



September 2024 — Volume 39



Suites at Holly Creek Garden Volunteers



Newly planted flowers

Growing Community

Garden Renovation Brings Joy, Nature, and New Life to the Suites at Holly Creek

The vision to transform the Suites at Holly Creek Gardens began in 2018. Linda Hellow is a team member at Holly Creek and a Registered Horticultural Therapist with a deep passion for sharing the benefits of gardening. She knew that she would receive full support from the Holly Creek community in bringing her passion to work to benefit residents.

Linda understood that gardening, or even simply sitting in a garden, could greatly benefit residents living with pain and anxiety. Enjoying the outdoors is essential for overall well-being. At the time, however, the gardens in the Health Suites were visited infrequently.

As the saying goes, it takes a village. Linda enlisted team members, residents, community members, and Donor Relations to bring the gardens to life. After years of planning and enduring the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the redesign of the Meadows and Timbers gardens was ready to be realized.

Thanks to caring gifts from residents, families, and friends, there were funds to begin the gardens. Christian Living Communities, Holly Creek, and the Holly Creek Volunteer Committee deserve a special thanks for their support for this project.

Holly Creek's Executive Director, Michelle Fraternali, recognized the importance of investing in the gardens. It would help transform a largely unused space into a space that would enhance the life experiences of Holly Creek residents and their families. *...Continued on Page 2*

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The vision included adding more trees and sunshades to create cooler gathering spots. The plan also called for increasing the variety and quantity of plants to enhance visual appeal and support Life Enrichment programming. The focus was on increasing the comfort and usability of the outdoor space.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the garden renovation has been the involvement of amazing volunteers. Holly Creek residents and volunteers eagerly rolled up their sleeves to contribute - digging, planting, and tending to the growing plants and flowers, even during the blazing summer heat. As Linda said, "They're gardeners; they get it."

For the residents, this experience brought back fond memories of caring for their personal gardens before moving to Holly Creek. Now, they have a vested interest in these communal gardens, and the camaraderie amongst the resident gardeners is palpable. Friendships have blossomed alongside the gardens and will continue to grow together.

Linda encourages residents to pinch off some herbs or snip a flower to take home and enjoy. She believes that plants bring joy and that we need their care just as much as they need ours. The gardens include herbs, such as lavender, mint, sage, berry bushes, and hollyhocks, offering culinary and sensory stimulation. Residents can even make teas from their garden harvests!

An aspect of the gardens already being enjoyed is the fountains. These water features were added to create a sensory experience while also helping to cool the ambient air. As the weather begins to cool, Linda and the volunteers hope to see even more people taking advantage of the gardens and all they have to offer.

As we transition into cooler months, the volunteer team will plant fall bulbs, allowing the community to look forward to bright pops of color after the long winter months. The best is yet to come! As Linda reminds us, "The gardens are never done. They will continue to grow into their space and in harmony."



Bright Colors and New Shade Spots Enhance Suites Gardens

You're making a difference...

"The opportunity this scholarship program has provided me has been amazing so far. Without it I probably wouldn't have even thought to start this journey. I am extremely grateful to the donors who have given me this chance to finally try to reach my goal as an RN." -Lindsay Higgins, CLC Personal Care Partner (and Future Nurse)

Thank You!

The Secret is Out!

CLC Earns World’s Best Culture for the Second Year



For the second consecutive year, CLC has been awarded the World’s Best Culture certification. Our team members are beaming with pride over this recognition of our exceptional workplace culture.



This certification is given to senior living organizations by Drive, a consultancy firm that

specializes in senior living culture, and is determined through the Barrett Values Assessment. This robust tool, used by organizations such as Mastercard, Coca Cola, and Prudential, has evaluated thousands of companies worldwide. With over four million culture assessments and 25 years of data in its database, Barrett Values Centre offers a rigorous benchmark for measuring organizational culture.

The organizational score comes from survey results provided by team members in all nine CLC-Cappella communities, the support office, and Rhythms Home Care. In all, 86% of team members responded to the survey. The Culture Values Assessment gives

team members an opportunity to share their personal values, the current values of their community, and desired values of their ideal workplace.

