Spring 2023
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CHRISTIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

Connection

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
Larry Monroe

Much More Than Just a Job

I regularly witness inspirational displays of dedicated service from team members who carry out the daily mission of Christian Village Communities. I also hear wonderful stories from the families of residents and patients in our care and about the profound influence our team members are having on the lives of their loved ones. As CEO, I am the recipient of the praise and showering of thanks, and I am quick to give the credit to my amazing leaders and their teams. It is often said that culture starts at the top, and I wouldn't argue that assertion. However, the best quarterback on the football field is useless without the talent on the field to advance the ball and win games. I want to introduce you to one gifted leader among so many in our organization who is truly investing in the lives of the members of her team and having a transformational impact upon their lives.

Recently I had a brief encounter with Sue Durham, Director of Housekeeping at The Christian Village at Mason. Sue joined our organization in November of 2019 with many years of experience in our industry managing housekeeping. I recall being told that Susan chose Christian Village Communities in large part because of what she sensed in the interview process as a quality employment culture where people are valued. We had a sense then that we may be in store for some great things from Sue, and we have not been disappointed.

When one thinks about where inspiration shows up in our communities, I wonder how many would include the housekeeping department. Housekeeping is so basic. It is about cleaning. It just happens. It is so fundamentally necessary and so easily taken for granted. We expect inspiration to take place at bedsides, but housekeeping?

Shortly after Sue joined our team she began to explore the possibility of hiring high school students on a parttime basis. Some wondered how this would work since housekeeping is far from a fun and glamorous job. How would we ever get a high school student committed to a housekeeping job?

Sue believed that if she got the right young person, she could inspire them with our mission and help them see that they were taking on so much more than a job. They would have opportunities to touch hearts and make a difference in the lives of the residents in the rooms and hallways they would clean. She acted upon a plan, and she began to hire a few high school students. Then some amazing things began to occur.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

One example would be Hanna. Hanna joined our housekeeping team in her junior year of high school. A person with a sweet disposition, Hanna immediately connected with the residents. She was a very good housekeeper, but the full extent of her giftedness soon became quite evident. When due to his progressing illness one of our residents was transitioned into memory care, Hanna was assigned to his room. She learned of his loneliness for family and helped him learn how to FaceTime his loved ones on his phone. She recalls how this kind gentleman shared the love of Christ with her whenever she was in his room cleaning. Hanna attended that man's funeral on her own time. She began helping other residents with technology. Hanna caught the fact that housekeeping was so much more than a job. It was a means to an even more significant end. It provided her opportunities to touch people's hearts. Today Hanna is advancing in our organization into a nursing career. She is a student at the University of Cincinnati School of Nursing.

Then there is Maddy. Maddy joined the housekeeping team in 2020 while in high school. She was unclear about her future, and college was not likely. Sue Durham saw her potential and true to form, began to invest in and mentor Maddy. When she began to consider the Air Force for her future, she had doubts about what that would mean for her and whether she could make it through basic training. Her supervisor expressed her belief that Maddy could do anything she set her mind to do. Maddy completed Air Force basic training and recently sent a gift to her housekeeping department "family" because she missed them so much. As she moves on in life, Maddy takes a piece of CVC and what her supervisor poured into her young life with her.

So many stories that could be shared among so many departments involving other supervisors and team members. There are so many organizations in our space that do a great job with care for the aging. They all talk about excellence in retirement living. The differentiating aspect of Christian Village Communities is our Christian commitment to living out our purpose to serve in Jesus' name. As we invest in the lives of others, be it residents, patients, staff, and one another, and do it in the name of Christ, God pours forth the blessings and produces the fruits from our labors.

Christian Village Communities is so much more than an organization: it is a mission. Working in our communities is so much more than just a job: it is a mission field. To God be the glory.

Top Picture: Sue Durham with Hanna.
Bottom Picture: Maddy graduating from Air Force basic training.

Christian Village Comfort Care

A Hospice Update

By Heather Carter, LNHA, LSW. Assistant Administrator/Director of Hospice

In the Spring 2022 edition of the Connection Newsletter, we shared with our readers that Christian Village Communities had made the decision to create its own hospice program. It was our consensus that a hospice program would not only enhance the quality of care we provide our residents but would also be of benefit to their families and our staff. The hospice program will be a community-based program which focuses on end-of-life care for those residing on the Mason and Mt. Healthy campuses.

In November 2022, we submitted our application for licensure for Christian Village Hospice to the Ohio Department of Health. Applications for new programs are required to be submitted at least 60 days prior to a requested start date. On March 20, 2023, we had our initial survey. We were found to be compliant with the Ohio guidelines and have received our hospice license.

We will begin to enroll a limited number of patients while awaiting our accreditation survey and Medicare certification. Community Health Accreditation Partners will complete the next step of our survey process. This will include a review of patient records as well as policies and procedures to meet federal compliance for Medicare standards.

We will continue to focus on our policies and procedures and outline of programs that will be offered. Some of these programs will include volunteer services, grief support and bereavement.

Ashli Gordon, RN, joined our team in September 2022 as Clinical Director. Ashli received her RN in 2018 and has dedicated her career to caring for hospice patients. She will be responsible for the daily clinical operations of hospice including admissions, daily patient care encounters and supervising additional hospice nurses and aides, as our program grows.

We welcomed Nikkia Strickland, STNA (State Tested Nursing Assistant) in January 2023. Nikkia has over 20 years of STNA experience which includes many years with various hospice agencies. Nikkia has been working with Ashli learning more about our Mason and Mt. Healthy campuses and our mission.

We look forward to our startup and continuing to fulfill the mission of Christian Village Communities to our residents and their families.

