



March 2026 — Volume 42

A Journey of Care, Connection, and Service

How a belief in our team members shaped her commitment to our mission

Sandy Clark, Board Chair of Christian Living Communities (CLC), in some ways was destined to become involved with CLC. Growing up in California, Sandy experienced firsthand the importance of caring for older adults. Her father was a Lutheran pastor and her mother a nurse, and Sandy often accompanied her father on visits to elder church members, visits she recalls fondly.

During high school, Sandy worked in the kitchen at a senior living community, an experience that led to a career in the food industry. After earning her business degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Denver, she spent a career in Colorado, eventually rising to become President of Performance Foodservice Denver, a prominent national food service



Sandy Clark
CLC Board Chair

Sandy is proud to serve alongside a board she describes as focused and creative, stating, *"We have a group who really are dedicated to fulfilling the mission."*

distribution company. It was through this role that Sandy met Ed Schans, a former CLC Board Chair who encouraged her to join the CLC board in 2009.

Before joining the board, Sandy attended several CLC events and was impressed by the leadership she encountered. Her appreciation for CLC's team members grew through a personal connection: her mother-in-law lived at Someren Glen for a decade—seven years in independent living and three years at The Suites at Someren Glen during the Covid pandemic.

Sandy and her husband, Steve, witnessed the dedication of CLC team members, noting, "They worked so hard to give residents quality of life and to also give families access to their loved ones. We as a family felt she had a family there during Covid."

Sandy recognized the stark differences in care when a friend moved into a for-profit Denver-area senior living community. There, her friend received care from rotating temporary staff. "The difference in care was enormous," she says.

That appreciation for CLC's dedicated team members led Sandy and Steve to make a significant contribution to the **Workforce Innovation Fund**—an initiative aimed at recognizing and supporting staff, increasing retention, and strengthening relationships between team members and residents.

The Clarks are also members of the **Compassion Circle**, having included CLC in their will. Sandy encourages others to consider how they can extend their support for ...[Continued on Page 3](#)

A Clear Vision for 2026

Strengthening Our Foundation, Expanding Our Impact

From Jill Vitale-Aussem, President & CEO

As we look ahead to 2026, I am filled with gratitude for the community of donors, partners, and supporters who make our mission possible. Because of you, we are able not only to serve today's residents with excellence, but also to plan responsibly for the future and ensure our organization remains strong, compassionate, and responsive for generations to come.

Our **2026 organizational goals** are grounded in stewardship, quality, and growth. Together, they reflect a clear commitment: to deliver exceptional services, support and care, cultivate a thriving workplace, deepen community life, and position our organization for sustainable, mission-driven growth.



Delivering Operational Excellence and Stewardship

Strong **financial stewardship** allows us to reinvest in our people, our communities, and our mission. In 2026, we are focused on meeting or exceeding our consolidated budgeted operating margin to strengthen our financial position and ensure long-term stability. Philanthropy remains a vital partner in this work, with a goal of raising more

than \$525,000 in annual donations to support innovation, programs, and resident/team member well-being.

At the same time, we are deeply committed to **quality**. Our goal is to maintain or improve CMS 5-Star ratings across every skilled nursing neighborhood, with all communities achieving three stars or better. We will also launch a new satisfaction measurement tool to better listen to residents and families, holding ourselves accountable to what matters most.

Advancing the CLC Citizenship Model® of Community Life

Our Citizenship Model reflects a vision of community life where each person is known, empowered, and engaged, working together to make their communities stronger and better. Each community will identify one

measurable goal to advance this model based on its own growth areas. We will also explore new longevity models and partnerships, launch a dementia education program, and continue strengthening our culture.

Cultivating a Thriving Workplace

Exceptional care begins with an engaged and supported workforce.



Clermont Park
Cooking With Care

...Continued on next page

A Clear Vision for 2026 (continued from page 2)

In 2026, we aim to meet or exceed an organizational **Values Assessment** score of 85 while continuing to **reduce turnover** to 40% or below. These goals reflect our belief that when our team members feel valued, respected, and connected to purpose, everyone benefits.

