



September 2025 — Volume 41



The Joy of Animals

Donor Gifts Spark Connections and Memories For Older Adults At Holly Creek and Clermont Park

At Christian Living Communities (CLC), we know how animals bring joy, stir cherished memories, and create meaningful connections for older adults.

Thanks to kind gifts from supporters like you, residents across our communities recently delighted in unforgettable animal encounters. Holly Creek Suites welcomed Ellie's Little Farm, a mobile petting zoo where goats, ducklings, chicks, and bunnies brightened the day for residents and families alike.

Clermont Park celebrated Western Week with wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn wagon rides led by two majestic Belgian Draft Horses. The event was inspired by a resident's lifelong love of horses and farm life, and brought huge smiles to older adults and team members alike. As Life Enrichment Coordinator Erin Klein noted, one of the most rewarding outcomes was watching older adults from across Clermont Park's neighborhoods come together to share in fellowship, joy, and laughter.

Donor funding enabled Holly Creek Suites residents and team members to embark on a unique adventure. They partnered with *Rent the Chicken* and cared for seven eggs through incubation. Residents eagerly counted down the 21 days and chose to name the chicks after the Seven Dwarfs from *Snow White*. ...[Continued on Page 3](#)



Broken Spoke Wagon staff helping a Clermont Park resident off of the wagon

Resident Assistance: A Gift of Compassion

We all know someone like Jean Todd - someone whose very presence feels like a warm embrace. The kind of person who radiates kindness, lifts others up without hesitation, and seems to live with an open heart. Jean is one of those rare souls, and we are honored to call her a beloved member of our Someren Glen family.

Jean moved into our community in 2014, and from the moment she arrived, she began spreading joy. She's led our choir and bell choir, organized weekly canasta games, and ensured that Catholic residents could receive communion. Her hand is always the first to go up when help is needed. In 2023, we had the privilege of honoring her with our *Earthen Vessel Award*, given to someone through whom God's grace flows in quiet yet powerful ways - an ordinary vessel carrying extraordinary love.



Someren Glen resident Jean Todd

"I believe in helping others. It's what God created me to do," Jean reflects. "It doesn't take much to reach out to someone else."

When Jean moved into Someren Glen, she felt confident she had saved enough to last her lifetime. But, as with many older adults, life had other plans. In 2023, one of her source of income ran dry. With only Social Security to rely on, Jean found herself in a difficult position - unable to afford staying in the place that had become her cherished home.

"I didn't know what to do," she says. "My kids are retired too and have families of their own. I was worried. I prayed for a way to stay at Someren Glen." Her prayers were answered. Thanks to the **Resident Assistance Fund**, Jean was able to continue living at Someren Glen - a place filled with friends, memories, and purpose.

This fund, built on decades of generosity from caring supporters like you, was created precisely for moments like this. It supports residents who, through no fault of their own, find themselves unable to cover the full cost of their care. Every dollar is carefully stewarded, and applicants go through a thoughtful and thorough review process to ensure true need is being met.

Jean, ever humble, has chosen to share her story so that others might be helped too. "If sharing this helps even one person, it's worth it," she says. "There's no shame in asking for help. God asks us to be humble, and to serve one another. I'm grateful for the compassion I've received."

To all who have given: you have improved lives beyond measure. If you feel moved to support residents like Jean, we welcome your gift. Together, we can continue blessing those who have already blessed us.

The Joy Of Animals (continued from page 1)

Nikki Wiberg, Holly Creek Suite Assistant Director of Nursing, explains that waiting for the chicks to hatch “gives residents and team members a sense of purpose and something to anticipate.”

Caring for animals awakens long-term memories that older adults recall more easily, and for some, the experience stirs cherished memories of growing up on a farm. These moments spark connections across neighborhoods, strengthen community, and bring comfort and joy.

We believe enrichment experiences bring dignity, connectedness and meaning to the community. They remind us of the importance of connection between humans and animals.

You can create more moments like these. Your gift to the **General Mission Fund** directly supports meaningful resident experiences that brighten days, stir memories, and warm hearts.



Suites at Holly Creek resident feeds a baby goat

Employee Scholarship Fund...

*“To the generous donors who make this program possible, **thank you very much** for all you do. You’ve supported me in my education and you’ve made me able to focus on my education instead of thinking of finances. Also you’ve inspired me to keep pushing...you’re not just funding an education. You’re changing lives.”* -Christine Njagi, Registered Nurse at Holly Creek

You’re making a difference!

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Mullen Residences at the Highlands

CLC Grows Mission with Innovative Senior Living in Northwest Denver

Christian Living Communities is excited to share a new partnership with the Archdiocese of Denver wherein CLC will provide marketing and operational consulting and then operate **Mullen Residences at the Highlands**, a new senior living community in the heart of Denver's historic West Highlands neighborhood, when it opens in 2029. This vibrant project will carry forward a legacy of service to older adults and aligns closely with our mission to enrich the quality and dignity of life for all we serve.