These results revealed that the top current culture values at CLC were caring, teamwork, compassion, and accountability. This alignment between personal and organizational values is what makes CLC a place where team members thrive.

“We’re elated to celebrate this honor for the second consecutive year, as it allows us to further learn and grow. Our increased score is a testament to the hard work CLC has put into maintaining an exceptional workplace. Collaborative approaches to improvement are the cornerstone of our CLC Citizenship approach to community life,” shares Jill Vitale-Aussem, CLC’s President & CEO.

We are proud to announce that six of CLC’s communities also earned the World’s Best Culture distinction: Casey’s Pond, Clermont Park, Dayspring Villa, Holly Creek, Someren Glen, and Sunny Vista.

Donor Relations Team



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Building a Collection for All to Enjoy

Donations Expand and Improve the Someren Glen Library

Libraries expand worlds. Readers can travel to far off places, help solve mysteries, or increase their knowledge by simply opening a book.

Someren Glen is blessed with a beautifully updated library thanks to the recent reinvestment into the community to revitalize most of the public areas and apartment homes in the residential and assisted living portion of the campus.

"I think this room is just lovely. It brings people in, it makes them comfortable, they sit and they read. And I think that's one of the things that makes a library very popular," observes Barbara Lusk, Someren Glen resident and volunteer librarian.

The library book collection itself is still a bit dated, however. But thanks to generous and thoughtful donors, the resident librarians have the funds to carefully update, curate, and improve the library collection.

"The funds will enable the library staff (residents who volunteer their time) to expand and enrich the collection of donated fiction, large print, biography and non-fiction books, to purchase new books and newspaper subscriptions," shares Glenda Proser, leader of the resident-led effort. "These donations support ongoing learning, intellectual stimulation, and the sense of belonging to and in the worlds . . . which is essential at any age."

Over the next three years the volunteer librarians will carefully update the 400-volume

collection, pruning duplicates and not-often used books from the shelves and buying new, more current selections. Being good stewards, the books removed from the Someren Glen collection will go to other deserving places, such as the library at the health suites, to sister community Dayspring Villa, or ARC.



(L-R) Barbara Lusk, Lydia Friend, and Glenda Proser volunteer their time as librarians at Someren Glen

The volunteer librarians are also working to create a "branch" library on the second floor in Someren Glen's assisted living neighborhood.

"It will be a great place for people to come in and read with a magnifier. We already have some books, and as we cull the collection and upcycle the ones we don't need, we'll move some to the second floor. It will be a nice little reading room," explains Glenda.

Did you know you can make donations directly to any of our CLC communities? Go to our website at www.christianlivingcommunities.org, click *Support Our Mission*, and *Give Today*. There is a drop down list of communities you can give to for things just like the Someren Glen library update project. Thank you!

Gifts in Memory and Honor

Christian Living Communities is so grateful for the friends and family who directed gifts to CLC in memory or honor of their loved one. Below are the names in **bold** of those being remembered or honored, as well as those making such gifts from February 1, 2024 - August 15, 2024.