If you would like to learn more about our program or if you live in the Cincinnati area and have an interest in volunteer opportunities, please contact me at (513) 204-2185 or (513) 701-3403.

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CVM Ambassador Choir

A Rich Part of Community Life and History

By David Lautzenheiser, Director of Music

From the early 1990s, whenever you walked through the hall of the healthcare center at The Christian Village at Mason (CVM) on Monday afternoons, music filled the air. The Ambassador Choir was hard at work preparing for an upcoming concert. In those very early days, it was common for the choir to have two rehearsals each week, one on an afternoon and one on an evening as several residents were still employed and not fully retired. The Ambassador Choir performed at a few groundbreaking ceremonies at CVM, but the norm was to perform a Christmas Concert, and in those early years performances included lavish scenes to create the magic of a dinner theater.

Three years ago, the music stopped! While preparing for a spring 2020 concert, COVID-19 silenced the Ambassador Choir. No one could predict when or if the choir would ever return. From the very first days, Ambassador Choir provided a musical outlet for residents to pour their hearts out in song. It gave them community, a place to belong, and the opportunity to express themselves in song.

"Ambassador Choir gave them community, a place to belong and the opportunity to express themselves in song."

The first Ambassador Choir performing at a groundbreaking ceremony for The Christian VIllage at Mason.

They not only sang together but laughed together, bonded together, and had the opportunity to be creative. Ambassador Choir provided a source of purpose and something to look forward to each week. To say those three years of silence were difficult would be an understatement. But, in the fall of 2022, Ambassador Choir returned, stronger than ever. Though COVID-19 is still around, the Ambassador Choir will not remain silenced. They are back, and should you pass by the wonderful new Stone Worship Center and Auditorium on Monday afternoons you may hear them practicing. They are back with an even stronger mission than before, because the generously sized stage of the Stone Center has provided an additional opportunity for Ambassadors to sing during Sunday morning worship.

This past December, the Ambassador Choir performed its first concert since COVID-19 shut it down. It was a Christmas concert in the Stone Center, and there was a packed house. The spring dinner theater of the past will be replaced with a 2023 Spring Inspirational Concert. An additional Patriotic Concert has been added to the concert schedule to celebrate July 4, and in the fall the choir hopes to present an evening of worship. The seasonal concerts provide options for our singers to choose which performances they want to be a part of. Recently, after a rehearsal, one of our singers said, "You have no idea the joy this brings to me. I so look forward to coming and singing. It's fun!"

When CVM was very young and comprised of only a small number of residents, a resident approached the administration and expressed the desire to have a choir. All these years later, even with a COVID-19 setback, the Ambassador Choir remains strong and is a vital part of resident life. Anyone is welcome to come and sing! No experience is necessary. Join us and let music fill your soul and in turn bring joy to not only yourself but to others. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 27:6: "...I will sing and make music to the Lord."

"...I will sing and make music to the Lord."

Psalm 27:6

The Ambassador Choir performing their 2022 Christmas Concert in the Stone Center.

Robots and Residents

Technology Meets Senior Living

Christian Village Communities is fortunate to have one of the world's leading gerontology research centers close by at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Over the past decade we have developed a strong relationship with the Scripps Gerontology Center at MU.

In December of 2022 we were contacted by the Scripps Center to partner on a robotics research project including a cohort of students from the university engineering department. There can be little doubt that in the future robots will be providing services that most Americans could not have imagined. It stands to reason that as technology continues to develop, we will see certain functions being performed with the aid of robotics.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

On January 27, Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Center, two engineering students and one robot paid a visit to The Christian Village at Mason. We were dazzled with a demonstration of the robot's functionality and inspired by a conversation about potential real-world application for robotics in senior living. Of course, excellence in customer service and proper care at the bedside require a human element, and at CVC we don't ever see this level of personal touch being replaced by robotics. We also have no plans to replace people in jobs with robots. However, it is interesting to consider how robots might help us do things we never could have imagined. The robot demonstration amazed everyone, especially some of our residents eating in the dining room. It was a fun time for all as cellphones came out for photos and videos.

"Of course, excellence in customer service and proper care at the bedside require a human element, and at CVC we don't ever see this level of personal touch being replaced by robotics."

Page 6 Picture: CEO Larry Monroe showing the residents the robot in the Matthews Dining Room.
Page 7 Top Picture: Miami University and CVC robot task force.

CVC will enter into a limited agreement with MU Scripps Center to be a beta test site for the robot. A robot task force made up of a few members of our management team and several MU engineering students took place on March 3 at The Christian Village at Mason. We will work together with the students and their department leader to create potential uses for the robot in our communities, and then the students will do some design fine-tuning to meet those needs. We envision possible utilization of the robot may involve delivery of items to resident rooms. This should prove interesting, educational, and fun for all involved.

We are pleased to be regarded by the Scripps Gerontology Center at MU as a thought leader in our industry that is forward thinking and eager to embrace technology.

CVMH Welcomes New Leader

The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy would like to welcome Victoria (Vickie) Irwin to the team as Director of Life Enrichment. Vickie has over 20 years of long-term care experience, including as an STNA, Restorative Aide, Activity Coordinator, Assistant Director of Activities and over 10 years in the resident life enrichment role. She has a passion for long-term care and follows the teachings of Teepa Snow, one of the leading educators on dementia.

In her spare time, Vickie enjoys spending time with her husband and children, reading, crafting, and going on road trips. As Vickie states, her philosophy to resident life enrichment is, “the resident always comes first, and do not mess with bingo.”

CVMH is excited to have Vickie on our team!

