



OHIO PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT SERVICES
FOUNDATION

Where Donors Make A Lasting Impact

Issue 12 • Winter 2015

mission in action

A newsletter for donors and friends of the OPRS Foundation

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A ROOM WITH A (BETTER) VIEW

Resident helps friends and neighbors through special gift

A landscaped and redesigned courtyard has improved the view for many residents of **Lake Vista of Cortland**, thanks to the generosity of resident Sylvia Strickland, who started the project to help a friend.

Sylvia had been coming to Lake Vista almost daily to visit her aunt, Willa Lee Winslow, whom she dearly loved and for whom the new courtyard is named.

After her aunt died, Sylvia decided to make Lake Vista her home. But it wasn't until she saw the campus through the eyes of a dear friend that she saw just how much an improved courtyard was needed, and she knew she could make a difference.

Sylvia became acquainted with fellow resident Gordon Milde, who lived in assisted living at the time.

They play checkers, dine out and just enjoy each other's company. Gordon has two degrees from an Ivy League school; Sylvia is a retired physician who also holds a master's degree in psychology. They have fascinating conversations. "It's not a romantic relationship, just a good, solid friendship," she said.

Gordon spent a lot of time in his residence and Sylvia was disappointed in the view of the small courtyard outside. It also

bothered her that headlights shone into his and other residents' rooms at night. So Sylvia worked with Gift Planning Director Debbie Hagarty to pay for improving the courtyard.

When it was learned that the family of another resident, Leonard Markovich, was interested in donating money for a water feature, their gift was combined with other

available contributions to purchase a much larger fountain, now the focal point.

The space has been enlarged by 200 percent. More than 40 tons of

added topsoil define beds and islands. Two pear trees will provide shade as they mature. Just some of the plants are roses, blue spruce, hydrangea, daylilies and hostas. There are more sidewalks, and improved fencing blocks the offending headlights at night.

"It's really nice," said Sylvia, who can often be seen walking there with her two rescue dogs. "It's something beautiful for a lot of the residents to see. Quite a number of windows face that area," she said. ■

ON THE COVER: *Lake Vista resident Sylvia Strickland takes her two dogs for a walk in the courtyard she helped fund through a charitable gift. Sylvia was pleased to help make the space more beautiful and enjoyable for her friends and neighbors.*

"Sylvia's gift is true philanthropy at work, and her motivation behind it was to bring happiness to others."

~ Debbie Hagarty, gift planning director

SPECIAL FUND HELPS STUDENTS

“Kindness and care go a long way,” wrote high school student and **Breckenridge Village** employee Sarah South in an essay about what she has learned on the job.

Through the Support the Caregiver Endowment at Breckenridge, Sarah and nine other young employees have each received \$500 in scholarship money.

When Executive Director David Schell brought up the idea of using the endowment to help students, Michael McDonald, director of independent living dining, was delighted, as these students work for him.

At any time, there might be 50 high school and college students working as servers or kitchen helpers. Many of them form special bonds with the residents, which is why Michael formed a committee of residents to coordinate the project.



ABOVE: Breckenridge resident Emma Melton (left) congratulates scholarship recipients Austin Wisdom (middle left), Connor Waite (middle right) and Anthony Volpe (right), who were among 10 student employees awarded \$500 in scholarship money from Breckenridge’s donor-funded Support the Caregiver Endowment.

When it looked like there wouldn’t be enough money to help 10 qualified students, Michael and some committee members donated their own money to raise the total to \$5,000.

These scholarships are the first distributions from the endowment, and it is expected that the program will continue annually.

“What a wonderful gift and legacy of support for the caregivers. We are so grateful to the donors who have afforded us this wonderful opportunity to

extend our mission,” stated David.

The scholarship students and their parents were honored with a celebration at Breckenridge.

Michael said one of the things he likes best about working with these young people is seeing them grow beyond an initial shyness and learn skills like time management and teamwork. “This is a worthwhile cause and they are a great group of kids,” he said. ■

THE BEAUTY OF GIVING

A husband's love inspires renovation

They met as schoolchildren in Pemberton, Ohio, and were married for 76 years. Barbara Adams passed away recently and her husband, Dick, has found a unique way to pay tribute to the woman he loved so much.

Dick is the primary donor behind the renovation of the Amos Center Beauty Shop at **Dorothy Love Retirement Community**. Barbara loved going to a salon every Friday, for as long as Dick could remember. "That was a big thing in her life," he said.