In Memory

Anne Bailey

Ted Bailey

Elizabeth “Betty” Carlson

Connie Reinhardt

Jennifer Valenta

Eve and Allen Cole

Bobbie Young

Jess Crane

Farrel Vikman

Judy Den Braber

Gary and Jan Bomgaars

Connie Sobeck

David E. Dennis

Dorothy Carol Dennis

Lori DeWitt

Betty Steinmann

Freda Drost

Mert and Veralyn Plender

Kay Duer

Beth Hessel

Phyllis Dye

Susan C. Amy

Marcella Dolan

Caroline and Don Wilkinson

Jan Fuller

John Fuller

Jennifer Elizabeth Garrus

Karen Garrus

Melvin and Carolyn Gesink

Joel and Mary Gesink

Claire Gibbons

Greg and Denise Gibbons

Ron Hanscom

Jean Davenport

Dorothy Harvey

Jean Davenport

Shirley Jo Johnson

Edi L. King

Anne Marie Junio-Connor

Teresa Neal

Joyce G. Kullas

Michael Kullas

Bill Lamm

Marty Lamm

Diane Norblom Maestas

James and Jean Neuman

Glenda Norblom

Curtis and Marilyn McDonald

Michael E. McDonald

Regina Mordente

Catherine Mordente

Jane Nagel

Betty Steinmann

Bob Niekerk

Mert and Veralyn Plender

Billie Noren

Margaret Linzbach

Barbara Perkins

Mark and Laurie Blohm

Karin Blomsness

Leah Jane Peterson

Dorwin L. Peterson

James Possehl

James and Jean Neuman

Bruce Reedy

Beverly Baker

Robert L. and Mary C. Snow

Margaret Watkins

Laura Stark

Nan Brent

Louis and Elsie Strauss

Natalie Pollock

Marcia and William Thompson

Chuck and Lynda Gumeson

Tom and Marjorie Van Wyk

Marilyn & Lynn Michael Putrah

Joan Vasil

Pamela Gleave

Mary Holt

Jim and Merrie Longfield

Joe & Myra Longfield & Family

Juliet Paulson

Marjorie Shockley

George Vasil

Victoria Winterscheidt

Duane G. Vikman

Farrel Vikman

Marge Vitale

Dave Vitale

Charlotte Waters

Margaret Linzbach

Peter Willis

Rosemary Willis

...Continued on page 6

Memory and Honor ...continued from page 5

In Honor

Shirley Brown

Stormie Foust Maley

Rev. Jim Davison

Mike and Vicki Earnest

Chaplain Jan Friend

Lydia Friend

Chaplain Jim Kok

James Armstrong and Linda Fischer

Ardra Boswell

Phoebe Busch

Don and Cheryl Cady

Kris and Tim Carr

Hellyn Dudley

Melissa East

Stormie Foust Maley

Chaplain Jim Kok, cont.

Anita Fricklas

Carl and Bonnie Gambs

Gerald and Barbara Hahn

Jerry and Kathy Heide

Shirley Hull

Bruce and Carmen Johnson

Allen and Beverly Keesen

Jayne Keller and Jim Parker

Olivia Mayer and Gene Rose

Bill and Sally Pratt

Josephine Proett

Carol Robinson

Tom and Mary Rogers

Ed and Pat VanBramer

Gary and Phyllis Vander Ark

Jack York

Olivia Mayer

Kathy Dean

Bryan and Rachel Vinz

Chaplain Brian Miranda

Donald Megnin

Richard Raisch

Stormie Foust Maley

Heidi Schmidt

Lynn Huber

Thank you to the supporters who have paid tribute to those they hold dear. Unless otherwise directed, gifts are designated to specific communities.

Your tribute gifts provide residents with enriching opportunities for growth, purpose, connection, and joy!

2024 Aged to Perfection

Thursday, October 3, 2024

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

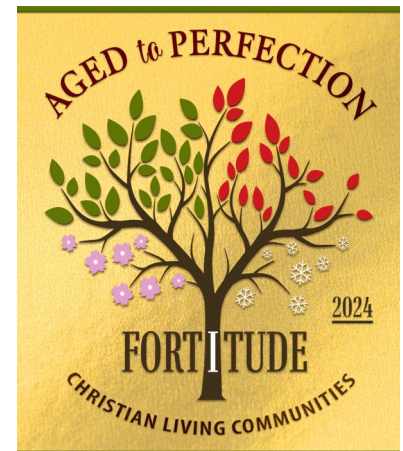
Holly Creek Retirement Community

Aged to Perfection 2024 will be a festive, happy hour-like event that will feature delectable and hearty delights created by our very own Duet Dining Executive Chefs as well as a wine tasting of carefully curated wines.

The evening will offer time to socialize, meet new friends, enjoy the food and wine, and try your luck at a wine pull and silent auction.

Proceeds will benefit the *Strengthening Our Foundation Campaign* to support Chaplain Services. An integral part of the history and future of CLC is Chaplain Services. Your support will ensure this mission critical program is available for years to come for residents, families, and team members.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! This is a great way for business and community partners, families, and individuals to highlight your support as a mission partner. **Register through September 23rd** at <https://christianlivingcommunities.org/support-our-mission/aged-to-perfection/>.



CLC Board of Directors

The volunteer CLC Board of Directors is carefully selected for a variety of experiences and skill-sets to serve older adults and advise for our future success.