The Life-Changing Ministry of The CBA Foundation

A Case for Building the Endowment

By Larry Monroe, CEO

Imagine what it would be like to live into your 90's and be blessed with such exceptional health that you could live reasonably independent of nursing assistance. You could dress yourself, bathe yourself, manage your own medications and enjoy meals in a public dining room with your friends. You could enjoy in-person Sunday worship with others and even go on short excursions out to lunch, to shop, or attend to regular appointments with a physician or a dentist. Wouldn't that be something?

Now imagine accomplishing this longevity in life and good health only to face the fact that although you thought you had made adequate provisions for your future financial needs, you could never have imagined living over nine decades. You've watched your nest egg be depleted by the very years that blessed you with such good health. How would you feel? Would you be afraid and unsettled by the uncertainty of the future? Some would for sure, but not if they lived in the healthcare center at The Christian Village at Mason or The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

In the over 55 years our ministry has been in existence, we have never asked a resident to leave their home in our healthcare center because they had depleted their assets and spent their nest egg. Not once! Through the good work of the CBA Foundation and the generosity of donors, churches, and organizations that financially support our ministry, seniors who outlive the ability to provide for themselves receive the life-changing reassurance that as long as needed, they will be cared for.

We raise enough money annually to fund our current need. To continue to provide this life-changing reassurance to more seniors in the future we must build the CBA Foundation's endowment. Gifts to the endowment build upon the principal balance, which is protected into perpetuity. Over the past decade the endowment has grown from approximately $290,000 to over $1,600,000. Our goal is for that balance to exceed $5,000,000. Interest earned on the endowment is deposited back to the principal balance. By increasing the endowment balance, future interest on the principal can be used to reduce annual fundraising pressure and help to fund the future needs of even more seniors who will qualify for subsidy funding. Gifts of estate is a primary means of providing transformational giving to build the endowment.

GIVE TODAY

Have you ever considered an end-of-life estate gift to the CBA Foundation? Have you thought of including a gift in your Will or Trust? Endowment-giving is attractive to major donors because these gifts are held into perpetuity, designated and protected for the purpose of building the endowment. If you wish, we can put you into contact with a trusted Christian estate planning attorney to walk you through and explain this process. Simply call Larry Monroe at (513) 701-3448 or email him at larry.monroe@christianvillages.org for more information.

CVMH Safety Campaign a Success

By Julie Nagele, CVMH Executive Director

The safety and security of our residents, family members, and team members has always been our top priority, and it appears the same is true of our donor partners. In early 2022 The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy launched a fundraising campaign to raise money to purchase much needed security cameras for the campus. The response from area churches and individual donors was very positive.

Cameras are now installed at all entrance doors of both five-story resident buildings as well as the administrative building. The latest digital video technology was used to provide continuous surveillance allowing us to connect with the facility visually at any time by accessing live video feed. We also have the capacity to receive video clips from a monitoring center.

Shiver Security Systems of Miamisburg, Ohio provided the equipment, programming, installation of all the wiring and field devices, staff training, and provides 24/7 off-site monitoring. The installation of the security cameras has greatly enhanced campus safety and provides increased peace of mind for residents, family members, and staff. An extensive security system was also installed by Shiver Security at The Christian Village at Mason in 2021.

Thank you to all donors who participated in the safety and security fundraising campaign. Your generous support helped provide the added security that was so badly needed at CVMH.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

In Memory Of

Marilyn Abbott
Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Joyce Drake
Joanne Hensley
Louis & Wilma Kressin
Karen Mason
Herman & Nancy Samendinger

Mary Abbott
Joyce Drake
William & Martha Mendez

Alma "Clio" Adler
Robert & Deborah Adler

Curt Arulf
Nancy Arulf

Jerry Babik
Susan Babik

Margaret Barger
John & Vickie Hale

Frederick "Bart" Bartholme
Deanna Bartholme

Henrietta Beitler
Mark & Karen Gambill

Sam Beitler
Mark & Karen Gambill
JoAnn Hensley

Alex Betley
James & Sherry Betlej

Bertha Bierbaum
Linda Thompson

Lila Bounds
Carl & Betty Oney

Harvey & Mary Ann Bream
Norman & Ginny Ball

Mary Brinkman
Paul & Marilyn Poe

June Burkhardt
Glen & Terri Burkhardt

Robert Buzza
Marilyn Buzza

Robert Campbell & Dorothy Campbell
David & Kathy Campbell

Margaret Claypoole
Ruth Claypoole

Marie, Luke, and Frank Clayton
Winifred Clayton

Jack Cottrell
Carr Electric Heating & Cooling

Harold & Irene Coyle
Henry & Nina Coyle

June Crabtree
E. Richard Crabtree

Ian Dasent
Jeannie Dasent

Don DeLay
Carl & Marilyn Padget
JoAnn Hensley

Naomi Devitt
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Kenneth Dicken
Doris Dicken

Verne Dolle
Dennis & Barbara Barger

Edward Duritsch
Michael & Terri Tooley

Jane Engelhard
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Jim Fehl
Chris Allen Fehl
Donna Fehl
Stephanie Fehl
Mark & Karen Gambill
Rosena Hagee
Joanne Hensley
Thomas & Joan Maxwell

Gregory Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner

Dr. Wayne Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner

Donald Griffin
Audrey Griffin

Doris Hay
Mary Baer

Helen Hedges
John & Vickie Hale

Jinnie Helm
Donna Fehl

Louise Helms
John Duke

Donald & Iris Hille
Vicky Horton

Harold & Mae Hockley
Myron & Joyce Leistler

Russell Hoffer
Joyce Drake

Earl & Betty Holbrook
Robert & Sylvia Miner

Sylvia Holbrook
Robert & Sylvia Miner

Gilbert Hoobler
Donald & Patricia Taylor

Oris Horsley
Patricia Werner

Marie Howell
Oletha Howell

Victor Hunter
M. A. Pitzer

James & Boots Johnson
Sam & Donna Zalatoris

Irene Key
David & Jennifer Key

William Knaebel
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Jewell Koehne
Clyde Koehne