Located at 3629 W. 29th Avenue, the site is well known to many Denverites as the former Mullen Home, where the Little Sisters of the Poor provided compassionate care to low-income seniors for more than a century. Following the closure of the Mullen Home in 2022, the Archdiocese temporarily leased the property to the City of Denver for use as a migrant housing shelter. Now, a bold new chapter begins.

Mullen Residences at the Highlands will offer a continuum of care—including independent living, assisted living, memory care, and a range of residential options such as spacious apartments and brownstone-style homes. Community amenities will include a wellness center, a state-of-the-art theater, and a lively town center, all while preserving the site's cherished architectural heritage, including the iconic "Old Main" building and chapel.

"We invite the community to join us in shaping an inspiring future for older adults," shares Jill Vitale-Aussem, President and CEO of Christian Living Communities. "Mullen Residences will honor a century-long legacy of compassion while embracing an age-positive vision for senior living—one that is vibrant, innovative, and empowering."



Rendering of future north main entry

Vitale-Aussem adds, "This engagement supports our strategic growth plan to collaborate with mission and values-aligned partners across Colorado. Working with the Archdiocese of Denver to bring Mullen Residences to life exemplifies our commitment to serving more older adults with partners just as committed as we are to create communities where aging is honored and celebrated."

Our team is already hard at work creating the initial website, **www.mullenresidences.org** and working with Kathrine Redmond, the Sales & Marketing Director to accept reservations at the new community, **kredmond@mullenresidences.org**, **720.734.5525**.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2027, with an anticipated opening in 2029. This exciting endeavor represents more than just bricks and mortar—it's a shared investment in community, dignity, and innovation for aging well.



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, 2025 - August 15, 2025.

In Memory

Dean Baker
Beverly Baker
Larry E Brandt
Bonnie Heit
Eve and Allen Cole
Bobbie Young
Jesse Crane
Patricia Crane
Deborah Dennis
Susan Grayson
Gregory Allen Dillon
Kristen Dillon Lummis
Carol and Ed Donahoe
Catherine Donahoe
Nancy Downing
Betty Steinmann
Chaplain Jan Friend
Lydia Friend
Claire Gibbons
Greg and Denise Gibbons
Ann Hanscom
Kristin Gustafson Drury
Betty Steinmann
Ann and Ron Hanscom
Paula and Stan Gudder
Kathy Keller
Jayne Keller and Jim Parker
Walter Kowalchik
Kathryn Swezy
Earl Lammers
Elaine Westblade
Dewey L. Long
Deborah Long

Curt and Marilyn McDonald

Michael E. McDonald

Regina Mordente

Catherine Mordente

Jane Nagel

Bob Nagel

Doris Oberg

Thelma Boer

In Memory of Our Family

James and Lisa VanDeWege

Ralph Pedersen

Lois Pedersen

Leah J. Peterson

Dorwin L. Peterson

Meredith Sabin

Roxanne Sabin and
Ellen Rabinowitz

Ann M. Schomburg

Jennifer Suggs

Maggie Smith

Stormie Foust Maley

Laura Stark

Nan Brent

Ivan and Shirley Sweetman

Christie Miedema

Linda, Ross, and Sally Sweetman

Dolly Tobin

Cheryl Bath

Mary Lou Crow

Maron and Charlotte Davis

Gary Hearne

Timothy M. Hearne

Kay Jessen

Becky Steensland

Mary Tobin

Dolly Tobin (cont.)

The Village for Early Childhood
Education

Andrew Vander Ploeg

Paul and Mary Johnson

Susan Keesen

Jackie Velgersdyk

Virginia Van Stelle

Jana Vente

Thelma Boer

Marge Vitale

Dave Vitale

Peter Willis

Rosemary Willis

Helen Wood

Dottie Tarvestad and
Keith Winkel

In Honor

Dayspring Villa Team Members

Veronica Bove

Fred Forseth

Carol Meier

Olivia Mayer

Bryan and Rachel Vinz

Alison Mueller

Robin Visser

Thank you to the supporters
who have paid tribute to those
they hold dear.

Unless otherwise directed,
your gifts are designated to
specific communities to
provide opportunities for
purpose, connection, and joy.

Celebrating 20 Years of *Aged to Perfection*

Let's hop in a time machine and go back 20 years. CLC just opened its third community, Holly Creek, making it the first in the south metro area to offer the Life Plan concept for senior living. Wanting to invite friends and supports to connect more with our mission and "see for themselves" the new community, *Aged to Perfection* was created to be a "fund and friend raiser" in support of the mission. Let's remember, only Phase I of Holly Creek was open - half of the current community didn't even exist yet!