Dave Dookeeram — *Chair*

Jill Vitale-Aussem, CEO

Eric Keesen — *Vice Chair*

Rosina Aragon

Dave De Ridder

Luci Draayer

Barb Hogan

Bill Pichè

Rick Pilgrim

Christine Powers

John Reinsma

Tom Rogers

Jan Roth

Kalen Van Maanen

Brian White

A Gift of Impact

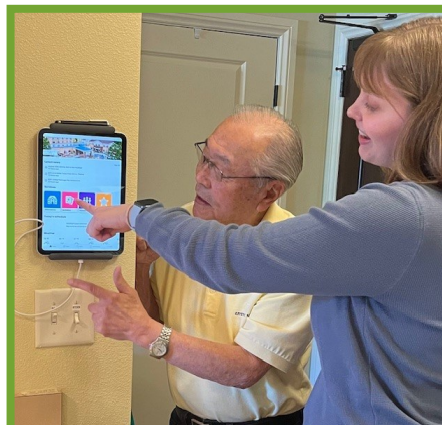
Thanks to a generous legacy gift from Compassion Circle member Ina Mae “Denny” Denham, Clermont Park has been able to enhance its resources for both residents and team members. Denny, a beloved resident from 2013 to 2019, had a huge heart for Clermont Park.

Thanks to Denny, Clermont Park was able to purchase iPads for all residents in their Independent Living neighborhoods. These tablets will help residents with the adoption and use of Cubigo.

Cubigo is technology that allows residents to easily access Life Enrichment calendars, resident interest group information, chat with fellow residents, and receive important messaging from the community team—all from the comfort of their home. The tablets can significantly increase the use of this technology, particularly for residents who do not currently own a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

This project addresses the need for improved communication and enables greater participation in community life. Additionally, the platform enhances

resident safety by providing a one-touch system for daily check-ins and emergency notifications.



Clermont Park resident Sam Kishiyama explores Cubigo with team member Erin Klein



COMPASSIONCIRCLE

A legacy gift is a planned future donation that designates a portion of an individual's estate to a nonprofit. It is a beautiful way to honor your life's work and create a lasting impact for years to come.

CLC created the Compassion Circle to honor and recognize those who remember us with a legacy gift. This special recognition allows us to express our gratitude during a person's lifetime, acknowledging their generous contributions. Every

gift, no matter the size, helps strengthen CLC's mission for years to come.

We are excited to introduce a wonderful new online resource available to everyone—clclegacy.org.

This site offers a wealth of information, including a free estate planning guide and detailed insights on what kinds of legacy gifts you can make and how.

To learn more, please contact Stephanie Manley, Director of Philanthropy, at 720.974.3675.



Christian Living COMMUNITIES

Where Aging is Honored and Celebrated

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Stay Connected!

For questions, or to update your communications preferences, including opting out, please contact Donor Relations:

Email: donate@clcliving.org
Phone: 720.974.3642

Our Vision: Creating Communities Where Aging is Honored and Celebrated

Grant Funds Eden Training at Cappella of Pueblo West

We are thrilled to announce that CLC community Cappella of Pueblo West has been awarded a nearly \$30,000 Workforce Resilience Program Grant. The goal of the program is to enhance the workforce skills of rural Coloradans.

Cappella of Pueblo West will use their awarded grant dollars over the next two years to provide Certified Eden Alternative Training to all team members.

CLC and the Eden Alternative champion a person-directed approach to care, where residents are treated as unique individuals with their own preferences, values, and life stories. Care is tailored to their specific needs and desires, rather than a one-size-fits-all model.

Residents are empowered to make choices about their daily routines, activities, and care, fostering a sense of control and autonomy. Through the

workforce grant, team members will receive Eden Alternative training on building close relationships with residents, understanding their personalities and preferences to provide truly personalized care.

“By embracing this change in eldercare, we’ll improve our residents’ quality of life with better communication and understanding. It’s exciting to set an example for the Pueblo community and lead a positive shift in how we support older adults,” shares Kendra Crites, Executive Director of Cappella of Pueblo West.



Residents and Team Members participate in Eden Training in April 2024 at Holly Creek