Ken Lehmann
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Carol Lewis
Andrew & Roberta Lewis

James Lewis
Andrew & Roberta Lewis

James & Rosemary Maness
Greg & Brenda Martin

Alton Maples
Babs Maples

Ralph Massmann
Barbara Murray
Herman & Nancy Samendinger

Irving Maxwell
Mary Maxwell

Mabel McAninch
Norman & Sally McAninch

Anita McMillan
William & Martha Mendez

Charles McNutt
Pamela McNutt

Virginia Melvin
Patricia Dillon

Bernard Mersch
Bernadine Stone

Dorothy Mersch
Bernadine Stone

Heidi Messinger
Robert Messinger

Barbara Minchew
Laura Renz

Edie Moorehead
Robert Moorehead
Elizabeth Morgan
Betty Hoard
Bert Morris
Thelma Wright
Ivan Morse
Chris Breheim
Evangeline Morse
Topsy New
Arnold & Mona Burge
Betty Overstreet
Helen Peters
Jim & Carol Coy
Alice Reed
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Mary Rocklin
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Donita Konrad
Mary Marx
Linda Puthoff
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Ron Back
Emma Brown
Michael Duncan
Rodney Russell
Gary Shipley
Eric Myers
Vera Shipley
Gerald Shipley
Jacque Shoemaker
Ruth Shoemaker
Thomas Guy Smith
Josephine Smith
Florence Spengler
Mary Spengler
Ina St. John
John & Phyllis DeBra
Melvin Stang
Kenneth Stang
Mae Stephens
Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Josef & Charlotte Buschelmann
Joyce Drake
William & Martha Mendez
Gwen Stone
William & Jerlene Bell
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Anne Mikesell
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Tracy Wolcott
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Ken Trabet
Don & Sharlene Stowell
William Turnau
Gail Turnau
John Tyrrell
Vincent & Jane DiMaggio
Mary Walker
Roger Walker
Tom Watson
Mary Maxwell
Ivan Wells
Nancy Wells
Diann Werts
Laura Werts
Vivian Willging
Beth Warmuth

In Honor of

Christian Village Communities
Jill Threm
Jack W. Cottrell
Doris Odor
Charlotte Ourada
CVC Board of Directors
Glen & Terri Burkhardt
Dr. Charles H. Eger
David & Mildred Merkel
William & Marion Fotheringham
Terri Baroch
Doreen Hilton
Tim & C. Kinne
Lori Kinne
Bill & Lynne Little
Marilyn Buzza
Annie Mailhot
Howard & Mary Ann Watrous
Dale McCann
Jonathan & Kathy McCann
Kay Moll
Norman & Ginny Ball
Mark & Karen Gambill
Andrew Newlon
Jason & Amy Newlon
Max Newlon
Jason & Amy Newlon
Ruth Odor
Anna Lucas
The Many Friends of Ours at the Village
Jason Strawser
Missy Philpot
Cynthia Boatright
Julia Sprong
Gary & Pat Sprong
Sam Stone
Dennis Dorsheimer
Robert (Pete) & Janette Taylor
Jan Taylor
Doris Wotring

Make a memorial or honor gift to Christian Village Communities for your loved one today!

A New Place to Gather

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

The Christian Village at Mason has a long-standing reputation as being one of Cincinnati's finest Life Plan Communities. From the beautiful scenery to the award-winning healthcare, it is a very special place that is home to about 450 residents. The community is situated on 75-acres of immaculately manicured grounds and features amenities such as the Renewal Fitness Center, Matthew's Dining Room, Stone Worship Center & Auditorium, a large woodworking shop, and a picnic pavilion.

The picnic pavilion is one amenity that is used often in the warmer months. It is a place for a vast array of activities and events including cookouts, ice cream socials, and concerts. The management team recognizes that our residents deserve only the very best, and we have thought for some time that the picnic pavilion could be enhanced to create a better atmosphere and a more usable space.

The existing pavilion does not have an ideal design. There are no restrooms and no kitchen for meal preparation, so it's really limited to be used for picnics. In addition, the pavilion has storage that the community desperately needs, but the size of the space is inadequate and not water-tight or climate controlled. To resolve these design dilemmas, we partnered with an architectural firm to look at the existing pavilion and help us brainstorm ideas on how we could improve it. Our goal was to create a new pavilion that was beautiful, functional, had restrooms, and will include a limited kitchen. After months of research and hard work, the final design is one that we can be very proud of as it accomplishes our goals.

The new pavilion structure will be approximately 7,300 sq. ft. which is much larger than the existing pavilion. It will have a beautiful gas fireplace creating a fireside lounge area, kitchen serving space and the much-needed addition of restrooms! An added benefit is that there will also be significantly more storage space and 48 new parking spaces. The plans for the new pavilion were presented to the CVM residents in January to much excitement!

The total cost for this project will be about $2M for the structure and site work plus $100,000 for furnishings. Use of $1.5M of capital funds have been approved for this project, and we hope to raise the additional $600,000 through a capital fundraising campaign. Our approximate timeline is to start construction the summer of 2023 with completion in fall of 2023.

We are thrilled to get this project underway and invite you to watch for more details soon about our fundraising campaign. Our residents deserve the very best and the new pavilion is sure to provide that.

Board Member Honored

A Life of Service to CBA and Affiliates

Millie Merkel alongside her husband, David Merkel.