The festivities focused on a vibrant silent auction of donated resident artwork, tasty bites and a wine tasting. After all, older adults, like a fine wine, only get better with age (thus the event title!)

Fast forward 20 years and oh so much has happened! Holly Creek was completed in 2008 and is a vibrant community, CLC now supports seven communities throughout Colorado and provides consulting and management services, and we still want to connect in person with our friends and CLC family.

In keeping with tradition, we invite you to our 20th Annual *Aged to Perfection* – featuring a silent auction with carefully curated items (including resident artwork) delicious bites, wine/beer tasting, and a mystery wine & whiskey pull – all to benefit the **General Mission Fund**, and continuing to honor and celebrate older adults and the dedicated team that supports them.

Of course, we are at Holly Creek, our third community, celebrating 20 years of providing a full continuum of care for older adults and their families.

Will you join us?



To register please visit our registration page at bit.ly/aged-to-perfection-2025 or scan this QR Code. Need help registering? Please contact Stormie Foust Maley at **720.974.3642** or sfoust@clcliving.org.



On The Move: Welcoming New Leaders

George Adair is CLC's new VP of Information Technology. He brings over two decades of leadership experience in healthcare technology, most recently serving as VP of IT Infrastructure and Operations at Unified Women's Health.

Christine Beson was promoted to Executive Director of Clermont Park. She previously served as the Associate Executive Director at the Suites at Clermont Park and the Suites at Someren Glen.

Maddy Chapman is the new Associate Executive Director for the Suites at Clermont Park. She previously served as the AED at the Suites at Holly Creek and the Community Life Director at Someren Glen.

CLC Board of Directors

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

Dave Dookeeram — <i>Chair</i>	Eric DenBraber	John Reinsma
Jill Vitale-Aussem, CEO	Dave De Ridder	Tom Rogers
Eric Keesen — <i>Vice Chair</i>	Luci Draayer	Jan Roth
Rosina Aragon	Bill Pichè	Kalen Van Maanen
Briana Beasley	Rick Pilgrim	
Sandy Clark	Christine Powers	

Critical Needs Fund: Hope and Healing

Hannah (not her real name) works in a CLC community. She always makes sure she has a smile on her face for residents, no matter what else is going on in her day. Unfortunately, over the last year Hannah has had to put a smile on over a lot of bad days.

On New Year's Eve, the father of her 15-year-old daughter was tragically killed. Navigating the funeral and aftermath was difficult. Hannah had to take time off work to make sure her daughter got the support and care she needed. Things got even worse for Hannah and her family in March when she found out that she had cancer. The treatment was a surgery with a six-week recovery period followed by chemo.

Hannah has another young daughter in daycare. In order to get the surgery and treatment she needed, she needed that help with childcare more than ever. But with all the time off work, she had fallen behind on daycare payments with no way to catch up. "I had run out of PTO and it was starting to take a toll on my finances. It was very, very hard," she said.

Perhaps you can imagine how overwhelmed Hannah must have felt. With no family in Colorado, she had no idea where she could turn to for help. And then, kind CLC supporters like you stepped in! Your gifts to the **Critical Needs Fund** gave Hannah the financial help she needed to catch up on daycare payments.

"It did make a difference," Hannah said. "Without that Critical Needs Fund I would have had a hard time taking time off work so I could get my surgery and make sure my child was taken care of while I was recovering."

Hannah is back at work and supporting older adults - a job she loves. "Being in this community is a blessing for me," she says. She still has some difficult days ahead as she and her family continue to process and to recover. But she is so grateful for the generous supporters who helped her make it through one of the worst times of her life.

Your gifts to the Critical Needs Fund truly makes a difference for CLC team members and their families, including Hannah and her daughters. Thank you!



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Stay Connected!

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

Email: donate@clcliving.org
Phone: 720.974.3642

Our Vision: Creating Communities Where Aging is Honored and Celebrated

CLC Earns World's Best Culture for the Third Year

For the third consecutive year, Christian Living Communities has been awarded the World's Best Culture certification. CLC's exceptional workplace culture is the result of each team member contributing their unique gifts and identities to their communities and the organization. We are honored to be recognized for the supportive environment that we have built together.

"This recognition is not just a badge," said CLC president & CEO Jill Vitale-Aussem. "It's a reflection of the shared commitment, purpose, and love that makes CLC truly special."

Being recognized as one of the world's best cultures is incredibly important to Christian Living Communities. At CLC, residents and families understand that resident well-being is deeply connected to consistent, relationship-based interactions with team members who embody CLC's values. The certification tells the world that CLC is a great place to live and to work!