Barbara's salon visits brought her enjoyment and, thanks to Dick and other donors, many future customers can enjoy Dorothy Love's beautiful, updated facility.

"We are grateful to all of our donors for this project as we are able to provide an environment that is relaxing and peaceful," stated Tricia Atwood, the executive director of Dorothy Love.

Barbara deserved a special tribute, said her husband of the woman he treasured for so many years, from their early school days to their decades as farmers to their later years living at Dorothy Love when Barbara became ill. "I miss her so badly," Dick said. "She was just right in every way. She was perfect."

A plaque outside the entrance to the salon thanks Dick and other donors, and explains that the renovation was done in honor of Barbara.



Before



After

J Becker Construction was hired to transform the salon, and owner Jason Becker added a gift of his own to the project: a vacuum system to make the collection of hair easier. Jason has also made other gifts to Dorothy Love, including custom-built bookshelves for the campus's library.

Jason considers Dorothy Love more than just a customer. His great-grandmother was once a resident and his grandmother is there now. "It's a wonderful place," Jason shared.

Along with other longtime friends and donors, Tom and Sandy Shoemaker also contributed to the renovation, particularly because Sandy thought a beauty shop

should have a manicure and pedicure station. "We are delighted with the improvements for the benefit of Dorothy Love residents," Sandy said.

"We really believe in and support Dorothy Love. They are always doing something to make things better for the residents," she explained. ■

BELOW, LEFT: A "before" photo of the once outdated Amos Center Beauty Shop.

BELOW, MIDDLE: Thanks to donors, the beauty shop was given an elegant upgrade and now offers patrons a comfortable and relaxing environment.

BELOW, RIGHT: Dorothy Love resident Dick Adams was the lead donor to the beauty shop remodel project, which was inspired by his late wife, Barbara.



OPENING MINDS THROUGH ART

Grant for unique program brings enjoyment to those with dementia

The awareness that people with dementia are capable of expressing themselves creatively has led to an innovative art program that's making a difference at **Mount Pleasant Retirement Village**, thanks to a grant from the Middletown Community Foundation.

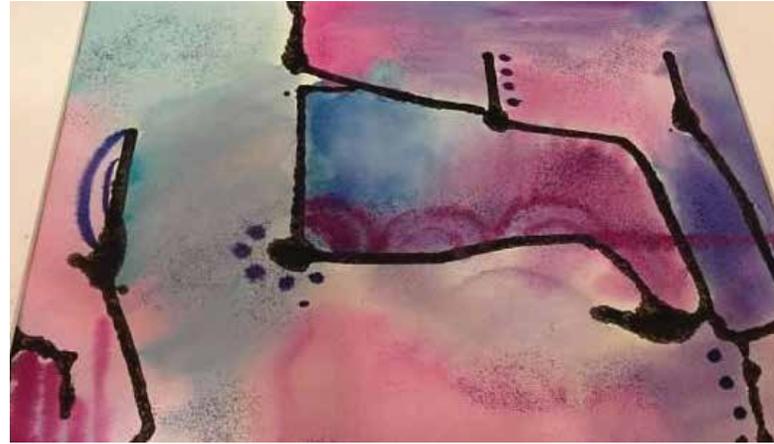
"It's absolutely amazing to watch the transformation. It just touches your heart," said Rachel Benton, the unit nursing manager, about seeing those with dementia participate in the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program.

OMA was created by Elizabeth Lokon, Ph.D., of the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Ohio.

She has been monitoring the work being done at Mount Pleasant and has even helped train volunteers and staff. She said she is impressed with "the quality and the fidelity of the program there."

Residents are brought to the art room, each assigned their own volunteer and the session begins with everyone singing "You Are My Sunshine."

Some residents are reluctant at first, but after a few of the weekly sessions, their enjoyment is noticeable. The volunteers help, but the residents make the choices, like which colors to use, with the goal of developing confidence.



ABOVE: A painting by an Opening Minds through Art participant. Thanks to a grant from the Middletown Community Foundation, Mount Pleasant residents are enjoying this special program.

Denise Brown, director of nursing at Mount Pleasant, said that asking the participants how they feel before and after the creative sessions reveals increased enjoyment and fulfillment.

Rachel said several of the participants have made comments like, "I'm an artist," and seem to really enjoy the sessions and experience a sense of fulfillment.

After evaluating the potential of the initiative, the Middletown Community Foundation decided to provide \$5,000 for training and supplies for the OMA program at Mount Pleasant.