In February 2023 the CBA Board, the CBA Foundation Board, and CEO Larry Monroe honored Mildred Merkel by presenting her with a service award for her 28 years of board service. In that 28 years Millie has served on the parent organization board and all affiliate boards. She was a part of the CEO search committee that in 2012 called Mr. Monroe to lead Christian Village Communities. Most recently she sat on the Foundation Board and was a member of the grant committee of that board for many years. Millie's service goes beyond her board service. She was a part of the original fundraising drives of the early 1960's to build The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH). She wrote thank you notes to donors for CBA's first President, Dr. E. Richard Crabtree, and was very active in resident life at CVMH and later at The Christian Village at Mason (CVM). Millie and her husband David were longtime members of White Oak Christian Church and now reside in a Garden Home at The Christian Village at Mason. Joining Larry Monroe in the presentation to Millie were Harry Snyder, Chair of the CBA Board, CBA Board member Dr. Charles Eger, and Chair of the CBA Foundation Board, Damon Reid.

Save the Date

Confidence Instead of Chaos

Understanding Signs and Symptoms of Dementia

FAIRFIELD
CHURCH OF CHRIST

On May 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Christian Village Communities and Fairfield Church of Christ will partner in a special informative evening focused on dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. The program will provide a better understanding of how to recognize the onset of memory disease and how to best support a loved one with memory loss. Teresa Youngstrom, RN and Dementia Specialist with A Better Approach to Memory Care will be the featured speaker.

The event will take place at the Fairfield Community Center at 411 Wessel Drive, Fairfield, Ohio. Admission is free but reservations are required. RSVP to (513) 398-1486.

This event is in step with CVC's commitment to partner with its supporting churches, to be a professional resource for information about best practices relative to healthcare for the aging. Fairfield Church of Christ has supported CVC through its Mission Giving for nearly 30 years.

Mentors Make It Happen

By Julie Nagele, CVMH Executive Director

If you spend any time around a retirement community or nursing home, you'll find we love "alphabet soup." We have an acronym for just about everything! One of those acronyms is STNA (State Tested Nursing Assistant). The STNA is a vital position in assisted living and nursing facilities, because they provide such a wide range of help and care to the residents. As the name suggests, the STNA must successfully complete a state-approved course of training to be equipped to provide basic but vital care to the residents. Many residents in assisted living and nursing care need help with activities of daily living. Naturally, there's an acronym for that (ADLs). Some need more help than others, but ADLs may include such things as bathing, toileting, nail care, feeding, and much more. The goal is to provide the assistance needed in a compassionate and empathetic manner that preserves the resident's dignity and affirms his or her value as a person.

Because the position is so important, Christian Village Communities (CVC) has instituted a program of support to encourage and support the STNAs—especially new hires coming on board. Jaimie Glancy serves as STNA Success Coach; she provides hands-on training and support for new STNAs and directs the activities of a team of STNA Mentors. The STNA Mentor supports the STNA Success Coach with the process of training newly hired STNAs. The mentors inspire others through their own work ethic and can advocate for the standards of CVC. The STNA Mentors are persons with exceptional communication skills who provide on-the-job training including constructive feedback for performance improvement.

We are pleased to introduce to you the following STNA Mentors serving at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy:

Amber Pettis

Amber Pettis is one of our new dayshift STNA Mentors. Amber joined the CVMH team in November 2021. She is a fun and upbeat team member. Most residents know her and often request her by name because she provides such detailed care. Amber is not only a favorite among the residents, but of the staff as well, as she is always willing to jump in and help those she is working with.

Nicole Lewis

Nicole Lewis is another new dayshift STNA Mentor. Nicole has been an STNA for over 20 years and joined the CVMH team in May 2022. One resident described Nicole this way: “She’s such a kind person. I can’t say enough wonderful things about her. She couldn’t be more perfect!” We appreciate Nicole for her professionalism, the meticulous way she cares for the residents, and always performing her job the R.I.T.E way. (More alphabet soup; the R.I.T.E way stands for our Core Values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence!)

Delois Rice

Delois Rice is one of our new nightshift STNA Mentors. Delois is new as a mentor, but she has been an asset to our CVMH team for almost 9 years. She cares for each resident attentively as if they were her own family and puts the residents at the forefront of all she does while setting a high standard of care for new staff.

Cheryl Zellers

Cheryl Zellers has been a nightshift STNA Mentor for over a year. She is always available to our new staff members and demonstrates a strong work ethic and compassion for the residents. She quickly makes new staff feel welcome at CVMH.

Excellent care given with the compassion of Christ is the standard at CVC. Our CVMH STNAs play an important role in upholding that standard. Jaime and her STNA Mentors are diligent to support them in that effort.

Night of Stars

Thursday, September 14, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Stone Worship Center

On September 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. we will host the second annual Night of Stars. Like last year, we will honor ten team members, five from each of our communities, for extraordinary performance in carrying out the mission of Christian Village Communities. The evening will include a banquet and video presentation featuring the story of each Star highlighting their daily mission of caring for our residents and patients. Kay Moll will be our featured speaker. Save the date because you won’t want to miss this exciting evening of inspiration!

Career Growth

A Staple at CVC

Congratulations to Nina Martin, RN BSN, for earning her Resident Assessment Coordinator Certification following a 3-day workshop near Detroit, Michigan.

The RAC-CT® (Resident Assessment Coordinator—Certified) education and certification program has long set the national standard for skilled nursing facility PPS (Prospective Payment System) and MDS (Minimum Data Set) 3.0 education. MDS documentation drives in large part the reimbursement nursing facilities receive from various payor sources, such as Medicare and other insurance payors. It is a critical element to the success of any long-term care organization.