Advancing Our Mission Through Strategic Growth

Finally, we are preparing for thoughtful, mission-aligned growth. In 2026, we will complete the foundational work necessary to move toward financing a **new community site** in south Denver,

consistent with our board approved five-year growth plan. In parallel, we will evaluate potential paths forward for Someren Glen, ensuring its long-term vitality and alignment with our mission.

None of this work happens without you. Your generosity, advocacy, and trust fuel our ability to plan boldly and act responsibly. As we step into 2026, we do so with confidence, clarity, and deep appreciation for the role you play in helping our communities - and the people who live and work in them - thrive. Thank you for being part of this journey.

A Journey of Care (continued from page 1)

...organizations beyond their lifetimes, saying, "I encourage people to think about what organizations they donate to now and to consider how they can continue their support after they pass."



COMPASSIONCIRCLE

In addition to her volunteer work on the board, Sandy serves on CLC's Healthcare Ethics Committee and

participates in the handbell choir at Holly Creek, practicing with residents on Thursday mornings. Last year, she felt called to return to the CLC board for a third term, having previously served from 2009 to 2014 and 2018 to 2023. Sandy is proud to serve alongside a board she describes as focused and creative, stating, "We have a group who really are dedicated to fulfilling the mission."

Donor Relations Team



Pam Sullivan

VP of Comm. & Philanthropy
psullivan@clcliving.org
720.974.3558



Stephanie Manley

Director of Philanthropy
smanley@clcliving.org
720.974.3675



Stormie Foust Maley

Director of Annual Giving
sfoust@clcliving.org
720.974.3642

After Bedtime, a Dream Takes Shape

Lifting Barriers to Build Tomorrow's Leaders

Stephanie Winn, the Social Services Director for The Suites at Someren Glen, isn't afraid to embrace new paths.

In 2024, she moved from Kansas City to Denver with her young daughter – a decision that was right for her family, but led to a change of career. Prior to her move, she was a case worker at Metro Lutheran Ministry, providing strength-based support for people experiencing homelessness.



Stephanie Winn

"I ended up in senior care unexpectedly," Stephanie says. **She was drawn to the culture of CLC**, especially because it is a non-profit. Working with older adults in a skilled nursing community was an adjustment, with lots of things to learn.

Her approach is still the same: providing high-quality, all-encompassing support. "If residents and families don't know who to go to, I make it known that they can come to me," she says. "I don't want it to be something someone has to ask for or doesn't know what's available."

It's a mindset she hopes to bring to her next intended position as an Assisted Living (AL) Administrator. She researched options for growth and how she could facilitate the most impact at CLC. Becoming an AL Administrator seemed like the next natural step. "My goal is to open more doors between team members and residents so people feel that they are accessible – staff accessible to residents, and staff accessible to other staff," she explains.

The \$800 expense for the 40-Hour training felt

unachievable, however, while supporting herself and her three-year-old daughter. "I'm a single mom who pays \$1,000 a month in daycare," she says.

Then, she got an email about the **Employee Scholarship Fund** and began wondering if it was a possible path towards her dream. After some initial hesitation, she decided to apply. The Employee Scholarship Committee gladly awarded her the \$800 in tuition fees for the training program.

Completing the online training modules was not easy as the full-time working mom of a toddler. But with determination and squeezing in study time after her daughter went to bed or was taking naps on the weekends, Stephanie was able to complete the course.

The information she learned deepened her knowledge of the operations side of community life and has enriched conversations she has with residents and families.

She is currently studying for her upcoming certification exam and is so grateful to the generous supporters who made it possible.

"There's no way to really explain the impact of what they're making possible for people who think they're never going to get anywhere in their career because they don't have \$800 for training fees or money for school," she says. "They get into a mindset that they won't ever be able to grow.