"Again, congratulations on your grant award and best wishes for a successful program," stated T. Duane Gordon, the foundation's executive director. ■

WELCOMING SARAH MOORE DONORS

Sarah Moore Community joined the OPRS organization on August 1, 2014. Since its founding in 1892, donors have helped Sarah Moore to provide excellent care and service to its residents and their families.

Three main charitable activities stand out, and continue to benefit residents today:

- In the late 1990s, an \$800,000 capital campaign enabled Sarah Moore to convert the original home of its campus into assisted living. Donor recognition plaques can be found in several locations to honor those who were instrumental to the project.
- Annual donations continue to strengthen Sarah Moore's ability to make capital improvements, offer meaningful activities and programming for residents, and provide new and efficient health

care equipment. Gifts also help Sarah Moore to expand service through new technology, and educate and develop its dedicated team of caregivers to provide care that exceeds expectations.

- Currently, the Sarah Moore Service Board is one of Sarah Moore's largest donors. After more than four decades of work, this devoted service board – all volunteers from the greater Delaware area – continues to host

community and social events to support the various needs of Sarah Moore. The service board also places a special focus on maintaining resident morale by providing funding for activities, Christmas gifts, Easter baskets, flowers and more.

The OPRS Foundation looks forward to working with Sarah Moore's donors – past, present and future – to advance its mission of care.





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Where Donors Make A Lasting Impact

Our mission...
is to partner with donors
to provide charitable support
for the people, projects
and programs of OPRS.

Please contact us if you have any questions about charitable giving to OPRS Communities or Senior Independence.

800-686-7800

www.oprsfoundation.org

BOARD BIO: Get to know who's representing you

name: G. David Hawley

board position: Chair of the Planning & Communications Committee and assistant secretary of the board.

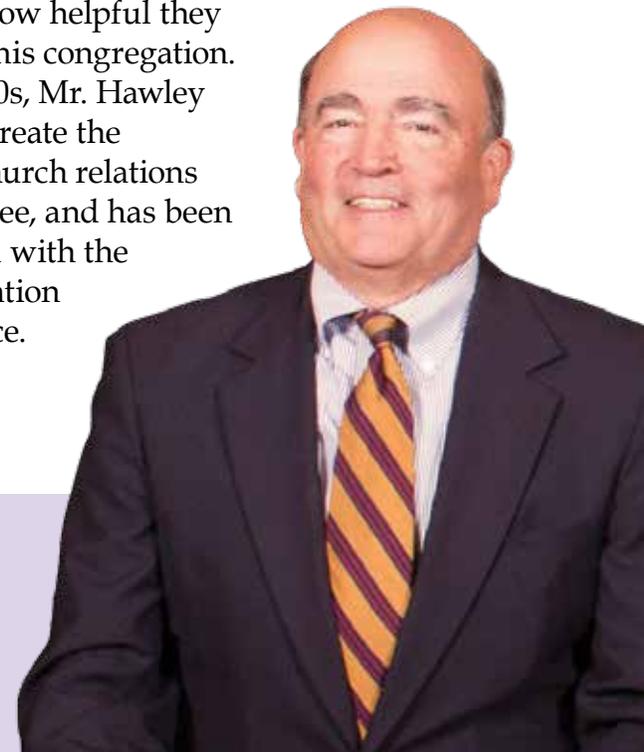
hometown: Mr. Hawley was born in Greenville, Ohio and now lives in Cincinnati.

career: A retired Presbyterian minister, Mr. Hawley began his career as associate minister at Fairmont Presbyterian Church in Dayton. After 25 years with the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, he went on to lead Indian Hill Episcopal Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati.

education: Mr. Hawley earned a bachelor's degree from Defiance College; a master's from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA; and a master's and doctorate from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

hobbies & interests: Sailing and snow skiing (which he took up at the age of 47!). Mr. Hawley also enjoys spending as much time as possible with his three children and four grandchildren.

relationship with OPRS: Mr. Hawley was first introduced to OPRS in 1981 by some of his parishioners at the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington. The church hosted various OPRS seminars, and Mr. Hawley recalls how helpful they were to his congregation. In the '90s, Mr. Hawley helped create the OPRS church relations committee, and has been involved with the organization ever since.



my message to donors: Thank you for being part of this wonderful organization. I can tell you that OPRS represents quality care, the very best. Through your generosity, you've shown that you identify with the purpose and mission. ■

www.oprsfoundation.org