The RAC-CT certification program consists of 10 education courses designed for post-acute care professionals with at least six months of experience with the MDS process. To earn the RAC-CT credential, you must successfully complete 10 associated final certification exams with a score of 80% or higher. Recertification is required every two years.

Nina has been employed at The Christian Village at Mason (CVM) since 2007. She started working with food and nutritional services while in high school and college and soon decided that she wanted to be a nurse focusing on caring for the aging. She attended the University of Cincinnati and obtained her RN in 2011, after which she worked as a Charge Nurse at CVM while getting her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree online from Ohio University. In 2015 Nina decided to learn more about the MDS process and began training with Tina Acree, RN MDS Coordinator at CVM, who began her career with us in 2008.

The cost of Nina's RAC-CT training and certification was underwritten in part through a continuing education grant awarded under the auspices of the CBA Foundation. CEO Larry Monroe shared his thoughts about Nina's accomplishment. "I am proud to lead an organization committed to supporting team member skills and providing internal career advancement opportunities. Such an initiative is in step with our goal of being an employer of choice in our industry."

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CEO Larry Monroe

The mission of the CBA Foundation is to support the core ministry of Christian Village Communities by providing grants to qualifying individuals who need special assistance in support of critical needs. Among the other areas of focus for the foundation are financial subsidy to qualifying CVC healthcare residents in need, college scholarships for parttime high schoolers, and aid for fulltime team members suffering with catastrophic financial hardship beyond their control. We are thrilled to have been able to support Nina in the advancement of her career goals at CVC.

Prayers and Shawls

As the most stringent of the COVID-19 restrictions began to be eased, CVMH resident Linda Hayes got the idea of gathering with some others on a regular basis for prayer. The idea quickly caught on, and now several residents meet together each Wednesday evening in the chapel to lift their praises and petitions to the Lord together.

Sometime last year the conversation at one of these prayer meetings turned to prayer shawls and what a blessing it can be to have one. One of the residents in fact had one, so he quickly went to his room to retrieve it. When the group saw the shawl, resident Lou Kroeger said, “We can do this.” Following her lead, group members who are adept at knitting or crocheting began making prayer shawls. An invitation went out to others in the building to make additional shawls. One of our supporting churches, New Life Church of Christ in Harrison, Ohio, responded in a big way, delivering several large bags full of shawls.

Since then, the “Prayer Shawl Ministry” group has presented prayer shawls to more than 20 residents. As the shawls come in, the group prays, asking the Lord to bless each shawl recipient. The group takes recommendations from the nursing staff and others and determines to give shawls to people who have some special need or whom the group believes would be especially blessed by having one. Someone in the group is selected to make the presentation, usually based on some relationship between the two, and then that person carefully selects one of the shawls. Accompanied by the Chaplain, this person then goes to the resident’s room to present the shawl and to pray with and for that person. A card with an additional prayer is included in the bag with the shawl so the recipient can read and pray the prayer any time afterward.

CVMH resident joyfully receives a beautiful prayer shawl.

This ministry has proved to be a wonderful blessing not only to those who have received the shawls, but to those who have made the presentations as well. Part of the wonder is that the recipients do not know in advance that they will receive a shawl. The surprise and gratitude they feel are sometimes beyond words. Chaplain Jon Underwood said, “I’m encouraged that this has come about as a spontaneous desire by some of our residents to minister to one another in the love of Christ.” This love and ministry desire is just one more way life at CVMH is something special!

NATCEP Update

By Lilly Maurath, LPN and STNA Success Coach, and Jamie Glancy, LPN and STNA Success Coach

In August of 2021, the concept of starting our own Nurse Aid Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) was first considered. This would allow us to train our own State Tested Nurse Aides (STNA), something we saw as a great benefit considering how difficult it can be to find and keep qualified staff these days. After extensive research our team decided to develop a NATCEP at Christian Village Communities.

In September of 2021 members of the nursing staff, including Susan Myers, RN, VP of Health Services, Compliance and Analytics and Lilly Maurath, LPN and STNA Success Coach, along with Shannon Honchul RN attended a Train the Trainer Program. This course prepared Lilly and Shannon as Primary Instructors and Susan Myers as the RN Program Coordinator. The NATCEP team was completed when Jaimie Glancy, LPN and NATCEP Primary Instructor at Butler Tech in Cincinnati, was hired on as the STNA Success Coach at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

After curriculum development and Ohio Department of Health approvals, the first class was held in June of 2022 and a second class was held in October. As of the writing of this article, a third NATCEP class is underway. We currently have a 92% pass rate for the state test, which is well above the statewide average for NATCEP programs.

The NATCEP has required teamwork from all sources throughout the organization. Multiple team members have helped move equipment, prepare classrooms, and assemble teaching materials.

Developing our own NATCEP has been very rewarding and with each class we seem to learn something new that helps us to grow and make the program an even greater success.

Coffee with the Chaplain

At CVMH, residents participated in a new activity in February: "Coffee with the Chaplain." In the first of what we hope will be a regularly occurring event, about a dozen residents joined our Chaplain, Jon Underwood, around the table in the South Living Room for about 90 minutes of conversation and coffee.

There was no agenda, and conversation was completely spontaneous, with residents initiating first one line of thought and then another. Topics ranged from life on the farm to church history. A few residents told their own history with CVMH and how they came to be residents here. Some had never laid eyes on the place until they moved in; others had long known of the ministry but did not necessarily think they would someday be residents.

