort. Based out of St. Louis, Missouri, PARIC provides a complete range of construction services - from general contractor, to construction manager to design builder - and brings over 40 years of experience to the University Woods effort. PARIC takes pride in staying on the forefront of construction advancements, utilizing the latest in virtual design and construction technology, and in providing a high level of quality and service to its clients.

“We are pleased to be working with Oakwood on their campus redevelopment plan,” says Todd Goodrich, PARIC Vice President of Business Development. “This is a tremendously important project for the Oakwood Community, and we are excited to partner with them to help them achieve their goals.”

Oakwood thanks PARIC Corporation for their work and for their generous support of our organization as a Gold Level Community Partner. 🌱



# DONOR GIFTS TO OAKWOOD

## Come In Many Forms

**Your gifts enrich lives** at Oakwood no matter what kind of gift you give. While the Oakwood Foundation gladly accepts gifts in many forms, you should be aware some gifts might offer additional benefits to you.

Many donors choose to give on an **automatic monthly basis via credit card or checking account** as members of the Oak Tree Circle. This is a convenient way to support Oakwood throughout the year.

If you are like many others, much of your financial resources include non-cash assets. From a tax standpoint, it may be better for you to give something other than a gift of cash.

One option for donors 70½ years old or better is using your **Individual Retirement Account Minimum Required Distribution** (MRD) to give to charity. The Charitable Distribution is sent from your IRA custodian directly to the Oakwood Foundation on your behalf.

Another option when making charitable gifts is using **stock, bonds, mutual funds, or other long-term appreciated assets** (assets you have held for over one year and that have grown in

value). In doing so, you may receive a double tax benefit. You receive a charitable deduction for the current fair market value of the asset. In addition, you do not pay a tax on your asset's capital gain. This means you receive a tax break for the appreciation on which you never paid taxes. By using appreciated assets, your gift costs you less.

Another option is using appreciated property to fund a life income gift, like a **charitable gift annuity**. This kind of gift allows you to avoid tax on some or all of your capital gain and receive income for life.

We also invite you to become members of the Oak Legacy Circle by **naming the Oakwood Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate** or, for Oakwood residents, a beneficiary of your 90% life lease refund.

Of course, you are encouraged to consult with your tax and financial advisor to identify the giving option best for you.

We want to make it easy for you to support the Oakwood community! For more information please contact Dave Mossner, Development Director, at **(608) 230-4441**.



**OAKWOOD**

OAKWOOD LUTHERAN  
SENIOR MINISTRIES

6205 Mineral Point Road  
Madison, WI 53705

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1980

If your mailing address has changed or you no longer wish to receive the *Oakwood Outlook* newsletter, please contact **Heidi Lauhon** at [heidi.lauhon@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:heidi.lauhon@oakwoodvillage.net) or call (608) 230-4285.



OAKWOOD  
**Outlook**

*News from Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries*

**FALL 2019**



## Now Accepting Reservations

**Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge** will soon offer the quality assisted living support you've come to expect at Oakwood in comfortable new one-bedroom apartments with services.

► [READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 18](#)