CLC's supporters are lifting a barrier that seems like a small barrier, but it's not."

*If you are interested in supporting the Employee Scholarship Fund you can make a gift with the included envelope or via smartphone by texting **CLC** to 50155.*

Gifts in Memory and Honor

Christian Living Communities is so grateful for the friends and family who direct 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 August 15, 2025 - February 1, 2026.

In Memory

Ken and Peggy Andersen

Richard Andersen

Barbara Baldwin

Dennis Baldwin

Arleda Ballard

Jack Ballard

Joan Betz

Jean Davenport

Marcia Brittin

Donna Mann

Sara Cahill

Jean Davenport

The team at Sagitec

Alice Carlson

Eleanor J Moller

Eve Cole

Bobbie Young

Jim Craig

Patricia Milstein

Jenny Nargi

Norma Croak

Larry and Carolyn Strutton

Lee Dabney

Jean Davenport

Bea Daggett and Elmer Ritthaler

Teri Lotvedt

Marilyn Dekker

Judy Aylor

Mary Barnett

Elaine Westblade

Lu Paauw

Judy Den Braber

Lisa Den Braber

Gregory A. Dillon

Cynthia Slavens

Robert and Virginia Dobbs

Rick Dobbs

Nancy Downing

Jean Davenport

Phyllis Ruth Dye

Polly Dudley

Don and Pat Echtermeyer

Theresa Echtermeyer

Don and Betty Frensley

Marcia Lynn Frensley

Michael and Virginia Galvin

Bruce and Char Prather

Donna Vogt

Claire Gibbons

Greg and Denise Gibbons

Jean Hanke

Roger Stephen Hanke

Ann Hanscom

Jean Davenport

Elmer and Rosemarie Houtsma

Peter and Kathleen Houtsma

Alice Hulings

Trish Kramer

Katie Hulings

Trish Kramer

Joan Jones

Anita Fricklas

Joyce G. Kullas

Michael Kullas

Dewey L. Long

Jean Davenport

Deborah Long

Patsy Michna

Susanna Cohen

Regina Mordente

Catherine Mordente

Walter Ordelheide

Jean Davenport

Henry Parker

Dan and Michelle Parker

Leah Jane Peterson

Dorwin L. Peterson

Dr. William Scholten

Glea Rietema-Scholten

Donna Siefken

Dan and Michelle Parker

Maggie Smith

Karigene Burke

Stormie Foust Maley

Louis and Elsie Strauss

Natalie Pollock

Mavis Tell

Karen J. Meyer

Evelyn Thomas

Mary Ann Kesicki

Evelyn Torres

Jean Davenport

Annie Trujillo

Olivia Grogan

Daniel Van Gorp

Grace Van Gorp

...Continued on page 7

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.

Sandy Clark — <i>Chair</i>	Dave De Ridder	Amanda Trask
Jill Vitale-Aussem, <i>CEO</i>	Elizabeth Garner	Kalen Van Maanen
Eric Keesen — <i>Vice Chair</i>	Bill Pichè	Lon Welsh
Rosina Aragon	Rick Pilgrim	
Briana Beasley	John Reinsma	
Eric DenBraber	Jan Roth	

Our People | Our Legacy

CLC Stories for USA 250 & Colorado 150



As we approach two historic milestones—the 250th anniversary of the United States and Colorado's 150th year of statehood—Christian Living Communities is honoring what

truly shapes history: **people**.

We're launching **Our People | Our Legacy**, an effort to collect and preserve meaningful stories from across the CLC family. These stories of residents, team members, volunteers, families, and friends reflect the courage, care, service, and everyday moments that strengthen our communities.

Every story matters. History isn't just found in textbooks; it lives in the experiences of those who serve, lead, care, and show up for others. Whether your story highlights military service, caregiving, community leadership, advocacy, innovation, or quiet acts of kindness, it belongs in our shared legacy.