The time passed quickly with much laughter and pleasant conversation. "I think our first meeting can be called a success," Chaplain Jon said. "I hope we can continue to get together this way every six or eight weeks. It gives us all a chance to grow closer together in a way not offered through other events and activities." Jon is hoping to repeat the success on some of the specialty floors as well. It will give him an opportunity to interact with residents who don't often attend other events where he is involved.

"It gives us all a chance to grow closer together in a way not offered through other events and activities."

During the conversation, one resident commented on what a special place CVMH is, where there is genuine concern for each other. "Coffee with the Chaplain" is one more means of fostering that kind of concern.

CVC and Kairos Benevolence Fund

Two Like-Minded Ministries Announce Mutual Support

Christian Village Communities (CVC), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Christian Benevolent Association of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. (CBA) and The Kairos Benevolence Fund (KBF Inc.) have entered a commitment to work together in mutual support to enhance and expand upon each ministry's mission of providing financial aid to the aging.

Larry Monroe, CEO of CVC, characterized the commitment saying, "This is a locking of arms between two ministries that share a very common purpose and goal. We have talked about this off and on for many years, and KBF President David Pace and I decided it was time to be more intentional and public about our desire to work more closely together to help more people in Jesus' name. For the purposes of this expression of support, our mutual focus will be upon the expansion of our respective ministry's outreach to seniors with financial need."

The Kairos Benevolence Fund is a non-profit ministry established to honor the legacy of ministers and missionaries and respond to the urging of the Apostle Paul to provide honor, appreciation and love to kingdom workers who have served faithfully and well. KBF's goal is to provide emergency financial assistance to Christian Church ministers and missionaries who find themselves facing significant financial or health crises that they simply cannot meet. Through the generosity of churches and individuals, KBF provides benevolence grants to meet those unique needs in ways that bless these ministry colleagues and honors God.

CBA was established in 1960 as an extension of the Restoration Movement Churches located in the greater Cincinnati, tri-state region of southwest Ohio. It was originally launched with a primary focus on benevolence, providing housing and care to seniors, initially and primarily those who were members of supporting churches who lacked the financial resources to provide for their own needs. Today the ministry has become a leading provider of extraordinarily high-quality Christian senior living and healthcare services, including specialized care for memory support, physical rehabilitation, assisted living, independent living and long-term nursing.

CVC continues its ministry of benevolence through the auspice of its affiliate not-for-profit, the CBA Foundation. With support from individual donors, churches and organizations, the CBA Foundation provides subsidy funding for qualifying seniors residing at either of CVC's two locations at The Christian Village at Mason or The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. This financial aid is provided to all qualifying residents, not only those who have worked in vocational ministry and mission work.

"God's word is clear that two are better than one...I believe KBF's ability to identify and assist faithful kingdom workers in need will be greater than ever before."

David Pace, President of KBF, praised this opportunity saying, "God's word is clear that two are better than one. And Acts chapter 2 reminds us that Christians in the early church made it a priority to provide for those in need. So, today, in cooperation with CVC, I believe KBF's ability to identify and assist faithful kingdom workers in need will be greater than ever before."

More information regarding The Kairos Benevolence Fund can be found at www.kairosbenevolencefund.org.

CHRISTIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

kairos benevolence fund
compassion & care for ministry colleagues

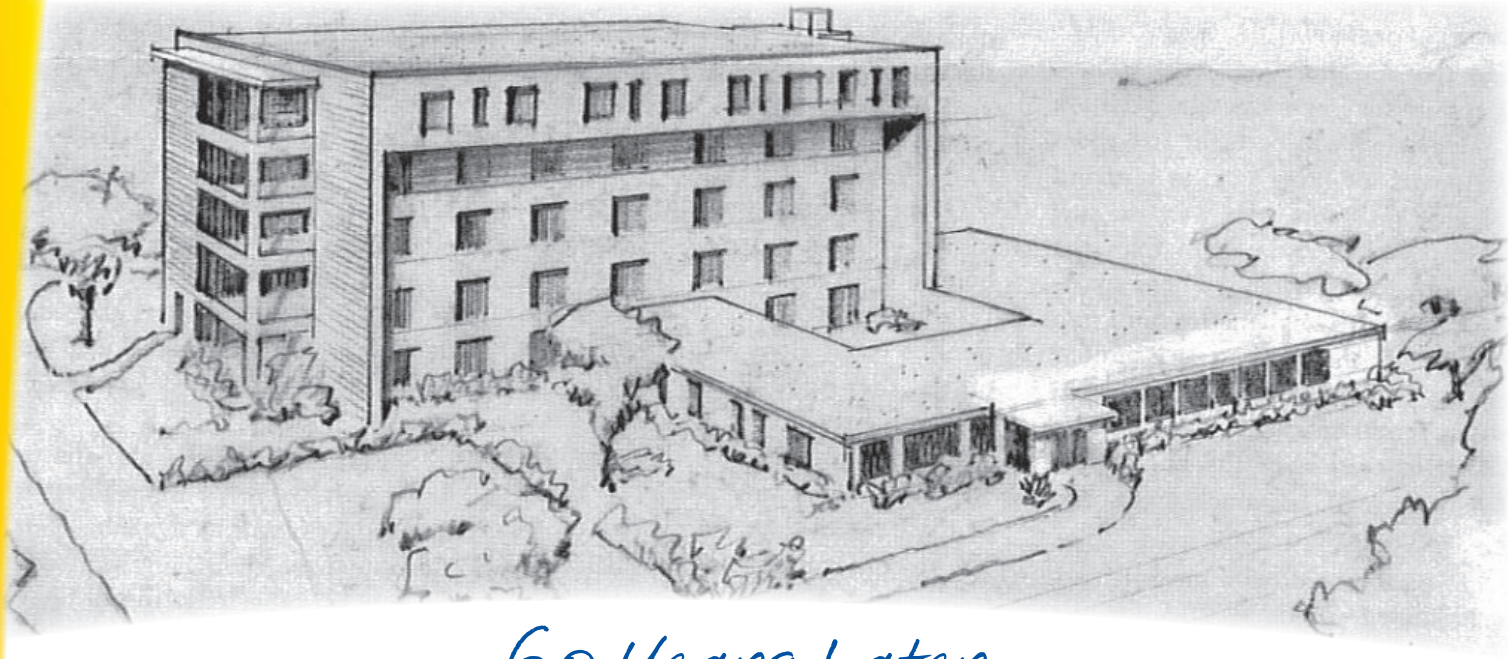
Farewell to David Phillips

On January 25, 2023, at the age of 94, David Smith Phillips, The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) resident and long-serving member of the CBA board and its affiliates went home to be with his Lord and Savior.

David graduated from Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1951. Through the years he ministered to many churches, ultimately with the Pleasant Run Church of Christ in Fairfield, Ohio until his death. David always said he couldn't retire, because "How do you retire from a calling from God?"

At various intervals of time from 1975 to 2019 David served on the boards of CBA and its affiliate not-for-profit organizations. Following a hospital stay in 2021 David became a resident at CVMH.

David will be greatly missed for many reasons, including his smile, affable demeanor, and his continuous spirit of encouragement.



60 Years Later

August 4 of this year will mark 60 years since ground was broken to build the first portion of what we know today as The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy, and what today is referred to as the south tower. In accepting the invitation to be part of the groundbreaking ceremony, Georgia Mohorter said, “Of all the spades of sod I have turned on that place, this will be the most important—the beginning of a beautiful home for many persons for many years, a truly Christian home in all its aspects, and we hope it always will be.” Mrs. Mohorter and her husband, Willard, were living at the time in a home on the same parcel where CVMH is today. Willard Mohorter was a past executive of Standard Publishing, and he had sold his estate to Standard just five years previous. Standard later would donate five acres of the estate, including the old Mohorter home for the purpose of creating The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

Dr. E. Richard Crabtree, then President and Chairman of the Board of the fledgling Christian Benevolent Association (CBA), known today as Christian Village Communities, said they first looked at the possibility of renovating the old homestead into a retirement home. They secured the services of a retired administrator with the FHA (now HUD) to advise them. He said it would not be feasible. Richard recalls him asking, “Why don’t you build something new?” Mr. Crabtree said, “We’d love to, but we don’t have any money.” The former

Marvin Matthews, John Wilkins, Richard Crabtree, Doug Smith, and Ralph Sims review the building plan for The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy in 1961.

The north entrance of the Faith Center for Restorative Living at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

administrator reminded him that with five acres of land, the organization had equity; they could borrow the funds. Richard said that changed everything. They began to dream of a truly modern facility. The groundbreaking was, in Crabtree's words, "a tremendous occasion." He says, "We had never thought we could do anything so nice." Mrs. Mohorter turned the first spade of earth at the groundbreaking. Others at the event included several political and civic leaders, among members of the CBA board including Marvin H. Matthews, Administrator; E. Richard Crabtree, President of the Board of Trustees; Paul E. Wiener, Director of Finance; Harold Hockley, Chairman of the Finance Committee; and Ralph Sims, Chairman of the Building Committee.

Georgia Mohorter would not live to see the completion of the home. Tragically, she was killed in a car-pedestrian accident in a nearby shopping center just two months later. The courtyard garden at CVMH is named in her honor. But if she could have lived to see what she started, she would agree that it was indeed a most important spade of sod that she turned that day. Now on the property stands not only the south building (opened in 1966), but also the attached north tower (opened in 1977). In addition to the independent retirement living, assisted living, and nursing care envisioned 60 years ago, CVMH (as well as its sister The Christian Village at Mason) provides some of the finest short-term rehabilitation therapy in the area; it provides special care for persons with Alzheimer's or dementia in the Guardian Center for Memory Support. And most of the skilled nursing care is now done in private rooms, where semiprivate was the order of the day at the beginning. Today, at 95 years old, Richard Crabtree reflects on the ministry of Christian Village Communities. He says, "Of all the things I was involved in my ministry, I take the most joy in the creation of the CBA."

Current President and CEO of Christian Village Communities, Larry Monroe, appreciates the legacy he is part of. He says, "I have had the privilege of spending much time in conversation with brother Crabtree as he recounted the early days of the CBA. Were it not for the sheer determination and unshakable faith of Richard and those with whom he worked, as well as the generous support of the independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in the tri-state region, we would not be here today. The core vision of the founders and the Christian commitment established at our beginning in 1960 remains to this day. God has richly blessed us as we have remained faithful to Him and to this ministry."

We believe we have honored Georgia Mohorter's prayer that CVMH will always be "a beautiful home for many persons for many years, a truly Christian home in all its aspects."

The Georgia Mohorter courtyard garden.

Larry Monroe and Richard Crabtree viewing plans for a CVC expansion in 2020.

CHRISTIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

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The mission of Christian Village Communities is to guide older adults to joyful and purposeful life experiences in a faith-filled community.

Care is the heart and soul of everything we do. We are devoted to maintaining the highest standards of expertise and service in health and wellness. We are committed to serving each person as though they were our own family; with love, compassion and excellence.

Want to support the ministry of Christian Village Communities? Visit **www.christianvillages.org/donate** to learn more about supporting our foundation and providing financial relief to our residents and employees.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.christianvillages.org

CHRISTIAN VILLAGE at MASON

CHRISTIAN VILLAGE at MT. HEALTHY