We invite you to share a short story or tribute, along with photos or memorabilia if available. Submitted stories may be featured in CLC publications, on our website, at special events, and

in commemorative projects tied to these milestone anniversaries throughout 2026.

Some stories may also be shared with **A Portrait of Colorado at 150**, a statewide initiative led by History Colorado and the America 250–Colorado 150 Commission, ensuring voices from across Colorado—especially older adults—are preserved for future generations.

Submit a Story Now

Please scan this QR Code now to be directed to an online story gathering form where you can share a story of impact about yourself or someone within our CLC family who you know. There is also an opportunity to upload photos through this special story gathering platform.



Together, we can ensure our people—and their impact—are remembered not just as history, but as living stories that continue to shape our future.

Questions? Contact us at info@clcliving.org.



Memory and Honor ...continued from page 5

Jackie Velgersdyk

Jean Davenport

Marge Vitale

Jill Vitale-Aussem

John J. Walsh

Elaine Walsh

Pete Willis

Rosemary Willis

In Honor

All the Amazing Residents and Team Members in the CLC Family

Pamela Sullivan

Char Prather

Donna Vogt

Diana Bennett

Stormie Foust Maley

Don Boon

Martha Boon

Jack and Char Barker

Barry and Arlene Hirschfeld

June Just

Donna Vogt

Lydia Friend

Janice DeGroot

Mervin Graham

Barry and Arlene Hirschfeld

Mildred Angell

Ernie W. Angell

Nancy Tipton

Chuck and Lynda Gumeson

Olivia Mayer

Bryan and Rachel Vinz

Pam Sullivan

Karen Wilkens

Patty Seal

Donna Vogt

Rita Craig

Jenny Nargi

Shirley Bowman

John and Barbara Clifford

Frank and Myra Isenhardt

Susan Kiely

Eleanor J Moller

Pat Zarlengo

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

Unless otherwise directed, gifts are designated to specific communities to provide opportunities that make life more meaningful and fun.

Celebrating 54 Years of Impact

CLC's Founder's Day Breakfast & Earthen Vessel Award | Thursday, April 30th

Christian Living Communities is a proud Colorado-founded and based non-profit organization celebrating 54 years of service in the state, wow! We have a lot to celebrate. We will share stories of impact gathered through the **Our People | Our Legacy** effort. We will highlight the amazing contributions of a special supporter of CLC with our *Earthen Vessel Award*, someone who has allowed God's gracious work to be done through them, a plain earthen vessel. Most of all, we will gather together in fellowship for a morning of fun, reflection, and celebration. **Will you join us?**

Date: Thursday, April 30th

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Location: DCSD Legacy Campus (Former Wildlife Experience)

10035 S. Peoria Street | Lone Tree, CO 80134

This is a **free event** open to everyone in our CLC family, supporters, friends, residents, families, and team members thanks to the generous mission partnership support from Duet Hospitality Group.

Invitations will be coming in March, keep an eye out and please save the date. We would love to see you!



9570 S Kingston Ct, Ste 300
Englewood, CO 80112

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-Funded Training Inspires a Step Forward



Cappella of Pueblo West (CPW) is undertaking a journey to increase their culture of person-directed care. With funding from the *Workforce Resilience Program* through the Colorado Community College System, the community hosted a three-day **Certified Eden Alternative Training** focused on the principles of person-directed care.

Nine team members and three residents learned side-by-side how small changes in their approach can create a community where residents feel deeply valued, empowered, and connected, and where team members find purpose, fulfillment, and pride in their work. At the end of the training, all 12 became **Certified Eden Alternative Associates**, joining an international movement dedicated to transforming the experience of aging.

Kendra Crites, CPW's Executive Director, observes that, "Since the training, we've seen a shift toward greater awareness of resident preferences. Team members are more mindful about involving residents in decision making and creating meaningful moments throughout the day. Residents have already noticed increased personalized interactions, and a stronger connection with staff. It's very encouraging!"